



WCHA WEEKEND PREVIEW: NOV. 7-11, 2014

News and notes for the upcoming weekend of WCHA hockey

- The WCHA has four teams ranked in the national polls, most among any conference in both the USCHO.com and USA Today/USA Hockey Magazine ledgers. A fifth squad is also receiving votes:
 - Minnesota and Wisconsin are Nos. 2 and 3, respectively, in both polls. Minnesota Duluth is ninth according to USCHO.com and 10th in the USA Today/USA Hockey Magazine rankings, while North Dakota is 10th and ninth.
 - Bemidji State is receiving votes in both polls.
- WCHA teams own five of the nation's top 15 winning percentages among teams that have played at least four games, matching the ECAC for most among any conference:
 - Minnesota (6th at .800, 7-1-2)
 - Wisconsin (7th at .792, 9-2-1)
 - Ohio State (12th at .625, 5-3-0)
 - Minnesota Duluth (12th at .583, 6-4-2)
 - Bemidji State (15th at .550, 5-4-1)
- The WCHA is also the only league in the nation with a cumulative winning record in non-conference play, posting a combined 15-6-1 mark (.705) against the rest of the country.
- Twenty-eight current or former WCHA student-athletes are competing this week at the Four Nations Cup in Kamloops, British Columbia. Minnesota, Minnesota Duluth, Minnesota State, North Dakota, Ohio State and Wisconsin are all represented. A full list can be found at <http://www.wcha.com/women/pres1415/201411/nov4fnc.php>.
- Due to the Four Nations Cup, only three WCHA schools are in action this weekend and there is just a lone league series.
 - Ohio State visits Minnesota State in the only league set.
 - St. Cloud State travels to Rensselaer for a non-conference set.
 - The Buckeyes host Mercyhurst next Tuesday (Nov. 11).

-Series previews begin on the next page-

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

WCHA

Ohio State (3-3-0-0, 9 pts. / 5-3-0) at Minnesota State (0-5-1-0, 1 pts. / 0-7-1)

All Seasons Arena (Mankato, Minn.)

Friday, Nov. 7 at 6:07 p.m. CT / Saturday, Nov. 8 at 1:07 p.m. CT

- Ohio State visits Minnesota State in the lone WCHA series of the weekend.
- The two teams split four contests last season, with each squad sweeping on home ice. OSU owns a 51-11-6 all-time series lead.
- OSU freshman G **Kassidy Sauve** has started all eight games between the pipes and ranks third in the nation with three shutouts, including a 3-0 blanking of St. Cloud State last Saturday.
- 16 different Buckeye skaters have recorded a point this season, including 14 in conference play.
- Mavericks' junior G **Erin Krichiver** made a career-high 59 saves last Saturday at Minnesota Duluth. The total was the second-highest in program history and third-most in WCHA annals. Krichiver is second in the WCHA and eighth nationally with 223 saves this season.
- MSU freshman F **Nicole Schammel** leads the team with three goals. Fellow rookie F **Hannah Davidson** had a pair of assists last weekend. MSU has 12 freshmen on its roster.
- Mavericks freshman F **Elin Johansson** is playing for Sweden in the Four Nations Cup.

NON-CONFERENCE

St. Cloud State (2-1-1-1, 8 pts. WCHA / 3-4-1) at Rensselaer (0-2-0, 0 pts. ECAC / 1-6-2)

Houston Fieldhouse (Troy, New York)

Friday, Nov. 7 and Saturday, Nov. 8 (3 p.m. ET both days)

- St. Cloud State travels to New York for a non-conference series with ECAC opponent Rensselaer.
- The Huskies will be looking to exact a measure of revenge, as Rensselaer swept a series last season in St. Cloud.
- Under first year head coach **Eric Rud**, St. Cloud State is one victory shy of matching its 2013-14 season total (four). The Huskies' next WCHA win will also match their output from last year.
- Junior F **Molly Illikainen** scored two goals in the Huskies' 4-2 win at Ohio State on Oct. 31 and is tied for ninth in the WCHA with five strikes overall.
- Senior D **Audrey Hanmer** ranks among NCAA defensemen leaders for goals (t-4th, 3) and points (t-5th, 8).

No. 7/8 Mercyhurst (2-0-0, 4 pts. CHA / 8-1-1) at Ohio State

OSU Ice Rink (Columbus, Ohio)

Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 6:07 p.m. ET

- After this weekend's WCHA road series, Ohio State returns home to entertain nationally-ranked Mercyhurst next Tuesday evening.
- Ohio State won 4-3 last year at Mercyhurst, the Buckeyes' first win in three games of the series.

IDLE

- Bemidji State, Minnesota, Minnesota Duluth, North Dakota, Wisconsin

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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