

Statistical Justification for Western Collegiate Hockey Association Teams Under Considerations For 2000 NCAA Men's Hockey Tournament

- In terms of RPI for the six hockey conferences, the WCHA ranks second in the country. Hockey East is first (.533), followed by the WCHA (.514), CHA (.491), CCHA (.490), ECAC (.489) and the MAAC (.453).

- In a comparison of the RPI taking out the conference leader in each conference, the league rankings are Hockey East (.524), WCHA (.503), CCHA (.483), ECAC (.480), CHA (.449), and MAAC (.437). This speaks to the strength of the WCHA as compared to other the leagues in the country. Even when you take out the #1-ranked team in the country (Wisconsin), the WCHA still ranks second in the RPI. *Translation.....great team in a strong league.* Take out the leader in the CHA (Niagara) and the CHA drops from third to fifth. *Translation.....good team in a weak league.*

- Keep mind that WCHA teams (aka. St. Cloud State and Minnesota State) week in week out play a stronger schedule (28 conference games) as compared to CHA teams (the CHA plays an unbalanced schedule and Niagara played 17 conference games this season). At this time two members of the WCHA are ranked first and third in the country.

- In a comparison of St. Cloud State, MSU-Mankato and Niagara in games against opponents above .500 under consideration for the tournament St. Cloud State is 8-7-3, MSU-Mankato is 7-8-2 and Niagara is 5-3-0.

- In a comparison of records in the last 16 games of St. Cloud State, MSU-Mankato and Niagara, the records look like this:

St. Cloud State	9-5-2 (.625)
MSU-Mankato	10-4-2 (.685)
Niagara	11-2-3 (.781)

Keep in mind that during this time SCSU and MSU were both playing against WCHA opponents and Niagara was playing against members of the CHA. In fact, at one point during this time MSU had the longest unbeaten streak in the country at eight games (6-0-2) that included a win over #1-ranked Wisconsin and two ties with #3-ranked North Dakota.

- A review of records against tournament eligible Division I common opponents between St. Cloud State, MSU-Mankato and Niagara reveals the following:

Common Opponents (tourney eligible Division I)

St. Cloud State	4-1-1 (.750)
Niagara	1-2-0 (.333)

MSU-Mankato	7-4-1 (.625)
Niagara	2-1-0 (.666)