Women's Basketball Falls Short at UW-Whitewater

By: Kevin Meinholz, Sports Information Director
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WHITEWATER, Wis. (UWECBlugolds.com) - After holding a lead for most of the first four minutes of the game, the UW-Eau Claire women's basketball team couldn't keep pace and fell 85-75 at UW-Whitewater today.

The Blugolds led by as much as four points (10-6), four minutes into the game. **Hannah Mesick** *(Sr.-Chatfield, Minn.)* scored six of the Blugolds' 10 points in the opening minutes and had 12 after the first 10 minutes of play. She finished with a career-high 31 points.

But Eau Claire had a tough time keeping pace with the Warhawks, and despite being down by just four points at the intermission, Whitewater began to pull away in the second half.

From the 18-minute mark to 13:55, Whitewater used a 15-4 run to build a 15-point lead, tying its largest lead of the game. The Blugolds got to within seven with just over nine minutes to play but the Warhawks then went on a 17-9 run to get back up again by 15 points. In the final four minutes, Eau Claire outscored Whitewater 7-2.

With double-digit point totals for Eau Claire were **Sarah Bingea** *(So.-Delano, Minn.)* with 17 points and **Laura Olson** *(Jr.-Osseo, Wis./Osseo-Fairchild)* with 10. Bingea led the game with nine rebounds but the Warhawks outrebounded the Blugolds 36-28.

Mesick went 12-for-19 from the field and 6-for-6 from the free throw line. She also had six rebounds, three steals and two blocks.

Eau Claire is now 13-10 overall and 7-7 in the WIAC. Whitewater is 18-5 on the season and 10-4 in the conference.

The Blugolds will be home Wednesday to face UW-Superior for PinkZone. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m.