



## **WCHA WEEKEND PREVIEW: NOV. 21-24, 2014**

### ***News and notes for the upcoming weekend of WCHA hockey***

- The WCHA has an NCAA-best four teams in both the USCHO.com and *USA Today/USA Hockey Magazine* national rankings:
  - Minnesota and Wisconsin are Nos. 2 and 3, respectively, in both polls.
  - Bemidji State is ranked ninth and Minnesota Duluth 10<sup>th</sup> according to the USCHO.com poll, with the teams reversing order in the *USA Today/USA Hockey Magazine* ledger.
- WCHA teams own five of the nation's top 15 winning percentages, second-most among any conference (the ECAC has six teams):
  - Minnesota (3<sup>rd</sup> at .833, 9-1-2)
  - Wisconsin (4<sup>th</sup> at .821, 11-2-1)
  - Minnesota Duluth (11<sup>th</sup> at .643, 8-4-2)
  - Bemidji State (12<sup>th</sup> at .624, 7-4-1)
  - Ohio State (15<sup>th</sup> at .538, 7-6-0)
- The WCHA has the best non-conference winning percentage in the country at .700 (17-7-1).
- As we reach the figurative first quarter pole of the season, five of the eight WCHA teams are in the PairWise rankings (expanded from 16 to 17 teams to reflect ties): No. 2 Minnesota, No. 4 Wisconsin, No. 7 (tied) Bemidji State, No. 11 Minnesota Duluth and No. 14 Ohio State.
- The upcoming weekend features a trio of WCHA series, a non-conference set and the annual U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame Museum Women's Face-Off Classic:
  - No. 3 Wisconsin puts its 20-game road unbeaten streak on the line when it visits St. Cloud State.
  - No. 2 Minnesota and Minnesota State meet for a home-and-home series, Friday night in Mankato and Saturday in Minneapolis.
  - Ohio State visits North Dakota in a matchup of teams separated by just four points in the league standings.
  - No. 10/9 Minnesota Duluth hosts ECAC opponent Cornell in the first meeting between the schools since the 2010 NCAA Championship game, won by the Bulldogs 3-2 in triple overtime.
  - The Gophers and Huskies will meet Monday night (Nov. 24) at the Braemar Arena in Edina, Minn. for the Hall of Fame Classic.
- For the full WCHA weekly release, visit: [wcha.com/women/pres1415/201411/nov18wcw.php](http://wcha.com/women/pres1415/201411/nov18wcw.php).

***-Series previews begin on the next page-***

**WCHA**

**No. 3 Wisconsin (9-2-1-0, 28 pts. / 11-2-1) at St. Cloud State (2-3-1-1, 8 pts. / 5-6-1)  
Herb Brooks National Hockey Center (St. Cloud, Minn.)  
Friday, Nov. 21 and Saturday, Nov. 22 (3:07 p.m. CT both days)**

- Third-ranked and WCHA-leading Wisconsin visits St. Cloud State. The Badgers currently have a 20-game road unbeaten streak, tied for the longest such run in program history.
- Wisconsin leads the all-time series 57-7-2, including a 20-game winning streak.
- UW is second nationally for scoring offense (4.29gpg) and eighth for scoring defense (1.50gpg).
- Reigning WCHA Rookie of the Week, UW forward **Annie Pankowski**, leads NCAA freshmen with 12 assists and 18 points.
- Huskies' junior F **Molly Illikainen** is third in the WCHA and tied for eighth nationally with eight goals in her first season at SCSU.
- SCSU junior G **Katie Fitzgerald**, who has played in six games (five starts), leads the WCHA with a 1.31 goals against average (sixth nationally).

**No. 2 Minnesota (7-1-2-0, 23 pts. / 9-1-2) vs. Minnesota State (0-9-1-0, 1 pt. / 0-11-1)  
Friday, Nov. 21 at 7:07 p.m. CT (All Seasons Arena; Mankato, Minn.)  
Saturday, Nov. 22 at 4:07 p.m. CT (Ridder Arena; Minneapolis, Minn.)**

- No. 2 Minnesota and Minnesota State face off in a home-and-home series. The Mavericks, who have played ranked opponents in four of six series this season, are facing the longest winless drought to start a season in program history.
- The Gophers are 65-3-3 all-time against the Mavericks, including 20-straight wins dating back to the 2009-10 season.
- Gophers' junior F **Hannah Brandt** (9g, 10a) and sophomore F **Dani Cameranesi** (9g, 7a) are both tied for the WCHA lead with nine goals apiece, while ranking among the NCAA's top 10 scorers with 1.73 and 1.45 points per game, respectively.
- Minnesota has the nation's top power-play unit, converting on 17-of-49 opportunities (34.7 percent). Junior D **Milica McMillen** leads the country with five power-play goals.
- MSU, which has been beset by injuries this season, has received 18 of its 31 points via freshman. Rookie F **Nicole Schammel** leads the team with four goals.
- Mavericks' junior G **Erin Krichiver**, who has a pair of 59-save efforts this season, leads the WCHA and is fourth nationally with 318 stops.

**Ohio State (5-5-0-0, 15 pts. / 7-6-0) at North Dakota (3-6-1-1, 11 pts. / 4-7-1)  
Ralph Engelstad Arena (Grand Forks, North Dakota)  
Friday, Nov. 21 at 7:07 p.m. CT / Saturday, Nov. 22 at 4:07 p.m. CT**

- Ohio State visits North Dakota in a matchup of teams separated by just four points in the league standings.
- The Buckeyes lead the all-time series, 22-15-3.
- OSU freshman G **Kassidy Sauve** ranks fifth nationally with three shutouts. Among rookie goalies, she is tops with 279 saves and ranks fifth in win percentage (.500), save percentage (.912) and goals against average (2.32).
- 19 players have posted a goal or assist for the Buckeyes, including three freshmen. Senior D **Sara Schmitt** leads the team with nine points (3g, 6a).
- Similarly, all 19 of UND's skaters have recorded a point, including 13 goal scorers. Junior F **Becca Kohler** leads UND in four major scoring categories: points (12), goals (5), assists (7) and power-play goals (3).
- UND is undefeated this season (3-0-0) when scoring at least one power-play goal.

## NON-CONFERENCE

**Cornell (3-2-0, 6 pts. ECAC / 3-4-0) at No. 10/9 Minnesota Duluth (5-4-1-1, 17 pts. WCHA / 8-4-2)  
AMSOIL Arena (Duluth, Minn.)**

**Friday, Nov. 21 and Saturday, Nov. 22 (6:07 p.m. CT both nights)**

- No. 10/9 Minnesota Duluth hosts Cornell in the first meeting between the programs since the 2010 NCAA Championship game, won by the Bulldogs 3-2 in triple overtime.
- The Bulldogs have won seven straight games, the longest binge for a UMD team since the 2010-11 season and tied for the third-longest current unbeaten run in the country.
- UMD has outscored its opponents 26-7 during the winning streak, while holding a shots advantage of 266-137.
- Bulldogs' sophomore F **Ashleigh Brykaliuk** has registered a point in her last six games (5g, 6a) and leads the team with 15 points overall (7g, 8a). Senior F **Jenna McParland** is riding a five-game scoring streak (3g, 4a).
- UMD junior G **Kayla Black** is tied for third in the country with four shutouts, while her 13 career blankings is third in school history.

## U.S. HOCKEY HALL OF FAME MUSEUM WOMEN'S FACE-OFF CLASSIC

**St. Cloud State vs. Minnesota  
Braemar Arena (Edina, Minn.)  
Monday, Nov. 24 at 7:00 p.m. CT**

- The Gophers and Huskies have the honor of skating in the annual U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame Museum Women's Face-Off Classic, played at the Braemar Arena in Edina, Minn.

## IDLE

- Bemidji State

### ***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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