

Men's Hockey Begins Conference Play this Weekend

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EAU CLAIRE, Wis. - The UW-Eau Claire men's hockey team will begin Northern Collegiate Hockey Association (NCHA) conference action this weekend when it plays host to Lake Forest (IL) at Hobbs Ice Center and a neutral-site game at the Resch Center against St. Norbert College.

The Blugolds enter the weekend 3-2-0 with a win and loss last weekend. The Blugolds beat St. Mary's University 6-4 Friday night and lost to St. Thomas University 5-4 Saturday night in two non-conference games.

Sean Garrity (Sr.- North St. Paul, MN/North) is leading the Blugolds with 11 points after five games. Garrity has three goals and four assists for the Blugolds. **Andrew Johnson** (Jr.- Andover, MN/Anoka) is tied with Garrity for three goals, Johnson also has two assists on the season.

Goalie **Tyler Brigl** (So.- Eagan, MN) has 120 saves in five games with a save percentage of .896. Brigl has seen all the time in the net for Eau Claire, posting a 3-2 record with a 2.81 goals against average. Brigl has allowed 14 goals on the season.

Eau Claire will start its conference play Friday against Lake Forest at Hobbs Ice Center. Eau Claire is 17-26-4 all-time against the Foresters. In last season's match-up the game ended in a 3-3 tie. The Blugolds beat the Foresters during the 2006 season 2-1, this was the first time Eau Claire had beaten Lake Forest in seven meetings.

The Foresters enter the weekend 1-5-0 overall. Mike Kneeland leads the way with four goals and one assist. Adam Love is second on the team in scoring with three goals. Peter Pfeffer and Matt Oke each have four assists on the season.

Brandon Kohuch and Scott Campbell have split time in the net for Lake Forest. Kohuch has logged 182:21 minutes for the Foresters. Kohuch has 106 saves with a save percentage of .906. Kohuch has a 0-3 record and has allowed 11 goals. Campbell has logged 180:00 minutes in the net with 115 saves and a save percentage of .891. Campbell has a 1-2 record and has allowed 11 goals on the season.

The Blugolds will travel to Green Bay on Saturday to take on St. Norbert College. Eau Claire is 3-33-2 all-time against the Green Knights. The Blugolds have not beaten the Green Knights since January 21, 1995 when the Blugolds won 5-4 in overtime for their third consecutive victory over the Knights. St. Norbert has gone unbeaten in the last 34 meetings between the two teams, going 32-0-2.

Eau Claire and St. Norbert faced each other three times last season, once during the regular season where the Blugolds lost 4-3 in overtime and twice in the playoff's where Eau Claire lost 4-3 and 3-1. St. Norbert is ranked seventh in the USCHO.com Division III Top 15 Poll.

Leading the Green Knights is Marc Belanger who has four goals and four assists. Matt Boyd has three goals and five assist for St. Norbert and Shane Wheeler has one goal and five assists on the season.

In the net for St. Norbert is Kyle Jones, Jones is 2-1 overall with a .911 save percentage and 1.67 goals against average. Blake Bashor has also seen time in the net for the Green Knights, Bashor is 2-0 overall with a .882 save percentage and a 2.00 goals against average. St. Norbert is 10-for-33 on its power play this season, while its penalty kill is 32-for-37.

Eau Claire will take on Lake Forest on Friday night at Hobbs Ice center. The puck is set to drop at 7:30 p.m. On Saturday night the Blugolds will travel to Green Bay to take on St. Norbert at the Resch Center. The Blugolds will be the home team in the game that is set to start at 5:05 p.m.

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