



## WCHA WEEKEND PREVIEW: JAN. 23-25, 2015

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

#### Opening Face-Off

- **A Look at the Polls:** The WCHA continues to be a fixture in the national rankings, with three teams in both the USCHO.com and *USA Today/USA Hockey Magazine* national rankings. Minnesota is ranked second in both polls, Wisconsin is fourth in the former and third in the latter, and Minnesota Duluth is No. 6/7. Bemidji State and Ohio State are each receiving votes in both polls, while North Dakota has *USA Today/USA Hockey Magazine* votes.
- **Three In the PairWise:** Minnesota (second), Wisconsin (fourth) and Minnesota Duluth (sixth) give the WCHA a trio of schools in the top eight of the latest PairWise rankings. Bemidji State is tied for 10th, Ohio State is tied for 12th and North Dakota is 14th.
- **Winning Hockey:** Showcasing the league's depth, the WCHA also has seven of the nation's top 16 winning percentages: Minnesota (2nd at .900, 21-1-3), Wisconsin (4th at .792, 18-4-2), Minnesota Duluth (9th at .688, 15-6-3), Ohio State (13th at .577, 14-10-2), Bemidji State (15th at .558, 14-11-1) and North Dakota (16th at .542, 12-10-2).
- **Streaking Along:** Several WCHA teams are riding extended hot stretches. Minnesota's 15-game unbeaten streak (14-0-1) is the second-longest active streak in the country. Minnesota Duluth is 14-2-1 in its last 17 games, while Wisconsin is 12-2-2 in its last 16 contests. North Dakota has won five of its last six games and is 8-3-1 since Nov. 21.
- **Nonconference Success:** With just two out-of-league contests remaining on the 2014-15 regular season schedule, the WCHA remains the only D-I league to own a winning nonconference record at 34-11-1 (.750).

#### The Week Ahead

- **Key WCHA Series Ahead:** Six WCHA schools compete against each other in league play. Bemidji State and North Dakota, separated by just two points in the league standings, meet in Grand Forks. Second-ranked Minnesota, which jumped into first place last weekend, visits St. Cloud State. No. 6/7 Minnesota Duluth looks to continue its hot stretch when the Bulldogs travel to Minnesota State.
- **Badgers Against the Champs:** No. 4/3 Wisconsin wraps up the WCHA's nonconference schedule by hosting defending national champion Clarkson at LaBahn Arena. The Badgers will welcome the No. 7/8 Golden Knights riding a 32-game unbeaten streak in nonconference play, dating back to Nov. 2009. Wisconsin has a 28-game winning streak against non-WCHA opponents.

For the full WCHA weekly release, visit: <http://wcha.com/women/pres1415/201501/jan20wcw.pdf>

*-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. 2 Minnesota (14-1-3-1, 44 pts. / 21-1-3) at St. Cloud State (3-14-1-1, 11 pts. / 6-18-1)**

**Herb Brooks National Hockey Center (St. Cloud, Minn.)**

**Friday, Jan. 23 and Saturday, Jan. 24 (3:07 p.m. CT both days)**

- No. 2 Minnesota, which climbed into first place in the WCHA standings last weekend, visits St. Cloud State in a series to be televised on FOX Sports North (Friday) and FOX Sports North PLUS (Saturday).
- Minnesota and St. Cloud State have already met three times this season. The Gophers own a 65-3-2 all-time mark against SCSU, including a 23-game winning streak. Most recently, the Gophers won 12-0 and 7-0 at home Dec. 5-6.
- Eleven Gophers are in double-figures for scoring, led by **Hannah Brandt** (22g-29a) **Dani Cameransi** (17g-27a) and **Rachel Bona** (12g-20a). All 18 skaters have at least one point, and 15 players have scored at least one goal. Brandt takes a 10-game scoring streak into this weekend's series.
- **Molly Illikainen** put the first goal on the board for the Huskies last weekend against Minnesota Duluth. The score was her team-leading ninth goal of the season.

**No. 6 Minnesota Duluth (10-6-2-2, 34 pts. / 15-6-3) at Minnesota State (0-15-1-0, 1 pt. / 2-19-1)**

**All Seasons Arena; Mankato, Minn.**

**Friday, Jan. 23 at 7:07 p.m. CT; Saturday, Jan 24 at 3:07 p.m. CT**

- No. 6 Minnesota Duluth, which is 14-2-1 in its last 17 games, visits Minnesota State this weekend.
- Last weekend, UMD junior G **Kayla Black** matched the Bulldogs' single-season record with her seventh shutout of the campaign. Black ranks 15<sup>th</sup> in the NCAA with a 1.73 goals against average, 14<sup>th</sup> with a .932 save percentage and second with her seven shutouts.
- With 13 goals, UMD senior F **Zoe Hickel** has tied a career-high set last year and trails her career-best season output of 27 points by just six points. Hickel is currently on a five game-scoring streak that includes two goals and three assists.
- Mavericks' junior G **Erin Krichiver** has recorded 606 total saves this season, a total which ranks first amongst goaltenders in the WCHA and second in the NCAA.
- Freshman F **Hannah Davidson** ranks sixth in the WCHA in scoring by freshman. After scoring a goal last weekend against Minnesota, the Minnesota State rookie has recorded 5-6-11 in 22 games.

**Bemidji State (9-10-1-1, 29 pts. / 14-11-1) at North Dakota (8-8-2-1, 27 pts. / 12-10-2)**

**Ralph Engelstad Arena (Grand Forks, North Dakota)**

**Saturday, Jan. 24 and Sunday, Jan. 25 (2:07 p.m. CT both days)**

- Bemidji State, which leads North Dakota by just two points in the WCHA standings, travels to Grand Forks for a key league series.
- BSU swept UND earlier this season at the Sanford Center, but UND still leads the all-time series, 33-20-4 (including a 20-9-2 mark on home ice).
- Bemidji State, which ranks third nationally in penalty-killing percentage (.922), has not allowed a power-play goal since Dec. 19 against Ohio State.
- BSU senior F **Rachael Kelly** has scored more goals against North Dakota than any other active Beavers player with five. Kelly also has chipped in an assist against UND.
- North Dakota, which has won five of its past six games and 8-3-1 since Nov. 21, picked up its 100<sup>th</sup> all-time WCHA victory with the 1-0 win against No. 9/10 Ohio State on Jan. 16.
- In the nation, senior forward **Josefine Jakobsen** is tied for 11<sup>th</sup> among all skaters and first among forwards with a total of 44 blocked shots. Both Jakobsen and junior F **Becca Kohler** are tied for 24<sup>th</sup> in the nation with three power-play goals on the year. Additionally, with 22 points through 20 games, Kohler is 28<sup>th</sup> in the nation averaging 1.05 points per game.

## NON-CONFERENCE

**Clarkson (9-2-2, 20 pts. ECAC / 15-6-2) at No. 4/3 Wisconsin (14-4-2-0, 44 pts. WCHA / 18-4-2)  
LaBahn Arena (Madison, Wisc.)**

**Saturday, Jan. 24 at 2:07 p.m. CT; Sunday, Jan. 25 at 12:07 p.m. CT**

- No. 4/3 Wisconsin hosts No. 7/8 Clarkson in a matchup of ranked teams. The Badgers will face the Golden Knights – the reigning national champions – for the first time in program history.
- The Badgers are riding a 32-game unbeaten streak in nonconference play, dating back to Nov. 2009. Wisconsin has a 28-game winning streak against non-WCHA opponents, including a perfect 5-0 record at LaBahn Arena.
- With a win this weekend against Clarkson, Wisconsin head coach **Mark Johnson** would become the fourth coach in the NCAA Division I women's hockey history to win 350 games. Johnson enters the weekend with a 349-68-32 record. The other three coaches to reach 350 wins are Katey Stone (Harvard), Michael Sisti (Mercyhurst) and Shannon Miller (Minnesota Duluth).
- The Badgers sport the nation's best penalty kill unit, killing 70 of their 73 (.959) penalties. The last power-play goal Wisconsin gave up was on Oct. 24 at Bemidji State.
- UW freshman Annie Pankowski ranks third nationally in points per game for a rookie, as she's averaging 1.09 points per contest.

## IDLE

- Ohio 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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