

Women's Hockey Ends Season at River Falls

By: Kevin Meinholz, Sports Information Director

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RIVER FALLS, Wis. (UWECBlugolds.com) - The UW-Eau Claire women's hockey team struck early and held a lead the majority of the game, but three third period goals lifted sixth-ranked UW-River Falls past the Blugolds 3-1 today in a NCHA Quarterfinal game at Hunt Arena.

In her final game as a Blugold, **Shannon Nelson** (*Sr.-Blaine, Minn.*) put the Blugolds ahead early with an unassisted goal at 4:12 in the first period. It was her third goal of the year and the ninth in her career.

The Blugolds held strong for the rest of the first and the entire second period but the Falcons overcame the deficit and scored three times in the third. They tied the game up at 7:54 on a power-play and added another goal less than a minute later. River Falls then added an insurance goal at the 13-minute mark to help secure the 3-1 win.

Eau Claire managed 22 shots, its most in the last four games, but the Falcons outshot the Blugolds with 33 of their own today. The Blugolds also could not convert on power-plays, just the ninth time this season they were unable to come up with a power-play goal.

Danika Porter (*Jr.-Rosemount, Minn./South St. Paul*) played between the pipes for Eau Claire and picked up 30 saves. For the season, she finished with a .904 save percentage and a 2.72 goals-against average.

Beth Dittrich (*Sr.-Roseville, Minn./Roseville Area*) wrapped up her career with the Blugolds and finished second on the team's all-time scoring list with 76 points, first with 12 game-winning goals in her career, and tied for first with 44 career assists. She also set a single-season school record for most assists with 17 this year.

The Blugolds finished the season with a 12-12-3 record, the third year in a row with 12 wins, while River Falls improves to 18-3-6. The Falcons move on to compete in the NCHA Semifinals and Finals next weekend.