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FIELD IS SET FOR 2015 WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF

Bemidji State to face top-seeded Minnesota at 2 p.m. Saturday while No. 2 seed Wisconsin faces North Dakota at 5 p.m.; Sunday's title game winner gets automatic NCAA berth

EDINA, Minn. – March 1, 2015 – Following a thrilling first-round weekend of playoff action in the women's Western Collegiate Hockey Conference (WCHA), the field has been set for the 2015 WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF, March 7 and 8 at Ralph Engelstad Arena in Grand Forks, N.D. Arguably the premiere conference tournament in women's college hockey, the quartet features a trio of nationally ranked teams and a fourth that also boasts 20 wins.

Fourth-seed Bemidji State (20-16-1) will play regular season champion, three-time defending playoff champion and top-seeded Minnesota (31-2-4; ranked No. 2 nationally) in the first semifinal at 2 p.m. CT Saturday. Second-seed Wisconsin (26-6-4; ranked No. 3 nationally) will face third-seed North Dakota (22-11-3; ranked No. 9 nationally) in the second semifinal at 5 p.m. CT. Saturday. The two winners will play at 1 p.m. Sunday for the WCHA playoff championship and an automatic berth into the NCAA tournament.

Kaitlyn Tougas scored the game-winning goal 12:08 into overtime Sunday to give visiting Bemidji State a 2-1 victory over Minnesota Duluth and propel the fifth-seed Beavers to Grand Forks. BSU opened the series with a 3-2 win Friday, before the Bulldogs scored a 2-0 victory Saturday.

In other first-round series, Minnesota earned its 16th straight appearance in the semifinals by beating Minnesota State 10-0 and 5-1 at Ridder Arena. Wisconsin swept its series with St. Cloud State by scores of 5-1 and 4-1 to secure its fifth straight berth in the semis. North Dakota, meanwhile, will play on its home ice in the WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF after ousting Ohio State, 5-2 and 2-1 (in triple overtime) to also earn its fifth straight trip to the semifinals.

All-tournament packages or single-session tickets to the 2015 WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF can be purchased at the Ralph Engelstad Arena box office, Ticketmaster Ticket Centers, by calling 800-745-3000 or online at ticketmaster.com.

About the 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 1 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). For more information, visit wcha.com.

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