Volleyball Finishes Third at Augsburg Invite

By: Kevin Meinholz, Sports Information Director
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MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (UWECBlugolds.com) - The 13th-ranked UW-Eau Claire women's volleyball team bounced back with two wins to finish third at the Augsburg College Invitational today at Si Melby Hall.

Eau Claire improves to 9-1 on the season, with its only loss coming yesterday to No. 21 College of St. Benedict.

The Blugolds kicked off the second day of action with a 3-1 victory over Northwestern College (Minn.) with scores of 20-25, 25-21, 25-13 and 25-17. In the third place match at the tournament, the Blugolds beat Augsburg College (Minn.) 25-19, 25-22 and 25-20. The University of St. Thomas, ranked seventh in the nation, won the tournament while St. Benedict took second.

Emily Zupon *(Jr.-Antigo, Wis.)*, who won all-tournament team honors, led Eau Claire in today's first match with 11 kills. Four Blugolds finished with double-digit dig totals, led by **Blair Murphy** *(Jr.-Hermantown, Minn.)* with 15. **Emily Naeve** *(Fr.-Salem, Wis,/Westosha Central)* recorded 35 assists to lead Eau Claire. As a team, the Blugolds hit .182 while Northwestern hit .126.

In the second match, **Rachel Ver Voort** *(Jr.-Madison, Wis./Middleton)* and **Danielle Lucia** *(Jr.-St. Cloud, Minn./Apollo)* finished with 14 and 10 kills, respectively. **Lindsey Smith** *(Sr.-Maple Lake, Minn.)* picked up 12 digs to lead Eau Claire while **Amanda Lessner** *(Jr.-Watertown, Wis.)* finished with 34 assists to lead the team. The Blugolds had a .402 hitting percentage while Augsburg hit .160.

Next up, the Blugolds will open conference action with two matches at home. Eau Claire will play UW-Platteville Friday at 7 p.m. and UW-La Crosse Saturday at noon. Both will be contested in the McPhee Physical Education Center.