

Softball Shuts Down La Crosse

Posted: Thursday, April 14, 2005

LA CROSSE - The seventh-ranked UW-Eau Claire softball team held UW-La Crosse to just one run on 10 hits in 14 innings as the Blugolds swept a doubleheader 1-0 and 3-1 here today at North Campus Field.

The Blugolds improve to 21-4 on the season and 4-0 in Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference play and have now won 15 of their last 16 contests. The only loss was a 2-1 loss in nine innings to St. Scholastica last Sunday. The Eagles fall to 10-9 after the doubleheader loss and 2-4 in WIAC action.

Mallory McKinney (*So.-Brooklyn Park, MN/Champlin Park*) dominated the La Crosse hitters in game one of the double dip. She tossed a complete game shutout, allowing just four hits while striking out two and walking nobody.

Offense was hard to come by for both teams as the Blugolds tallied just six hits in the win. The game was still scoreless heading into the top of the seventh before Eau Claire finally broke through with the lone run of the game. McKinney led off the inning with a single to center field and moved over on a sacrifice bunt. After a wild pitch that moved her to third, McKinney scored the winning run on an RBI double by **Shannon Barone** (*So.-DePere*).

The Eagles put runners on the corners in the sixth inning and then had a runner in scoring position with only one out in the seventh but McKinney slammed the door for the win. She improved to 10-2 on the season while Shelly Monahan was the tough luck loser. McKinney also finished the game 2-for-3 at the plate with the game-winning run.

Andrea Neuville (*Jr.-Green Bay/West*) was near spotless in game two, allowing just one run on five hits in six innings pitched. She struck out one hitter and did not allow a single free pass.

The Blugolds battered La Crosse starter Jess Iwanski for three runs in the third inning, giving Neuville all the run support she would need. **Amanda Bretl** (*So.-New London*) led the third off with a solo home run, her third of the season. Bretl hit her first two long balls of the year in Eau Claire's 8-0 win over Northland on Sunday. After the blast, the Blugolds mustered single runs on a wild pitch and when **Casey Leisgang** (*Fr.-Seymour*) stole home.

Neuville allowed her only run of the game in the bottom of the fifth but was otherwise dominant. **Molly Johnson** (*Jr.-Wisconsin Rapids/Lincoln*) pitched a scoreless seventh for her first save of the season.

Leisgang finished the game 2-for-4 with a run scored while Bretl was 2-for-3 with the home run. **Jill Janke** (*Fr.-Black River Falls*) was a perfect 3-for-3 in the nightcap.

Eau Claire resume action this Saturday and Sunday at the first WIAC Cluster Tournament of the season. The Blugolds kick off the cluster against host UW-Oshkosh Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

Game One Box Score

Game Two Box Score

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