

McKinney, Neuville Lead Softball To Doubleheader Sweep

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RIVER FALLS - **Mallory McKinney** (So. -Brooklyn Park, MN/Champlin Park) and **Andrea Neuville** (Jr. -Green Bay/West) each tossed complete game shutouts in leading the eighth-ranked UW-Eau Claire softball team to a pair of 3-0 wins over UW-River Falls here today at Ramer Field.

The doubleheader kicked off Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference action for both teams while the Blugolds ran their current win streak to 10 straight games. Eau Claire moves to 16-3 on the season and 2-0 in conference play while the Falcons drop to 7-11 overall and 0-2 in the WIAC. The pair of wins avenges the Blugold loss to the Falcons in last season's WIAC Tournament, when ninth-seeded River Falls upended top-seeded Eau Claire 1-0 in the first day of tournament action.

McKinney and Neuville posted identical lines of seven innings pitched, four hits allowed, four strikeouts, and just one walk while leading the Blugolds to the victories. McKinney improves to 8-1 on the season with the win while Neuville goes to 6-2 after the victory.

Eau Claire jumped on top 1-0 in the first inning of the doubleheader opener and stayed ahead behind the arm of McKinney. **Casey Leisgang** (Fr.-Seymour) led the inning off with a walk and moved to second two batters later when current WIAC Softball Athlete of the Week **Steph Farenbaugh** (Jr.-Brownton, MN/McLeod West) put down a sacrifice bunt. After McKinney walked, **Jill Janke** (Fr.-Black River Falls) drove Leisgang home with an RBI single.

The score remained 1-0 until the top of the fifth inning, when **Rachel Paulus** (So.-Wisconsin Rapids/Lincoln) came up with a two out, RBI single to make the score 2-0. **Molly Blakewell** (Sr.-Eau Claire/North) added an RBI double in the sixth but it was more than enough as McKinney cruised to the victory.

Eau Claire finished with three runs on six hits and no errors while the Falcons were scoreless on four hits and no errors. Janke and **Shannon Barone** (So.-DePere) were each 2-for-3 in the first game of the double dip.

The Blugolds waited a little longer in the nightcap to get on the board, but took a 2-0 lead in the top of the third inning. Leisgang laced an RBI double to center field and Farenbaugh notched an RBI bunt single for the two runs. Janke added a sacrifice fly in the sixth inning to finish the scoring at 3-0, giving Neuville all the run support she would need.

Eau Claire tallied the three runs on five hits and no errors while the Falcons were again held scoreless on four hits while committing one error. **Laura Brackey** (Jr.-Oakdale, MN/Tartan) collected a pair of hits to finish 2-for-3 for the game.

The Blugolds will look to extend their 10-game win streak this weekend when they host the 2005 UW-Eau Claire Invitational. The event is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, beginning Saturday at 10:00 a.m. when the Blugolds battle Elmhurst College (IL).

Game One Box Score

Game Two Box Score

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