Football Opens Season With Night Game

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The 2009 UW-Eau Claire football schedule includes a home opener under the lights plus the return of non-conference rival St. John's University to the slate.

The Blugolds kick off their 10-game campaign at 7 p.m., September 5 with a non-conference clash against Bethel University of McKenzie, Tennessee on the turf at Carson Park.

Following that game, the Blugolds take to the road for four consecutive contests before returning to Carson Park for the homecoming game against UW-Platteville October 17. The home schedule will continue the following week with conference rival UW-Stout in the Hall of Fame game October 24. The final home game will be a regionally-televised game against UW-La Crosse November 7. The two October games will begin at 1 p.m. while the TV showdown will start at 11:30 a.m.

The Blugolds line up against the St. John's Johnnies at Collegeville, Minnesota on the second week of the season September 12. The Blugolds conclude the non-conference portion of their schedule September 19 with a trip to Hope College in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Following an open week September 26, the Blugolds initiate Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference play against the league's defending co-champions in UW-Stevens Point (Oct. 3) and UW-Whitewater (Oct. 10). The Whitewater showdown will start at 3 p.m.

The final two conference road games will be at UW-Oshkosh October 31 and at UW-River Falls November 14. The Halloween battle against Oshkosh will be a 7 p.m. start.

The Blugolds were 6-4 overall last season and 4-3 in the conference to finish third behind Whitewater, which advanced to the NCAA Division III championship game for the fourth straight year, and Stevens Point which also advanced to the NCAA playoffs.