

Blugold Men To Battle Manchester Wednesday

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EAU CLAIRE - In the first ever meeting between the two teams, the UW-Eau Claire men's basketball team will play host to Manchester College (IN) on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at Zorn Arena.

The Blugolds come in with a 1-1 record after splitting a pair of games last weekend. Eau Claire opened its season with a 77-72 victory over Coe College (IA) on Friday night behind the performance of **Will Jefferson** (Sr.-Wausau/East). The senior outside player scored a game-best 23 points on 9-of-12 shooting while also tallying three assists, three rebounds and a block. **Dan Archambault** (Sr.-Oshkosh/West) finished second on the Blugold roster with 15 points while leading the team with five assists. He converted on all six of his free-throw attempts. **Casey Drake** (Sr.-Rhinelander) added 14 points and four assists in the victory. Eau Claire shot 66.7 percent from the floor in the second half, to turn a 31-31 tie at halftime into the seven point victory.

The Blugolds traveled to Storm Lake, Iowa Saturday night, where a battle with Buena Vista fell in favor of the Beavers. Drake led the Blugolds with 12 points but shot just 4-of-17 from the floor. Newcomer **Dan Beyer** (Fr.-Waukesha/Catholic Memorial) played very well, finishing the game with 11 points while leading the Blugolds with eight rebounds.

Manchester comes in to Wednesday's match up with an impressive 2-0 record. The Spartans have won each game by at least 17 points and topped the century mark in their season opener, a 105-83 victory over IU-Northwest. They went on to defeat Earlham 80-63 in the championship game of their home Manchester College Tournament.

Two games into the season, Jamaal Wade has already scored 47 points while grabbing 12 rebounds and dishing out nine assists. He has shown a knack for getting to the free-throw line, as he has attempted 18 free-throws already, converting on all but one of them. Wade scored 26 points in the championship game of Manchester tourney.

Eric Berger is second on the team with 35 points early in the season, and also leads the team with 13 rebounds. He is 16-of-22 from the floor through the first two games.

Eau Claire and Manchester have never faced each other in the history of the two schools. Tip-off between the two teams is set for Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at W.L. Zorn Arena.

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