



WCHA WEEKEND PREVIEW: OCT. 10-12, 2014

News and notes for the upcoming weekend of WCHA hockey

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

WCHA SERIES

**No. 1 Minnesota (0-0-0, 0 pts. WCHA / 2-0-0) at Minnesota Duluth (0-2-0, 0 pts WCHA / 1-2-1)
AMSOIL Arena (Duluth, Minn.)**

Friday, Oct. 10 and Saturday, Oct. 11 (6:07 p.m. CT both nights)

- Top-ranked Minnesota opens WCHA play with a renewal of the I-35 rivalry series at Minnesota Duluth. The series is a matchup of programs that have each won five national championships.
- The Gophers lead the all-time series 41-24-6, including 11-straight victories since Jan. 24, 2012.
- UMD opened the season by going 1-0-1 at Connecticut, before dropping a pair of games last weekend to No. 2 Wisconsin. Senior F **Zoe Hickel** has registered a point in each of the first four games.
- Minnesota posted a pair of wins last weekend at Ridder Arena over Penn State and No. 6 Boston University. Sophomore D **Lee Stecklein** earned WCHA Defensive Player of the Week honors.

**No. 10 North Dakota (0-0-0, 0 pts. WCHA / 1-1-0) at Minnesota State (0-0-0, 0 pts WCHA / 0-0-0)
All Seasons Arena (Mankato, Minn.)**

Friday, Oct. 10 at 7:07 p.m. CT / Saturday, Oct. 11 at 3:07 p.m. CT

- Minnesota State begins its 2014-15 campaign by hosting No. 10 North Dakota in a WCHA series.
- The Mavericks hold an all-time 24-16-6 series lead. The two teams each swept a road series last year, with MSU's victories in Grand Forks snapping a seven-game skid in the series.
- MSU's roster features 12 newcomers, following the loss of 11 letterwinners from 2013-14. Senior F **Kathleen Rogan** (11-10-21) is the top returning point scorer.
- North Dakota opened its season by splitting a pair of non-conference games last weekend at Ralph Englestad Arena. A hat trick from junior F **Becca Kohler** led to a 7-1 victory on Friday, before UND dropped a 3-1, Saturday decision to Vermont.

**Ohio State (0-0-0, 0 pts. WCHA / 2-0-0) at No. 2 Wisconsin (2-0-0, 6 pts WCHA / 4-0-0)
LaBahn Arena (Madison, Wisc.)**

Friday, Oct. 10 at 7:07 p.m. CT / Sunday, Oct. 12 at 1:07 p.m. CT

- No. 2 Wisconsin hosts Ohio State in a matchup of early-season unbeaten teams.
- After sweeping a pair of road series – including a WCHA set last weekend at Minnesota Duluth – the Badgers play in Madison for the first time in 2014-15. UW is 11-4 in its previous 15 home openers and 1-1 at LaBahn Arena.
- Wisconsin leads the all-time series with Ohio State by a 53-9-6 margin, including wins in six straight games and 14 of the past 16 contests.
- Led by WCHA Offensive Player of the Week **Claudia Kepler**, the Buckeyes swept visiting New Hampshire last week for just the seventh 2-0-0 start in program history.
- Badgers freshman F **Annie Pankowski** leads the nation with seven assists, while fellow newcomer **Emily Clark** is the reigning WCHA Rookie of the Week.

NON-CONFERENCE

**Lindenwood (0-0-0, 0 pts. CHA / 0-2-0) at St. Cloud State (0-0-0, 0 pts WCHA / 0-2-0)
Herb Brooks National Hockey Center (St. Cloud, Minn.)**

Friday, Oct. 10 and Saturday, Oct. 11 (3:07 p.m. CT both nights)

- St. Cloud State hosts Collegiate Hockey Association opponent Lindenwood in the regular season home debut for new head coach **Erik Rud**.
- The Huskies have won all four previous meetings with the Lady Lions, sweeping a pair of series in 2012-13. SCSU posted 2-0 and 7-2 victories at the Herb Brooks National Hockey Center.
- SCSU opened its season last weekend by dropping a pair of non-conference games at Ridder Arena in Minneapolis. The Huskies were tied 2-2 with Boston University into the third period before falling 5-2; the next night, SCSU took a 2-1, second period lead against Penn State before losing 3-2.
- Junior F **Molly Illikainen** scored a goal in each of the Huskies' first two games.

IDLE

- 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 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).

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