

## Men's Hockey To Play Two Conference Rivals this Weekend

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EAU CLAIRE, Wis. - The UW-Eau Claire men's hockey team is back in action this weekend after a week off for Thanksgiving break. The Blugolds will take on two conference opponents. They will face UW-River Falls in River Falls on Friday and UW-Stout at Hobbs Ice Center Saturday.

The Blugolds are 4-3-0 overall and 1-1-0 in the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association. The Blugolds sole loss in NCHA came at the hands of St. Norbert. In the latest USCHO.com Division III men's hockey poll the Green Knights are ranked 2nd. The Blugolds have not defeated St. Norbert since January 21, 1995 when they won 5-4 in overtime. This is the last time the Blugolds beat the Green Knights in the last 34 meetings.

Leading the offensive attack for Eau Claire is **Andrew Johnson** (*Jr.- Andover, MN/Anoka*) who has seven points on the season with five goals and two assists. **Sean Garrity** (*Sr.- North St. Paul, MN/North*) and **Bryan Plaszcz** (*So.- Apple Valley, MN*) each have three goals on the season. Garrity also has four assists giving him seven points.

**Tyler Brigl** (*So.- Eagan, MN*) has logged all the minutes between the pipes for the Blugolds. Brigl is 4-3-0 overall with 160 saves and a save percentage of .909. Brigl has allowed 16 goals on the season averaging 2.30 goals per game. Eau Claire is 10-for-36 on the power play with a conversion percentage of .278. The Blugolds defense has held its opponents to 3-for-39 on the power play with a conversion percentage of .077.

Eau Claire will travel to River Falls Friday night to take on the Falcons at Hunt Arena. The Blugolds are 26-77-3 all-time against the Falcons. The Blugolds have lost the last two meetings between the two teams with the scores of 3-1 and 4-1. The last time Eau Claire beat the Falcons was Oct. 27, 2006 with the score of 3-2, this was the first regular season win in eight meetings between the two teams.

In the latest USCHO.com Division III men's hockey poll the Falcons were ranked 1st. River Falls is 5-0-3 overall and 1-0-1 in the NCHA, the Falcons have earned 275 points thus far this season. The Falcons received nine of 20 first place votes.

Pat Borgestad is leading the Falcons offensive attack with 11 goals and five assists totaling 16 points. TJ Dahl also has 16 points on the season with 15 assists and one goal. Derek Hansberry has eight goals on the season and five assists totaling 13 points. Dustin Norma has seven goals on the season and four assist totaling 11 points.

River Falls is 15-for-43 on the power play with a conversion percentage of .349. The defense has held opponent to 14 goals on 41 attempts on the power play with a conversion percentage of .341. Doing the majority of the goaltending for the Falcons is Tyler Owens who has played in six games with a record of 4-0-2 and a save percentage of .890. Owens has 138 saves and as allowed 17 goals. Clark Oliver has played in two games for River Falls and is 1-0-1 with a save percentage of .892. Oliver has allowed eight goals and has 66 saves on the season.

On Saturday night UW-Stout will make the short trip down I94 to take on the Blugolds in a conference match-up. The Blue Devils are ranked 8th in the USCHO.com Division III men's hockey poll. Eau Claire is 24-22-2 all-time against Stout. The last time the Blugolds defeated the Blue Devils was Dec. 5, 2003 when Eau Claire won 2-1. Eau Claire has not won in the last seven meetings between the two teams.

Stout enters the weekend 8-1-1 overall and 1-1-0 in the NCHA with 165 points thus far on the season. Leading the offensive attack for the Blue Devils is Derek Hanson who has 18 points on the season with 11 goals and seven assists. Joel Gaulrapp has 17 points on the season with nine goals and eight assists. Jeff Wheeler has eight goals and eight assists totaling 16 points.

In the net for the Blue Devils is Matt Koenig who is 8-1-1 on the season with a save percentage of .921. Koenig has 232 saves on the season and has allowed 20 goals. Stout is 20-for-63 on the power play with a conversion percentage of .317. The