Women's Hockey Comes up Short in Season Opener

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SAINT PAUL, Minn. - The UW-Eau Claire women's hockey team was unable to notch a victory in its first game of the season, losing to Hamline University 4-1 tonight at Drake Arena.

The game tonight was the first for both teams, dropping UW-Eau Claire to 0-1-0 with the loss and giving Hamline the 1-0-0 record.

In the first period, Hamline's Alli Miller scored her first goal of the night 27 seconds into the game. She struck again at 9:28 in the first followed by Hamline's Jessica Kraus scoring again at 16:18.

The second period showed the first signs of life from the Blugold offense with **Kelli Johnson** *(Jr.-Farmington, Minn.)* scoring a goal on a power-play at 10:41, with assists from **Beth Dittrich** *(Sr.-Roseville, Minn./Roseville Area)* and **Taylor Jenkins** *(So.-Austin, Minn.)*. Eau Claire also took a majority of its shots for the game in the second period with 16. Unfortunately, Hamline's Melanie Leveille scored at 17:40 to help hand the Blugolds a 4-1 loss.

Danika Porter *(Jr.-Rosemount, Minn./South St. Paul)* defended the net for the Blugolds for 60 minutes, picking up 22 saves on the night and allowing four goals. Hamline's Amelea Gray played the full 60 minutes, picking up 24 saves on the night, only allowing one goal. The Blugolds were one short of Hamline in shots, with the home team notching 26 shots while Eau Claire took 25.

Eau Claire will be back on the ice next Friday against Bethel University (Minn.) at St. Paul, Minn. The puck is set to hit center ice at 7 p.m. The Blugolds' first home game will be next Saturday against St. Thomas (Minn.).