

# Big First Half Creates Win For Blugolds

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LA CROSSE, Wisc. - The UW-Eau Claire women's basketball team turned a big first half into a 77-61 victory today against UW-La Crosse at Mitchell Hall. This win puts the Blugolds at 7-1 overall and 3-0 in conference play. All conference wins have been on the road. The loss puts La Crosse at 3-6 overall and 0-2 in Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) play.

In their last meeting, the Blugolds faced the Eagles in the WIAC Quarterfinal. The Blugolds overcame poor shooting to win 67-62.

**Heather Witt** (Jr.-Kendall, WI/Royal) continued her dominating play with scoring first for the Blugolds. **Michelle Burns** (Sr.-Eau Claire, WI/North) then went on a terror. Burns scored three straight baskets, and **Hannah Mesick** (Fr.-Chatfield, MN) chipped in two jumpers to put the Blugolds up by eight with 15:03 left in the first half. Witt then followed with a three to make the score 15-4 in favor of the Blugolds. **Heidi Arciszewski** (Jr.-Thorp, WI) then made her presence known with a jumper and three point play. The lead would increase to 14, but then Witt would drain another three pointer.

La Crosse then proceeded to go on a little run with three straight jump shots to cut the lead to 10 before Burns and **Amanda Zenner** (Sr.-Medford, WI) made short jump shots to put the Blugolds up by 14 with 4:41 left to play before half. The teams followed with a lot of free throw shooting. The Blugolds made all of their six free throws before half, while La Crosse made all of their four free throws. **Kali Houselog** (Sr.-Neenah, WI/St. Mary Central) ended the half with a layup to make the score 37-17 in favor of the Blugolds.

The Blugolds shot 44% from the floor and 29% from three point range. They shot very well at the free throw line, shooting 78%. The Eagles shot terribly in the first half going 21% from the floor, but 88% from the line. They were 0-11 from long distance.

Heidi Arciszewski opened the half with a jump shot to increase the Blugold lead. La Crosse then went on a 7-0 run to make the score 39-24. Amanda Zenner broke the run up with a jumper, and Michelle Burns followed that up to put the Blugolds up by 17 with 16:30 left to play. La Crosse's Mackenzie Hunter, who is their leading scorer, then picked up her third and fourth foul to take a seat on the bench. Heather Witt responded with another three, and **Brittanni Hakanson** (Jr.-Wheeler, WI/Boyceville) followed that up by scoring six straight points. The Blugold lead would be 25 with 12:37 left. This would be the biggest lead of the game for the Blugolds.

La Crosse would answer with a Dana Churchill three and Hunter jump shot. The Blugolds would get Heather Witt free throws and Kali Houselog layup, but Churchill would score seven straight points for the Eagles. Free throws would be exchanged by both teams, and La Crosse's Amanda Waldvogel would get a three to make the Blugolds' lead 17. More free throws followed from Witt, Arciszewski, and Burns. After Burns' free throws, the lead would be 19 with 2:16 to play. La Crosse would score off two jumpers, but Brittanni Hakanson would have a great end of the half with two jumpers. The half would end with the Blugolds winning 77-61.

The Blugolds would finish shooting 47% from the field, 33% from long distance, and 79% from the free throw line. The Eagles would be 35% from the floor, 20% from three point range, and 91% from the line. The Blugolds outrebounded La Crosse 29-21, and would have 14 offensive rebounds. Turnovers would be 15 for the Blugolds and 14 for the Eagles. The Eagles would finish with 10 steals.

La Crosse's Lindsay Wahl would lead all scorers with 20. The Blugolds were led by Heather Witt, on her 21st birthday, who scored 17. Witt also had four assists and went 3-4 from three point range. Heidi Arciszewski and Brittanni Hakanson would each have 13. Arciszewski would also have four assists. Michelle Burns had a double-double, finishing with 12 points and 11 rebounds. Amanda Zenner was the last Blugold in double figures with 10 points, five assists, and two steals.

Next up for the Blugolds is Carleton College. The action starts in Northfield, Minn. At 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec