

# Men's Hockey Moves One Game Closer To Uncharted Territory

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SUPERIOR, Wis. - For the first time since 1995, the UW-Eau Claire men's hockey team won a Peters Cup playoff game as they defeated UW-Superior 4-2 tonight.

Eau Claire only has to tie or win tomorrow's game against the Yellowjackets to advance to the semifinals and face either No. 1 St. Norbert College or Lake Forest College (IL). If Eau Claire loses, there will be a 20-minute mini-game to determine the series winner. The Blugolds have never gone to the second round and the last playoff victory was an 11-6 victory over UW-River Falls in 1995.

**Jesse Vesel** (*Jr.-Hibbing, MN*) started the Eau Claire scoring at 12:37 in the first. His power-play goal came off passes from **Dan Decato** (*Fr.-Verona*) and **Sean Garrity** (*Sr.-North St. Paul, MN/North*). The Blugolds outshot Superior 11-to-6 in that period and in the second.

The Yellowjackets wasted no time in the second, scoring just 10 seconds into the period when Andrew MacKenzie found net. Just more than a minute later, **Andrew Johnson** (*Jr.-Andover, MN/Anoka*) gave Eau Claire its lead back with **Joe Bluhm** (*So.-Red Wing, MN*) assisting. **Dan Fina** (*Jr.-Fontana/Glenbard South, IL*) provided another Eau Claire score at 15:12 when he scored on the advantage. **Bryan Plaszcz** (*So.-Apple Valley, MN*) and **Greg Petersen** (*Jr.-Maple Grove, MN/Totino-Grace*) assisted on the score, which gave Fina a playoff goal in three straight years.

Superior outshot Eau Claire 9-to-6 in the third, but the Blugold defense held up to take the game. Brian Bina did score a power-play goal at 7:23 to get within one. Eau Claire had an empty-netter credited to Johnson with three seconds left as the visitors took the 4-2 victory.

**Tyler Brigl** (*So.-Eagan, MN*) made 19 saves as the Blugolds outshot Superior 28-to-21. Both squads had seven penalties and Eau Claire converted 2-of-7 advantages. Superior scored on one of its seven.

The Blugolds like their chances tomorrow, as they have fared well against Superior this season. They beat them 3-1 on Dec. 8 and took them to overtime on Feb. 8 before losing 2-1.

The possibly historic game will start at 7 p.m. tomorrow in Wessman Arena.

Eau Claire-Superior Game One Box Score- PH -