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WCHA Women's League

Bemidji State University
University of Minnesota
University of Minnesota Duluth
Minnesota State University
University of North Dakota
Ohio State University
St. Cloud State University
University of Wisconsin

Home of a Record 12 Consecutive Women's National Championship Teams

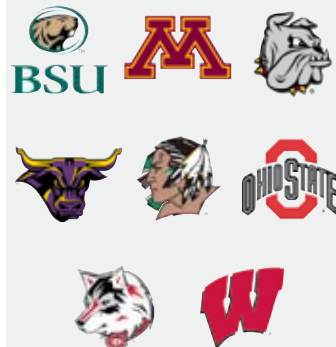
2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005,
2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011

2012 WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF

March 2-3 • AMSOIL Arena
Duluth, MN

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August 10, 2011/For Immediate Release

WCHA Announces Women's Composite Schedule 2012 WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF, NCAA Women's Frozen Four to be Held at AMSOIL Arena in Duluth; 112-Game Conference Slate Set to Launch Weekend of Oct. 7-9; Wisconsin Reigns as Defending WCHA Regular Season, WCHA Playoff and NCAA Frozen Four Champion; Association Family Welcomes New Ohio State Head Coach Nate Handrahan

MADISON, Wis. – Coming off an unprecedented 12th consecutive national championship season, the Western Collegiate Hockey Association's (WCHA) women's league today (Aug. 10) released it's composite schedule for the upcoming 2011-12 season.

As college hockey's most successful women's conference, the WCHA will look to add to that legacy in season No. 13 with what should be a highly-competitive 112-game conference slate among the league's eight member teams that gets underway Oct. 7 and the appearance of both the 2012 WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF (conference playoff championship) and the 2012 NCAA Women's Frozen Four (national championship) at 6,764-seat AMSOIL Arena in Duluth, Minn.

"We look forward to our 13th season as a Division 1 women's hockey conference with great anticipation," said WCHA Associate Commissioner Sara R. Martin, who has been the guiding voice of the league since it's founding in 1999. "We should be stronger across the board and we can say with confidence that the WCHA will again be at the forefront of the women's game.

"We are also tremendously excited to showcase both our conference playoff championship (WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF) and the women's national championship (NCAA Frozen Four) at the beautiful new AMSOIL Arena in Duluth; we are thrilled to be able to showcase our great game in one of the sport's most impressive new facilities. We also know UMD will do a wonderful job in hosting these two premier events."

The 2012 WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF will be contested Friday, March 2 and Saturday, March 3 at AMSOIL Arena. There will be two semi-final match ups on Friday at 4:07 pm CT and 7:07 pm CT, with the playoff championship slated for Saturday at 7:07 pm CT. The winner of the WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF receives an automatic bid to the national tournament.

The NCAA Women's Frozen Four, set for Friday, March 16 thru Sunday, March 18, returns to Duluth for the third time since 2001. There will be two semi-final match ups on Friday with the title contest being played on Sunday. Both the 2003 and 2008 NCAA Women's Frozen Fours were held in Duluth at the DECC (Duluth Entertainment & Convention Center) with the host UMD Bulldogs capturing the national championship on both occasions. Wisconsin is the defending national champion.

The WCHA would also like to extend a special welcome to new Ohio State head coach Nate Handrahan, who spent the previous five seasons building the program at Robert Morris and succeeds the retired Jackie Barto. Barto had coached the Buckeyes from their first season of 1999-2000.

"We are thrilled to welcome Nate into the WCHA family," said Martin. "He is an energetic, highly-qualified coach who will both continue and expand on the legacy left by Jackie Barto. He is committed to the well-being of his student-athletes, both on and off the ice."

The initial on-ice action of 2011-12 will take place over the Sept. 23-25 weekend. In non-conference play, Wisconsin will host upstart Lindenwood University out of St. Charles, Mo., on Friday and

Sunday. In exhibition contests, Ohio State will host Wilfrid Laurier out of Waterloo, Ont., Bemidji State will entertain the Thunderbay Queens, and North Dakota will host the Univ. of Manitoba.

On the second weekend of the new season (Sept. 30-Oct. 1), non-conference action finds Minnesota hosting the East/West Showcase tournament with St. Cloud State, Syracuse and Union College, North Dakota heading east to take on Boston University, Bemidji State welcoming Providence College, and Minnesota State opening with a home series against Lindenwood Univ. In exhibition play, Minnesota Duluth will skate against the visiting Minnesota Whitecaps.

The season long, 112-game conference slate, which consists of each league-member team playing a total of 28 WCHA games (four games vs each of other seven members – two home and two away), opens the weekend of Friday-Sunday, Oct. 7-9, with three two-game series. Defending WCHA regular season champion Wisconsin will host North Dakota, Minnesota will entertain St. Cloud State, and Ohio State will host Bemidji State. Minnesota Duluth and Minnesota State, meanwhile, won't open their respective league seasons until Oct. 21-22 when the Bulldogs entertain Wisconsin and the Mavericks play at Minnesota. The conference schedule concludes the weekend of Feb. 17-19.

During the course of the 2011-12 campaign, WCHA-member teams will also engage in some interesting non-conference pairings. By team, those are:

Bemidji State: Sept. 30-Oct. 1 vs Providence College, Oct. 14-15 @ Maine, Nov. 10 vs Lindenwood in Eveleth, MN (U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame Game), and Dec. 30-31 @ Robert Morris.

Minnesota: Sept. 30-Oct. 1 East/West Showcase (with St. Cloud State, Syracuse and Union College), Nov. 18-19 vs New Hampshire, Nov. 26-27 @ Harvard.

Minnesota Duluth: Oct. 8-9 vs Boston College, Oct. 14-15 @ Connecticut.

Minnesota State: Sept. 30-Oct. 1 vs Lindenwood University, Oct. 7-8 vs Mercyhurst, Oct. 14-15 @ Robert Morris.

North Dakota: Sept. 30-Oct. 1 @ Boston University, Oct. 15-16 vs Vermont, Jan. 4 vs Lindenwood University.

Ohio State: Nov. 18-19 @ Syracuse, Dec. 2-3 vs Niagara, Dec. 30-31 vs Princeton.

St. Cloud State: Sept. 30-Oct. 1 @ East/West Showcase (with host Minnesota, Syracuse and Union), Oct. 28-29 vs Robert Morris, Nov. 18-19 @ Niagara.

Wisconsin: Sept. 23 & 25 vs Lindenwood University, Oct. 28-29 vs Boston University, Nov. 18-19 @ Rensselaer.

The pursuit of the annual WCHA playoff championship will get underway the weekend of Friday, Feb. 24 thru Sunday, Feb. 26 with four first round, best-of-three, playoff series. The top four ranked teams in the final regular season standings will host the bottom four in the first round, with the No. 8 playoff seed at the No. 1 playoff seed, No. 7 at No. 2, No. 6 at No. 3 and the No. 5 playoff seed at the No. 4 playoff seed.

Those four first-round conference playoff winners will then advance to the 2012 WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF, to be held March 2-3 at AMSOIL Arena in Duluth, Minn. There will be two semi-final match ups on Friday at 4:07 pm CT and 7:07 pm CT with the championship contest set for 7:07 pm CT on Saturday evening. Wisconsin is the defending WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF champion.

Following the league playoff championship, four NCAA Division 1 Women's Regional tournaments will be contested the weekend of Friday, March 9 thru Sunday, March 11 at sites to be determined.

The four NCAA regional winners will then earn a trip to the 2012 NCAA Women's Frozen Four, which will be contested Friday, March 16 and Sunday, March 18 at AMSOIL Arena in Duluth, Minn.

Among the many highlights from the most recent 2010-11 season were:

- Wisconsin completed a trophy hat trick, winning the WCHA regular season title, the WCHA playoff crown, and the national championship. It was the fourth NCAA title for the Badgers, who finished as the No. 1-ranked team in the country and a 27-game unbeaten streak, and compiled a 37-2-2 overall record.
- Wisconsin's Meghan Duggan was named the winner of the Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award, given annually to the top Div. 1 women's player. Also among the Kazmaier top 10 finalists from the WCHA were junior forward Haley Irwin of Minnesota Duluth, junior forward Hilary Knight of Wisconsin, and sophomore goaltender Noora Rätty of Minnesota.
- Four WCHA-member teams ranked among the nation's Top 10 in the final national polls ... Wisconsin was No. 1, Minnesota Duluth was No. 5, Minnesota was No. 6/7 and North Dakota was No. 9.
- WCHA-member teams combined for a 26-12-3 non-conference record in 2010-11, for a .671 winning percentage.
- Five WCHA players were honored as 2011 Div. 1 REEBOK Women's Hockey All-Americans, as announced by the American Hockey Coaches' Association. Wisconsin forwards Meghan Duggan and Hilary Knight, along with Minnesota Duluth defenseman Jocelyne Larocque were named to the first team while UW forward Brianna Decker and Minnesota goaltender Noora Rätty were second team honorees.
- Wisconsin's Mark Johnson was named the Div. 1 women's national coach of the year.
- WCHA post-season award winners for 2010-11 included Wisconsin's Meghan Duggan as player of the year and league scoring champion, Minnesota Duluth's Jocelyne Larocque as WCHA Outstanding Student-Athlete of the Year and defensive player of the year, Minnesota's Amanda Kessel as rookie of the year, UMD's Kim Martin as league goaltending champion, and the Badgers' Mark Johnson as league coach of the Year.

The 2011-12 WCHA women's composite schedule follows:

2011-12 WCHA Women's Composite Schedule

September

Date	Game	Time
Fri/23	Wilfrid Laurier @ Ohio State (X)	7:07 pm CT
	Lindenwood Univ. @ Wisconsin (NC)	7:37 pm CT
	Thunderbay Queens @ Bemidji State (X)	7:07 pm CT
	Univ. of Manitoba @ North Dakota (X)	7:07 pm CT
Sat/24	Univ. of Manitoba @ North Dakota (X)	2:07 pm CT
Sun/25	Lindenwood Univ. @ Wisconsin (NC)	2:07 pm CT
Fri/30	North Dakota @ Boston University (NC)	7:00 pm ET
	Providence College @ Bemidji State (NC)	7:07 pm CT
	East/West Showcase @	
	Ridder Arena, Minneapolis, MN	
	Syracuse vs St. Cloud State (NC)	4:07 pm CT
	Union College vs Minnesota (NC)	7:07 pm CT
	Minnesota Whitecaps @ Minnesota Duluth (X)	7:07 pm CT
	Lindenwood Univ. @ Minnesota State (NC)	7:07 pm CT

October

Date	Game	Time
Sat/1	North Dakota @ Boston University (NC)	3:00 pm ET
	Providence College @ Bemidji State (NC)	4:07 pm CT
	East/West Showcase @	
	Ridder Arena, Minneapolis, MN	
	Union College vs St. Cloud State (NC)	4:07 pm CT
	Syracuse vs Minnesota (NC)	7:07 pm CT
	Minnesota Whitecaps @ Minnesota Duluth (X)	3:07 pm CT
	Lindenwood Univ. @ Minnesota State (NC)	3:07 pm CT
Fri/7	Bemidji State @ Ohio State (WCHA)	7:07 pm ET
	St. Cloud State @ Minnesota (WCHA)	6:07 pm CT
	Mercyhurst @ Minnesota State (NC)	6:07 pm CT
Sat/8	Bemidji State @ Ohio State (WCHA)	4:07 pm CT
	North Dakota @ Wisconsin (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
	Boston College @ Minnesota Duluth (NC)	3:07 pm CT
	St. Cloud State @ Minnesota (WCHA)	4:07 pm CT
	Mercyhurst @ Minnesota State (NC)	1:07 pm CT
Sun/9	North Dakota @ Wisconsin (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
	Boston College @ Minnesota Duluth (NC)	3:07 pm CT
Fri/14	Bemidji State @ Maine (NC)	7:00 pm ET
	Minnesota State @ Robert Morris (NC)	7:00 pm ET
	Minnesota Duluth @ Connecticut (NC)	7:00 pm ET
	St. Cloud State @ Ohio State (WCHA)	7:07 pm ET
	Minnesota @ Wisconsin (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
Sat/15	Bemidji State @ Maine (NC)	7:00 pm ET
	Minnesota State @ Robert Morris (NC)	2:00 pm ET
	Minnesota Duluth @ Connecticut (NC)	4:00 pm ET
	St. Cloud State @ Ohio State (WCHA)	4:07 pm ET
	Vermont @ North Dakota (NC)	2:07 pm CT
Sun/16	Minnesota @ Wisconsin (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
	Vermont @ North Dakota (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
Thu/20	Minnesota State @ Minnesota (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
Fri/21	St. Cloud State @ Bemidji State (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
	Wisconsin @ Minnesota Duluth (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	Minnesota State @ Minnesota (WCHA)	6:07 pm CT
	Ohio State @ North Dakota (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
Sat/22	St. Cloud State @ Bemidji State (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
	Wisconsin @ Minnesota Duluth (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	Ohio State @ North Dakota (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
Fri/28	Robert Morris @ St. Cloud State (NC)	7:07 pm CT
	Minnesota @ Bemidji State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	Ohio State @ Minnesota State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	Boston University @ Wisconsin (NC)	2:07 pm CT

Date	Game	Time
Sat/29	Robert Morris @ St. Cloud State (NC)	2:07 pm CT
	Minnesota @ Bemidji State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	North Dakota @ Minnesota Duluth (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT
	Ohio State @ Minnesota State (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT
	Boston University @ Wisconsin (NC)	2:07 pm CT
Sun/30	North Dakota @ Minnesota Duluth (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT

November

Date	Game	Time
Fri/4	Wisconsin @ Ohio State (WCHA)	7:07 pm ET
	North Dakota @ St. Cloud State (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
	Bemidji State @ Minnesota State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	Minnesota Duluth @ Minnesota (WCHA)	6:07 pm CT
Sat/5	Wisconsin @ Ohio State (WCHA)	4:07 pm ET
	North Dakota @ St. Cloud State (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
	Bemidji State @ Minnesota State (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT
	Minnesota Duluth @ Minnesota (WCHA)	4:07 pm CT
Thu/10	Lindenwood Univ. vs Bemidji State @ Eveleth, MN (U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame Game) (NC)	7:07 pm CT
Fri/18	Ohio State @ Syracuse (NC)	7:00 pm ET
	St. Cloud State @ Niagara (NC)	7:00 pm ET
	Wisconsin @ Rensselaer (NC)	7:00 pm ET
	New Hampshire @ Minnesota (NC)	7:07 pm CT
	Minnesota State @ North Dakota (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
Sat/19	Ohio State @ Syracuse (NC)	4:00 pm ET
	Wisconsin @ Rensselaer (NC)	4:00 pm ET
	St. Cloud State @ Niagara (NC)	2:00 pm ET
	Bemidji State @ Minnesota Duluth (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT
	New Hampshire @ Minnesota (NC)	4:07 pm CT
	Minnesota State @ North Dakota (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
Sun/20	Bemidji State @ Minnesota Duluth (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT
Fri/25	Minnesota Duluth @ Ohio State (WCHA)	7:07 pm ET
	St. Cloud State @ Wisconsin (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
	North Dakota @ Bemidji State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	@ Crookston, MN	
Sat/26	Minnesota Duluth @ Ohio State (WCHA)	4:07 pm CT
	North Dakota @ Bemidji State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	Minnesota @ Harvard (NC)	2:00 pm ET
Sun/27	Minnesota @ Harvard (NC)	2:00 pm ET
	St. Cloud State @ Wisconsin (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT

December

Date	Game	Time
Fri/2	Niagara @ Ohio State (NC)	7:07 pm CT
	St. Cloud State @ Minnesota Duluth (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	Wisconsin @ Minnesota State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	Minnesota @ North Dakota (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
Sat/3	Niagara @ Ohio State (NC)	4:07 pm CT
	St. Cloud State @ Minnesota Duluth (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	Wisconsin @ Minnesota State (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT
	Minnesota @ North Dakota (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
Fri/9	Wisconsin @ Bemidji State (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
	Minnesota State @ St. Cloud State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
Sat/10	Wisconsin @ Bemidji State (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
	Minnesota State @ St. Cloud State (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
	Ohio State @ Minnesota (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
	Minnesota Duluth @ North Dakota (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
Sun/11	Ohio State @ Minnesota (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
	Minnesota Duluth @ North Dakota (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
Fri/16	Minnesota Duluth @ Minnesota State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
Sat/17	Minnesota Duluth @ Minnesota State (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT

Date	Game	Time
Fri/30	Bemidji State @ Robert Morris (NC)	5:00 pm ET
	Princeton @ Ohio State (NC)	4:07 pm ET
Sat/31	Bemidji State @ Robert Morris (NC)	2:00 pm ET
	Princeton @ Ohio State (NC)	2:07 pm ET

January

Date	Game	Time
Wed/4	Lindenwood Univ. @ North Dakota (NC)	7:07 pm CT
Fri/6	Minnesota State @ Bemidji State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	Ohio State @ St. Cloud State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	Wisconsin @ Minnesota (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
Sat/7	Minnesota State @ Bemidji State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	Ohio State @ St. Cloud State (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
	Wisconsin @ Minnesota (WCHA)	4:07 pm CT
Fri/13	Ohio State @ Bemidji State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	Minnesota @ Minnesota Duluth (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	St. Cloud State @ Minnesota State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
Sat/14	Wisconsin @ North Dakota (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
	St. Cloud State @ Minnesota State (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT
	Ohio State @ Bemidji State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	Minnesota @ Minnesota Duluth (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
Sun/15	Wisconsin @ North Dakota (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
Fri/20	Minnesota State @ Ohio State (WCHA)	7:07 pm ET
	Bemidji State @ Minnesota (WCHA)	6:07 pm CT
	St. Cloud State @ North Dakota (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
(20/21)	Minnesota Duluth @ Wisconsin (WCHA)	TBA pm CT
Sat/21	Minnesota State @ Ohio State (WCHA)	4:07 pm ET
	Bemidji State @ Minnesota (WCHA)	4:07 pm CT
	St. Cloud State @ North Dakota (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
(21/22)	Minnesota Duluth @ Wisconsin (WCHA)	TBA pm CT
Fri/27	North Dakota @ Ohio State (WCHA)	7:07 pm ET
	Minnesota Duluth @ St. Cloud State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	Minnesota @ Minnesota State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
(27/28)	Bemidji State @ Wisconsin (WCHA)	TBA pm CT
Sat/28	North Dakota @ Ohio State (WCHA)	4:07 pm ET
	Minnesota Duluth @ St. Cloud State (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
	Minnesota @ Minnesota State (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT
(27/28)	Bemidji State @ Wisconsin (WCHA)	TBA pm CT

February

Date	Game	Time
Fri/3	Ohio State @ Minnesota Duluth (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	Bemidji State @ North Dakota (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	Minnesota @ St. Cloud State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
(3/4)	Minnesota State @ Wisconsin (WCHA)	TBA pm CT
Sat/4	Ohio State @ Minnesota Duluth (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	Bemidji State @ North Dakota (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	Minnesota @ St. Cloud State (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
(4/5)	Minnesota State @ Wisconsin (WCHA)	TBA pm CT
Fri/10	Minnesota Duluth @ Bemidji State (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
	Wisconsin @ St. Cloud State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	Minnesota @ Ohio State (WCHA)	7:07 pm ET
	North Dakota @ Minnesota State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
Sat/11	Minnesota Duluth @ Bemidji State (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
	Wisconsin @ St. Cloud State (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
	Minnesota @ Ohio State (WCHA)	4:07 pm ET
	North Dakota @ Minnesota State (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT
Fri/17	Minnesota State @ Minnesota Duluth (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	Bemidji State @ St. Cloud State (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
	North Dakota @ Minnesota (WCHA)	6:07 pm CT
(17/18)	Ohio State @ Wisconsin (WCHA)	TBA pm CT

Date	Game	Time
Sat/18	Minnesota State @ Minnesota Duluth (WCHA)	6:07 pm CT
	Bemidji State @ St. Cloud State (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
	North Dakota @ Minnesota (WCHA)	4:07 pm CT
(18/19)	Ohio State @ Wisconsin (WCHA)	TBA pm CT

• end of regular season •

Fri/24	2011 WCHA Playoffs • 1st Round • Best-of-Three	
	(#8 Rank @ #1 Rank)	TBA
	(#7 Rank @ #2 Rank)	TBA
	(#6 Rank @ #3 Rank)	TBA
	(#5 Rank @ #4 Rank)	TBA
Sat/25	2011 WCHA Playoffs • 1st Round • Best-of-Three	
	(#8 Rank @ #1 Rank)	TBA
	(#7 Rank @ #2 Rank)	TBA
	(#6 Rank @ #3 Rank)	TBA
	(#5 Rank @ #4 Rank)	TBA
Sun/26	2011 WCHA Playoffs • 1st Round • Best-of-Three	
	(#8 Rank @ #1 Rank) (if necessary)	TBA
	(#7 Rank @ #2 Rank) (if necessary)	TBA
	(#6 Rank @ #3 Rank) (if necessary)	TBA
	(#5 Rank @ #4 Rank) (if necessary)	TBA

March

Date	Game	Time
Fri/2	2012 WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF	
	@ AMSOIL Arena, Duluth, MN	
	Semi-Final #1	4:07 pm CT
	Semi-Final #2	7:07 pm CT
Sat/3	2012 WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF	
	@ AMSOIL Arena, Duluth, MN	
	Championship Game	7:07 pm CT
Fri/9	2012 NCAA Women's Regionals (TBA)	TBA
Sat/10	2012 NCAA Women's Regionals (TBA)	TBA
Sun/11	2012 NCAA Women's Regionals (TBA)	TBA
Fri/16	2012 NCAA Women's Frozen Four	
	@ AMSOIL Arena, Duluth, MN	
	Semi-Final #1	TBA pm ET
	Semi-Final #2	TBA pm ET
Sun/18	2012 NCAA Women's Frozen Four	
	@ AMSOIL Arena, Duluth, MN	
	Championship Game	TBA pm ET

Schedule Key

Face-offs for all Association-member home games are at either :07 or :37 after the hour; (WCHA) conference; (NC) non-conference; (X) exhibition; tournaments/special events in BOLD