

Women's Basketball Hosts River Falls Tuesday

Posted: Monday, February 23, 2009

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. - The 12th-ranked UW-Eau Claire women's basketball team is ready to host UW-River Falls in a Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference quarterfinal game Tuesday in Zorn Arena. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m.

The Blugolds (21-4) enter the game as the No. 3 seed in the conference. The Blugolds wrapped up their third place finish in the conference after defeating UW-Stout this past Saturday. River Falls (14-11) comes in to the game as the No. 6 seed.

In this year's tournament the top two seeds receive first round byes. No. 4 seed UW-Stout and No. 5 seed UW-La Crosse 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-Whitewater also on Thursday. The winners will then compete for the conference tournament title on Saturday. Should the Blugolds win Tuesday, they will be at Whitewater on Thursday.

Last season the Blugolds opened the conference tournament with a game against UW-River Falls as well. In that game the Blugolds defeated the Falcons 73-43 and followed that with an 86-61 victory over Stout in the semifinals. The Blugolds then fell short against UW-Stevens Point 62-50 but earned an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament where they made it to the second round.

The Blugold women have faced River Falls twice previously this season. In a home game against the Falcons on January 17, Eau Claire came up with a 55-51 victory. Just over three weeks ago in River Falls the Blugolds fell short 69-63.

This season the Blugolds are ranked fifth in the conference in scoring offense with 64.4 points per game while the Falcons are sixth with an average of 64.1. However, the Blugolds are second in points allowed with only 51.8 per game and the Falcons are fourth with 58.8.

Leading the Blugolds in scoring this season is **Heidi Arciszewski** (*Sr.-Thorp, Wis.*), who is averaging 15 points per game. She is currently fifth on the Blugolds' all-time career points list and is fourth in the conference this year in scoring. She also leads the Blugolds with 6.2 rebounds per game. **Hannah Mesick** (*So.-Chatfield, Minn.*) and **Heather Witt** (*Sr.-Kendall, Wis./Royall*) are both averaging double-figures as well with 12.8 and 12.3 points per game, respectively. Witt also leads the team and conference with 83 assists and 89 steals.

River Falls' Tiffany Gregorich is the only player in double-figures for the Falcons. She is averaging 12.7 points per game. She also leads the team with 60 steals and 63 assists. Maranda Dohrn leads the team in rebounds, averaging 7.6 per game.

WIAC Tournament Website

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