



## **WCHA WEEKEND PREVIEW: DEC. 12-13, 2014**

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

- For the third week in a row, the WCHA has an NCAA-best four teams in both the USCHO.com and *USA Today/USA Hockey Magazine* national polls:
  - Minnesota and Wisconsin are Nos. 2 and 3, respectively, in both polls, while Minnesota Duluth is No. 7/8 and Bemidji State is No. 9/10.
- WCHA teams also own an NCAA-best four of the nation's top 10 winning percentages:
  - Minnesota (2<sup>nd</sup> at .895, 16-1-2), Wisconsin (3<sup>rd</sup> at .875, 17-2-1), Minnesota Duluth (8<sup>th</sup> at .675, 12-5-3 and Bemidji State (10<sup>th</sup> at .656, 10-5-1).
- Several league teams are riding hot stretches:
  - Wisconsin's 12-game unbeaten streak (11-0-1) entering the holiday break is the second-longest active streak in the country.
  - Minnesota is right behind with a nine-game winning streak.
  - Minnesota Duluth is 11-1-1 in its last 13 contests, while Bemidji State is on a 6-1-1 roll.
- Nearing the holiday break, the WCHA has six teams in the PairWise rankings, including three in the top eight: No. 2 Minnesota, No. 3 Wisconsin, No. 8 Minnesota Duluth, No. 9 Bemidji State, No. 13 Ohio State and No. 15 North Dakota.
- Half of the eight WCHA teams have finished the 2014 portions of their schedules and will be off for finals and the holiday break. Only two series are on tap this weekend:
  - No. 9/10 Bemidji State hits the road for the first time since late-October when it visits St. Cloud State in the lone WCHA set of the weekend.
  - North Dakota will look to improve upon the WCHA's NCAA-leading .766 non-conference winning percentage (24-7-1) when it makes the program's first-ever trip to RIT.
- For the full WCHA weekly release, visit:  
<http://wcha.com/women/pres1415/201412/dec9wcv.php>.

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

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

## WCHA

**No. 9/10 Bemidji State (6-5-1-1, 20 pts. / 10-5-1) at St. Cloud State (2-9-1-1, 8 pts. / 5-13-1)**

**Herb Brooks National Hockey Center; St. Cloud, Minn.**

**Friday, Dec. 12 and Saturday, Dec. 13 (3:07 p.m. CT both days)**

- Bemidji State, currently on a 6-1-1 roll, visits St. Cloud State in the lone WCHA series of the weekend. The Beavers are making their first road trip since late October, while the Huskies will look to snap a nine-game losing skid.
- The No. 9/10 Beavers, currently 10-5-1 under first year head coach **Jim Scanlan**, are one win shy of matching their victory total from last season (11-21-4). BSU has also posted four sweeps already, matching a program single-season record.
- Junior F **Kaitlyn Tougas** scored three goals last weekend, has tallied at least one point in six of the last nine games, and leads BSU with 14 points overall (6g, 8a).
- Beavers' sophomore G **Brittini Mowat** leads the WCHA is second nationally with a .949 save percentage.
- Huskies' junior forward **Molly Illikainen** is tied for the NCAA lead with two short-handed goals, while her eight markers overall are tied for 10<sup>th</sup> in the WCHA.
- SCSU leads the all-time series 31-29-8. Bemidji State, however, is 8-1-1 in the last 10 played in St. Cloud.

## NON-CONFERENCE

**North Dakota (6-8-2-1, 21 pts. / 7-9-2) at RIT (1-5-1, 3 pts. CHA / 7-9-3)**

**Gene Polissen Center; Rochester, New York**

**Friday, Dec. 12 and Saturday, Dec. 13 (3:05 p.m. ET both days)**

- North Dakota will close out its 2014 schedule with the program's first ever trip to RIT.
- UND's goaltending tandem of junior **Shelby Amsley-Benzie** and sophomore **Lexi Shaw** combined for 75 saves last weekend, while holding the nation's highest-scoring offense (Wisconsin) to just four goals in two games.
- **Amsley-Benzie** is eighth nationally (third WCHA) with a .936 save percentage and 10<sup>th</sup> with a 1.80 GAA.
- Senior F **Josefine Jakobsen** is eighth nationally, first among forwards, with 36 blocked shots.
- All of UND's 19 skaters have scored a goal this season, including 15 goal scorers.
- UND is undefeated (5-0-1) when scoring three or more goals in a game.

### ***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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