



WCHA WEEKEND PREVIEW: OCT. 31 – NOV. 2, 2014

News and notes for the upcoming weekend of WCHA hockey

- The WCHA has five teams either ranked or receiving votes in this week's national polls, including four in USCHO.com's top 10 – tied with Hockey East for most among all conferences.
- 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.
- Continuing to make its mark on international ice, the WCHA will have 11 current student-athletes and 17 alumni competing at the Four Nations Cup, set for Nov. 4-8 in Kamloops, British Columbia. Due to national team training, some players will miss all or parts of this weekend's series.
 - Minnesota's **Hannah Brandt**, **Dani Cameranesi** and **Lee Stecklein**, who will play for the U.S. Women's National Team, will miss Saturday's game.
 - North Dakota's **Halli Kryzaniak** will not play this weekend as she begins training with Canada's National Women's Team.
 - Wisconsin's **Emily Clark** and **Blayre Turnbull**, also part of Team Canada, will miss the entire weekend. The Badgers' **Annie Pankowski**, part of Team USA, will be out Saturday.
 - Minnesota Duluth's Four Nations trio will suit up this weekend for the Bulldogs before departing to represent Finland (**Tea Villilä**) and Sweden (**Linnea Hedin** and **Michelle Löwenhielm**). UMD's **Kateřina Mrázová** will also play this weekend before traveling to Yokohama for a three-game series with the Czech Republic against host Japan.
 - Minnesota State's **Elin Johansson** will play for the Mavericks this weekend before donning a Swedish sweater next week.
- Halloween weekend features a full slate of WCHA series, including a top-10 matchup:
 - Bemidji State travels south to No. 1 Minnesota for a Friday-Saturday series;
 - No. 3/2 Wisconsin visits No. 10 North Dakota for a Friday-Saturday series at Ralph Engelstad Arena;
 - Minnesota State heads north to No. 10 Minnesota Duluth for a Saturday-Sunday set;
 - Fresh off bye weeks, St. Cloud State visits Ohio State on Friday and Saturday.

-Series previews begin on the next page-

WCHA

Bemidji State (0-4-0-0, 0 pts. / 4-4-0) at No. 1 Minnesota (5-0-1-0, 16 pts. / 7-0-1)

Ridder Arena (Minneapolis, Minn.)

Friday, Oct. 31 at 7:07 p.m. CT / Saturday, Nov. 1 at 4:07 p.m. CT

- After dropping a pair of one-goal decisions last weekend to Wisconsin, Bemidji State faces another ranked opponent in No. 1 Minnesota.
- The Gophers are 58-4-6 all-time against Bemidji State, including a 4-0-0 mark last season. The Beavers' last victory in the series came Oct. 29, 2011, a 2-1 win in Bemidji.
- Both teams rank in the top 10 nationally for both scoring offense and defense. BSU is 10th (2.62 goals per game) and tied for eighth (1.88 goals allowed per game), respectively, while Minnesota is fourth (4.38) and tied for second (1.12).
- BSU freshman G **Erin Deters** ranks fifth nationally with a .948 save percentage and ninth with a 1.51 goals against average. Offensively, 17 different Beaver skaters have registered a point this season (seven in last weekend's Wisconsin series).
- Minnesota junior F **Hannah Brandt**, who recorded seven points in a series sweep of North Dakota last weekend, leads the nation with 18 points, 2.25 points per game and nine goals.
- The Gophers' defensemen lead the nation's blue-liners in scoring, averaging 3.75 points per game. Junior **Milica McMillen** is tops in the NCAA with five power-play goals and is tied for the national lead among defensemen with nine points (6g, 3a).

No. 3/2 Wisconsin (6-2-0-0, 18 pts. / 8-2-0) at No. 10 North Dakota (3-3-0-0, 9 pts. / 4-4-0)

Ralph Engelstad Arena (Grand Forks, North Dakota)

Friday, Oct. 31 at 7:07 p.m. CT / Saturday, Nov. 1 at 3:07 p.m. CT

- No. 3/2 Wisconsin skates in Grand Forks against No. 10 North Dakota in a rematch of a 2014 FINAL FACE-OFF semifinal game (won by UND, 1-0).
- This has been a tight series over the last 10 meetings, with the Badgers holding a slight 5-4-1 edge over that span. UW leads the all-time ledger, 39-6-2.
- The Badgers are riding a 15-game road winning streak, the best road run in program history. UW also is unbeaten in its last 18 road contests and can match the program record of 20-straight this weekend.
- Both teams have produced solid special teams play this year. UND (5-for-23, 21.7 pct.) and UW (10-for-47, 21.3) rank sixth and seventh, respectively, nationally in power-play proficiency. Both teams have also produced an NCAA-best two shorthanded goals, while the Badgers have killed off 40-of-43 (93.0 pct.) opponent man advantages.
- Wisconsin senior F **Brittany Ammerman** and sophomore F **Sarah Nurse** are each tied for second in the country with three power-play goals. Senior F **Karley Sylvester**, who leads the nation with 11 assists, is riding a seven-game point streak dating back to last year's Frozen Four.
- UND junior F **Becca Kohler** has also tallied a trio of power-play goals, while also leading the team in points (10), goals (4) and assists (6). Senior F **Josefine Jakobsen**, who has five points (2g, 3a), is tied for fifth among the nation's skaters with 18 blocked shots.

Minnesota State (0-3-1-0, 1 pt. WCHA / 0-5-1) at No. 10 Minnesota Duluth (1-4-1-1, 5 pts. / 4-4-2)

AMSOIL Arena (Duluth, Minn.)

Saturday, Nov. 1 and Sunday, Nov. 2 (3:07 p.m. CT both days)

- No. 10 Minnesota Duluth, which has vaulted back into the national rankings on the strength of a three-game winning streak, hosts Minnesota State. The Mavericks are on the road for the second straight weekend.
- UMD leads the all-time series, 53-6-4, including a four-game sweep last season.
- Bulldogs' senior F **Meghan Huertas** is riding a three-game goal-scoring streak, totaling five points over the span (4g, 1a). Fellow senior **Jenna McParland** became the 19th member of UMD's 100-point club with an assist last Sunday.
- UMD sophomore **Lara Stalder** leads all NCAA defensemen with seven assists and is tied for the national lead with nine points. She is tied for the team's points lead with senior F Zoe Hickel, who netted a hat trick last Sunday against Lindenwood.
- Mavericks' freshman F **Nicole Schammel** scored her first two career goals last weekend, while fellow rookie **Anna Keys** tallied an assist for her initial collegiate point. MSU has 12 freshmen on its roster.
- MSU junior G **Erin Krichiver** amassed 68 saves last weekend at No. 7/8 Mercyhurst and is fifth in the WCHA with 126 total stops.

St. Cloud State (1-0-1-1, 5 pts. / 2-3-1) at Ohio State (2-2-0-0, 6 pts. / 4-2-0)

OSU Ice Rink (Columbus, Ohio)

Saturday, Oct. 24 at 3:07 p.m. CT / Sunday, Oct. 25 at 3:07 p.m. CT

- Ohio State, which is receiving votes in both national polls, welcomes St. Cloud State to Columbus. Both teams were off last weekend.
- OSU leads the all-time series, 35-23-7, including a 3-0-1-0 mark last year. The teams skated to a 2-2 tie in the Columbus opener a year ago (won by SCSU in the shootout), before the Buckeyes won the second contest.
- St. Cloud State has found the back of the net 15 times in six games, ranking 11th nationally for scoring offense (2.50gpg).
- SCSU senior captain **Audrey Hanmer** is tied for fourth among NCAA defensemen with seven points (2g, 5a).
- Ohio State freshman G **Kassidy Sauve** is tied for fourth in the country with two shutouts this season. Buckeyes' senior F **Julia McKinnon** netted her first career hat trick during OSU's last series, a sweep of visiting Bemidji 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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