Women's Hockey Comeback Falls Just Short in NCHA Quarterfinal

By: Kevin Meinholz, Sports Information Director
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RIVER FALLS, Wis. (UWECBlugolds.com) - While the UW-Eau Claire women's hockey team scored twice early in the third period, sixth-ranked UW-River Falls was too much for the Blugolds to handle as they fell 3-2 in a Northern Collegiate Hockey Association Quarterfinal game at Hunt Arena tonight.

River Falls scored goals in the first and second periods, one even-strength and one power-play, to go up 2-0.

The Blugolds came out strong in the third period and lit the lamp just 26 seconds into the period. All-NCHA first teamers **Beth Dittrich** *(Sr.-Roseville, Minn./Roseville Area)* and **Kristin Faber** *(Jr.-Austin, Minn.)* combined for the goal as Dittrich scored while Faber got the assist.

The Falcons pushed their lead back to two after scoring five minutes later, but Eau Claire got back to within one just over a minute later as **Jackie McKay** *(So.-Franklin Park, Ill./East Leyden)* added a power-play goal with **Rita Simones** *(Jr.-Rosemount, Minn./South St. Paul)* on the assist to make the score 3-2.

River Falls held strong though to preserve the win and outshot the Blugolds 17-6 in the final period. For the game, the Falcons outshot the Blugolds 38-20.

Danika Porter *(Jr.-Rosemount, Minn./South St. Paul)* played between the pipes for the Blugolds and collected 35 saves while allowing three goals. The Falcons' Cassi Campbell saved 18 shots and allowed two goals.

Eau Claire drops to 12-11-3 on the season while River Falls improves to 17-3-6.

The Blugolds will try and even out the series tomorrow at 2:05 p.m. If the Blugolds win, a mini-game will determine which team advances to the semifinals, which will start next weekend.