

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2018

SPORTS

STAR TRIBUNE, C5

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

COLLEGE HOCKEY



Senior center Karl Wagner (10) is a key player for the Gophers...

Gophers open huge 4-game homestand

It could decide if Minnesota makes the NCAA tournament.

By HEATHER BULL

On paper, the home team usually has a slight advantage over opponents.

The Gophers (18-6, 7-4 Big Ten) will have a four-game homestand as they wind down the regular season.

Carey Wagner expects a fast tempo against Penn State on Sunday, which would mark Minnesota's high-scoring style.

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GOPHERS MEN 7, WISCONSIN 1 Friday 8 p.m. vs. Ohio State (R7N)

Ufinds its offense in rout of Badgers

All four lines scored and three of the goals came on power plays.

STAFF AND NEWS SERVICES

MAISON, Wis. — The Gophers chased goalie Jack Berry with three first-period goals and cruised to a 7-1 Big Ten men's hockey victory over Wisconsin before an announced 12,899 at the Kohl Center.

"It's huge to get the start we had," Gophers coach Don Lucia said. "Now we know that we can chase the whole game."

"We haven't had much push back all year long scoring goals, and tonight they went well."

Remy Piliak added two second-period goals for the Gophers (18-14-9, 9-4-1 Big Ten), which reset the weekend series in keeping both the Penn State and the Badgers (14-15-8, 8-3-5) into fourth place in the conference race.

The No. 12 Gophers edged Wisconsin 4-2 on Friday, getting two goals in the final five minutes of the game.

"This game needed no such dramatics. It went so well even the numbering Gophers power play — sixth worst in Division I at 12.6 percent — clicked for three goals. Meanwhile, Matt Robinson needed to make only two saves."

"Matt has done a real good job in the nets not allowing a soft goal to let the other team get into the game," Lucia said. "He was rock solid and our penalty kill did a real good job disrupting tonight."

Lucas Robinson of the Gophers, who have won five of their past six games, off to a fast start, scoring at 07 seconds on the game's first shot. Brent Gates made 10 saves.

Ohio State's first goal came on the game's first shot. Brent Gates made 10 saves.

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RESULTS

BIG TEN

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NON-BIG TEN

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WCHA

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ECAC

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ROUNDUP

No. 1 Notre Dame falls night after title

Ohio State turned the tables on No. 1 Notre Dame on Saturday night, knocking the host Irish 5-1 in Big Ten hockey on a three-goal third period.

Notre Dame edged the No. 6 Redwings 2-1 in the series opener to clinch the conference regular season title.

Goals by Matthew Weiss in the first and Matt Joyans in the ninth minutes set the tone for the Irish.

Ohio State goalie Sean Romano had 39 saves. Cole Morris had 30 and Dylan Cyrille had 29 for the Irish.

No. 19 Michigan 3, Michigan State 2 - Quinn Hughes' goal with just under six minutes left gave the

Wolverines a two-goal lead over the visiting Spartans, and they held on for victory after the two teams tied Friday. Hayden Lavigne scored 25 saves for Michigan.

St. Cloud State scored three more goals in the third. Patrick Newell made 2-0 halfway through the period and then added a short-handed empty-netter.

WCHA No. 5 Minnesota State Mankato 6, Alabama Huntsville 1 - Marc Michael had a goal and two assists to pace the Mavericks against the minutes of the second period.

Michigan Tech 5, Bemidji State 1 - Five players scored goals in Husker road games in Houghton, Mich. The Huskers scored three times in a 40-minute stretch to open a 4-1 lead.

ECAC Hockey No. 10 Cornell 4, Princeton 1 - Cornell's defense was solid in the first period, holding Princeton to one goal.

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MINNESOTA SCENE

Gophers softball wins twice on shutouts

What's more he was the final competitor in the meet with the most with the best score.

The No. 16 Gophers softball team improved to 4-0 with another two shutouts in the SportCo Kick-off Classic in Las Vegas.

Minnesota beat North Dakota State 4-0 in its first game on sophomore right-hander Amber Hara's two-hitter and senior center fielder David Wagner's three-run homer in the fifth inning.

The Gophers then beat tournament host UNLV 3-0 in the second game on sophomore right-hander Smith's two-hitter and senior center fielder Matt Wagner's three-run homer in the fifth inning.

Smith is a junior transfer from LSU who played for Maple Grove High School. Chandler Paulich had RBIs singles in the first and third innings for the Gophers and pitcher Dwyer hit a solo homer in the fourth.

Senior setter Samantha Seliger-Svensson was named the Gophers' volleyball MVP at the program's annual banquet Friday at TCF Bank Stadium. Seliger-Svensson averaged 3.7 kills per set for a team that hit .285.

Sophomore hitter Alexis Hart was named the most improved player, freshman opposite Stephen Sweeney the best pitcher and

senior middle blocker Molly Lehman the best blocker. The Gophers were 28-6 overall and 15-1 in the Big Ten.

They lost to Southern California in the third round of the NCAA tournament.

U track wins four titles Ryan Lockard of the Gophers won the high jump at the Iowa State Classic in Ames, clearing 7 feet, 3 inches. That ties the senior from Apple Valley High School for third place on the program's all-time list and it's the best mark in nearly a decade.

Sammie Houston won the triple jump (48-30.5) and Gophers team member James Tandy won the 44-99.5. Houston is a sophomore from Eden Prairie High School. The Gophers also won the last remaining event, the 4x400 (3:57.9).

In the women's meet, Kaitlin Foss and Lexi Kiefer finished second and third in the pole vault, respectively, both clearing 12-6. Hannah Tice and Mackenzie won the 800 (2:07.12) at Vanderkreek's Music City Challenge.

Last man hits routine Because of a teammate's injury, Gophers alternate Cohen De got a chance to compete in the high bar in a dual meet with Illinois.

What's more he was the final competitor in the meet with the most with the best score.

He delivered a 12-49 and shut-out Minnesota beat the No. 5 Illinois 40-000 to 40-0-0.

Shane Wilson, another Gophers freshman, won the all-around and floor exercise (14:700 and 14:700) and senior Taitan Bannan took first in the last two events, parallel bars (14:450) and high bar (14:500).

Etc. • The Gophers men's tennis team beat Rice 5-2 in Hanover, N.H., to even its season record at 2-2. Ben Ian Millwright beat Samit Sarkar 6-4, 7-5 in No. 2 singles and Gophers team captain Jackson Allen defeated Cornell Russell 2-6, 6-1, 6-3 in No. 5 singles.

• The Gophers women's golf team finished 10th in the Florida State March Up in Tallahassee with a three-round total of 902. Senior Ashlee Harrison was Minnesota's top individual, tying for 24th with a 3-over-220.

• The Gophers men's golf team took eighth place with a 2-2 record the Big Ten Match Play Championship at Hammock Beach Resort in Palm Coast, Fla. The Gophers lost 4-6-2 to Purdue and 6-0 to Ohio State on the second day of play.

U WOMEN'S GAMEDAY 3 p.m. vs. Penn State • BTN 93.5-486

U has won six of seven from Penn State

Preview: The Gophers, who are coming off a 78-74 victory at Purkay on Thursday, return to Williams Arena after three consecutive road games.

The Gophers (18-6, 7-4 Big Ten) are looking for their sixth victory in seven games against Penn State under coach Marlene Stollings. The Gophers won at Penn State 91-71 on Jan. 10. The Gophers shot a season-best 57.6 percent from the field in the victory Penn State (14-11, 7-7) which has lost three of its past four games, is coming off a 60-76 defeat at Iowa on Thursday. The Gophers are 3-1 at home in the Big Ten, while the Lady Lions are 1-5 on the road.

Players to watch: Gophers C Kenisha Bell is one of two players to rank in the top 20 nationally in scoring and assists. She is averaging 20 points (12.8) and 2 assists (7.7). Gophers' Indiana Jones in the offense. C Karl Wagner, who is shooting a career-high 41.3 percent from three-point range, is third in the Big Ten in three-point field goals made (70). Junior G'lenpa Page leads the Lady Lions in scoring (18.1). Sophomore guards Annet Carter and India Travieso-Green are averaging 2.7 and 2.1 points, respectively.

Numbers: The Gophers are averaging 64.3 points per game, which ranks second in the Big Ten and fifth nationally. The top regular-season average in program history is 63.6 points per game set in the 2013-14 season.

JOEL BUREL