

Men's Hockey Crushes Lake Forest At Home

Posted: Saturday, January 24, 2009

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. - After losing a close battle to fourth-ranked St. Norbert yesterday, the UW-Eau Claire men's hockey team had six different scorers as they bounced back to defeat conference opponent Lake Forest College 7-1 tonight at Hobbs Ice Center.

The Blugolds, who have only lost one game in the last five, improve to 13-6-1 overall this season and 3-5-1 in Northern Collegiate Hockey Association play. Lake Forest, which is 0-9-0 in the NCHA, drops to 5-14-1 overall on the season after being shut out in its last two games. In the all-time series against the Foresters, the Blugolds improve to 21-26-4 after defeating them earlier this season 4-3.

The first goal of the game came at 15:06 into the first period as Eau Claire's **Greg Petersen** (Sr.-Maple Grove, Minn./Totino-Grace) hooked up with **Sean Garrity** (Sr.-North St. Paul, Minn./North) and **Tyler Weigel** (Jr.-Madison, Wis./Oregon) on a power-play to put the Blugolds up 1-0.

When it came time for the second period, the Blugolds seemed to be in a scoring frenzy. Garrity kicked off the Blugold offensive with a power-play goal 12 seconds into the period. **Brant Marple** (Jr.-Apple Valley, Minn./Eastview) and **Larry Kincaid** (Fr.-Wasilla, Alaska/Houston) both provided the assist. 21 seconds later, the trio hooked up again as Kincaid put the puck into the Forester net with assists coming from Garrity and Marple to give the Blugolds a three goal lead. At 8:56, Eau Claire's **Skylar Christoffersen** (Jr.-Langley, B.C./Brookwood) received assists from **Nicholas Kuqali** (Jr.-Pittsburgh, Pa./Mount Lebanon) and **Nate Smith** (Jr.-Clayton, Wis.) to score the Blugolds' second even-strength goal of the game. **Jesse Vesel** (Sr.-Hibbing, Minn.) was the next Blugold to sound the siren at 10:21 with assists from **Tyler Trudell** (Jr.-Waukesha, Wis./South) and **Andrew Johnson** (Sr.-Andover, Minn./Anoka) to put the Blugolds up by five.

After scoring five straight goals, the Blugolds' **Dustin Trail** (Fr.-Albert Lea, Minn.) scored an unassisted goal 51 seconds into the third period to give Eau Claire the 6-0 lead. Eau Claire would not get the shutout however as Lake Forest's Zach Kozak scored the Foresters first goal at 3:03 to bring them back within five. Eau Claire responded at 7:34 when Kincaid scored the seventh Blugold goal on a power play with assists from Garrity and Trudell.

The Blugolds tripled the Foresters in shots, out shooting them 66-16. The Blugolds' 66 shots on goal is a season-high. **Tyler Brigl** (Jr.-Apple Valley, Minn./Eastview) picked up the win between the pipes for the Blugolds, recording eight saves on the night while **Aaron Johnson** (Jr.-Hayward, Wis.) played for 20 minutes and allowed the lone goal while picking up seven saves. The Foresters' Brandon Kohuch picked up the loss and ended up with 59 saves.

The Blugolds will play their last regular season home game next Friday against NCHA neighbor and rival, UW-Stout. The puck is set to drop at 7 p.m. at Hobbs Ice Center.

Eau Claire/Lake Forest Box Score

- MT -