

St. Norbert Snaps Winning Streak For Men's Hockey

Posted: Saturday, November 15, 2008

GREEN BAY, Wis. - The UW-Eau Claire men's hockey gave Northern Collegiate Hockey Association conference opponent and No. 1 ranked St. Norbert College all it could handle, but came up short, falling 4-3 to the defending national champion at the Cornerstone Center tonight.

With the Blugolds' loss tonight, they move to 6-1-0 on the year and are now 1-1-0 in the NCHA. The conference loss drops UW-Eau Claire into third place along with St. Scholastica, UW-River Falls and UW-Stevens Point while putting St. Norbert and UW-Superior in first place. The Blugolds move to an all-time record of 3-36-2 against St. Norbert which has only lost to the Blugolds in 1994 and 1995. With the win, the Green Knights extend their unbeaten streak to 36 games and are unbeaten in the last 28 games versus NCHA opponents.

The Green Knights were the first to make a notch on the scoreboard in the first period. At 2:56 in the first period, St. Norbert's Pete Fylling scored an even strength goal with assists from Alain Joannette and Brad Herman. St. Norbert retained the lead for most of the first period, but **Sean Garrity** (*Sr.-North St. Paul, Minn./North*) with the assist from **Nicholas Kuzali** (*Jr.-Pittsburgh, Pa./Mount Lebanon*) scored an even strength goal at 13:48 in the first period to tie the game with the top ranked Green Knights.

In the second period, the Blugolds struck first and they struck quickly. At only 2:39 into the period, **Dan Fina** (*Sr.-Fontana, Wis./Glenbard South*) got the puck from **Greg Peterson** (*Sr.-Maple Grove, Minn./Totino-Grace*) and scored an even strength goal to put the Blugolds up by one. The Green Knights were able to take advantage of a power play at 10:49 with a goal by A.J. Gale to tie the game at 2-2. Two minutes later, Eau Claire's **Tyler Weigel** (*Jr.-Madison, Wis./Oregon*) got the assist from **Nate Smith** (*Jr.-Clayton, Wis.*) to score the Blugolds' third even strength goal of the night and put them up 3-2. At 16:59 however, St. Norbert's Brad Herman found the back of the Blugolds' net to tie the game at 3-3.

The third period proved to be the Blugolds downfall as the only goal came from a St. Norbert's power play in which Shane Wheeler scored the final goal of the game and eventual game-winner at 13:41 to officially end the Blugolds six game winning streak.

The Blugolds normally double their opponent's shot count, but tonight Eau Claire only out shot St. Norbert 32-29. Eau Claire goalkeeper Tyler Brigl (Apple Valley, Minn./Eastview) had to work his best to fend off the number one ranked St. Norbert and racked up 25 saves in the process, but allowed four goals. Brigl was in the net for 59:10 after being pulled for 50 seconds to try and add another player up front to score. Brigl moves to 5-1-0 as the Blugolds goaltender on the year while having 121 saves on the year. The St. Norbert goalkeeper B.J. O'Brien had 29 saves on the night.

Eau Claire returns to Hobbs Ice Center next Friday for a conference game against River Falls at 7 p.m. The Blugolds will then travel to Menomonie on Saturday to face UW-Stout at 7:30 p.m.

- MT -