

Hat Trick, High-Scoring Second Push Blugolds to Conference Win

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Posted: Saturday, November 13, 2010 at 10:42 PM

RIVER FALLS, Wis. (UWECBlugolds.com) - Powered by **Ross Janecyk's** (Sr.-Grand Rapids, Mich./Catholic Central) hat trick, the UW-Eau Claire men's hockey team found redemption from last night's defeat by sinking 14th-ranked UW-River Falls 6-3 in tonight's rematch.

After **Kurt Weston** (So.-Roseau, Minn.) kicked off the scoring 12:37 into the first period, Janecyk commenced the high-scoring second period with a goal at the 8:51 minute mark and put the Blugolds up 2-0. The Falcons struck back under two minutes later to pull to within one of the lead.

Janecyzk laid down his second goal of the night 16:24 into the period, but River Falls scored just 24 seconds later. Despite less than three minutes remaining in the second, Eau Claire's **Tyler Romasco** (Jr.-Perry, Ohio) and Weston each found the back of the Falcon net and jumped the Blugolds out to a 5-2 lead.

The Falcons managed to score once more early in the third period, but could not surmount the Blugold lead. To seal the victory, Janecyk, assisted by Weston, nailed a goal with only five seconds remaining in the game. Janecyk recorded the hat trick, and the Blugolds earned their first conference win of the season.

In the victory, **Brandon Stephenson** (So.-Saline, Mich.) made 19 saves in his 60 minutes as Blugold goalie. Eau Claire outshot the Falcons 34-22 and converted on two of its 12 power play opportunities.

The big win vaults the Blugolds to 3-2-0 overall and an even 1-1 in the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association. River Falls drops to 2-2 in the NCHA.

The Blugolds return to Hobbs Ice Center next Friday and Saturday night for a pair of games against UW-Superior. Both matches are scheduled to start at 7 p.m.