

Women's Basketball Ready For Battle With Warhawks

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EAU CLAIRE, Wis. - In a battle of two of the top teams in Division III, the eighth-ranked UW-Eau Claire women's basketball team is set to face second-ranked UW-Whitewater Saturday at Zorn Arena. The game will follow the men's contest and is scheduled to begin at 5 p.m.

Eau Claire is riding a two game winning-streak, with victories over UW-La Crosse on Saturday and UW-Superior on Wednesday. The Warhawks had a 13 game winning-streak snapped by UW-La Crosse on Wednesday by a score of 62-53. Saturday's game will be a battle for sole possession of second place in the WIAC standings.

In the all-time series, the Blugolds have the edge over the Warhawks with a 39-19 record. Whitewater has had a slight advantage as of late, with a 3-2 record over Eau Claire in the past three seasons. In those five games, the home team won each contest. Earlier this season, Whitewater beat Eau Claire 73-61 at Whitewater.

The Blugolds have been flawless at home this season, winning all nine games played at Zorn. Home support for Eau Claire has been phenomenal as well, with a conference-leading average of 990 spectators per home game. On the season, Eau Claire owns a 16-2 overall record and an 8-2 mark in the WIAC, while Whitewater is 17-2 overall and also 8-2 in the conference.

Entering Saturday, the Warhawks lead the WIAC in scoring, averaging 74.4 points per game, while the Blugolds are second in the conference in scoring offense, holding their opponents to 51.8 points per game. Eau Claire also ranks second in field goal percentage, shooting at a 45.4 percent clip, with the Warhawks shooting 43.5 percent, good for third place.

Three Blugolds rank in the top ten in scoring this season. Guard **Heidi Arciszewski** (*Sr.-Thorp, Wis.*) leads the team with 14.9 points per game, good for third place in the WIAC. Arciszewski also leads the team in rebounding, pulling down 6.1 boards per contest. **Hannah Mesick** (*So.-Chatfield, Minn.*) is shooting a conference-leading 60.1 percent from the field, and is sixth in the conference in scoring with 14.1 points per game. Senior **Heather Witt** (*Royall, Wis./Kendall*) leads the conference in steals (4.0/game) and assists (3.61/game), as well as ranking eighth in scoring with 12.8 points per game.

Tiffany Morton leads the Warhawks averaging a double-double of 17.7 points and 10.8 rebounds per game. Kelsey Hendrickson is third in the conference in assists with 3.11 per game, while also making 2.16 steals and scoring 11.2 points per contest.

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