

Volleyball Drops Two Matches to Ranked Opponents

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WHITEWATER, Wis. (UWECBlugolds.com) - After success on the first day of competition, the 16th ranked UW-Eau Claire volleyball team recorded twin 3-1 losses to No. 11 UW-Whitewater and No. 2 Juniata College (Pa.) today during the second day of the Whitewater Invitational.

The first match of the morning against Whitewater began with a shaky 25-16 loss in the first set. The Blugolds regrouped and challenged Whitewater in a second set battle that ended with a 29-27 victory. But the team couldn't keep pace with the Warhawks as Eau Claire dropped the final two sets 25-18, 25-21.

In the loss, **Blair Murphy** (Sr.-Hermantown, Minn.) totaled an impressive 22 digs and **Rachel Ver Voort** (Sr.-Madison, Wis./Middleton) also reached double digits with a total of 12. **Amanda Lessner** (Sr.-Watertown, Wis.) and **Emily Neave** (So.-Salem, Wis./Westosha Central) made 19 and 14 respective assists while **Elizabeth Anderson** (Jr.-Rib Lake, Wis.) contributed with 11 of the team's 42 kills.

Though they still lost 3-1, the Blugolds kept the match against Juniata College – last year's Division III runner up - much closer. The Blugolds struck first, pulling ahead of Juniata for the 25-23 win in set one. But the Eagles didn't relinquish another set to Eau Claire. The Pennsylvania team etched out a 25-19 win in the second, a narrow 32-30 victory in the third, and extinguished the Blugolds by winning 25-20 in the final set.

Three Blugolds scored double digit digs, as Murphy led the team with 18 followed by Ver Voort and Lessner with 14 and 12 digs respectively. **Liz Amici** (Jr.-Whitewater, Wis.) recorded a team-high nine kills while Lessner and Neave duplicated their assist counts in the day's second match, again recording 19 and 14 assists.

The losses drop the Blugolds to 14-5 on the season.

This Friday the Blugolds will host UW-Oshkosh for the WIAC's second annual Dig Pink event to raise money for breast cancer awareness and research. The match – which is also on Youth Night - will begin at 7 p.m. at the McPhee Physical Education Center.