

Women's Hockey Ready to Start Season

By: Kevin Meinholz, Sports Information Director

Posted: Thursday, October 29, 2009 at 1:29 AM

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. (UWECBlugolds.com) - The UW-Eau Claire women's hockey team will open its 2009-10 campaign Friday (Oct. 30) when it travels to St. Paul, Minn. for a game against Hamline University at 7:15 p.m.

The Blugolds have a strong contingent of returners this season on the 20-player roster. In all, Eau Claire returns 14 letterwinners from last season and one from the season before. The roster is made up of two seniors, seven juniors, six sophomores and five freshmen.

The Blugolds return six of their top seven scorers from last season, led by All-NCHA forward **Kristin Faber** (*Jr.-Austin, Minn.*). She finished the 2008-09 season with 25 points from 13 goals and 12 assists.

Three other players recorded 15 points or more last season. **Beth Dittrich** (*Sr.-Roseville, Minn./Roseville Area*) finished with 17 points (eight goals, nine assists), **Christine Dickinson** (*Jr.-Layton, Utah/Shattuck-St. Mary's*) finished with 16 (four goals, 12 assists) and **Toni Simones** (*So.-Rosemount, Minn./South St. Paul*) had 15 (six goals, nine assists).

This year's returners accounted for 73 percent of the Blugolds' goals from last year and 75 percent of the team's overall points.

Competing for time between the pipes will be **Danika Porter** (*Jr.-Rosemount, Minn./South St. Paul*) and **Nicole Lence** (*Jr.-St. Paul Park, Minn./Park*). Porter served for just over 300 minutes last year in-goal and had a .860 save percentage while Lence saw action in three games during the 2007-08 season and had a .818 save percentage.

Eau Claire will play 14 games at home this season. After being on the road for the first two games, the Blugolds will kick off home action Nov. 7 against St. Thomas (Minn.). They will have stretches of three home games in November, six between December and January and four in early February.