Women's Hockey Drops First Game of New Year

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EAU CLAIRE, Wis. (UWECBlugolds.com) - After ending 2009 with three straight wins, the UW-Eau Claire women's hockey team suffered a 3-1 loss to St. Olaf College (Minn.) tonight at Hobbs Ice Center.

The game started off very quickly for both teams as the first goal of the match came from St. Olaf at 32 seconds into the first period. A little under 20 seconds later, the Blugolds' **Christine Dickinson** *(Jr.-Layton, Utah/Shattuck-St. Mary's)* scored a power-play goal with assist from **Shannon Nelson** *(Sr.-Blaine, Minn.)* to make the score tied at one before the first minute of play.

Scoring slowed, however, as St. Olaf found the back of the Blugold net a little over eight and a half minutes later to give the Oles the one goal lead.

The second period saw the last of the scoring as St. Olaf yet again penetrated the Blugold defense for an even-strength goal at 6:06 to make the final score 3-1 in favor of the Oles.

Eau Claire's offense produced more shots than St. Olaf, 35-30, while the Oles were able to convert on two of their five power play attempts, compared to the Blugolds' 1-6.

Nicole Lence *(Jr.-St. Paul Park, Minn./Park)* was in the net for Eau Claire for 58:47 of the game, picking up 27 saves on the night, with 14 coming in the first period alone.

The Blugolds drop to 6-5-1 overall and remain 4-2-0 in the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association (NCHA). Eau Claire will get a chance at redemption against St. Olaf tomorrow at Hobbs Ice Center at 2 p.m. The Blugolds' next conference match-up will be against UW-River Falls in River Falls, Friday January 15th.