Men's Basketball Ready To Host Holiday Classic

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EAU CLAIRE, Wis. - The 40th annual UW-Eau Claire Holiday Classic will feature teams from Jamestown College (N.D.), Northwestern College (Minn.) and Wartburg College (Iowa). Jamestown and Wartburg tip off the Classic at 6 p.m. on Dec. 29, while the second game between Eau Claire and Northwestern is scheduled for 8 p.m. The next day, the third place game is at 6 p.m. and the championship follows at 8 p.m.

Last season Jamestown won the Holiday Classic, defeating Eau Claire in the championship game 85-76. The season before, Wartburg won the classic 75-70 against the Blugolds. The Blugolds won the previous five classics.

Eau Claire is 5-3 on the season, winning four of its last five games. Northwestern enters the classic with a 6-3 overall record. The Eagles got off to a 4-0 start but have since only won two of their last five. Jamestown, a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics institution, holds a 7-5 record. The Jimmies won their first three games this year and then proceeded to go 4-5. Wartburg is the only team with a losing record heading into the classic. The Knights are 3-4 overall and are currently on a three-game losing streak.

The Blugolds are shooting 50.2 percent from the floor on the season and are led by **Dan Beyer** *(Sr.-Waukesha, Wis./Catholic Memorial)* with 13.5 points per game. Beyer is also leading the team with six rebounds per game and 10 blocks. **Ryan Shea** *(So.-Duluth, Minn./East)* and **Colin Boone** *(Jr.-Eau Claire, Wis./Memorial)* hold double-figure point averages, with Shea averaging 12.4 per game while Boone has 10.8. Shea leads Eau Claire with nine three-pointers, 30 assists and at the free throw line, going 16-for-19 (84.2 percent).

Northwestern is led by Stephen Hanson, averaging 19.9 points per game. He is second on the team with 9.3 rebounds a game, while Reid Berens leads the team with 10 rebounds a game and 16 total steals. Berens averages 13.3 points per game and Brian Lecheler is averaging 13.2. For the season the Eagles are shooting 47.5 percent from the field and are outrebounding opponents 41.8 to 30.4.

John Peabody leads Jamestown with an average of 12.2 points and eight rebounds per game. Peabody has four double-doubles this season, with his last one coming on December 18 against Bemidji State. Evan Savageau is also in double figures with 12.1 points per game, but has not played since November 18. The Jimmies are shooting 44.1 percent from the floor this season.

Two players have double-digit point averages for Wartburg, with Cashes Mason leading the team with 11.7 points a game and also has 24 assists to lead the team. Kelly McCarville is averaging 10 points per game and leads the Knights with 6.6 rebounds per game. Both are shooting better than 56 percent from the field, while the team is only shooting 46.4 percent.

Holiday Classic Web site

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