

Softball Swept By St. Mary's

Posted: Tuesday, May 3, 2005

EAU CLAIRE - The 15th-ranked UW-Eau Claire softball team suffered a doubleheader sweep at the hands of St. Mary's (MN), losing the opener 10-2 in six innings and the nightcap 4-2 here today at Gelein Field.

The Blugolds, who clinched the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title on Sunday, fall to 30-9 on the season while St. Mary's improves to 32-8 for the year. Eau Claire had not lost a single game in doubleheader action this season until the sweep today.

The Blugolds hurt themselves in game one as they committed five errors that led to eight unearned runs. Amy Edge gave the Cardinals a 2-0 lead in the top of the first with a two-run single. St. Mary's added an unearned run in the third and two more unearned runs in the fifth for a sizeable 5-0 advantage.

Terisa Syvertsen (Jr.-Woodbury, MN) put Eau Claire on the board with a two-out solo home run to make the score 5-1. **Casey Leisgang** (Fr.-Seymour) added an RBI double later in the inning but it was all the scoring the Blugolds could muster in the game. Two Eau Claire errors paved the way for five unearned runs in the top of the sixth and the Cardinals took game one of the doubleheader 10-2 in six innings.

Mallory McKinney (So.-Brooklyn Park, MN/Champlin Park) took the loss for the Blugolds, tossing two innings and allowing two earned runs. Leisgang had two of Eau Claire's six hits as she finished 2-for-3 with an RBI.

The Blugold bats took a while to heat up in the nightcap but once they did Eau Claire nearly pulled off an incredible comeback. **Andrea Neuville** (Jr.-Green Bay/West) and Jenny Schipp were in a pitchers dual as neither team managed a run until the top of the sixth inning. The Cardinals finally got a run on the board in the sixth on an RBI single by Nikki Jung.

Trailing just 1-0, Eau Claire's chances for a comeback diminished in the top of the seventh with Schipp throwing a no-hitter through six innings. The Cardinals tacked on three more runs in the seventh for a 4-0 lead. Leisgang ended the no-hitter and the shutout with one swing of the bat, launching a solo home run to lead off the bottom of the seventh. After a walk, McKinney singled to bring the tying run to the plate. **Jill Janke** (Fr.-Black River Falls) followed with an RBI single but the tying runs would be left stranded on base as St. Mary's earned a 4-2 win.

The Blugolds finished the game with three hits, all of them coming in the bottom of the seventh.

Schipp earned the win while Megan Wallisch converted the save opportunity. Neuville took the loss, pitching a complete game and allowing five hits and three earned runs in four innings.

The Blugolds will look to get back on track this weekend as they begin postseason play. Eau Claire carries the No. 1 seed into this weekend's Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championships in Whitewater.

Game One Box Score

Game Two Box Score

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