



WCHA WEEKEND PREVIEW: OCT. 14-15, 2016

Series news and notes for the upcoming weekend of WCHA hockey

- The full WCHA weekly release can be found online [here](#).

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

WCHA

No. 4 Minnesota Duluth (2-0-0-0, 6 pts. WCHA / 3-0-1) at No. 3/2 Minnesota (1-1-0-0, 3 pts. WCHA / 3-1-0) Ridder Arena; Minneapolis, Minn. – Fri., Oct. 14 at 6:07 p.m. CT and Sat., Oct. 8 at 4:07 p.m. CT

- Perhaps the marquee series in all of college hockey is the top-five showdown at Ridder Arena between the fourth-ranked Bulldogs and the No. 3/2 Gophers.
- UMD remained unbeaten with a sweep of visiting Minnesota State last weekend, while Minnesota split a series at Bemidji State.
- Minnesota has won six-straight in the series and is currently on a 19-game unbeaten streak against the Bulldogs, going 18-0-1 dating back to a 3-0 win on Jan. 14, 2012.
- UMD's No. 4 ranking is the program's highest since Oct. 31, 2011, while the Bulldogs' 3-0-1 start is also UMD's best since opening its 2007-08 national championship campaign with a 5-0-1 mark.
- With a goals-per-game output of 4.25, the Bulldogs currently are tied atop the NCAA with 17 goals in four games. UMD is also tied for first with a 2.75 scoring margin, and is third with a 26.3 power play success rate (5-for-19).
- Minnesota junior F **Kelly Pannek** is approaching the century mark for scoring, entering this weekend's series with 98 career points (37g-61a) after posting two assists last weekend against Bemidji State.
- UMN junior G Sidney Peters made a career-high 34 saves in last weekend's series at BSU, allowing just one goal in the two games.

Ohio State (0-1-1-0, 1 pt. WCHA / 2-1-1) at No. 8 Bemidji State (1-1-0-0, 3 pts. WCHA / 3-1-0) Sanford Center; Bemidji, Minn. – Fri., Oct. 14 and Sat., Oct. 15 (both at 3:07 p.m. CT)

- The newly nationally-ranked Beavers stay on home ice to welcome the Buckeyes in what should be a matchup of terrific goaltending (BSU All-American **Brittini Mowat** and OSU's **Kassidy Sauve**, the nation's saves leader).
- Ohio State earned a point last weekend at No. 1 Wisconsin, playing the Badgers to a 1-1 tie in the series finale. Bemidji State split a home series with Minnesota to vault into the national rankings.
- Bemidji State won all four meetings last season, after OSU swept the 2014-15 season series.
- **Sauve** has continued to have a fantastic season in goal, leading the nation in saves with 148 (including 81 last weekend at UW), ranking third in save percentage (.967) and 10th for goals-against (1.23).
- OSU freshman F **Samantha Bouley** leads all WCHA rookies with four points thus far (1g-3a).
- **Mowat**, BSU's senior G, made a total of 57 saves last weekend to earn her sixth career WCHA Defensive Player of the Week award.
- Three players – **Emily Bergland**, **Summer Thibodeau** and **Reilly Fawcett** – have scored the Beavers' three game-winning goals thus far.

**Minnesota State (0-2-0-0, 0 pts. WCHA / 2-2-0) at No. 10 North Dakota (1-1-0-0, 3 pts. WCHA / 2-1-1)
Ralph Engelstad Arena; Grand Forks, N.D. – Fri., Oct. 14 at 7:07 p.m. CT and Sat., Oct. 15 at 2:07 p.m. CT**

- The 10th-ranked Fighting Hawks host their regular season home opener, welcoming the Mavericks to Ralph Engelstad Arena.
- In their respective WCHA openers last weekend, Minnesota State lost twice at Minnesota Duluth and North Dakota split a pair of one-goal contests at St. Cloud State.
- North Dakota is 7-2-1 in the last 10 games against MSU. However, the Mavericks lead the all-time series, 24-19-7.
- MSU senior G **Brianna Quade**, who started both games against Minnesota Duluth, averaged 31 saves per game over the weekend.
- MSU sophomore F **Jordan McLaughlin** (1g-1a) and junior D **Anna Keys** (2a) are tied for the early team lead in points (2).
- UND senior G **Lexie Shaw** enters the weekend with the nation's second-best save percentage (.972) and GAA (0.68).
- All seven goals scored by UND this season have come off the sticks of different players, including four defensemen.

NONCONFERENCE

**No. 1 Wisconsin (3-0-1-1, 11 pts. WCHA / 3-0-1) at No. 7 Clarkson (0-0-0, 0 pts. ECAC / 2-1-1)
Cheel Arena; Potsdam, N.Y. – Fri., Oct. 14 and Sat., Oct. 15 (both 3:00 p.m. ET)**

- 2016 Frozen Four participants clash in New York as the top-ranked Badgers face the seventh-ranked Golden Knights.
- UW, which is playing at Clarkson for the first time, holds a 21-game undefeated streak against ECAC opponents (dating to a March 19, 2005 loss to Dartmouth in the NCAA quarterfinals).
- This weekend's series at Cheel Arena marks the second ever meeting between UW and CU, as the two teams faced off at LaBahn Arena during the 2014-15 season. UW and CU tied 1-1 in the series opener before **Annie Pankowski** recorded a hat trick in the Badgers' 4-0 win in the series finale.
- Senior G **Ann-Renée Desbiens** earned her 40th career shutout on Friday, breaking Jessie Vetter's school record for career blank slates. Desbiens, who has a pair of blank slates already this season, needs only three to match the NCAA record.
- The Badgers lead the NCAA in scoring defense, holding opponents to an average of 0.75 goals per contest. UW is also tied for the NCAA lead in scoring margin, outscoring its opponents by an average of 2.75 goals per contest.
- Wisconsin has outshot its opponents 175-51 for a shot differential of +124, the top mark in the NCAA. UW is outshooting its opponents by an average of 31 per game, which is almost twice as much as Minnesota, who ranks second with a shot differential average of 16.25.
- UW head coach **Mark Johnson** enters the weekend with 398 career wins, and needs only two wins to become the third coach in NCAA Division I women's hockey history to collect 400 career triumphs and the first in WCHA history.

About the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA)

The women's Western Collegiate Hockey Association has won a record 16 national championships in 17 years since its inception in 1999, while producing six Patty Kazmaier Award winners, 86 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 www.wcha.com.

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