Women's Basketball To Play River Falls In WIAC Tourney

Posted: Sunday, February 20, 2005

The fifth-seeded UW-Eau Claire women's basketball team will head back to River Falls to play the Falcons in the opening round of the 2005 Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Tournament.

Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic ConferenceWomen's Basketball TournamentMonday, February 21; Wednesday, February 23; Saturday, February 26

First Round Games - Monday, February 21

#8 La Crosse (11-14, 4-12) at #1 Stout (19-6, 12-4)

#5 Eau Claire (15-10, 8-8) at #4 River Falls (17-7, 10-6)

#6 Whitewater (14-11, 7-9) at #3 Oshkosh (20-5, 11-5)

#7 Platteville (13-12, 6-10) at #2 Stevens Point (20-5, 12-4)

Semifinals - Wednesday, February 25

Winner of Stout-La Crosse vs. winner of River Falls/Eau Claire at higher seed

Winner of Oshkosh/Whitewater vs. winner of Stevens Point/Platteville at higher seed

Championship - Saturday, February 28

Semifinal winners, 3 or 7 p.m.

River Falls vs. Eau Claire Monday, February 21 - 7 p.m.Karges Center, River FallsTickets

Reserved - $7

Adults - $6

Seniors - $4

Youths - $3

Students - $3

This is the seventh year of the WIAC women's basketball tournament and the Blugolds have advanced to the championship game four out of six years, winning three times. The top-seeded team has won the tourney every year since its inception.

1999: #1 Oshkosh beat #2 Eau Claire, 79-60

2000: #1 Eau Claire beat #2 Oshkosh, 56-45

2001: #1 Eau Claire beat #7 Platteville, 78-76

2002: #1 Stout beat #3 Oshkosh, 90-71

2003: #1 Eau Claire beat #3 Oshkosh, 64-50

2004: #1 Stevens Point beat #2 Oshkosh, 91-77

This is the first year that Eau Claire will not host a first round game in the conference tourney. The Blugolds were previously seeded:

1999: #2

2000: #1

2001: #1

2002: #4

2003: #1

2004: #3

The fifth-seeded Blugolds have lost both meetings against River Falls seeing their all-time record against the Falcons fall to 40-25. Eau Claire lost the first matchup 49-47 at home on a River Falls lay-up with 1.5 seconds remaining.Rachel Becker

(Jr.-Gilmanton)

and Michelle Burns

(Fr.-Eau Claire/North)

paced the Blugold attack with 12 points a piece. Becker added a game-high eight assists while Burns pulled down a game-high nine boards.The Eau Claire defense held the Falcons to just 34 percent shooting from the floor but the offense wasn't much better shooting 36.5 percent. The Blugolds held a 40-30 rebounding advantage but committed 22 turnovers.The Blugolds dropped the second game at River Falls again being held to only 47 points in a 63-47 loss. Jessica Dickey

(Sr.-White Bear Lake, MN/Cretin-Derham Hall)

and Emilee Planert

(Sr.-Eau Claire/North)

shared Blugold scoring honors with 13 points each. Burns and Dickey each pulled down seven boards while Becker handed out three assists.The Eau Claire offense once again struggled shooting only 28.8 percent from the field while allowing the Falcons to shoot 44.9 percent. The Blugold defense forced River Falls into 22 turnovers but could turn those turnovers into only 15 points while the Falcons turned 16 Eau Claire turnovers into 21 points.The Blugolds come in to the game with two-game losing streak. Eau Claire fell UW-Oshkosh 64-54 February 15 and dropped the regular season finale 63-47 to River Falls.Dickey leads three