

## Women's Basketball To Host Stevens Point

*Posted: Wednesday, December 1, 2004*

EAU CLAIRE - The 20th-ranked UW-Eau Claire women's basketball team will look to improve to 2-0 in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference when they host 9th-ranked UW-Stevens Point Saturday at Zorn Arena.

The two teams have split the rivalry down the middle with each team winning 30 games since the 1973-74 season. The teams split the series last year with each team winning at home. **Joanna Leafblad** (*Sr.-Eau Claire/Memorial*) had a strong showing against the Pointers at home last year with 14 points including four three pointers.

Eau Claire is 6-0 on the season following an 84-42 defeat of UW-Superior in the conference opener. The Blugolds have won by an average of over 20 points a game.

The Blugold offense and defense have both played well early in the season with the offense averaging 77 points a game while only allowing 55.2 a game. Eau Claire has assisted on 115 baskets this year while committing only 93 turnovers while the defense has forced 143 turnovers and only allowed assists on 58 baskets.

**Jessica Dickey** (*Sr.-White Bear Lake, MN/Cretin-Derham Hall*) leads a balanced Blugold attack at 12.8 points a game. **Rachel Becker** (*Jr.-Gilmanton*) is averaging 11.8 points per game while distributing 5.7 assists a game. **Michelle Burns** (*Fr.-Eau Claire/North*) is averaging 11 points a game and a team-best 7.3 boards a game.

Stevens Point is 5-1 on the season and riding a four-game winning streak. The Pointers opened the WIAC schedule with a 68-43 win over UW-Platteville despite shooting only 27.6 percent in the first half.

The Pointers have been led by the play of Preseason All-Americans Amanda Nechuta and Amy Scott. Nechuta is averaging 16.8 points a game and 6.3 rebounds a game this season despite playing less than 21 minutes a game. Scott is averaging 10.7 points a game in 23 minutes while shooting nearly 51 percent from the field.

The game will be part of a doubleheader with the men playing at 3:30 p.m. The women's game is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m.

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