

Women's Basketball Ready For NCAA Play

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EAU CLAIRE, Wis. - The UW-Eau Claire women's basketball team is set to head to Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa this weekend for the first and second rounds of the 2008 NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Championship.

The Blugolds will tip-off the first round at 5 p.m. Friday against Carleton College (Minn.). Simpson College will then face Gustavus Adolphus College (Minn.) at 7 p.m. the same day. The second round game will be played at the same location Saturday, with Friday night's winners tipping-off at 7 p.m. Saturday night's winners will advance to the sectional finals next weekend at a location to be determined.

The 2008 NCAA Championship appearance is the 14th since 1989 for the Blugolds and their first since 2003. The Knights of Carleton are headed to their fifth tournament in program history and their first since 2004. Carleton earned the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference's automatic bid, winning the conference's tournament 53-50 in overtime, while the Blugolds earned an at-large bid after falling to UW-Stevens Point in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference's tournament. Eau Claire has already faced Carleton earlier this season on December 11. The Blugolds had their second-best three-point shooting performance of the season that night in Northfield, Minn. They went 9-for-16 (56.3 percent) from beyond the arc on their way to a 76-53 victory. Four players recorded double-figure point totals, with **Amanda Zenner** (*Sr.-Medford, Wis.*) leading the way with 14.

The Blugolds and the Knight's match up similarly statistically, but the Blugolds hold a larger margin over opponents in most categories. The Blugolds are averaging 67.4 points per game this season while only giving up 55.6. Carleton is averaging 65.7 per game but are allowing opponents 62.0. Both teams are outshooting opponents this year, with the Blugolds holding a 45.1 percent-to-37.1 percent edge and the Knights holding a 42.7 percent-to-37.6 percent edge. While both teams are outrebounding opponents, the Knights are averaging slightly more rebounds per game than the Blugolds (37.2-to-36.5). **Michelle Burns** (*Sr.-Eau Claire, Wis./North*) is leading the Blugolds this season in scoring and rebounding. She is averaging 14.5 points per game while pulling down 6.2 boards per game. Hannah Oken-Berg is leading the Carleton Knights in scoring, averaging 12.7 points per game, while Sarah Lincoln is leading the team in rebounding with 6.6 per game.

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