

Men's Hockey Stays Hot With A 4-3 Win

Posted: Friday, November 14, 2008

LAKE FOREST, Ill. - The UW-Eau Claire men's hockey team remains on a hot streak after defeating Lake Forest College 4-3 in its Northern Collegiate Hockey Association opener tonight at Alumni Memorial Rink.

With the Blugolds' win tonight, they improve to 6-0-0 on the year and are now 1-0-0 in the NCHA. The conference win puts UW-Eau Claire, St. Norbert, UW-River Falls, and UW-Superior in a four-way tie for first place. The Blugolds move to an all-time record of 20-26-4 against the Foresters who have not won a contest against Eau Claire since 2006.

The Blugolds put themselves on the board first at 4:54 in the first period after an Eau Claire power play. **Andrew Johnson** (Sr.-Andover, Minn./Anoka) kicked off the scoring for the Blugolds after being assisted by **Jesse Vesel** (Sr.-Hibbing, Minn.) and **Dustin Trail** (Fr.-Albert Lea, Minn.). Eau Claire retained the lead through most of the first period, but at 18:52 the Lake Forest's Joel Gard scored an unassisted short-handed goal to tie the game at 1-1.

The second period proved to be owned by the Blugolds after they were the lone scorers in the period. **John Kearns** (So.-Chicago, Ill./Maine South) put the Blugolds ahead 2-1 with an even strength goal at 4:37 in the period. Kearns was assisted by **Sean Garrity** (Sr.-North St. Paul, Minn./North) and **Brant Marple** (Jr.-Apple Valley, Minn./Eastview) for the goal.

As the third period came into action, both the Blugolds and the Foresters fought hard to become the victorious team in the game. **Joe Bluhm** (Jr.-Red Wing, Minn.) scored an unassisted power play goal for the Blugolds to begin the third period scoring at 11:48. Two minutes later, the Lake Forest's Adam Love scored an even strength goal to keep the Foresters within one goal of the Blugolds. Eau Claire quickly responded with a power play goal from Vesel with the assist from Kearns at 14:53. Lake Forest began to mount a comeback when Zach Kozak scored at 17:22 to make the game 4-3 in favor of the Blugolds, but Eau Claire held on to take its sixth straight win.

The Blugolds seemed to be attracted to the net tonight, out-shooting the Foresters 40-19. On the year, Eau Claire is doubling the amount of shots of their opponents, out-shooting them 133-63. Eau Claire goalkeeper **Tyler Brigl** (Jr.-Apple Valley, Minn./Eastview) kept busy in the net, allowing three goals and notching 16 saves on the night. Brigl moves to 5-0-0 as the Blugolds goaltender on the year while having 96 saves on the year. The Lake Forest goalkeeper Brandon Kohuch had 36 saves on the night.

Eau Claire returns to the ice tomorrow to take on the defending national champion and number one ranked St. Norbert in Green Bay. Both teams head into the contest with 6-0 records on the season. The puck will drop at 7:05 p.m.

- MT -