

Softball Ends WIAC Tournament with Two Losses

By: Kevin Meinholz, Sports Information Director

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OSHKOSH, Wis. (UWECBlugolds.com) - After picking up with two wins on day one of the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) Tournament yesterday, the UW-Eau Claire softball team was unable to score a run today and fell twice at Oshkosh Sports Complex.

The Blugolds opened the day with a 5-0 loss to conference and tournament champion UW-La Crosse and fell 7-0 to UW-Whitewater later in the day. The Blugolds finish the season with a 21-21 record, but finished in second place in the WIAC with an 11-5 record.

La Crosse earned the conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Division III Tournament. The complete 60-team field will be announced Monday on NCAA.com. Eight of the 60 teams will advance to the national championship, which UW-Eau Claire will host at Gelein Field in Carson Park May 21-25.

Coming into the day, the Blugolds had only been shut out three other times this season with the last time coming on March 28 in a 1-0 loss at Simpson College (Iowa).

Eau Claire struggled the entire day on offense, managing just three hits on the day, two in game one and one in game two. **Katie Stalker** (Sr.-Madison, Wis./La Follette), **Jess Freagon** (So.-Chippewa Falls, Wis./McDonell) and **Aleisha Harper** (So.-Mondovi, Wis./Eau Claire North) recorded hits for Eau Claire.

Stalker and Freagon each finished game one with a stolen base. It was Stalker's 33rd of the season, which tied for second on the Blugolds' list for most stolen bases in a season. Tammy Brandt also had 33 in 1996 while the record is 34, set by Brandt in 1995.

In the circle, **Ashley Meinen** (So.-Chippewa Falls, Wis./McDonell) pitched 3.2 innings in game one and suffered the loss after giving up four runs and seven hits. **Kassie Krummel** (Fr.-Walcott, Iowa/Durant) finished the game and struck out four batters while allowing one run and three hits.

In game two, **Jess Hegseth** (Fr.-Zumbrota, Minn./Zumbrota-Mazeppa) pitched just 1.1 innings but gave up five hits and a four runs before Krummel relieved her. Krummel stayed in 4.2 innings but gave up six hits and three runs with one strikeout while Meinen pitched the final inning.