

Blugold Men To Host Falcons

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EAU CLAIRE - The UW-Eau Claire men's basketball team will try to bounce back from Saturday's loss to UW-Stout when they host Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference opponent UW-River Falls Tuesday at Zorn Arena.

The Blugolds come into the season's first meeting between the two teams with a 99-75 lifetime record against the Falcons dating back to 1916. Eau Claire lost all three games between the teams last year including an 82-69 defeat in the conference tournament.

Casey Drake (*Sr.-Rhineland*) played well in all three games averaging 21 points including a 27-point performance in the tournament loss.

Eau Claire is currently alone in fifth place with a 4-3 record in the WIAC following a 76-54 loss to conference leader UW-Stout. The Blugolds have played inconsistently following a six-game win streak winning a tough road game over UW-Whitewater but struggling in losses to UW-Platteville and Stout.

Drake leads the team in scoring and is second in the WIAC averaging 17.5 points a game. Drake needs just 28 points to become the 38th Blugold to reach the 1,000-point plateau. He also leads Eau Claire in assists and is sixth in the conference at 3.1 a game.

Dan Archambault (*Sr.-Oshkosh/West*) is second on the team in scoring at 13.4 a game. Archambault is first on the Blugolds and fifth in the conference in three-point shooting percentage knocking down 43.4 percent of his attempts from beyond the arc.

The Falcons come into the game with a 5-10 record overall and a 1-6 record in conference action with their only conference win coming against UW-Superior. River Falls has struggled coming off last year's conference title since the loss of two-time WIAC Player of the Year Rich Melzer despite four players averaging in double digits.

River Falls is led by senior guard Dan Torrez. Torrez leads the Falcons in scoring and is ninth in the WIAC averaging 14.1 a game. Sophomore guard Hans Hoeg is second on River Falls in scoring at 13.1 a game while pulling a team-best 4.9 boards a game.

The Falcons have struggled both offensively and defensively this year. River Falls is eighth in the conference in scoring at 63.3 points a game and is last in scoring defense allowing 70.7 a game. The Falcons have also struggle off the glass with a negative 9.1 rebounding margin.

The game is scheduled to tip off at 7 p.m.

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