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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 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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Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota Earn Berths in 2012 NCAA Division 1 Women's Hockey Championship Tournament Defending National Champion Wisconsin is Top Seed and Will Host Mercyhurst Saturday; 2012 WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF Champion Minnesota to Host First-Time Entrant North Dakota

MADISON, Wis. – Three teams from the Western Collegiate Hockey Association, winners of the last 12 national championships, have been selected to play in the quarterfinals of the 2012 NCAA Division 1 Women's Ice Hockey Championships.

Defending national champion, 2011-12 WCHA regular season champ and No. 1 seed Wisconsin (29-4-2) will host College Hockey America regular season champ Mercyhurst University (19-7-3) of Erie, Pa., in the quarterfinal round, the NCAA revealed during Sunday night's selection show. Puck drop is 7:00 pm CT Saturday at the Kohl Center. The game is a rematch of the 2009 NCAA title contest in Boston when UW beat Mercyhurst.

2012 WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF champion and No. 2 seed Minnesota (31-5-2) will host North Dakota (21-11-3) at Ridder Arena at 4:00 pm CT on Saturday. The Golden Gophers earned the WCHA's automatic berth to the national tourney after winning the WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF at AMSOIL Arena in Duluth on March 2-3. Minnesota beat Minnesota Duluth 2-0 in the championship game and North Dakota 5-0 in the semifinals.

This is the first NCAA tournament appearance for North Dakota, which received one of the four at-large berths. Minnesota and North Dakota split four regular season games and two games at Ridder Arena before meeting again in the WCHA playoffs last Friday.

The Badgers are making their seventh NCAA national tournament appearance and begin the quest for their fifth national championship after taking home the title in 2011, 2009, 2007 and 2006. UW has a 13-2-0 record in the national tournament.

This is the seventh NCAA regional appearances for Minnesota. Minnesota also hosted the regional game in 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009 and 2010 and played at Boston College last season.

The other NCAA pairings on Saturday have Boston University (23-13-1) at No. 2 Cornell (29-4-0) and St. Lawrence (24-9-4) at No. 4 Boston College (23-9-3). The quarterfinal winners will advance to the 2012 NCAA Women's Frozen Four, set for Friday, March 16 and Sunday, March 18 at AMSOIL Arena in Duluth, Minn. The two semifinal games will be held on Friday and the national title game on Sunday.

In the 11 years of NCAA-sponsored tournaments, WCHA members have won all 11 titles – UMD has five, Wisconsin has four and Minnesota two. Wisconsin defeated Boston University 4-1 in the 2011 championship game at Tullio Arena in Erie, Pa. Five of this year quarterfinalists are repeaters from last year's field, including UW and Minnesota.

2011-12 WCHA Women's Standings

	Pts	Conference Only						Overall								
		GP	W	L	T	SW	Win%	GF-	GA	GP	Record	Win%	GF-	GA		
1 Wisconsin!	72	28	23-	3-	2	1	.857	113-	44	37	31-	4-	2	.865	170-	53
2 Minnesota*	66	28	21-	5-	2	1	.786	113-	43	38	31-	5-	2	.842	169-	50
3 North Dakota	53	28	16-	9-	3	2	.625	116-	75	36	22-	11-	3	.653	154-	89
4 Minnesota Duluth	47	28	15-	12-	1	1	.554	91-	61	36	21-	14-	1	.597	121-	79
5 Ohio State	41	28	13-	14-	1	1	.482	75-	96	36	16-	16-	4	.500	99-	115
6 Bemidji State	35	28	11-	15-	2	0	.429	70-	73	37	17-	17-	3	.500	101-	85
7 St. Cloud State	12	28	4-	24-	0	0	.143	32-	150	36	5-	29-	2	.167	44-	177
8 Minnesota State	10	28	3-	24-	1	0	.125	37-	105	36	7-	28-	1	.208	64-	133

! WCHA regular season champion. *WCHA playoff champion. Note: Teams are awarded three points for each win in regulation or overtime, and one point for an overtime tie. Conference games tied after 65:00 advance to a three-player shootout with the winning team receiving an extra point in the standings (denoted in the SW column).

This Week in the WCHA

NCAA Div. 1 Women's Championship Tournament

Games for Saturday, March 10: North Dakota at Minnesota (NC), 4:00 pm CT; Mercyhurst at Wisconsin (NC), 7:00 pm CT; St. Lawrence at Boston College (NC), 1:00 pm ET; Boston University at Cornell (NC), 2:00 pm ET.