Softball Opens Home Action with Wins over UW-Superior

By: Kevin Meinholz, Sports Information Director
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EAU CLAIRE, Wis. (UWECBlugolds.com) - The 25th-ranked UW-Eau Claire softball team remained undefeated in WIAC play with two wins over UW-Superior in the Blugolds' home opener today.

Eau Claire picked up a 6-3 victory in game one and followed with a 7-2 win in game two. The Blugolds improve to 16-4 overall and 4-0 in the WIAC while the Yellowjackets drop to 14-8 on the season and 1-3 in conference play.

In game one, while Superior got up 1-0 right away, the Blugolds answered back with a run by **Aleisha Harper** *(Jr.-Mondovi, Wis./Eau Claire North)* in the bottom of the inning. The Yellowjackets scored once again in the second but the Blugolds took a two-run lead after scoring three times in the bottom half of the second.

Jess Freagon *(Jr.-Chippewa Falls, Wis./McDonell)* opened up scoring in the second with a homer to right field, her third of the season. **Emily Haluska** *(So.-Stevens Point, Wis./SPASH)* and **Nikki Bromelkamp** *(Jr.-Zumbrota, Minn./Zumbrota-Mazeppa)* also scored runs in the second to make the score 4-2.

In the fourth inning, Superior scored one final run but the Blugolds again answered in the bottom of the inning as **Haley Williams** *(Fr.-Waunakee, Wis.)* and **Samantha Weix** *(So.-Elk Mound, Wis.)* crossed home plate.

Ashley Meinen *(Jr.-Chippewa Falls, Wis./McDonell)* earned the win in the circle to improve to 5-3 on the season. She faced 21 batters, striking out four in five innings. **Emily Ruegemer** *(Fr.-St. Cloud, Minn./Cathedral)* was credited with a save after pitching two innings and facing nine batters. She allowed just two hits.

In game two, Superior scored again right away but the Blugolds answered in the bottom of the inning with a run by Harper.

The third inning was a big one for the Blugolds as they scored five runs on five hits. **Emily Muller** *(Jr.-Lancaster, Wis.)* and **Sara Baumgartner** *(Sr.-Arcadia, Wis.)* both scored early in the inning while Bromelkamp nailed a home run later to bring in **Brittany Bergquist** *(So.-Stevens Point, Wis./SPASH)* and Haluska.

Superior added a run in the fifth inning while Baumgartner scored for the Blugolds in the sixth inning.

Lauren Carlson *(Fr.-Eagan, Minn.)* was given the win in the circle and she improved to 5-1 on the season. She faced 22 batters, striking out four while giving up six hits and two runs. **Jess Hegseth** *(So.-Zumbrota, Minn./Zumbrota-Mazeppa)* finished off the final two innings facing seven batters.

Tomorrow the Blugolds will face fifth-ranked Central College (Iowa) in a doubleheader beginning at noon at the Bollinger Fields.