

Volleyball To Host Conference Rivals Friday & Saturday

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EAU CLAIRE - The UW-Eau Claire women's volleyball team, with a record of 8-2, is set to begin conference play as it hosts UW-Platteville on Friday and UW-La Crosse on Saturday at the McPhee Physical Education Center.

The Blugolds have been on the road for their past eight matches as they participated in both the Augsburg Tournament and the CSS/Peak Bagel Tourney held at the College of St. Scholastica. The Blugolds were a perfect 4-0 at the CSS/Peak Bagel Tourney to claim the championship.

Eau Claire faces Platteville on Friday at 7:00 p.m. for the 18th time in school history, dating back to the 1977 season. Platteville currently holds a record of 9-9 and will be in action Wednesday night as they face UW-Stevens Point.

The Blugolds are 17-10 all-time against the Pioneers and have won seven of the last eight meetings. Last season Eau Claire took the match 3-1 over Platteville by scores of 30-21, 28-30, 30-26, 30-26 in Platteville. **Brooke Wozniak-Schmidt** (*Sr.-Stanley/Stanley-Boyd*) led all Blugolds in kills with 15 while **Becca Carstensen** (*Jr.-Eau Claire/Memorial*) added 10. The pair of middle hitters also led the team in blocks as Wozniak-Schmidt totaled five and Carstensen tallied four.

On Saturday the Blugolds will host UW-La Crosse, who is currently ranked 18th in the country according to the American Volleyball Coaches Association NCAA Division III Women's Volleyball poll. La Crosse comes into the meeting with a 7-2 record and will face UW-Superior on Friday.

The Blugolds have had less success against the Eagles than the Pioneers, posting a 24-36 all-time record against La Crosse. Eau Claire has won just one of the last 10 meetings between the two teams. Last season, La Crosse handed the Blugolds a 3-1 loss by scores of 19-30, 30-20, 20-30, and 25-30. Wozniak-Schmidt again led the Blugolds with 15 kills.

The match on Saturday is set to begin at 2:00 p.m.