

Women's Hockey Gets Ready To Face Divisional Foe

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EAU CLAIRE, Wis. - This upcoming Saturday the UW-Eau Claire women's hockey team will look to improve its conference record to 5-0 and overall record to 8-4, however in order to do so, they will have to defeat a strong UW-River Falls team.

Up to this point in the season, the Blugolds have been led by mixture of freshmen, sophomores, and juniors. The freshmen who have really stepped up this year and contributed to the Blugolds winning record are **Christine Dickinson** (*Fr.-Layton, UT/Shattuck St. Mary's*), **Kristin Faber** (*Fr.- Austin, MN*), **Maddi Hammer** (*Fr.- Owatonna, MN*), **Katie Lawler** (*Fr.- Cottage Grove, MN/Hill-Murray*), **Christine Knop** (*Fr.- Coon Rapids, MN*), and **Meghan Lorenz** (*Fr.- Minnetonka, MN/Wayzata*). Dickinson and Faber have really made their presence felt so far, leading the team in scoring with nine points apiece. On a team with no seniors, **Lauren Havard** (*Jr.-San Angelo, TX/Arapahoe*), **Margaret Campbell** (*Jr.-Plymouth, MN/Wayzata*), **Beth Dittrich** (*So.-Roseville, MN*), **Michelle Stohr** (*So.- South St. Paul, MN*), and **Shannon Nelson** (*So.- Blaine, MN*) have been looked to for veteran leadership, and they have done a phenomenal job. Dittrich, Havard, and Campbell are third, fourth, and fifth on team in scoring.

The Blugolds have relied on three freshmen in net this year. Entering Saturday's conference battle with UW-River Falls, **Lindsay Savat** (*Fr.-Apple Valley, MN/Thomas Jefferson*) has posted the best statistics in net. She is 4-0 with a goals against average of 1.25 and a save percentage of .923. **Danika Porter** (*Fr.-Rosemount, MN/South St. Paul*) has started six games for the Blugolds, and she has gone 3-3 with one shutout in those starts. The one other start this year went to **Nicole Lence** (*Fr.-St. Paul Park, MN/Park*). It will be interesting to see who gets the starting nod on Saturday night at Hobbs Ice Arena.

On special teams, the Blugolds rank second in the NCHA on the power play converting at a 20.5 percent rate. The Falcons are fifth in the conference on the power play as they have been cashing in with the skater advantage only 10.3 percent of the time. The Blugolds have the edge on the penalty kill as well, for they are killing penalties 92.9 percent of the time compared to the Falcons 89.8.

Even though the Blugolds have the better record and the edge in special team statistics, they will not be able to take this Falcons team lightly. The Falcons will enter Saturday night's game with an overall record of 4-4 and a conference record of 3-3. However, the Blugolds should not be fooled by the falcons five hundred record; the Falcons have lost to some tough teams including nationally ranked Gustavus Adolphus (Minn.) and UW-Stevens Point. The Falcons are led by seven seniors and some talented underclassmen. A few of the Falcon's players to keep an eye on this Saturday are Kelly Jensen, Jenna Scanlon, Kacie Anderson, Cassie LaBlanc, and Jessica Thompson. Thompson and Anderson lead the Falcons in scoring this season with seven points apiece, and Jensen and Scanlon have the most career points on the Falcon roster with 51 and 47 points respectively.

This conference battle is slated to start at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday night when the puck is dropped at Hobbs Ice Center.

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