

Men's Basketball Starts Season with Big Win

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DULUTH, Minn. (UWECBlugolds.com) - The UW-Eau Claire men's basketball team opened the 2009-10 season with an 87-47 victory over the College of St. Scholastica at Reif Gymnasium today.

The Blugolds got on the board right away and never looked back. **Josh Prince** (So.-Chippewa Falls, Wis./Chi-Hi) was fouled just 13 seconds into the game and drained his two free throws to give Eau Claire the early 2-0 lead. The Blugolds did not allow any points for more than the first two minutes of the game and were up 6-0 before the Saints answered.

Eau Claire continued to increase its lead in the first half and took a 42-18 lead into the locker room. The Blugolds hit more than half of their shots from the floor in the first going 16-for-30 (53.3 percent) while holding St. Scholastica to just six field goals in 26 attempts (23.1 percent).

The Blugolds came out strong in the second half and pushed their lead to 26 with **Geoff Probst** (Sr.-Moose Lake, Minn.) hitting a jumper right away. Eau Claire increased its lead throughout the half and after a 6-0 run at one point, the Blugolds achieved their largest lead of the game at 41 points (78-37).

Eau Claire finished the game shooting 52.3 percent from the floor (34-for-65) while the Saints shot just 28 percent (14-for-50). The Blugolds recorded seven three-pointers on 18 attempts (38.9 percent) and St. Scholastica tried 10 shots from beyond the arc, making none.

Amadou Fofana (Jr.-Appleton, Wis./West) led the Blugolds in scoring with 14 points while Probst finished with 13 and **Branden Tachick** (Fr.-Suamico, Wis./Bay Port) added 11 coming off the bench. Tachick and Probst led Eau Claire with eight rebounds apiece as the Blugolds accumulated a total of 49.

Up next, the Blugolds will travel to Waverly, Iowa for the Wartburg College Tournament. The Blugolds will open the two-day event Friday with a game against Concordia University (Wis.). Tipoff is set for 6 p.m.