



WCHA WEEKEND PREVIEW: DEC. 5-7, 2014

News and notes for the upcoming weekend of WCHA hockey

- For the second 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.
 - The two polls mirror each other, with the WCHA represented by No. 2 Minnesota, No. 3 Wisconsin, No. 8 Minnesota Duluth and No. 9 Bemidji State.
- WCHA teams also own four of the nation's top 10 and six of the top 15 winning percentages, tied with the ECAC for most of any league:
 - Minnesota (3rd at .882, 14-1-2), Wisconsin (4th at .861, 15-2-1), Minnesota Duluth (8th at .667, 11-5-2), Bemidji State (9th at .607, 8-5-1), Ohio State (t-13th at .531, 8-7-1) and North Dakota (t-15th at .500, 7-7-2).
- Several league teams are riding hot stretches entering December.
 - Wisconsin's 10-game unbeaten streak (9-0-1) is the third-longest active streak in the country.
 - Minnesota Duluth is 10-1-0 in its last 11 contests, while Bemidji State (which snapped UMD's nine-game run) is on a 4-1-1 roll.
 - Minnesota has won seven consecutive games, while North Dakota has a three-game winning streak.
- The final full weekend of the 2014 calendar year features a quartet of league series:
 - No. 2 Minnesota hosts St. Cloud State at Ridder Arena.
 - No. 3 Wisconsin and North Dakota put their winning streaks on the line when they skate in Madison, Wis.
 - Ohio State welcomes Minnesota Duluth to Columbus, Ohio.
 - No. 9 Bemidji State looks to continue its recent run during a series against visiting Minnesota State.
- For the full WCHA weekly release, visit:
<http://wcha.com/women/pres1415/201412/dec2wcv.php>.

-Series previews begin on the next page-

WCHA

St. Cloud State (2-7-1-1, 8 pts. / 5-11-1) at No. 2 Minnesota (9-1-2-0, 29 pts. / 14-1-2)

Ridder Arena; Minneapolis, Minn.

Friday, Dec. 5 at 7:07 p.m. CT / Saturday, Dec. 6 at 4:07 p.m. CT

- Winners of seven consecutive games, No. 2 Minnesota plays host to St. Cloud State for a WCHA weekend matchup. The Gophers lead the all-time series at 63-3-2, including a Nov. 24 victory and wins in the last 21-straight meetings.
- Ten Gophers are in double-figures for scoring, led by junior F **Hannah Brandt** (14g-14a), sophomore F **Dani Cameranesi** (15g-9a) and senior F **Rachel Bona** (4g-13a). Brandt (third) and Cameranesi (eighth) lead the WCHA and rank among the nation's top-10 scorers with 1.75 points per game and 1.50 points per game, respectively. Cameranesi's 15 goals lead the WCHA and rank second in the nation.
- Junior D **Milica McMillen** leads the NCAA with six power-play goals this season, and the Gophers have the nation's top power-play unit at .333 (22-of-66).
- Huskies' junior G **Katie Fitzgerald** sits third in the WCHA in save percentage at .934, while junior F **Molly Illikainen** is tied for eighth with eight goals.

North Dakota (6-6-2-1, 14 pts. / 7-7-2) at No. 3 Wisconsin (11-2-1-0, 34 pts. / 15-2-1)

LaBahn Arena; Madison, Wisc.

Friday, Dec. 5 at 3:07 p.m. CT / Sunday, Dec. 7 at 2:07 p.m. CT

- No. 3 Wisconsin brings its 10-game unbeaten streak (9-0-1) into a weekend series with visiting North Dakota, which has won three straight games. The Badgers lead the all-time series, 40-6-3; however, only own a 6-4-2 edge in the last 10 meetings.
- North Dakota is one win away from picking up its 100th all-time WCHA victory. Head coach **Brian Idalski** has recorded 88 of UND's 99 conference wins this far.
- Junior F **Becca Kohler**, who is on a three-game point streak, leads UND in five major scoring categories: points (19), goals (8), assists (11), power-play goals (3) and game-winning goals (2). Fellow forwards **Meghan Dufault** and **Amy Menke** are riding four-game point streaks.
- The Badger freshman class is currently second in the NCAA in scoring, as they have combined for 18 goals, 31 assists, 49 points and an average of 2.72 goals per game. F **Annie Pankowski** leads the group as well as all NCAA rookies in points per game, averaging 1.35.
- UW enters the weekend with a program-record 330:56 scoreless streak, while matching the school standard with five straight shutouts. Sophomore G **Ann-Renée Desbiens** has been between the pipes for the last four whitewashes.

No. 8 Minnesota Duluth (6-5-1-1, 20 pts. / 11-5-2) at Ohio State (5-6-1-1, 17 pts. / 8-7-1)

OSU Ice Rink; Columbus, Ohio.

Friday, Dec. 5 and Saturday, Dec. 6 (6:07 p.m. ET both nights)

- Behind the stellar play of a red-hot goaltender and with a 10-1-0 record in its last 11 games, No. 8 Minnesota Duluth visits an Ohio State team coming off a convincing road win.
- UMD junior G **Kayla Black** comes into the series with six shutouts this season (including one each of the last four weekends), making her the first Bulldogs goalie to post more than five blankings in over a decade.
- Sophomore F **Ashleigh Brykaliuk** leads the Bulldogs in scoring with 18 points in 18 games (9g, 9a). Senior F **Zoe Hickel** ranks second in scoring with 16 points on a team-high 11 goals and five assists.
- The Buckeyes are led in offensive production by captain **Sara Schmitt**. The senior defenseman is riding a five-game points streak and has recorded four goals and 10 assists on the season. In the WCHA, she ranks second among her position in goals and third in points (14).
- UMD is 58-12-2 all-time against Ohio State, including a 4-1-2 mark last year.

**Minnesota State (0-11-0, 1 pt. / 0-13-1) at No. 9 Bemidji State (4-5-1, 14 pts. / 8-5-1)
Sanford Center; Bemidji, Minn.**

Friday, Dec. 5 at 7:07 p.m. CT / Saturday, Dec. 6 at 4:07 p.m. CT

- Minnesota State looks to earn its first win of the season against No. 9 Bemidji State, which enters the series on a 4-1-1 roll in its last six contests.
- Beavers' junior D **Ivana Bilic** has two game-winning goals this season, which is tied for the most in the nation by a defenseman. Bilic has 23 career points, which is the eighth most by a defenseman in BSU history.
- BSU's points leader, junior F **Kaitlyn Tougas** (3g, 7a), has enjoyed quite a bit of success against Minnesota State in her career, with eight points (4g, 4a) in eight games.
- Mavericks' junior G **Erin Krichiver** has recorded 418 total saves this season, ranking her fifth among all NCAA goalies. Also ranked nationally, sophomore G and opponent **Brittini Mowat** of the Beavers has a save percentage of .952 (4th NCAA).
- BSU is 27-24-10 all-time against the Mavericks, including a 3-1-0 mark versus MSU last season.

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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