



WCHA WEEKEND PREVIEW: NOV. 13-15, 2014

News and notes for the upcoming weekend of WCHA hockey

- The WCHA has an NCAA-best four teams in the *USA Today/USA Hockey Magazine* national rankings, and three schools in the USCHO.com poll:
 - Minnesota, Wisconsin and Minnesota Duluth are Nos. 2, 3 and 9, respectively, in both polls.
 - North Dakota is ranked 10th in the *USA Today/USA Hockey Magazine* ledger.
 - Bemidji State is receiving votes in both polls, while Ohio State garnered points in the *USA Today/USA Hockey Magazine* rankings.
- WCHA teams own six of the nation's top 15 winning percentages, most among any conference:
 - Minnesota (6th at .800, 7-1-2)
 - Wisconsin (7th at .792, 9-2-1)
 - Ohio State (11th at .636, 7-4-0)
 - Minnesota Duluth (13th at .583, 6-4-2)
 - Bemidji State (t-14th at .550, 5-4-1)
 - St. Cloud State (t-14th at .550, 5-4-1)
- The WCHA also has the best non-conference winning percentage in the country at .700 (17-7-1).
- Nearing the first quarter pole of the season, six of the eight WCHA teams are in the PairWise rankings (expanded from 16 to 17 teams to reflect ties): No. 3 Minnesota, No. 5 Wisconsin, No. 11 Bemidji State, No. 12 Ohio State, No. 13 Minnesota Duluth (tied) and No. 15 North Dakota (tied).
- After a light weekend last week, a full slate of WCHA series awaits:
 - No. 3 Wisconsin hosts Minnesota State for a Thursday-Friday series.
 - Bemidji State, off to the third-best 10-game start in program history, welcomes No. 10 North Dakota.
 - No. 2 Minnesota visits an Ohio State team that is 5-2-0 in its last seven games.
 - No. 9 Minnesota Duluth travels to St. Cloud State in a matchup of streaking teams (the Bulldogs have won five straight games, while the Huskies are 4-1-1 in their last six contests).

-Series previews begin on the next page-

WCHA

Minnesota State (0-7-1-0, 1 pt. / 0-9-1) at No. 3 Wisconsin (7-2-1-0, 22 pts. / 9-2-1)

LaBahn Arena (Madison, Wis.)

Thursday, Nov. 13 at 7:07 p.m. CT / Friday, Nov. 14 at 3:07 p.m. CT

- No. 3 Wisconsin returns from its bye week to host Minnesota State in a Thursday-Friday series at LaBahn Arena. This is the Badgers' sixth-ever Thursday night contest (first since Nov. 12, 2009).
- The Badgers lead the all-time series 62-2-3, and is 34-2-1 in Madison. Minnesota State's lone victory in seven games last year came during the teams' first round WCHA playoff series.
- MSU freshman F **Hannah Davidson** leads the team with five points (1g, 4 a), while fellow rookie **Nicole Schammel** has a team-best three goals. MSU has 12 freshmen on its roster.
- The Mavericks welcome back freshman F **Elin Johansson**, who skated in one 4 Nations Cup game for bronze medalist Sweden.
- Wisconsin will have a full lineup for the first time since its series at Bemidji State, welcoming back **Blayre Turnbull** (Canada), **Emily Clark** (Canada) and **Annie Pankowski** (United States) from the 4 Nations Cup.
- UW senior F **Brittany Ammerman** has a team-high eight goals (14 points), while senior F **Karley Sylvester** and Pankowski are tied for the national lead with 11 assists apiece.

No. 10 North Dakota (3-4-1-1, 11 pts. / 4-5-1) at Bemidji State (1-4-1-1, 5 pts. / 5-4-1)

Sanford Center (Bemidji, Minn.)

Friday, Nov. 14 and Saturday, Nov. 15 (2:07 p.m. CT both days)

- No. 10 North Dakota travels to Bemidji State, as both teams resume play after a bye weekend.
- UND leads the all-time series 33-18-4, including a 5-0-1 mark last year. BSU's last victory came on Nov. 26, 2011.
- Both teams feature strong junior classes, as BSU's group is fourth nationally with 34 points (14g, 20a). UND's junior corps is seventh with 31 points (13g, 18a).
- Under first-year head coach **Jim Scanlan**, the Beavers (5-4-1) are off to the third-best 10 game start in program history. BSU was 6-2-2 in 2011-12 and 6-4-0 to begin the 1999-2000 season.
- The Beavers are 10th in the country for scoring defense (1.67gpg). BSU leads the WCHA and ranks fourth nationally with 163 blocked shots.
- All but one of UND's 19 skaters have recorded a point this season, including 12 goal scorers. Junior F **Becca Kohler** leads the team in points (11), goals (5), assists (6) and power-play goals (3, which is tied for fifth nationally).

No. 2 Minnesota (5-1-2-0, 17 pts. / 7-1-2) at Ohio State (5-3-0-0, 15 pts. / 7-4-0)

OSU Ice Rink (Columbus, Ohio)

Friday, Nov. 14 at 6:07 p.m. ET / Saturday, Nov. 15 at 2:07 p.m. ET

- Ohio State, which hosted No. 8 Mercyhurst on Tuesday, returns to action Friday-Saturday when it hosts No. 2 Minnesota. The Gophers were idle last weekend.
- The Buckeyes have won three of their last four games and are 5-2-0 in their last seven contests.
- Minnesota leads the all-time series 58-8-2, including a 3-0-1 mark last season. OSU earned the extra WCHA point by winning in a shootout during the teams' last meeting (Jan. 11, 2014).
- The Gophers welcome back **Hannah Brandt**, **Dani Cameranesi** and **Lee Stecklein** after the trio played for the U.S. Women's National Team at the 4 Nations Cup.
- Minnesota leads the WCHA and ranks second nationally for scoring defense (1.20gpg), as junior G **Amanda Leveille** ranks fourth in the NCAA with a 1.23 goals against average.
- Nineteen different Buckeyes have contributed a point this season, led by junior F **Julia McKinnon** (5g, 1a) and senior D **Sara Schmitt** (2g, 4a) with six points apiece.

**No. 9 Minnesota Duluth (3-4-1-1, 11 pts. / 6-4-2) at St. Cloud State (2-1-1-1, 8 pts. / 5-4-1)
Herb Brooks National Hockey Center (St. Cloud, Minn.)**

Friday, Nov. 14 at 7:07 p.m. CT / Saturday, Nov. 15 at 3:07 p.m. CT

- St. Cloud State hosts No. 9 Minnesota Duluth in a matchup of streaking teams.
- Under first-year head coach **Eric Rud**, the Huskies are 4-1-1 in their last six games and have already surpassed their 2013-14 victory total. The Bulldogs have won five straight contests, tied for the third-longest current unbeaten run in the country.
- UMD leads the all-time series 50-10-4, including a 2-1-1 mark last season.
- Three current Bulldogs participated in the 4 Nations Cup, with **Michelle Löwenhielm** and **Linnea Hedín** representing bronze medalist Sweden and **Tea Villilä** skating for Finland.
- Senior F **Zoe Hickel** (7g, 4a) and sophomore F **Ashleigh Brykaliuk** (6g, 5a) lead UMD with 11 points apiece. Junior G **Kayla Black** is tied for the WCHA lead and tied for third nationally with three shutouts.
- SCSU junior F **Molly Illikainen**, the reigning WCHA Offensive Player of the Week, is tied for eighth in the country with seven goals. Her two shorthanded strikes are tied for most in the NCAA.
- Senior D **Audrey Hanmer** is tied for fourth among all NCAA defensemen with nine points (3g, 6a).

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_hockey](https://twitter.com/wcha_hockey)

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