

# Women's Basketball Ends Regular Season On Winning Note

*Posted: Saturday, February 21, 2009*

MENOMONIE, Wis. - In its regular season finale, the 11th-ranked UW-Eau Claire women's basketball team beat I-94 rival UW-Stout 59-41 this evening at Johnson Fieldhouse.

With the win, the Blugolds lock up the third seed in the WIAC tournament where they will host sixth-seeded UW-River Falls on Tuesday. Eau Claire improves to 21-4 overall and 12-4 in the WIAC, while picking up its fifth straight win against the Blue Devils. Stout secures the fourth seed in the conference tournament with a 15-10 overall record and 10-6 mark in the WIAC.

Both teams struggled from the field offensively in the game. Stout shot a combined 11-48 (22.9 percent) and Eau Claire converted on 21-57 field goals, good for 36.8 percent.

Eau Claire struck first in the contest, taking an early 5-0 lead. Stout would answer and eventually take a 14-11 lead at the 12:12 mark in the first half. The Blue Devils kept their lead until 2:14 left in the first when **Heather Witt** (*Royall, Wis./Kendall*) converted on a steal and score to give the Blugolds a 28-26 lead. Eau Claire would hang on to the lead and go into halftime up 30-26.

It was all Eau Claire in the second half, as Stout struggled mightily from the field. With the Blugolds leading 32-31 at the 17:24 mark, Stout went into a five minute scoring drought and Eau Claire was able to build its lead to six during that span. The Blugolds continued to pour it on and led for the entire second half. Eau Claire extended its lead into double-digits on an **Ellen Plendl** (*Fr.-Chippewa Falls, Wis./McDonell*) jumper with 3:42 to go, and cruised to the 18-point win.

**Heidi Arciszewski** (*Sr.-Thorp, Wis.*) scored a game-high 26 points, including 10-for-10 from the free throw line to lead the way for the Blugolds. Plendl had a career night, recording her first collegiate double-double of 14 points and 10 rebounds.

Eau Claire-Stout Box Score

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