

Men's Basketball Cruises Past Finlandia

By: Kevin Meinholz, Sports Information Director

Posted: Saturday, January 9, 2010 at 7:10 PM

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. (UWECBlugolds.com) - The UW-Eau Claire men's basketball team recorded a 97-80 victory over Finlandia University (Mich.) at Zorn Arena today.

The Blugolds, who have won 12 in a row over the Lions dating back to 2004, improve to 9-4 on the season while Finlandia drops to 5-8.

Eau Claire trailed just once today after Finlandia opened with a three-pointer. Following that the Blugolds went on a 7-0 run to take a four-point lead and would never look back.

After Eau Claire got up by double-digits at 8:05 in the first half, the Lions were never able to close the gap back to a single-digit lead. The Blugolds took their largest lead of the game midway through the second when they went up by 44 points (84-40). The Blugolds slowed down their offense the rest of the way as they scored just 13 more points with mainly reserves playing the rest of the half.

The teams combined for 51 turnovers with the Blugolds recording 25 and Finlandia finishing with 26. The Blugolds dominated down low, finishing with 44 rebounds to Finlandia's 29, while also scoring 62 points in the paint to Finlandia's 44. The Blugolds led the game shooting 55.6 percent (35-for-63) while the Lions were 33-for-71 (46.5 percent).

Amadou Fofana (*Jr.-Appleton, Wis./West*) led the Blugolds with 14 points as he went 7-for-8 from the floor. **Josh Prince** (*So.-Chippewa Falls, Wis./Chi-Hi*) and **Colin Boone** (*Sr.-Eau Claire, Wis./Memorial*) also reached double-figures with 12 and 10 points, respectively. **Geoff Probst** (*Sr.-Moose Lake, Minn.*) finished with a team-high six rebounds.

For Finlandia Tyler Gordon had a game-high 18 points while Marquise Morgan had 14 and Mario Cooper contributed 13. Lee Naugle finished with a game-high 10 rebounds.

The Blugolds will be back in conference action next Wednesday when they travel to Superior to take on the UW-Superior Yellowjackets. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m.