

Softball Splits against UW-Oshkosh

By: Kevin Meinholz, Sports Information Director

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EAU CLAIRE, Wis. (UWECBlugolds.com) - The UW-Eau Claire softball team won the first game of a doubleheader against UW-Oshkosh but fell in game two at Gelein Field today.

The Blugolds used a big sixth inning in game one to end the game early on the eight-run rule, taking the 10-2 victory. In game two, the Blugolds and Titans battled to nine innings when a two-run home run lifted Oshkosh to the 5-3 victory. Eau Claire is now 17-17 on the season and 9-3 in conference play while Oshkosh is 15-17 overall and 3-5 in the WIAC.

Eau Claire held a 4-0 lead after two innings in game one but Oshkosh cut the lead to just two after scoring twice in the fourth. However, Eau Claire came up big in the sixth inning and scored six runs to end the game, leaving two runners on bases with two outs.

Aleisha Harper (So.-Mondovi, Wis./Eau Claire North), **Emily Muller** (So.-Lancaster, Wis.) and **Tamara Zeman** (Sr.-Lodi, Wis.) each scored two runs apiece while **Katie Stalker** (Sr.-Madison, Wis./La Follette), **Samantha Weix** (Fr.-Elk Mound, Wis.), **Sara Baumgartner** (Jr.-Arcadia, Wis.) and **Emily Haluska** (Fr.-Stevens Point, Wis./SPASH) each added a run. Harper led the game with three RBIs, two of which came in the bottom of the sixth.

In game two, Oshkosh went up early with runs in the second and fourth innings but Eau Claire tied the game up at 2-2 in the bottom of the fourth with **Jenny Hess** (Fr.-Wisconsin Rapids, Wis./Lincoln) and Zeman both scoring runs. The Blugolds went ahead in the bottom of the sixth as Weix scored a run after a Zeman single up the middle, but Oshkosh tied the game back up in the top of the seventh.

While the Blugolds left a total of three runners on bases in the eighth and ninth innings, the Titans gave themselves a two-run advantage in the top of the ninth after a two-run Sydnee Wyss homer to left field. Hayley Freimuth also hit a home run for the Titans earlier in the game.

Eau Claire finished with 19 hits on the day, including 12 in game one. The Blugolds committed just two errors, both in game two, while Oshkosh had six for the day.

Ashley Meinen (So.-Chippewa Falls, Wis./McDonell) earned the win in the circle for Eau Claire in game one to improve to 7-3 on the season. **Kassie Krummel** (Fr.-Walcott, Iowa/Durant) earned a save, her sixth of the year. While **Jess Hegseth** (Fr.-Zumbrota, Minn./Zumbrota-Mazeppa) opened game two and pitched four innings, Krummel closed the game to record the loss, dropping to 6-7 on the season. She struck out five batters on the day, four in game two alone.

The Blugolds will wrap up the regular season this weekend with two doubleheaders. They play at UW-Platteville at 2 p.m. Saturday and at UW-La Crosse on Sunday at noon.