

Men's Basketball Faces Whitewater Saturday

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EAU CLAIRE, Wis. - The UW-Eau Claire men's basketball team is set to face sixth-ranked UW-Whitewater on Saturday in the first game of a doubleheader. Tipoff is scheduled for 3 p.m. in Zorn Arena.

The Blugolds are currently on a two game winning streak, picking up an 85-70 win at La Crosse last Saturday and an 82-68 victory at UW-Superior yesterday. The Warhawks have also won their previous two contests, beating Superior last Saturday 88-73 at home and La Crosse last night 64-61 away.

In the all-time series against the Warhawks the Blugolds lead 58-49. Recently, however, the Blugolds have struggled against Whitewater, having not won a game since January 11, 2005. The last time the Blugolds beat the Warhawks in Zorn Arena was the previous year. Earlier this season the two teams met in Whitewater and the Warhawks took a 96-88 victory despite a strong Blugold comeback near the end of the game.

The Blugolds have played well in Zorn this year and hold a 7-2 overall record and a 3-2 conference record at home. Overall the Blugolds are 11-7 on the year and 5-5 in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference while the Warhawks are 16-3 on the year and 8-2 in conference play. Whitewater is currently in third place in the conference and the Blugolds are fourth.

Coming into the weekend, Whitewater leads the conference in scoring, averaging 81.4 points per game and the Blugolds are third with 77.5. The Warhawks also lead in field goal percentage and the Blugolds are third, with Whitewater shooting 53.6 percent to the Blugolds' 50.9 percent.

On the individual side, the Blugolds are led by **Ryan Shea** (*So.-Duluth, Minn./East*), who averages 13.9 points per game. **Dan Beyer** (*Sr.-Waukesha, Wis./Catholic Memorial*) is in a close second with 13.8 per game. Beyer leads Eau Claire in rebounding with 6.5 per game, while Shea leads the team with 18 blocked shots.

Myles McKay leads the Warhawks and the conference with 19.7 points per game. Kori Vernon and Matt Goodwin are both tied with 13.8 points per game and Vernon leads the team and is second in the conference with seven rebounds per game.

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