



WCHA WEEKEND PREVIEW: OCT. 17-18, 2014

News and notes for the upcoming weekend of WCHA hockey

- For the first time this season, all eight WCHA teams are in action for a quartet of league series.
- Bemidji State (at Ohio State) and St. Cloud State (vs. Minnesota State) will play their first WCHA contests of the season.
- WCHA teams posted a 13-4-1 mark (.750) during their first non-conference go-round of the 2014-15 campaign.
- Wisconsin and Minnesota are Nos. 1-2 in both the USCHO.com and USA Today / *USA Hockey Magazine* polls. North Dakota is No. 10/8, while both Bemidji State and Minnesota Duluth are receiving votes.

All rankings listed by USCHO.com poll first, followed by USA Today / *USA Hockey Magazine* poll

WCHA SERIES

Bemidji State (0-0-0-0, 0 pts. / 4-0-0) at Ohio State (0-2-0-0, 0 pts. / 2-2-0)

OSU Ice Rink (Columbus, Ohio)

Friday, Oct. 17 at 6:07 p.m. ET / Saturday, Oct. 18 at 12:07 p.m. ET

- Bemidji State is off to the best start in program history at 4-0-0, while also matching a school record for longest winning streak (four games). The Beavers are receiving votes in both national polls.
- Ohio State posted just the seventh 2-0-0 start in Buckeyes annals with an opening weekend sweep vs. New Hampshire, but dropped a pair of games last weekend at Wisconsin.
- BSU ranks fourth nationally on both the offensive and defensive end, averaging 4.00 goals over the first four contests while yielding just 0.75.
- 17 of 21 Beavers skaters have registered at least one point, while the goaltending duo of freshman **Erin Deters** (0.50) and sophomore **Brittini Mowat** (1.00) rank tied for third and ninth, respectively, in the nation.
- OSU freshman G **Kassidy Sauve**, who has started all four games between the pipes, recorded 44 saves last Sunday against Wisconsin – including 22 in the second period alone.
- Buckeyes sophomore F **Claudia Kepler** has scored two goals this season – both game-winners to tie for the NCAA lead in that category.

No. 2 Minnesota (1-0-1-0, 6 pts. / 3-1-0) at No. 1 Wisconsin (4-0-0-0, 12 pts. / 6-0-0)

LaBahn Arena (Madison, Wisc.)

Friday, Oct. 17 at 7:07 p.m. CT / Saturday, Oct. 18 at 3:07 p.m. CT

- The nation's top-ranked teams meet this weekend for a Border Battle series in Madison, Wisc.
- Minnesota has won 11 straight against Wisconsin dating back to Oct. 11, 2011, including a come-from-behind, 5-3 victory in the 2014 Frozen Four semifinal. The Gophers lead the all-time series, 40-26-8.
- The nation's top-ranked teams also boast the country's best offensive units, with the Badgers averaging an NCAA-best 5.00 goals per game and the Gophers scoring 4.75 per contest.
- Fittingly, players from each team are 1-3 nationally in points (**Karley Sylvester**, Wisc., 12; **Annie Pankowski**, Wisc., 11; **Brittany Ammerman**, Wisc., 9), goals scored (**Hannah Brandt**, Minn., 6; Ammerman, Wisc., 5; **Meghan Lorence**, Minn., 4) and assists (Pankowski, 10; Sylvester, 9; **Rachel Bona** and **Lee Stecklein**, Minn., 5).
- Wisconsin sophomore G **Ann-Renée Desbiens** posted back-to-back shutouts last weekend and is seventh nationally with a 0.75 goals against average.

Minnesota Duluth (0-3-1-1, 2pts. / 1-3-2) at No. 10/8 North Dakota (2-0-0-0, 6 pts. / 3-1-0)

Ralph Engelstad Arena (Grand Forks, North Dakota)

Friday, Oct. 17 at 7:07 p.m. CT / Saturday, Oct. 12 at 4:07 p.m. CT

- No. 10/8 North Dakota hosts a Minnesota Duluth team that is receiving votes in both polls.
- Three of the last five meetings have ended in ties, with UND posting one-goal victories in the other two contests. UND is 6-1-3 in the last 10 games, but the Bulldogs own an all-time 35-10-4 edge.
- UND junior F **Becca Kohler** is on a career-high four-game point streak and is tied for third in the country for both points (9) and goals (4).
- UND special teams have gone a perfect 18-for-18 on the penalty kill, while converting on 5-of-11 power play opportunities (45.5 percent, good for second-best nationally).
- Bulldogs senior F **Jenna McParland** is just three points shy of becoming the 19th player to join UMD's 100-point club.

Minnesota State (0-2-0-0, 0 pts / 0-2-0) vs. St. Cloud State (0-0-0-0, 0 pts / 1-3-0)

Friday, Oct. 17 at 7:07 p.m. CT (All Seasons Arena; Mankato, Minn.)

Saturday, Oct. 18 at 7:07 p.m. CT (Herb Brooks National Hockey Center; St. Cloud, Minn.)

- The two intrastate rivals meet for a home-and-home series this weekend, skating in Mankato on Friday night and in St. Cloud on Saturday evening. The all-time series is deadlocked 29-29-7.
- Mavericks sophomore G **Brianna Quade** turned in an epic, 47-save performance in a 2-1 loss to North Dakota last weekend, allowing only two power-play goals. She is eighth nationally with a .963 save percentage.
- MSU has 12 freshmen on a youth-laden roster, two of whom combined on the lone Mavericks goal last weekend. **Elin Johansson** scored her first career goal on a helper from **Nicole Schammel**.
- SCSU is tied for 10th in the country with an average of 2.25 goals per game.
- Huskies sophomore F **Payge Pena** is tied for fifth among all NCAA skaters with three goals, while senior **Audrey Hanmer** is tied for eighth with four assists (tied for third among defensemen).

About Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA)

The women's Western Collegiate Hockey Association has won a record 14 national championships in 15 years since its inception in 1999, while producing six Patty Kazmaier Award winners, 70 All-Americans and numerous Olympic and international team members. The eight-team Division I conference consists of: Bemidji State University (Beavers), the University of Minnesota (Golden Gophers), the University of Minnesota Duluth (Bulldogs), Minnesota State University (Mavericks), the University of North Dakota, Ohio State University (Buckeyes), St. Cloud State University (Huskies) and the University of Wisconsin (Badgers).

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