Women's Hockey Begins Playoffs Friday

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EAU CLAIRE, Wis. - The UW-Eau Claire women's hockey team is set to compete in this weekend's Northern Collegiate Hockey Association playoffs in River Falls at W.H. Hunt Arena.

Eau Claire will open up play on Friday against Lake Forest College at 7:05 p.m. The Blugolds (12-10-3) enter the weekend as the No. 4 seed in tournament while Lake Forest (11-13-1) is the No. 5 seed. No. 3 seed UW-Stevens Point and No. 6 seed Concordia University will face off earlier in the day at 3:05 p.m. On Saturday the lowest remaining seed will take on No. 1 seed UW-River Falls while the highest remaining seed will face No. 2 seed UW-Superior. The third-place and championship games will take place on Sunday and the champion will automatically be qualified for the NCAA Division III playoffs.

The Blugolds' 12 wins this year is tied for the third most in school history. Their most wins ever came during the 2004-05 season when they finished with 15. Two seasons ago Eau Claire finished with 13 wins while the team picked up 12 last year.

Last season Eau Claire also faced the Foresters in the first round of the NCHA playoffs but fell 1-0 in double overtime. However, the Blugolds outshot the Foresters 32-30.

This year in three contests against the Foresters, the Blugolds went 1-2, most recently defeating Lake Forest 4-1 on senior night in Hobbs Ice Center. At Lake Forest in the teams' first outing, Eau Claire fell short in overtime 4-3. Eau Claire also came up short 2-1 at Hobbs three weeks ago. The Blugolds are now 12-13-6 all-time against the Foresters.

Kristin Faber *(So.-Austin, Minn.)* leads the Blugolds this season with 13 goals and is tied for second on the team with 12 assists. Her 25 points ties her for sixth in the conference. **Lauren Havard** *(Sr.-San Angelo, Texas/Araphaoe)* leads the team with 13 assists and is second on the team with 21 points. **Morgan Pieper** *(Fr.-Williams, Minn./Warroad)* has played just under 1,060 minutes between the pipes and leads the Blugolds with 391 saves.

Melissa Kravich leads the Foresters with 26 points, which ties her for third in the conference. She has a team-high 19 assists while Kim Herring leads the team with 12 goals. Alyssa Wintermute has started 21 games in-goal for the Foresters and has 586 saves.

NCHA Tournament Website

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