

Men's Hockey Ties Conference Rival

Posted: Saturday, January 17, 2009

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. - The UW-Eau Claire men's hockey team fought a close battle and settled for a 4-4 tie with Northern Collegiate Hockey Association rival UW-Stevens Point tonight at Hobbs Ice Center.

The Blugolds, who are coming off of a three-game winning streak, move to 12-5-1 on the year and 2-4-1 in the NCHA in its first overtime game of the year. Eau Claire remains tied for fifth place with UW-Stevens Point, which now moves to 11-5-2 overall and 2-4-1 in the NCHA.

The first period ended with both teams being scoreless. The second period proved to be the best for scoring as Eau Claire's **Jesse Vesel** (*Sr.-Hibbing, Minn.*) hooked up with **Sean Garrity** (*Sr.-North St. Paul, Minn./North*) and **Greg Petersen** (*Sr.-Maple Grove, Minn./Totino-Grace*) on a power-play in the first 19 seconds to put the Blugolds on the board first. UW-Stevens Point answered with a goal of its own from Garrett Suter at 2:01 to tie the game. **DJ Clark** (*Sr.-Blaine, Minn./Spring Lake Park*) responded 43 seconds later after he got a pass from **Sam Bauler** (*Sr.-Apple Valley, Minn./Eastview*) and scored the Blugolds' second goal of the night. The Pointers found another response to the Blugolds' second goal with a goal of their own after Luke Nesper found the back of the net at 5:05 to tie the game. As both teams battled for the lead, UW-Stevens Point took the lead with four seconds left in the period after Korey O'Brien scored for the Pointers.

In the third period, the Blugolds sounded the alarm first after Garrity scored the third Blugold goal at 5:55 with assists from Petersen and Vesel to tie the game for the third time in the game. Stevens Point re-took the lead at 8:05 after Harrison Niemann scored a short-handed goal for the Pointers. **Tyler Weigel** (*Jr.-Madison, Wis./Oregon*) scored the fourth equalizing goal of the night after **Nic Weight** (*Fr.-Eagle River, Wis./Northland Pines*) and **Brant Marple** (*Jr.-Apple Valley, Minn./Eastview*) provided the assist at 8:26 to send the game into overtime.

The five-minute overtime ended with both teams being scoreless and giving the Eau Claire its first tie of the season and Stevens Point its second.

The Blugolds had more than twice the shots of the Pointers, outshooting Stevens Point 57-23. Eau Claire goalkeeper **Tyler Brigl** (*Jr.-Apple Valley, Minn./Eastview*) recorded 19 saves tonight and moved to 10-4-1 on the season for the Blugolds. The Pointers' goalkeeper Marcus Paulson recorded 53 saves on the night and moves to 4-0-2.

Eau Claire gets back on the ice next Friday against St. Norbert in Eau Claire at Hobbs Ice Center. The puck is set to drop at 7 p.m.

Eau Claire/Stevens Point Box Score

- MT -