

Women's Basketball Set For First Place Pointers

Posted: Monday, February 9, 2009

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. - In its final home game of the season, the seventh-ranked UW-Eau Claire women's basketball team is ready to face off against first-place and fifth-ranked UW-Stevens Point Wednesday night at Zorn Arena.

The Blugolds are looking to hand the Pointers their second conference loss and pull within one game of first place in the WIAC. At 19-3 overall and 10-3 in conference play, Eau Claire sits in second place just ahead of rival UW-Whitewater.

The two teams have split the season series thus far, with the Blugolds picking up a 60-54 in the Thanksgiving Showcase, and the Pointers returning the favor handing Eau Claire a 66-60 loss on January 21.

Eau Claire had a four-game winning streak snapped on Saturday, losing 69-63 to UW-River Falls before bouncing back and posting a 62-50 victory over Division II national runner-up University of South Dakota on Sunday.

Leading the offense is a trio of double-figure scorers. Senior **Heidi Arciszewski** (*Sr.-Thorp, Wis.*) paces the team with 14.7 points per game, pulls down a team-high 6.2 rebounds and shoots 87.8 percent from the charity stripe. Center **Hannah Mesick** (*So.-Chatfield, Minn.*) shoots a team-leading 56.7 percent from the field, giving her 13.6 points per game to go along with 4.7 boards. Reigning WIAC player of the week **Heather Witt** (*Sr.-Royall, Wis./Kendall*) has done it all for the Blugolds this year, averaging 12.9 points per game, while recording a conference-leading 3.27 assists and 3.68 steals on the season.

The Pointers own a 19-2 overall record and are 11-1 in the WIAC. Three players average double-figures, with Britta Petersen leading the way with 13.4 points per game. Jessi Sporle averages 10.5 points along with a team-leading 6.3 rebounds per game and Janell Van Gomple is right behind with 10.4 points per contest.

Wednesday's contest is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. The night will be senior night, honoring the team's five seniors as well as the team's WBCA Pink Zone game. During the game, players and coaches will don pink apparel in support of breast cancer awareness and fans are encouraged to support the cause by wearing pink clothing.

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