



WCHA WEEKEND PREVIEW: OCT. 24-26, 2014

News and notes for the upcoming weekend of WCHA hockey

- Six of eight WCHA teams are in action, with a pair of league series and two non-conference sets.
- With two series against College Hockey America schools this weekend, the WCHA will look to improve upon its NCAA-best .750 winning percentage (13-4-1) in non-conference play. League teams are 6-2-0 against CHA opponents.
- The WCHA has six teams ranked or receiving votes in this week's USCHO.com and USA Today/USA Hockey Magazine polls. No. 1 Minnesota, No. 2 Wisconsin and No. 9/8 North Dakota are all in the top 10, while Minnesota Duluth, Ohio State and Bemidji State are all receiving votes.
- The WCHA is home to five of the nation's top 10 scoring offenses in Minnesota (second, 4.17 goals per game), Wisconsin (third, 4.00), Bemidji State and North Dakota (tied for sixth, 2.83) and St. Cloud State (10th, 2.50).
- The league also has four teams playing top-10 defense in the Gophers and UND (tied for third, 1.17 goals allowed per game), Badgers (tied for fifth, 1.25) and Beavers (eighth, 1.50).

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

WCHA

No. 2 Wisconsin (4-2-0-0, 12 pts. / 6-2-0) at Bemidji State (0-2-0-0, 0 pts. / 4-2-0)
Sanford Center (Bemidji, Minn.)

Friday, Oct. 24 at 7:07 p.m. CT / Saturday, Oct. 25 at 4:07 p.m. CT

- No. 2 Wisconsin and Bemidji State will both look to get back on track after dropping a pair of league games a week ago. The Beavers are still off to the best start in program history at 4-2-0.
- The Badgers lead the all-time series 55-4-3, including victories in all four contests a year ago. BSU's last victory came Oct. 19, 2012, while the Beavers have never defeated UW in Bemidji.
- Wisconsin has won its past 13 true road games and is unbeaten in its last 16. The last time the Badgers dropped a road game was Oct. 12, 2013 at Minnesota.
- UW freshman F **Annie Pankowski** leads the nation with 10 assists, while her 1.38 points per game average is the best among NCAA rookies. **Emily Clark** is third in the category at 1.17ppg, while the Badgers' freshman quintet is the nation's highest scoring rookie class at 2.50ppg.
- Speaking of freshmen, Beavers G **Erin Deters** (2-1-0) ranks second nationally with a 0.67 goals against average and .971 save percentage.
- BSU, which is tied for fourth nationally with 44 points, has received a goal or an assist from 17 different skaters.

No. 9/8 North Dakota (3-1-0-0, 9 pts. / 4-2-0) at No. 1 Minnesota (3-0-1-0, 10 pts. / 5-0-1)

Ridder Arena (Minneapolis, Minn.)

Friday, Oct. 24 at 7:07 p.m. CT / Saturday, Oct. 25 at 4:07 p.m. CT

- Top-ranked Minnesota returns home to face No. 9/8 North Dakota in a rematch of the 2014 FINAL FACE-OFF title game (won by the Gophers, 3-1).
- UND, which was the last team to beat Minnesota before its record 62-game winning streak, ended the historic run last Nov. 17 with a 3-2 victory at Ridder. The Gophers are 43-6-0 all-time against UND.
- UND junior F **Becca Kohler** has registered a point in five of six games this year and is tied for fourth nationally with 10 points overall (4g, 6a). Junior F **Meghan Dufault** is tied for eighth among D-I skaters with eight points (3g, 5a).
- UND has excelled on special teams, ranking second in the nation for power-play efficiency (5-of-17, 29.4 pct.) and third for penalty-kill success (25-of-26, 96.3 pct.) UND has also tallied a pair of short-handed goals.
- Minnesota has the top power-play unit in the NCAA with a success rate of .417 (10-of-24), while junior D **Milica McMillen** is tied for the national lead with three power-play goals.
- With McMillen (3-2—5), senior **Rachel Ramsey** (1-5—6) and sophomore **Lee Stecklein** (0-6—6), the Gophers' defensemen lead the nation's blue-liners in scoring.

NON-CONFERENCE

Minnesota State (0-3-1-0, 1 pt. WCHA / 0-3-1) at No. 8/9 Mercyhurst (0-0-0, 0 pts. CHA / 4-1-1)

Mercyhurst Ice Center (Erie, Pa.)

Friday, Oct. 24 at 7 p.m. ET / Saturday, Oct. 25 at 2 p.m. ET

- Minnesota State plays a non-conference opponent for the first time this season, traveling to Erie, Pa. for a two-game series at No. 8/9 Mercyhurst.
- The Mavericks split a two-game set with the Lakers last season in Mankato, posting a 4-2 victory in the series opener. MSU trails the all-time series, 3-13-1.
- Sophomore G **Brianna Quade** is fifth in the WCHA and 13th nationally with a .935 save pct.
- Two of MSU's 12 freshmen, forwards **Lindsey Coleman** and **Hannah Davidson**, assisted on goals last weekend to earn their first career points.

Lindenwood (0-0-0, 0 pts. CHA / 1-3-0) at Minnesota Duluth (1-4-1-1, 5 pts. WCHA / 2-4-2)

AMSOIL Arena (Duluth, Minn.)

Saturday, Oct. 24 at 3:07 p.m. CT / Sunday, Oct. 25 at 3:07 p.m. CT

- Minnesota Duluth, which is receiving votes in both national polls, hosts Lindenwood for a Saturday-Sunday non-conference series at AMSOIL Arena.
- UMD is skating against Lindenwood for the first time in program history.
- Bulldogs junior G **Kayla Black** is tied for third nationally with two shutouts. Her 11th career blanking, last Saturday at UND, led the Bulldogs to their first regulation victory over a top-10 opponent since Jan. 26, 2013.
- UMD freshman F **Michelle Löwenhielm** is fifth among all NCAA rookies with five points (2g, 3a).
- With her next point, senior F **Jenna McParland** will become the 19th player to join UMD's 100-point club. McParland, who has led the team in scoring the past two seasons, again paces UMD with six points in 2014-15 (3g, 3a).

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).

MEDIA CONTACT

Matt Hodson

Associate Commissioner for Public Relations

E: mhodson@wcha.com

O: 952.818.8872

M: 612.801.2808

MORE INFORMATION

Website: wcha.com

Twitter: [@wcha_whockey](https://twitter.com/@wcha_whockey)

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