

WESTERN COLLEGIATE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

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MEMBER TEAMS

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 14 WOMEN'S NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS SINCE 1999

2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004,
2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009,
2010, 2011, 2012, 2013

2015 WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF CHAMPIONSHIP

March 7-8, 2015
Ralph Engelstad Arena
Grand Forks, ND

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September 2, 2014/For Release at 10:00 am CT

WCHA ANNOUNCES 2014-15 WOMEN'S SCHEDULE

2015 WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF TO BE HELD AT RALPH ENGELSTAD ARENA IN GRAND FORKS MARCH 7-8; THREE NON-CONFERENCE SERIES OPEN SEASON SEPTEMBER 26-27; 112-GAME CONFERENCE SLATE SET TO LAUNCH OCTOBER 3-4 AS MINNESOTA DULUTH HOSTS WISCONSIN; MINNESOTA REIGNS AS DEFENDING WCHA REGULAR SEASON AND PLAYOFF CHAMPION; GOPHERS HOST NCAA WOMEN'S FROZEN FOUR MARCH 20-22 AT RIDDER ARENA

MADISON, Wis. – The Western Collegiate Hockey Association opens its 16th season of women's hockey with two new coaches, a new commissioner, the return of a couple of former Olympians and the usual anticipation of a competitive battle for the league championship.

For the second time, the WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF playoff championship will be held in Grand Forks, N.D. The March event is the spotlight event that highlights the 2014-15 women's composite schedule announced by Commissioner Aaron Kemp today.

With a record 14 national championships under its collective belt, the WCHA will look for an exciting and wide-open league race with new head coaches at Bemidji State in Jim Scanlan and at St. Cloud State in Eric Rud and the return of two players from the U.S. Olympic team in forward Amanda Kessel, the 2013 Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award winner, and defenseman Lee Stecklein at defending league champion Minnesota.

Teams open play with three non-conference series on September 26-27 when Minnesota Duluth visits Connecticut, Bemidji State travels to Robert Morris and Wisconsin plays at Lindenwood. That same weekend St. Cloud States hosts an exhibition game against the Toronto Junior Aeros September 26 and North Dakota faces the Toronto Junior Aeros September 27 in Grand Forks. On September 28, Ohio State faces Western Ontario in Columbus, Ohio in an exhibition game.

The 112-game conference slate, comprised of 28 games per each of the WCHA's eight-member teams (four games – two home and two away – against each of other seven members), gets underway during the weekend of October 3-4 when Wisconsin visits Minnesota Duluth.

Three other league teams will host non-conference series October 3-4 with Ohio State facing New Hampshire, North Dakota meeting Rensselaer and Bemidji State playing Vermont while Minnesota hosts a four-team tournament at Ridder Arena, playing Penn State after St. Cloud State meets Boston University in the tournament opener.

League play begins in earnest October 10-12 when Wisconsin entertains Ohio State, Minnesota travels to Minnesota Duluth and North Dakota visits Minnesota State October 12-13. Bemidji State plays its first WCHA series October 17-18 at home Ohio State while St. Cloud State plays its first WCHA game October 17 at Minnesota State in the first game of a home-and-home series.

"On behalf of the WCHA, and in my new role as the women's commissioner, I'm thrilled to announce the release of the 2014-15 women's hockey schedule," said Kemp. "The women's WCHA is comprised of eight member institutions who are all committed to achieving the highest level of competitive excellence. As we look forward to an exciting new season, it's important to recognize and celebrate our association's rich history of success. Winning 14 national championships in the last 15 years, the WCHA has identified itself as the premier women's hockey conference.

"The strength of our schedule is unmatched as is evidenced in this year's line-up. In inter-conference play, the schedule boasts outstanding match-ups featuring intense rivalries wherein the



nation's top teams battle it out for conference supremacy. As the WCHA looks to showcase its dominance across the national scene, the non-conference portion of the schedule features some very respectable adversaries.

"We look to crown this year's playoff champion at the WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF in the beautiful Ralph Engelstad Arena. We're excited to partner with the University of North Dakota and the Grand Forks community who are passionate about college hockey and will provide a great location for this event. Our goal is to increase exposure and attendance at our championship by providing incredible college hockey as well as auxiliary events that will entice even casual fan attendance and lend itself to a better overall experience."

The 2015 WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF is set for March 7 and March 8. There will be two semi-final match ups at Ralph Engelstad Arena on Saturday, March 7, with the playoff championship game slated for Sunday. The winner of the FINAL FACE-OFF receives an automatic bid to the national tournament. This will mark the second time that Grand Forks has served as the host of the league playoff championship round, but the first time that the league's showcase event has been held at the Ralph.

The NCAA Regionals will be held the weekend of March 13-15 with the winners advancing to the NCAA Women's Frozen Four, which will be held at Ridder Arena in Minneapolis, Minn., next March 20-22.

There will be eight weekends this coming season that feature all eight teams engaged in league action. Those occur on October 17-18, October 31-November 2, November 13-15, December 5-7, January 16-18, February 6-7, February 13-14 and February 20-22, which marks the final regular season games.

The pursuit of the annual WCHA playoff championship will get underway the weekend of Friday, February 28 thru Sunday, March 2 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 playing at No. 2, No. 6 at No. 3 and the No. 5 seed at the No. 4 seed. The four first-round conference playoff winners will then advance to the 2015 WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF in Grand Forks.

Two WCHA teams will also take part in the annual U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame Game on November 24 when Minnesota plays St. Cloud State at Braemar Arena in Edina, Minn.

The WCHA will welcome back many outstanding student-athletes for the 2014-15 season, including two first team All-Americans – Minnesota forward Hannah Brandt, the WCHA Player of the Year and scoring champion last season, and Minnesota defenseman Rachael Ramsey, the WCHA Defensive Player of the year in 2013-14. In addition, North Dakota returns forward Susanna Tapani, a 2014 Olympian who played for Team Finland and defensemen Tanja Eisenschmid and Susanne Fellner, who played for Team Germany in the Sochi Olympics while Minnesota Duluth will be bolstered by the return of former all-WCHA second team defenseman Brigitte Lacquette, who played for the Canadian National team last season, and the presence of Finnish Olympian Tea Villila and Lara Stalder, who won a bronze medal at Sochi with Team Switzerland.

Returning All-WCHA honorees include second team all-American defenseman Milica McMillen of Minnesota and goaltender Ann-Renée Desbiens of Wisconsin, who had the best goals-against average in the league last season as a freshman.

Minnesota also returns forward Dani Cameranesi, who was the WCHA Rookie of the Year last season.

Other noteworthy highlights from the 2013-14 season included:

- WCHA teams compiled a 31-12-2 non-conference record and a .722 winning percentage against other Division 1 opponents in regular season play. WCHA teams went 8-3-0 vs. the Hockey East Association, 8-5-1 vs. ECAC Hockey and 15-4-1 vs. College Hockey America.

- Three WCHA member teams ranked among the nation's top 10 in the final two weekly national polls for 2013-14. In the final USA Today/USA Hockey Magazine Women's Division 1 College Hockey Poll, Minnesota was ranked No. 2, Wisconsin was No. 3 and North Dakota was No. 8. And in the season's last USCHO.com Women's Division 1 College Hockey Poll, Minnesota was No. 2, Wisconsin was No. 3 and North Dakota was No. 8.

- The WCHA had a participant in the NCAA championship title game for the 15th straight season. Minnesota (38-2-1), after claiming both the regular season and WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF championships, made its third straight Frozen Four appearance and 10th overall, pushing its unbeaten streak to 26 games (25-0-1) before the loss to Clarkson. The Golden Gophers have a 87-2-1 record over the past three seasons and Minnesota has won five national titles – in 2000, 2004, 2005, 2012 and 2013.

Wisconsin, which finished 28-8-2 overall, also made another trip to the NCAA Frozen Four, dropping a 5-3 decision to the Gophers in a national semifinal on March 21. The Badgers, who are 17-4 in NCAA post-season play, made their seventh trip to the Frozen Four. Wisconsin has won four NCAA titles – in 2006, 2007, 2009 and 2011. Minnesota Duluth has also won five national titles.

The 2014-15 WCHA women's composite schedule follows:



2014-15 WCHA WOMEN'S SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER

Date	Game	Time
Fri/26	Minnesota Duluth @ Connecticut (NC)	7:00 pm ET
	Bemidji State @ Robert Morris (NC)	7:05 pm ET
	Wisconsin @ Lindenwood (NC)	7:00 pm CT
	Toronto Jr Aeros @ St. Cloud State (EX)	7:07 pm CT
Sat/27	Minnesota Duluth @ Connecticut (NC)	3:00 pm ET
	Bemidji State @ Robert Morris (NC)	3:05 pm ET
	Wisconsin @ Lindenwood (NC)	3:00 pm CT
	Toronto Jr Aeros @ North Dakota (EX)	7:07 pm CT
Sun/28	Western Ontario @ Ohio State (EX)	11:07 am ET

OCTOBER

Date	Game	Time
Fri/3	New Hampshire @ Ohio State (NC)	6:07 pm ET
	St. Cloud State vs Boston University @ Ridder Arena, Minneapolis (NC)	4:07 pm CT
	Penn State @ Minnesota (NC)	7:07 pm CT
	Wisconsin @ Minnesota Duluth (WCHA)	6:07 pm CT
	Vermont @ Bemidji State (NC)	7:07 pm CT
	Rensselaer @ North Dakota (NC)	7:07 pm CT
Sat/4	New Hampshire @ Ohio State (NC)	2:07 pm ET
	St. Cloud State vs Penn State @ Ridder Arena, Minneapolis (NC)	4:07 pm CT
	Boston University @ Minnesota (NC)	7:07 pm CT
	Wisconsin @ Minnesota Duluth (WCHA)	6:07 pm CT
	Rensselaer @ Bemidji State (NC)	7:07 pm CT
	Vermont @ North Dakota (NC)	7:07 pm CT
Fri/10	Ohio State @ Wisconsin (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	Lindenwood @ St. Cloud State (NC)	3:07 pm CT
	Minnesota @ Minnesota Duluth (WCHA)	6:07 pm CT
	North Dakota @ Minnesota State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
Sat/11	North Dakota @ Minnesota State (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT
	Lindenwood @ St. Cloud State (NC)	3:07 pm CT
	Minnesota @ Minnesota Duluth (WCHA)	6:07 pm CT
Sun/12	Ohio State @ Wisconsin (WCHA)	1:07 pm CT
Fri/17	Bemidji State @ Ohio State (WCHA)	6:07 pm ET
	Minnesota @ Wisconsin (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	St. Cloud State @ Minnesota State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	Minnesota Duluth @ North Dakota (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
Sat/18	Bemidji State @ Ohio State (WCHA)	12:07 pm ET
	Minnesota @ Wisconsin (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT
	Minnesota State @ St. Cloud State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	Minnesota Duluth @ North Dakota (WCHA)	4:07 pm CT
Fri/24	Minnesota State @ Mercyhurst (NC)	7:00 pm ET
	North Dakota @ Minnesota (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	Wisconsin @ Bemidji State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
Sat/25	Minnesota State @ Mercyhurst (NC)	2:00 pm ET
	Lindenwood @ Minnesota Duluth (NC)	3:07 pm CT
	North Dakota @ Minnesota (WCHA)	4:07 pm CT
	Wisconsin @ Bemidji State (WCHA)	4:07 pm CT
Sun/26	Lindenwood @ Minnesota Duluth (NC)	3:07 pm CT
Fri/31	St. Cloud State @ Ohio State (WCHA)	6:07 pm ET
	Bemidji State @ Minnesota (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	Wisconsin @ North Dakota (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT

NOVEMBER

Date	Game	Time
Sat/1	St. Cloud State @ Ohio State (WCHA)	1:07 pm ET
	Minnesota State @ Minnesota Duluth (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT
	Wisconsin @ North Dakota (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT
	Bemidji State @ Minnesota (WCHA)	4:07 pm CT
Sun/2	Minnesota State @ Minnesota Duluth (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT
Fri/7	St. Cloud State @ Rensselaer (NC)	3:00 pm ET
	Ohio State @ Minnesota State (WCHA)	6:07 pm CT
Sat/8	St. Cloud State @ Rensselaer (WCHA)	3:00 pm ET
	Ohio State @ Minnesota State (WCHA)	1:07 pm CT
Thu/13	Minnesota State @ Wisconsin (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
Fri/14	North Dakota @ Bemidji State (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
	Minnesota State @ Wisconsin (WCHA)	TBA pm CT
	Minnesota @ Ohio State (WCHA)	6:07 pm ET
	Minnesota Duluth @ St. Cloud State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	North Dakota @ Bemidji State (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
Sat/15	Minnesota @ Ohio State (WCHA)	2:07 pm ET
	Minnesota Duluth @ St. Cloud State (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT
	North Dakota @ Bemidji State (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
Fri/21	Wisconsin @ St. Cloud State (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT
	Cornell @ Minnesota Duluth (NC)	4:07 pm CT
	Minnesota @ Minnesota State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	Ohio State @ North Dakota (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
Sat/22	Wisconsin @ St. Cloud State (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT
	Minnesota State @ Minnesota (WCHA)	4:07 pm CT
	Ohio State @ North Dakota (WCHA)	4:07 pm CT
	Cornell @ Minnesota Duluth (NC)	6:07 pm CT
Mon/24	St. Cloud State vs Minnesota @ U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame Game, Braemar Arena, Edina, MN (NC)	7:00 pm CT
Fri/28	Wisconsin @ New Hampshire (NC)	7:00 pm ET
	Ohio State @ Robert Morris (NC)	7:00 pm ET
	Minnesota Duluth @ Bemidji State (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
Sat/29	Minnesota @ Princeton (NC)	2:00 pm ET
	Wisconsin @ New Hampshire (NC)	2:00 pm ET
	Minnesota Duluth @ Bemidji State (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
	St. Cloud State @ North Dakota (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
Sun/30	Minnesota @ Princeton (NC)	2:00 pm ET
	St. Cloud State @ North Dakota (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT

DECEMBER

Date	Game	Time
Wed/3	Pursuit of Excellence @ Bemidji State (EX)	7:07 pm CT
Fri/5	Minnesota Duluth @ Ohio State (WCHA)	6:07 pm ET
	North Dakota @ Wisconsin (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
	St. Cloud State @ Minnesota (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	Minnesota State @ Bemidji State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
Sat/6	Minnesota Duluth @ Ohio State (WCHA)	6:07 pm ET
	St. Cloud State @ Minnesota (WCHA)	4:07 pm CT
	Minnesota State @ Bemidji State (WCHA)	4:07 pm CT
Sun/7	North Dakota @ Wisconsin (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
Fri/12	North Dakota @ RIT (NC)	3:00 pm ET
	Bemidji State @ St. Cloud State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
Sat/13	North Dakota @ RIT (WCHA)	3:00 pm ET
	Bemidji State @ St. Cloud State (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT
Fri/19	Ohio State @ Bemidji State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
Sat/20	Ohio State @ Bemidji State (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT



JANUARY

Date	Game	Time
Fri/2	Bemidji State @ Lindenwood (NC)	7:00 pm CT
Sat/3	Ohio State @ Penn State (NC)	7:00 pm ET
	Bemidji State @ Lindenwood (NC)	3:00 pm CT
	St. Lawrence @ Minnesota State (NC)	6:07 pm CT
Sun/4	Ohio State @ Penn State (NC)	2:00 pm ET
	St. Lawrence @ Minnesota (NC)	4:07 pm CT
Tue/6	St. Lawrence @ Minnesota (NC)	7:07 pm CT
Wed/7	Minnesota State @ Lindenwood (NC)	7:00 pm CT
Fri/9	Ohio State @ St. Cloud State (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT
	Minnesota State @ Lindenwood (NC)	7:00 pm CT
Sat/10	Ohio State @ St. Cloud State (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT
	Minnesota State @ Lindenwood (NC)	2:00 pm CT
	Syracuse @ North Dakota (NC)	2:07 pm CT
	Bemidji State @ Minnesota Duluth (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT
	Wisconsin @ Minnesota (WCHA)	4:07 pm CT
Sun/11	Wisconsin @ Minnesota (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
	Syracuse @ North Dakota (NC)	2:07 pm CT
	Bemidji State @ Minnesota Duluth (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT
Fri/16	North Dakota @ Ohio State (WCHA)	6:07 pm ET
	Bemidji State @ Wisconsin (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	Minnesota State @ Minnesota (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
Sat/17	North Dakota @ Ohio State (WCHA)	6:07 pm ET
	Bemidji State @ Wisconsin (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT
	St. Cloud State @ Minnesota Duluth (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT
	Minnesota @ Minnesota State (WCHA)	4:07 pm CT
Sun/18	St. Cloud State @ Minnesota Duluth (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT
Fri/23	Minnesota @ St. Cloud State (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT
	Minnesota Duluth @ Minnesota State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
Sat/24	Clarkson @ Wisconsin (NC)	2:07 pm CT
	Minnesota @ St. Cloud State (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT
	Minnesota Duluth @ Minnesota State (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT
	Bemidji State @ North Dakota (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
Sun/25	Clarkson @ Wisconsin (NC)	12:07 pm CT
	Bemidji State @ North Dakota (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
Fri/30	North Dakota @ Minnesota Duluth (WCHA)	6:07 pm CT
	Ohio State @ Minnesota (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	Wisconsin @ Minnesota State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
Sat/31	Wisconsin @ Minnesota State (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT
	North Dakota @ Minnesota Duluth (WCHA)	6:07 pm CT
	Ohio State @ Minnesota (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT

FEBRUARY

Date	Game	Time
Mon/2	St. Cloud State @ Minnesota State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
Fri/6	Minnesota State @ Ohio State (WCHA)	6:07 pm ET
	Minnesota Duluth @ Wisconsin (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	St. Cloud State @ Bemidji State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	Minnesota @ North Dakota (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
Sat/7	Minnesota State @ Ohio State (WCHA)	2:07 pm ET
	Minnesota Duluth @ Wisconsin (WCHA)	TBA pm CT
	St. Cloud State @ Bemidji State (WCHA)	4:07 pm CT
	Minnesota @ North Dakota (WCHA)	4:07 pm CT
Fri/13	Wisconsin @ Ohio State (WCHA)	6:07 pm ET
	Minnesota Duluth @ Minnesota (WCHA)	TBA pm CT
	Bemidji State @ Minnesota State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
	North Dakota @ St. Cloud State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
Sat/14	Wisconsin @ Ohio State (WCHA)	TBA pm ET
	Bemidji State @ Minnesota State (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT
	North Dakota @ St. Cloud State (WCHA)	3:07 pm CT
	Minnesota Duluth @ Minnesota (WCHA)	4:07 pm CT
Mon/16	Minnesota State @ St. Cloud State (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT

Date	Game	Time
Fri/20	St. Cloud State @ Wisconsin (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
	Minnesota @ Bemidji State (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
	Ohio State @ Minnesota Duluth (WCHA)	6:07 pm CT
	Minnesota State @ North Dakota (WCHA)	7:07 pm CT
Sat/21	Minnesota @ Bemidji State (WCHA)	2:07 pm CT
	Minnesota State @ North Dakota (WCHA)	4:07 pm CT
Sun/22	St. Cloud State @ Wisconsin (WCHA)	12:07 pm CT
	Ohio State @ Minnesota Duluth (WCHA)	12:07 pm CT

• end of regular season •

Date	Game	Time
Fri/27	2015 WCHA Playoffs • 1st Round • Best-of-Three	TBA
	#8 Rank @ #1 Rank	TBA
	#7 Rank @ #2 Rank	TBA
	#6 Rank @ #3 Rank	TBA
	#5 Rank @ #4 Rank	TBA
Sat/28	2015 WCHA Playoffs • 1st Round • Best-of-Three	TBA
	#8 Rank @ #1 Rank	TBA
	#7 Rank @ #2 Rank	TBA
	#6 Rank @ #3 Rank	TBA
	#5 Rank @ #4 Rank	TBA

MARCH

Date	Game	Time
Sun/1	2015 WCHA Playoffs • 1st Round • Best-of-3 (if necessary)	
	#8 Rank @ #1 Rank	TBA
	#7 Rank @ #2 Rank	TBA
	#6 Rank @ #3 Rank	TBA
	#5 Rank @ #4 Rank	TBA
Sat/7	2015 WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF	
	@ Ralph Engelstad Arena, Grand Forks, ND	
	Semifinal	TBA pm CT
	Semifinal	TBA pm CT
Sun/8	2015 WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF	
	@ Ralph Engelstad Arena, Grand Forks, ND	
	Championship Game	TBA pm CT
Fri/13	2015 NCAA Regionals @ TBA	TBA
Sat/14	2015 NCAA Regionals @ TBA	TBA
Sun/15	2015 NCAA Regionals @ TBA	TBA
Fri/20	2015 NCAA Women's Frozen Four	TBA
	@ Ridder Arena, Minneapolis, MN	
	Semifinals	TBA pm CT
	Semifinals	TBA pm CT
Sun/22	2015 NCAA Women's Frozen Four	
	@ Ridder Arena, Minneapolis, MN	
	National Championship Game	TBA pm CT

Key

Home games face-off at either :07 or :37 after the hour (WCHA) conference; (NC) non-conference; (EX) exhibition

Team Arenas (Capacity)

Bemidji State University • Sanford Center (4,373)
 University of Minnesota • Ridder Arena (3,400)
 University of Minnesota Duluth • AMSOIL Arena (6,600)
 Minnesota State University • All Seasons Arena (750)
 University of North Dakota • Ralph Engelstad Arena (11,634)
 Ohio State University • OSU Ice Rink (800)
 St. Cloud State University • Herb Brooks National Hockey Center (5,371)
 University of Wisconsin • LaBahn Arena (2,273)