Men's Basketball Rolls to Second Conference Victory

By: Ashley Hofer, Sports Information Student
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EAU CLAIRE, Wis. (UWECBlugolds.com) - The UW-Eau Claire men's basketball team picked up its second consecutive conference victory with a 77-70 win over UW-La Crosse today at Zorn Arena.

Marcus Ruh *(So.-Green Bay , Wis./Bay Port)* helped the Blugold take control of the game early. His initial steal enabled **Nick Craggs** *(So.-Kimberly, Wis./Kimberly/UW-Whitewater)* to put the first two points on the board for Eau Claire. Minutes later, Ruh added eight consecutive points to give the Blugolds an early 14-4 lead.

Eau Claire's lead hovered around 10 points for the majority of the game. The Blugolds appeared to be in danger midway through the first period and again with 13:29 remaining in the game when La Crosse pulled to within one shot of the lead. But led largely by the starters – the lone scorers of the second period – the Blugolds scored 44 second-half points to match the Eagles and pick up the victory.

Ruh, who had a career-high point total, and **Amadou Fofana** *(Sr.-Appleton, Wis./West)* led the Blugold scoring, contributing 23 and 19 respective points to the Eau Claire score. Ruh, Fofana and Craggs also made seven rebounds apiece. The Blugolds just outshot the Eagles 54.5 percent (30-55) to 51 percent (26-51).

The Blugolds remain unbeaten in early conference play, boasting a 5-2 record overall and 2-0 in the WIAC. La Crosse drops to 3-6 overall and 0-2 in the conference.

The Blugolds will travel for a game against UW-River Falls this Wednesday. Game time for Eau Claire's third consecutive conference game is set for 7 p.m.