

Men's Basketball Set For WIAC Quarterfinal

Posted: Monday, February 23, 2009

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. - Tuesday the UW-Eau Claire men's basketball team will compete in the first round of the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Tournament. The Blugolds will take on UW-Oshkosh in Oshkosh at 7 p.m.

The Blugolds (15-10) enter the tournament as the No. 5 seed while Oshkosh (15-10) is the No. 4 seed. With its fifth place finish in the conference standings, Eau Claire reached its highest finish since the 2000-01 season when the team took third.

In this year's tournament the top two seeds receive first round byes. No. 3 seed UW-Whitewater and No. 6 seed UW-River Falls will be the other teams in action Tuesday night. The lowest remaining seed will take on No. 1 seed UW-Stevens Point on Thursday while the highest remaining seed will face No. 2 seed UW-Platteville also on Thursday. The winners will then compete for the conference tournament title on Saturday.

Last year the Blugolds finished seventh in the conference and played UW-Platteville in the first round of the conference tournament. The Blugolds went on to upset the No. 2 seed Pioneers but fell in the semifinals at Stevens Point.

The Blugolds will have to once again knock off a higher seed in order to advance. In two contests earlier this season with the Titans, the two teams split. In Oshkosh in the middle of January, the Blugolds rallied from a double-digit deficit to push the game into overtime. Eau Claire was unable to capitalize in the end and eventually fell 91-84. However, the Blugolds got revenge on the Titans in Zorn Arena just over three weeks ago, winning 75-62.

Eau Claire enters the contest ranked third in the conference in scoring offense, averaging 75.4 points per game. Oshkosh is sixth with 72 points per game. The two teams come in with almost the same field goal shooting percentage with the Blugolds in third place in the WIAC shooting 49.5 percent while Oshkosh is fourth, shooting 49.4 percent.

Dan Beyer (*Sr.-Waukesha, Wis./Catholic Memorial*) currently leads the Blugolds and is ranked 10th in the conference with 14.3 points per game. He is shooting 52.3 percent from the floor and also leads the team with 6.9 rebounds per game, ranked third in the WIAC. **Ryan Shea** (*So.-Duluth, Minn./East*) and **Geoff Probst** (*Jr.-Moose Lake, Minn.*) are also in double-figures this season, averaging 13.9 and 10.1 points per game, respectively. Probst also averages six rebounds a game. Shea is third in the conference and leads the team with 45 steals and is second on the team with 83 assists.

D.J. Marsh leads the Titans and is third in the conference in scoring with 18.6 points per game. He also leads the conference in rebounding with 8.8 boards a game. Dane Seckar-Anderson and Matt Miller are both tied for sixth in the conference in scoring with 16.5 points per game.

WIAC Tournament Website

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