Women's Basketball Holds on for Two-Point Win

By: Kevin Meinholz, Sports Information Director
Posted: Wednesday, January 5, 2011 at 9:38 PM

PLATTEVILLE, Wis. (UWECBlugolds.com) - The UW-Eau Claire women's basketball held on to defeat UW-Platteville 45-43 in conference play at Bo Ryan Court tonight.

While the Blugolds led the majority of the first half, getting up by as much as eight points midway through the opening period, the Pioneers fought hard the rest of the way and found themselves down by just two points (24-22) at halftime.

In the second half the Blugolds pushed their lead back to four points but Platteville wouldn't go away and took a lead just over seven minutes into the half. The Pioneers used a 14-5 run that lasted until there were just seven minutes left to play to build a five-point advantage.

The Blugolds were able to hold the Pioneers to just four points the rest of the way, however, while scoring 11 points of their own to narrowly escape with the victory.

The teams finished with identical shooting percentages, 28.6 percent, as the Blugolds were 16-for-56 from the field and the Pioneers went 14-for-49. Eau Claire dominated the boards, pulling down 48 rebounds, including 20 on offense, to Platteville's 29.

Hannah Mesick *(Sr.-Chatfield, Minn.)* led the way in rebounding with a game-high 13 while **Ellen Plendl** *(Jr.-Chippewa Falls, Wis./McDonell)* pulled down 11. Plendl also tied **Sarah Bingea** *(So.-Delano, Minn.)* for a team-high eight points.

Eau Claire improves to 8-5 on the season and 2-2 in the conference. Platteville drops to 5-8 overall and 1-3 in WIAC play.

The Blugolds will be back at home Monday (Jan. 10) for a game against UW-Stout at 8 p.m. The contest will be the Blugolds' first home game since Dec. 8.