

Men's Basketball Hosts Undefeated Oshkosh Tuesday

Posted: Sunday, December 5, 2004

EAU CLAIRE - For the third consecutive game, the UW-Eau Claire men's basketball team will face an undefeated conference opponent, when the Blugolds host 6-0 UW-Oshkosh Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m. at Zorn Arena.

Eau Claire handed UW-Superior its first loss of the season in six games last Tuesday but could not upend defending national champion and No. 1 UW-Stevens Point on Saturday. The Pointers came in to Saturday's game 5-0 and are now tied with Oshkosh atop the conference standings.

The Blugolds come in to Tuesday's contest with a record of 3-3 on the season and 1-1 in Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference play. They gave the top-ranked Pointers all they could handle in the first half of Saturday's game, but were outscored 40-19 in the second half to suffer a 71-50 defeat.

Dan Archambault (*Sr.-Oshkosh/West*) leads Eau Claire in scoring and is third in the WIAC six games into the season with an average of 17.3 points per game while posting a team-best eight steals. He has been unbelievable from behind the three-point arc, hitting 16-of-24 (66.7 percent). The percentage is good for second in the conference and first among players with more than five attempts. The Blugolds are hitting 36.4 percent from three-point range as a team.

Casey Drake (*Sr.-Rhineland*) and **Will Jefferson** (*Sr.-Wausau/East*) are also posting double-digit averages in points this season. Drake is averaging 14.7 points per game while leading the Blugolds with 20 assists on the season. Jefferson has posted 13.3 points per game to go along with 3.8 rebounds per game.

Newcomer **Dan Beyer** (*Fr.-Waukesha/Catholic Memorial*) has made an immediate impact for Eau Claire. He is currently the Blugolds leading rebounder with 5.2 per game and is fourth on the team with 6.5 points per game.

The Titans come into Tuesday's contest fresh off a 66-44 drumming of UW-La Crosse on Saturday. They are allowing just 57.8 points per game, good for second in the WIAC.

Andy Jahnke leads three Titans in double digit scoring with 15.8 points per game, good for sixth in the conference. He also leads the team with seven steals. Jim Cappelle is second on the team with 13.5 points per game and is second on the team with 5.3 points per game. Kerry Gibson has had a fine season so far, averaging 11.2 points per game and a team-high 5.7 rebounds per game. He also leads the conference with 16 blocked shots.

The Blugolds own the advantage in the all-time series against the Titans but have dropped the last six games and seven of the last eight. They hold a 68-34 record over Oshkosh all-time, dating back to the 1936-37 season. The Titans won both games last season by double digits, winning 65-45 in Oshkosh and 57-47 at Zorn Arena.

Tip-off is set for Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at W.L. Zorn Arena.

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