Women's Hockey Gets Back On Track With Overtime Win

Posted: Saturday, November 8, 2008

BLAINE, Minn. - For the second time this weekend, the UW-Eau Claire women's hockey team played in an overtime period. Last night they came up short but it was a different story tonight as the Blugolds went on to defeat Bethel University (Minn.) 3-2.

The Blugolds improve to 3-1 on the season, while Bethel drops to 0-3. Last Friday in the Blugolds' season opener against Bethel at home, Eau Claire won by a score of 3-1. The last time the Blugolds started out the year with a 3-1 record was during the 2004-05 season.

In tonight's contest, Bethel's Mikaela Mahoney was the first to score at 13:22 on a power-play to give the Royals their first lead of the game.

It took the Blugolds almost a whole period to answer and tie it up as **Lynne Erspamer** *(Fr.-Marquette, Mich.)* recorded her first collegiate goal at 10:49 in the second on an assist from **Shannon Nelson** *(So.-Blaine, Minn.)*.

The Blugolds then took their first lead of the game less than eight minutes later with a short-handed goal by **Toni Simones** *(Fr.-Rosemount, Minn./South St. Paul)*. **Kristin Faber** *(So.-Austin, Minn.)* and **Lauren Havard** *(Sr.-San Angelo, Texas/Araphaoe)* were credited with assists on the goal.

With the score 2-1, Bethel would not let the Blugolds get away that easy and scored once again with less than five minutes to go. Rachel Geng found the net on a power-play opportunity at 15:22. The game remained tied and the teams headed into overtime.

With just over one minute to go in the overtime period, Havard came up big for Eau Claire with an assists from **Christine Dickinson** *(So.-Layton, Utah/Shattuck-St. Mary's)* and gave the Blugolds the 3-1 overtime win.

For the night, **Beth Dittrich** *(Jr.-Roseville, Minn.)* led the Blugolds with six shots as Eau Claire outshot Bethel 33-29. In the overtime period, the Blugolds did not allow a shot-on-goal while they took three of their own.

Morgan Pieper *(Fr.-Williams, Minn./Warroad)* recorded her second win of the year, stopping 27 shots while allowing two goals. Royals' Beth Spurrier lost the overtime decision and dropped to 0-2 on the season. She saved 30 while allowing three goals.

Eau Claire will be back in action next weekend with two home games. The Blugolds face Concordia (Wis.) on Friday and Saturday, with both games starting at 7 p.m. at Hobbs Ice Center.

Eau Claire-Bethel Box Score

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