

Women's Basketball Scores First Win of Season

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DECATUR, Ill. (UWECBlugolds.com) - The UW-Eau Claire women's basketball team recorded its first win of the season with a 62-48 victory over Millikin University (Ill.) at the 2010 Coaches vs. Cancer Tournament, hosted by Millikin tonight.

Millikin jumped out to an earlier lead, outscoring Eau Claire 7-2 over the first three and a half minutes. But the Blugolds came back and took their first lead almost six minutes into the game. Millikin grabbed the lead two more times but after two **Sarah Bingea** (So.-Delano, Minn.) free throws at 9:49 in the first half, the Blugolds took a lead they wouldn't give up the rest of the way.

At the half, the Blugolds led Millikin 34-25 while neither team scored any points over the final two minutes of the half.

Both teams got off to a slow start in the second half as the scoring drought continued. Finally, more than three minutes into the half, Millikin scored on a layup and began to chip away at Eau Claire's lead. Millikin got to within three points but Eau Claire soon built a double-digit lead midway through the second and held it the rest of the way, getting up by as much as 16 points.

Neither team shot particularly well, with Eau Claire leading the way shooting 33.8 percent (22-for-65) from the floor to Millikin's 30.9 percent (17-for-55). Eau Claire also led with 47 rebounds to Millikin's 27 and forced 27 Millikin turnovers, scoring 17 points off the turnovers.

Hannah Mesick (Sr.-Chatfield, Minn.) finished with a double-double as she recorded a career-high 14 rebounds and a game-high 23 points. **Nicole Christianson** (Jr.-Chetek, Wis.), who was 4-for-8 from beyond the arc, added 16 points and pulled down five rebounds.

The Blugolds will be back in action tomorrow with a game at the Coaches vs. Cancer Tournament against Marian University (Ind.) at 3 p.m. The meeting between the teams will be the first all-time.