Football To Host Fourth Annual Clear Water Bowl

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EAU CLAIRE - The UW-Eau Claire football team and head coach Todd Hoffner kick off the 2003 season on Saturday, September 13 as they host the fourth annual Clear Water Bowl against Augsburg College (MN).

The Blugolds have won the last two Clear Water Bowl meetings after dropping the debut to St. John's (MN) in 2000 by a score of 49-14. In 2001, the Blugolds defeated Augsburg in convincing fashion 37-14. Last season the Blugolds conquered Division III powerhouse St. John's in overtime 28-21 when Blugold quarterback Jeremy Darnell hooked up with wide receiver Erik Ferguson for a 30-yard touchdown pass to give the Blugolds a one touchdown advantage. Blugold cornerback Justin Miller intercepted a Johnnie pass to preserve the victory on St. John's final possession.

Eau Claire's history with Augsburg dates back to 1966 when the Blugolds and Auggies fought to a 7-7 tie. The two teams played each other annually until 1973 with Augsburg winning four of the seven games. The series was discontinued after the 1973 season but was reborn in 2000 with the Blugolds scoring the go-ahead touchdown with 38 seconds remaining in the game for a 17-14 victory at Edor Nelson Stadium. The Blugolds have won the last three meetings in this series, including a 37-14 victory at Carson Park in the 2nd Annual Clear Water Bowl and last season's 37-13 triumph at Augsburg.

As always, this season's Clear Water Bowl will be preceded by the Walker Open at the Hickory Hills Golf Course located three miles south of Eau Claire on Highway 93. The popular golf outing costs $75 per fivesome and includes 18 holes of golf, carts (two per fivesome), a gift, and a chance to win prizes on every hole. As an added gift, each golfer will receive a free ticket to the Clear Water Bowl. All proceeds from the Walker Open will go to support the Blugold football program.

The day will begin at 10:30 with registration and hole assignments, along with brats and refreshments, until noon when the Walker Open begins. After a day on the links, all golfers are invited for cocktails, prizes, and camaraderie from 4:30 to 6:00.

The Clear Water Bowl itself will begin at 7:00 at Carson Park and after both teams battle everyone is invited to the Barley Club at Pine Meadow Golf Course for a post game celebration starting at 10:00.

For more information on the Clear Water Bowl and the Walker Open, contact Bill Rowlett at (715) 836-5079.