Women's Hockey Takes Down Bethel In Season Opener

Posted: Friday, October 31, 2008

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. - The UW-Eau Claire women's hockey team got off to a good start for the 2008-09 season tonight, defeating Bethel University (Minn.) 3-1 at Hobbs Ice Center.

The game was the first of the season for both teams. The Blugolds are now 11-2 all-time against the Royals. A year ago the same teams faced each other in their season openers and Bethel came up with the win, defeating the Blugolds 2-1 in St. Paul.

Christine Dickinson *(So.-Layton, Utah/Shattuck-St. Mary's)* recorded both a goal and an assist in the night's contest. The Blugolds' first goal of the season, Dickinson's ninth career goal, came at the 12:22 in the first. Both **Jackie McKay** *(Fr.-Franklin Park, Ill./East Leyden)* and **Meghan Lorenz** *(So.-Wayzata, Minn.)* assisted on the goal.

In the second at 7:10, **Beth Dittrich** *(Jr.-Roseville, Minn.)* found the net with the eventual game-winner for Eau Claire to push the Blugolds' lead to two. **Toni Simones** *(Fr.-Rosemount, Minn./South St. Paul)* was credited with the assist, the first of her collegiate career.

In the third, Bethel tried to fight its way back into the contest with Bethany Murphy scoring a power-play goal at 9:11. **Lauren Havard** *(Sr.-San Angelo, Texas/Araphaoe)* answered back with less than two minutes remaining to make the score 3-1. Dickinson and **Molly Anderson** *(Fr.-Coon Rapids, Minn.)* were both given assists on goal.

Despite the loss, Bethel outshot the Blugolds 24-22. Bethel's Murphy led the game with six shots while Dickinson led the Blugolds with five. Dittrich added four shots and Havard contributed three.

Danika Porter *(So.-Rosemount, Minn./South St. Paul)* played the entire 60 minutes in the net for Eau Claire and picked up her first win of the season. She recorded 23 saves in the game. Bethel's Beth Spurier was credited with the loss as she gave up three goals while saving 19 shots.

Up next the Blugolds will be back at home to take on St. Mary's University (Minn.). The game is St. Mary's season opener and the puck is set to drop at 7 p.m. Saturday at Hobbs Ice Center.

Eau Claire-Bethel Box Score

- KM -