

Softball Opens Conference With Two Wins

Posted: Thursday, April 2, 2009

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. - The No. 3-ranked UW-Eau Claire softball team recorded two victories to open conference play with a doubleheader against UW-River Falls at Gelein Field today.

In game one the Blugolds defeated the Falcons 4-3 while they won the nightcap 5-3 to start 2-0 in the conference. Eau Claire improves to 14-3 overall while River Falls drops to 11-7 on the season and 0-2 in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

The Blugolds got up early in game one, scoring two runs in the bottom of the second. **Bekki Kidnie** (*Jr.-St. Paul, Minn./Johnson*) put the Blugolds up by three in the bottom of the third with her second home run of the season.

But the Falcons would fight their way back into the game as Dana Book hit a three-run homer to tie the game up the next inning. The Blugolds were able to answer back in the bottom of the sixth and take home the win after **Jenny Janke** (*Fr.-Black River Falls, Wis.*) drove one over the fences in deep right field to put the Blugolds back up by one. Two groundouts and a strikeout later, the Blugolds secured the 4-3 victory.

In game two Eau Claire put runs on the board in the bottom of the third. **Katie Stalker** (*Jr.-Madison, Wis./La Follette*) and **Aleisha Harper** (*Fr.-Mondovi, Wis./Eau Claire North*) both reached home in the inning to give the Blugolds a 2-0 lead.

Three more runs came in for the Blugolds the next inning with Stalker, **Becca Moos** (*Fr.-White Bear Lake, Minn./St. Agnes*) and **Jess Freagon** (*Fr.-Chippewa Falls, Wis./McDonell*) all recording runs. River Falls answered right back in the top of the fifth with three runs of their own but the Blugolds were able to get out of the inning while the Falcons left two runners on bases, making the score 5-3.

Jenny Ross (*So.-Mendota Heights, Minn./Henry Sibley*) added two more victories to her record to bring it to 7-1 on the season. She pitched the full seven innings in game two while she pitched just two in game one. For the day she faced 38 batters, recording nine strikeouts while allowing eight hits and three unearned runs. **Ashley Meinen** (*Fr.-Chippewa Falls, Wis./McDonell*) and **Bri Sturm** (*Sr.-Zumbrota, Minn./Zumbrota-Mazeppa*) both saw time in the circle in game one.

Tamara Zeman (*Jr.-Lodi, Wis.*) led the first game with two hits while **Jen Barron** (*Sr.-Brooklyn Center, Minn.*) recorded two RBIs to lead the Blugolds. In game two, Stalker had three hits and scored two runs to lead Eau Claire, while Kidnie led the team with three RBIs.

Tomorrow the Blugolds will be back at Gelein Field for a doubleheader against UW-Platteville. Game time is set for 2 p.m.

Game 1: Eau Claire-River Falls Box Score

Game 2: Eau Claire-River Falls Box Score

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