Finlandia Upsets Women's Hockey

Posted: Friday, January 23, 2009

HANCOCK, Mich. - The ninth-ranked UW-Eau Claire women's hockey team suffered its third conference loss of the season at the hands of NCHA opponent Finlandia University (Mich.) by a score of 5-3 tonight at the Houghton County Arena.

The Blugolds got on the board first looking to take control early. At the 16:46 mark of the first period, **Beth Dittrich** *(Jr.-Roseville, Minn.)* found the back of the net for her seventh goal of the season. **Toni Simones** *(Fr.-Rosemount, Minn/South St. Paul)* and **Meghan Lorenz** *(So.-Wayzata, Minn.)* assisted on the play. The remainder of the first period much of the second period would spell doom for Eau Claire. During that time, Finlandia managed to score four goals, including two power play and one short-handed goal to take a commanding 4-1 lead.

In the final minutes of the second period, the Blugolds would mount a comeback, scoring two goals to pull within one and 4-3. The first goal came at the 17:30 mark on **Shannon Nelson's** *(So.-Blaine, Minn.)* first goal of the season. **Kristin Faber** *(So.-Austin, Minn.)* scored her team-leading 11th goal of the season at the 19:46 mark. The score was assisted by **Lauren Havard** *(Sr.-San Angelo, Texas/Araphaoe)* and **Christine Dickinson** *(So.-Layton, Utah/Shattuck-St. Mary's)*, and was Dickinson's second assist of the night.

Unfortunately, the Blugolds' comeback bid fell short, as the Lions managed to find the net one last time at the 5:16 mark in the third period to seal the 5-3 win. **Danika Porter** *(Rosemount, Minn./South St. Paul)* took the loss between the pipes, giving up five goals while making nine saves. **Morgan Pieper** *(Fr.-Williams, Minn./Warroad)* finished the game as goalie, making five saves in the third period.

The win is Finlandia's first of the season, moving them to 1-15-0 overall and 1-10-0 in conference play. The Blugolds now sit at 10-4-3 overall and 5-3-2 in NCHA competition.

The Blugolds will have a chance for redemption tomorrow afternoon as they take on the Lions once again for their final matchup of the regular season. The puck drops at 1 p.m.

Eau Claire-Finlandia Box Score

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