Saint Paul Pioneer Press

January 13, 2004 Tuesday

SPORTS; Pg. 10D

College Report: Duluth emerges in WCHA

BRUCE BROTHERS Pioneer Press

While top-ranked North Dakota continues to chug along as the favorite in Western Collegiate Hockey Association men's play, the competition has heated up. The surprise of the season is Wisconsin, which had its teamrecord 13-game conference unbeaten streak ended Saturday, but Minnesota-Duluth has powered its way into contention as well.

UMD, which swept a two-game series at Denver over the weekend, has been getting outstanding goaltending to go with a highpowered offense that ranks second in the nation in goals per game.

The Bulldogs, 13-8-2 overall and 9-5-0 in the WCHA after winning their past four games, got 32 saves and a shutout from Isaac Reichmuth for a 1-0 victory over the Pioneers on Friday, then came on strong with three thirdperiod goals for a 6-3 victory Saturday.

Reichmuth was chosen the WCHA defensive player of the week.

"That was definitely one of my better games," he told the Duluth News Tribune after his shutout, "but I thought our team played an unbelievable game. Our penalty killing was magnificent."

How magnificent? Denver went 0 for 9 on the power play in UMD's first shutout of the Pioneers since Feb. 2, 1985.

UMD has five players with 22 or more points, led by 29 from Junior Lessard, who scored the only goal Friday. The Bulldogs are averaging 4.09 goals per game, second to North Dakota's 4.95. Evan Schwabe has 26 points, Tim Stapleton and Tyler Brosz have 23 and Luke Stauffacher has 22.

Wisconsin's goaltending has been on a par with UMD's. Bernd Bruckler had a 15-game unbeaten streak before Michigan Tech stunned the Badgers on Saturday night. Bruckler's mark was a school record, beating the 14-game streak set by Duane Derksen in 1990.

CC skates: A bill that would have forced eight NCAA Division III schools, including Colorado College, that have at least one team playing in Division I to discontinue dispensing athletic scholarships in those sports was amended Monday, allowing those programs to continue as before.

That means business as usual for CC and other schools with D-I programs in hockey, including Clarkson, St. Lawrence and Rensselaer Polytechnic. They'll be grandfathered through the system and can continue with one or two sports playing D-I and the rest playing in D-III.

More honors: Minnesota goaltender Kellen Briggs was chosen the WCHA rookie of the week for the second time this season after yielding only one goal in two Gophers victories at Colorado College. Briggs, a freshman from Colorado Springs, Colo., also was selected rookie of the week on Dec. 1 after backstopping his team's victories over Michigan State and Michigan.

Sharing the WCHA Offensive Player of the Week award were Chris Conner of Michigan Tech and Brandon Bochenski of North Dakota. Conner scored his fifth short-handed goal of the season and the eighth of his career against Wisconsin. Bochenski, of Blaine, had four goals in a victory over Alaska Anchorage on Friday night.

* Goalie Layne Sedevie of Bemidji State is the defensive player of the week from the College Hockey America conference. Sedevie, a freshman from Bismarck, N.D., made 17 saves in his team's 3-2 victory over Niagara on Saturday night, the Beavers' first victory at Niagara.

* Senior forward Ben Eaves of Boston College, who played prep hockey at Shattuck-St. Mary's in Faribault, Minn., was announced as the national player of the month for December by the Hockey Commissioners Association.

* Minnesota State (Mankato) forward Shane Joseph was picked as student-athlete of the month for December by the College Sports Television after picking up six goals and five assists in six games.

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St. Cloud Times

January 13, 2004 Tuesday

SPORTS; Pg. 3D

Hill squeezes most out of thin UAA

Kevin Allenspach, Staff kallenspach@stcloudtimes.co m

The Alaska Anchorage Seawolves take a licking, but they keep on ticking.

Last week, junior assistant captain John Hopson guit the team and sophomore defenseman Matt Hanson was ruled academically ineligible. Since sophomore defenseman B.J. Ballas quit the team in the first half, the Seawolves are down to 13 forwards and six defensemen.

Despite the handicap, they pulled off a 2-2 tie Saturday against North Dakota, the No. 1-ranked team in the nation.

Anchorage is 3-1-2 in its last six WCHA games, and previously had a road tie at St. Cloud State, a home tie with Denver, and a road win at Minnesota State-Mankato.

"It's a point and we'll take it," third-year Seawolves coach John Hill said Monday from his office in Anchorage. "We're not happy with it. We had a lead in the third period and we let it get away. But we were pleased with our effort. We went 27 days between games and even Friday night (in a 6-2 loss) we competed hard.

"There was a lot of hoopla around the series and Т thought we handled it well."

The Sioux were celebrating the return of three players from the gold medal winning U.S. World Junior team. There were also sparks flving from the return of Seawolves sophomore Chris Fournier, a forward from Anchorage who started his career at North Dakota, only to transfer and burn a few bridges with comments on his way out of town.

Fournier scored an unassisted goal Friday, but his former teammate, Brandon Bochenski, stole the show with a four-goal game for the third time in his career. Bochenski had a natural hat trick in the third period.

"He's got a big-time shot," Sioux coach Dean Blais told Grand Forks Herald. the "There's guys in the NHL who can't shoot like Brandon."

The three returning world junior players, Brady Murray, Zach Parise and Drew Stafford, combined for all the respective points on North Dakota's first goal. Murray and Parise also clicked for a goal later in the game.

Saturday belonged to Anchorage senior goalie Chris King, who stopped 42 shots. It's the fifth time this season he's had 40 or more saves in a game.

Hill said the loss of Hopson and Hanson will be felt this weekend against the Huskies - especially after freshman defenseman Brandon Segal suffered a knee injury at North Dakota. That could leave the Seawolves short on defensemen and without a scorer that was key to their recent run. Hopson, coincidentally Hill's first recruit at Anchorage, had six points in three straight victories before the Christmas break.

"What're you going to do?" Hill guys asked. "Sometimes make decisions where they don't want to work as hard as they have to in college hockey. Sometimes kids decide they don't want to stay in school. We have to abide by their decisions and move on. I don't think it's going to affect the attitude of our team and that's what's important."

Bulletin board material

Players in the WCHA range mostly from 18 to 25 years old. Many have been around the block on the rinks and in dealing with the media. Sometimes their interviews are entertaining. Sometimes they're bland.

Most of them know where to draw the line with comments that might inspire opponents. Badgers defenseman Tom Gilbert crossed it with his quote in the Wisconsin State Journal after Friday's 4-2 win over Michigan Tech.

The Huskies had a potential tying goal waved off in the third period, allowed an empty net goal at the end, and the Badgers had to work a lot harder than they expected to earn two points. Afterward, Gilbert told the State Journal he had viewed the series as "an easy bye."

Michigan Tech responded with a 3-2 upset of the thirdranked Badgers. Chris Conner had two third-period goals - including one short-handed, his nation-leading fifth of the season, and the other the game-winner.

"For them to say it was a bye weekend (with) us gets us fired up and ready to play," Conner told the State Journal. "We showed them we're not a pushover."

The Badgers' 13-game unbeaten streak in the WCHA snapped. They also lost for the second time in three home games after going 6-0-3 at the Kohl Center to start the season. Nonetheless, Wisconsin took over sole possession of first place.

"We have to take a bump in the road every once in a while," Wisconsin freshman defenseman Jeff Likens told the Madison Capital-Times. "But we'll keep it going. Everybody knows that we're the toughest people to play at home ... everybody has a really high standard for our building."

Happy homecoming

Minnesota freshman goalie Kellen Briggs returned home to Colorado Springs, Colo., and led the Gophers to a sweep of Colorado College. He stopped 23 of 24 shots in a 2-1 win on Friday and all 24 shots in a 3-0 win Saturday. Briggs even assisted on the second goal of the game.

"It wasn't just the goalie," Briggs told the Minneapolisbased Star-Tribune. "It was a team thing. This was huge for us."

Minnesota leaped to No. 5 in the Pairwise Rankings following the wins over the Tigers. The Gophers were the first to sweep Colorado College at home since Nov. 10-11, 2000, when St. Cloud State turned the trick. It was also Minnesota's first road sweep since 1992 in the all-time series.

The rise of Reichmuth

After struggling through much of the first half, Minnesotasophomore Duluth goalie Isaac Reichmuth seems to have found his touch.

He stopped 32 shots to earn a 1-0 win Friday at Denver. On Saturday, He stopped 30 of 33 shots in a 6-3 win. Reichmuth had been pulled from his previous two WCHA starts - allowing a combined seven goals in 14 shots.

"I haven't seen a better opposing goalie all year," Denver senior winger Lukas Dora told the Duluth News-Tribune. "He just made save after save, and we were getting on each other on the bench. It was frustrating."

Denver defensemen Jussi Halme (jaw) and Matt Laatsch (knee) and forward Gabe Gauthier (shoulder) each played Saturday after they were scratched on Friday. The Pioneers are 0-6-1 in the league at home.

Friday's shutout was their first at home since Colorado College beat them 2-0 on Jan. 21, 2000.

Around the WCHA

Mankato's Shane Joseph was named the CSTV National Student-Athlete of the Month for December. He had six goals and five assists in six games.

* Gophers defenseman Peter Kennedy scored his first college goal last Friday. It was the first Minnesota goal scored by a Canadian since Montreal native Jim Ebbit scored against Wisconsin on Feb. 5, 1971. Kennedy is from Brookfield, Nova Scotia.

* Hangover? The combined record last weekend of teams with players returning from the World Junior Championships was 2-5-1.

GRAPHIC: AP photo: Colorado College's Aaron Slattengren (top left) tries to sneak the puck past Minnesota goalie Kellen Briggs as his teammate Jake Taylor helps defend during a scoreless first period Saturday.

Capital Times

January 12, 2004 Monday, ALL Editions

Madison, WI: SPORTS; Pg. 2C

DYSFUNCTIONAL' ATMOSPHERE RESULTS IN SPLIT

Todd D. Milewski The Capital Times

One would have to assume Michigan Tech got the attention of the University of Wisconsin men's hockey team Friday night. The Huskies outworked and outplayed the Badgers for the final two periods of a 4-2 loss in which they probably deserved better.

So the assumption was that, between Friday and Saturday, first-place Badgers, the ranked third nationally for the time being, would have learned their lesson and would proceed to finish off a shaky-looking sweep of the Western Collegiate Hockey Association's last-place team.

You know what they say about assumptions.

The Badgers stumbled to their most humbling loss of the season Saturday night, getting outworked at the Kohl Center again by a scrappy Michigan Tech team led by skilled scorer Chris Conner. His pair of tiebreaking goals in the third period lifted the Huskies to a 3-2 victory that raised eyebrows and was a significant speed bump for the UW.

Maybe the Badgers (14-5-5, 8-3-5 WCHA) should seen have this coming - the shortage of drive, if not the loss. Coach Mike Eaves and three players had only two practices with the rest of the team after returning from the World Junior Championship, and Eaves said they weren't quality workouts.

The reintroduction of center Jake Dowell and defensemen Ryan Suter and Jeff Likens after the team played four games without them created an atmosphere that Eaves characterized as "dysfunctional."

"It was a tough week," Eaves said. "It was a tough week for the guys coming back, it was a tough week for our team to have those boys reabsorbed and try to get it going again."

"It was a little curve ball for the rest of the guys," UW senior defenseman Boeser Dan said, "but that's no excuse for the way that we played. We played with those guys for the previous 18 games, so a fourgame absence shouldn't be any excuse to play like we did."

It could be said that the Huskies (4-12-4, 2-8-2) simply were the hungrier team after having a tying goal late in Friday night's game taken away from them. Afterward, Badgers defenseman Tom Gilbert made what probably was an accurate statement in that he thought his team played the final two periods of Friday night's game like it was a bye week.

The Huskies fed off their feeling of being gypped and Gilbert's quote.

"For them to say it was a bye weekend gets us fired up and ready to play," said Conner, who upped his goal total to 17 with a short-handed score to make it 2-1 and added the winner with 7 minutes, 48 remaining. "We seconds showed them that we're not a pushover."

But questions still remain as to how the Badgers got so far away from the work ethic that got them to first place in the WCHA -- they held on by one point despite the loss - and the No. 3 spot in the national rankings, all while playing at home.

After starting the season 6-0-3 at the Kohl Center, the Badgers have lost two of their last three home games, a fact that likely did not go unnoticed by a UW team that has said it prides itself on its home mark.

"It's frustrating for our team, and it's something that we have to come back from and something that we're going to have to deal with," UW sophomore forward Nick Licari said. "We're going to have to start at practice next week and fix the things that went wrong. It's frustrating, but it's someevery team thing qoes through. We just have to deal with it.'

Eaves said the Badgers will go back to basics in practice this week, which can be perceived as a significant step backward with eight weeks left in the regular season. "We're not going to panic," he said.

With the exception of a threegame losing streak early in the season - before the team came together -- the UW is in the middle of its worst stretch of the season.

But Boeser, for one, refused to concede that the Badgers, 2-2-1 in their last five games, are in a slump.

"I don't know why we've lost in the last couple of weeks, but I think it just comes back to us playing as a team and playing the way that we can," Boeser said. "We're a team that has to play as 20 guys together. If we

don't do that, we're not going to win. These last few weeks we've had a couple lapses where we've had some guys doing their own things and (we're) not outplaying the other team like we did in the first half of the season."

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Wisconsin State Journal

January 12, 2004 Monday, ALL Editions

Madison: SPORTS; Pg. C2

BADGERS: WE WILL REGROUP

Andy Baggot

Wisconsin State Journal

It has been nearly a month since the University of Wisconsin men's hockey team has had its full complement of players and coaches available for a routine practice.

That is as good a place as any to start explaining why firstplace UW looked as vulnerable as it did during a surpris-Collegiate ing Western Hockey Association series split with last-place Michigan Tech over the weekend.

The third-ranked Badgers were fortunate to get a 4-2 win Friday because they worked hard for only 20 of the 60 minutes and Tech had a tying goal in the third period waved off. En route to a 3-2 loss Saturday, UW appeared it was missing a gear throughout and was outscored in the third period for just the seventh time this season.

"We were a little off," Badgers coach Mike Eaves said.

UW (14-5-5 overall, 8-3-5 WCHA) maintained sole possession of first place in the conference, but its schoolrecord unbeaten streak in league games ended at 13.

Meanwhile, the Badgers fell to 2-2 in their past four games at the Kohl Center after opening the season with a 5-0-3 mark at home.

Eaves believes the struggles are tied to the fact UW has not skated as a full team since Dec.13. when it closed out the first half of the season with a win and a WCHA series sweep over Minnesota State-Mankato.

Eaves and three freshmen -center Jake Dowell and defensemen Jeff Likens and Ryan Suter -- subsequently left to participate in the World Junior Championships with Team USA and missed four games. When they returned last week, they jumped back into the fray. Not only that, Eaves changed personnel on two of his top lines for the Tech series.

The lethargy UW had was "a product of us getting back together," Eaves said. "We never really had a practice together. The two days that we had together (last week) were kind of flow practices, so we were a little bit dysfunctional and that may attribute to some of the reasons why we didn't play as well as we had.

"It was a tough week. It was a tough week for the guys coming back. It was tough for our team to have those boys re-absorb and try and get it going again."

The Badgers will get some needed recovery time this week because their nonconference series with Notre Dame (11-7-2) will be Saturday and Sunday at the Kohl Center. The players had Sunday off and will not skate today.

"We'll regroup and go back to some of our basic drills and reestablish those (starting Tuesday)," Eaves said.

Continuity is not the only thing that needs to be addressed.

"I don't know why we've lost the last couple weeks, but I think it comes back to us playing as a team," said Dan Boeser, UW senior defenseman and tri-captain. "We're a team that has to play as 20 guys together. If we don't do that, we're not going to win."

GRAPHIC: Mike Eaves

Grand Forks Herald

January 11, 2004 Sunday

North Dakota: SPORTS

WCHA/AREA COLLEGE HOCKEY: Gophers complete a sweep of Tigers

Herald Staff and Wire Reports

Andy Sertich scored the game-winning goal just over one minute into the second period as visiting Minnesota beat Colorado College 3-0 in Colorado Springs Saturday night to sweep the weekend series.

Thomas Vanek added an insurance goal with five minutes left in the second to give the Gophers a 2-0 lead.

Grand Forks native Grant Potulny scored Minnesota's third and final goal at 1:36 of the third period.

Colorado Springs native Kellen Briggs stopped all 24 shots he faced for his third shutout of the year.

Freshmen Matt Zaba turned back 21 shots for the Tigers.

Michigan Tech 3, Wisconsin 2: Chris Conner had two goals and an assist and Bryce Luker made 33 saves as the lastplace Michigan Tech upset Western Collegiate Hockey Association leader Wisconsin in Madison at the Kohl Center with 12,132 fans looking on.

Wisconsin, ranked No. 3 nationally, scored first as Ryan Suter banked one off Tech

netminder Bryce Luker from behind the net at 8:14 of the first period.

Tech got the only goal of the second period when senior Brett Engelhardt blasted one off the right post and in on a shot from the top of the left circle on the power play. The goal came at 5:45 and was Engelhardt's second of the weekend.

Tech took a 2-1 lead on Connation-leading ner's fifth shorthanded goal of the year at 6:52.

The Badgers tied it up at 9:35 on Suter's second goal of the game when he blasted one high up over Luker from the slot.

Conner then scored the game-winner at 12:18 when he roofed one from just outside the crease and to Bruckler's left.

Minn.-Duluth 6, Denver 3: The Bulldogs scored three unanswered goals in the third period Saturday to snap a 3-3 tie and get the road victory over Denver in front of 5.057 fans at Magness Arena.

Evan Schwabe, Jesse Unklesbay and Luke Stauffacher scored for the Bulldogs, who picked up 30 saves from Isaac Reichmuth. Tim Stapleton, Nick Anderson and Beau Geisler also scored for the Bulldogs. J.D. Corbin, Connor James and Kevin Ulanski scored for Denver, with goalies Adam Berkhoel and Glenn Fisher combined for 15 saves.

Bemidji St. 3, Niagara 2: Bemidji State jumped out to a 3-0 lead and held on for the win against homestanding Niagara.

The win was Bemidji's first ever road win over the Purple Eagles.

The Beavers had a 2-0 lead after the first period with goals by Riley Riddell and Brendan Cook.Wade Chiodo, from Thief River Falls, scored the eventual game-winning goal at 1:34 of the second period, assisted by Ryan Huddy and Anders Olsson.

Niagara scored two goals in the third period, but Bemidji was able to hang on for the win.

Layne Sedevie finished with 17 saves for the Beavers. Allen Barton and Rob Bonk combined to stop 40 shots for Niagara.

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

January 11, 2004 Sunday METRO EDITION

SPORTS; Pg. 15C

Streak melts away Lethargic Badgers simply outplayed

JEFF POTRYKUS

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Madison -- University of Wisconsin coach Mike Eaves must be wondering who kidnapped his hockey team while he was away in Finland guiding the U.S. to a gold medal at the world junior championships.

Twenty-four hours after stealing a victory despite giving what Eaves termed an embarrassing effort against last-place Michigan Tech, the third-ranked Badgers were simply embarrassed.

Tech, which entered the night with just one Western Collegiate Hockey Association victory and three overall, was the sharper, more aggressive team early and late and stunned the Badgers, 3-2, Saturday night at the Kohl Center.

Sophomore winger Chris Connner scored two third-period goals for Tech (4-12-4 overall, 2-8-2 WCHA), including the gamewinner with 7 minutes 42 seconds remaining.

Wisconsin (14-5-5, 8-3-5) wasted two goals from freshman defenseman Ryan Suter and a solid outing by goaltender Bernd Bruckler and saw its schoolrecord WCHA unbeaten streak end at 13 games.

Eaves was livid with his players after their lackluster effort in a 4-2 victory Friday.

After the manner in which Eaves chastised his team in the locker room and again during his postgame comments, it seemed likely the Badgers would buzz Tech from the opening face-off Saturday.

Instead, Tech generated more quality scoring chances early as the Badgers relied on Bruckler. The junior was again up to the task and had two quality saves in the first 4 minutes.

UW's offense finally broke through at 8:14 of the period when Tech freshman goaltender Bryce Luker gave up a soft goal to UW's Suter.

Suter was on the left wing, near the goal line, when he flipped the puck on net with a quick wrist shot. The puck bounced around and trickled into the net.

Although Suter's goal was the only one of the period, it wasn't the lone highlight for UW fans.

Pockets of UW fans also were following the National Football League playoff game between the Carolina Panthers and St. Louis Rams. Anticipating a victory by the Green Bay Packers today in Philadelphia, the fans were rooting for Carolina to upset the Rams and set up a Green Bay-Carolina NFC title game.

The second period held few highlights for the home team.

First Bruckler lost his poise behind his net and punched Tech captain Brett Engelhardt in the face, at 4:56 of the period. That resulted in a Tech power play and Engelhardt got back at Bruckler by beating him with a slap shot from the top of the left face-off circle at 5:45 of the period.

Wisconsin, which converted on two of five power-play opportunities Friday night, went 0 for 2 in the second period Saturday and looked terribly disorganized.

Conner took advantage of that shaky power-play unit with a short-handed goal at 6:52 of the third period.

Suter got the crowd going a few minutes later by taking a pass from behind the net from Pete Talafous and ripping a one-timer into the back of the net at 9:35 of the period.

UW finally had the momentum but Conner stole it back less than 3 minutes later.

The 5-foot-7, 175-pound sophomore camped near the goal, to the left of Bruckler, and took a crisp pass from senior winger Frank Werner. Conner waited until Bruckler committed and then flipped the puck up high and into the net at 12:18 to give Tech a 3-2 lead.

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

January 11, 2004 Sunday FINAL EDITION

SPORTS; Pg. 15C

Streak melts away Lowly Michigan Tech outplays Badgers

JEFF POTRYKUS

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Madison - University of Wisconsin coach Mike Eaves must be wondering who kidnapped his hockey team while he was away in Finland guiding the U.S. to a gold medal at the world junior championships.

One night after stealing a victory despite giving what Eaves termed an embarrassing effort against last-place Michigan Tech, the thirdranked Badgers were simply embarrassed by the Huskies.

Tech, which entered the night with just one Western Collegiate Hockey Association victory and three overall, was the sharper and more aggressive team early and late and stunned the Badgers, 3-2, Saturday night at the Kohl Center.

"We'll go back to work on the basics and get this thing going again," a strangely calm Eaves said. "We can work at a higher level. I thought at times when we worked hard we weren't as smart as we needed to be.

"At times as a team we were dysfunctional in our systems."

Sophomore winaer Chris Connner scored two thirdperiod goals for Tech (4-12-4 overall, 2-8-2 WCHA), a shorthander early in the period and the game-winner with 7 minutes 42 seconds remaining.

Wisconsin (14-5-5, 8-3-5) wasted two goals from freshman defenseman Ryan Suter, one of three Badgers who joined Eaves in Finland, and saw its school-record WCHA unbeaten streak end at 13 dames.

About the only highlight for Wisconsin was that it maintained sole possession of first place in the WCHA with 21 points, one point ahead of surging North Dakota (15-2-2, 9-1-2).

Eaves was livid with his players after their lackluster effort in a 4-2 victory Friday. On Saturday, he calmly noted his cohesiveness team's had been disrupted because the head coach, Suter, Jake Dowell and Jeff Likens had missed four games while at the world junior championships.

"This group of players hasn't had a quality practice as the team as we know it for a long time," said Eaves, whose UW team went 2-1-1 during the absence of the quartet.

Perhaps, but senior defenseman Dan Boeser thought such talk sounded like an excuse.

"We played four games without those guys," Boeser said. "Them coming back and having one or two practices threw a curveball for the rest of the guys, but that's no excuse for the way that we played."

They played fitfully, from the opening face-off Saturday.

Goaltender Bernd Bruckler made several solid saves early to keep the game scoreless and UW's offense finally awoke at 8:14 of the first period when Suter beat Tech freshman goaltender Bryce Luker with a soft goal from the left wing, near the goal line.

However, Bruckler started the team's slide when he lost his poise behind his net and punched Tech captain Brett Engelhardt in the face, at 4:56 of the second period. That resulted in a Tech power play, and Engelhardt got back at Bruckler by beating him with a slap shot from the top of the left face-off circle just 49 seconds after the penalty.

January 11, 2004 Sunday

SPORTS; BRIEF; Pg. 6C

Badgers' streak ends at 13

From news services

Chris Conner scored a pair of goals in the third period to give Michigan Tech to a 3-2 upset victory over No. 3 Wisconsin on Saturday night in Madison, Wis.

The loss snapped the Badgers' school-record unbeaten streak in Western Collegiate Hockey Association games at 13.

But it was an incident when the teams met Friday night that might have sparked the upset.

Conner improved his teamleading goal total to 17 with his second goal of the third period, breaking a 2-2 tie with 7:42 remaining and giving the last-place Huskies a victory over the firstplace Badgers.

On Friday night, Michigan Tech had a potential tying goal waved off with less than four minutes left in a 4-2 loss to the Badgers. Afterward, Wisconsin defenseman Tom Gilbert said it appeared his team was playing like it was a bye week against the Huskies, whom the Badgers had beaten in 16 of 17 previous games before Saturday.

"For them to sav it was a bye weekend gets us fired up and ready to play," said Conner, who tied a school record with his fifth short-handed goal of the season to give the Huskies a 2-1 lead earlier in the third period.

"We showed them that we're not a pushover."

Bryce Luker made 33 saves for the Huskies, who broke a fourgame losing streak and won for the first time in seven games.

Defenseman Ryan Suter scored twice for the Badgers. Bernd Bruckler made 18 saves and saw his personal unbeaten streak end at 15 games. The Badgers are 2-2-1 in their past five games.

Conner gave the Huskies a 2-1 lead with his short-handed goal 6:52 into the third period. Suter tied it with his second goal of the game just 2:43 later.

But Conner responded, roofing a wrist shot over a fallen Bruckler an additional 2:43 later to give Michigan Tech a split of the two-game series. The Badgers outshot the Huskies 35-21.

"They outworked us," Wisconsin coach Mike Eaves said. "We could have won both games, too. The difference-maker tonight was Mr. Conner. As much as we tried to highlight when he was on the ice to our people, he was the difference-maker. Good for him.'

Minn.-Duluth 6, Denver 3: Minnesota-Duluth scored three goals in the third period to win at Denver.

UMD goalie Isaac Reichmuth held Denver scoreless in the final period, and Evan Schwabe, Jesse Unklesbay and Luke Stauffacher scored to give the Bulldogs the victory.

UMD's Tim Stapleton scored 1:13 into the first period. Denver rebounded with goals by J.D. Corbin and Connor James before the period ended.

North Dakota 2, Alaska Anchorage 2: Goalie Chris King stopped 42 shots to help Alaska Anchorage gain a tie with top-ranked North Dakota at Grand Forks, N.D.

North Dakota, which improved its unbeaten streak to 11 games, dominated play with a 44-17 advantage in shots on goal but had trouble getting the puck past King. The Sioux failed to score on five power plays.

Quinn Fylling got the equalizer for North Dakota at 12:00 into the third period when he batted a centering pass from Matt Jones past King. Fylling also assisted on Rory McMahon's goal in the second period.

WOMEN

Minnesota State (Mankato) 4, UConn 0: Minnesota State (Mankato) completed a weekend sweep of the Connecticut Huskies on Saturday at Storrs, Conn. The Mavericks matched a team record six-game unbeaten streak set last season. Mankato won 5-2 Friday night.

Senior goaltender Shari Vogt of Richmond, Minn., posted her first shutout of the season, stopping 16 shots. The Mavericks held UConn scoreless on six powerplay opportunities.

St. Cloud State 3, Bemidji State 1:Roxanne Stang had two goals and an assist to spark the Huskies to a victory over visiting Bemidji State.

January 11, 2004 Sunday, SECOND AND THIRD Edition

Madison: SPORTS; Pg. E1

LAST-PLACE TECH TOPS NO. 3 UW CHRIS CONNER SCORES TWICE IN THE THIRD PERIOD FOR THE LOWLY HUSKIES, WHO GET THEIR FIRST ROAD WIN

Andy Baggot Wisconsin State Journal

Before Chris Conner could show his postgame face in public Saturday night, he had to scrounge up a pair of gym shorts and a T-shirt.

In other words, he was as exposed just as the University of Wisconsin men's hockey team was during its latest performance at the Kohl Center.

Conner. the wunderkind winger for Michigan Tech, scored a pair of third-period goals to fuel a 3-2 Western Collegiate Hockey Association upset of third-ranked UW before 12,132 mostly shocked onlookers.

The Badgers (14-5-5 overall, 8-3-5 in the WCHA) still have sole possession of first place, but their school-record league unbeaten streak ended at 13 and their cornerstone traits of playing harder and being smarter than the next guy were left noticeably eroded.

Asked to pinpoint the shortcomings of his club this night, UW coach Mike Eaves was direct.

"We can work at a higher level." he said. "At times when we worked hard, we weren't as smart as we needed to be."

UW lost its first league game since Oct.18 because the seeds of disrespect and dysfunction, planted during its controversial 4-2 win in the series opener Friday, popped out of the soil this night.

Tech (4-12-4, 2-8-2) came into the weekend anchored in last place, winless on the road and losers of 15 of the past 16 games against the Badgers. Those realities were not lost on those in the home dressing room.

After the win Friday, in which the Huskies had a potential tying goal waved off in the third period, UW defenseman Tom Gilbert said he had viewed the series as "an easy bye." That did not sit well with Conner & Co.

"For them to say it was a bye weekend (with) us gets us fired up and ready to play," Conner said. "We showed them we're not a pushover."

Conner, a sophomore listed at 5-foot-7 and 175 pounds, was the featured demonstrator.

The game was tied at 1 early in the third and the Badgers were on their fourth power play of the night when Conner pounced on a turnover at the blue line and zoomed toward UW goaltender Bernd Bruckler (18 saves).

Conner had three Badgers hot on his trail, including defenseman Ryan Suter, who was on his right hip, trying to disrupt Conner's rhythm and dislodge the puck. But Conner got off a shot that beat Bruckler just before the rushing mass of bodies knocked the cage off its moorings. It was the fifth shorthander of the season for Conner, tying a school record.

After Suter answered with his second goal of the game just less than 3 minutes later, Conner came through again. With all sorts of time and space below the right circle, he took a pass from winger Frank Werner and beat Bruckler with a top-shelf wrister at 12:18.

Tech also got a power-play goal from team captain Brett Engelhardt, who is from Sheboygan, as well as a 33-save effort from goaltender Bryce Luker. But it was Conner who was the ignitor with his 16th and 17th goals of the season.

"He is, I think, the most exciting player in college hockey," first-year Huskies coach Jamie Russell said.

Conner combines breakaway speed, savvy, strength and exceptional puck-handling skills. One of his scoring forays during the Great Lakes Invitational last month was spectacular enough to earn him a place on ESPN "SportsCenter."

"He's dangerous," UW winger Nick Licari said of Conner. "A

guy like that, you need to respect."

Conner was asked if he thought he is regarded among the nation's best college players. He shrugged off the question.

"I just go out there to have fun, play my game," he said.

Eaves said the Badgers played harder than they did Friday, but continued to be bogged down by circumstances related to a remix of the lineup. Not only were Suter, center Jake Dowell and defenseman Jeff Likens reinserted after missing four games with Team USA in the World Junior Championships, there was the fact that the Badgers have not really practiced hard together since mid-December.

"At times, as a team we were dysfunctional in our systems," Eaves said.

UW senior defenseman and tri-captain Dan Boeser was asked if he and his teammates felt they were in sync against Tech.

"Not really, and it obviously showed," he said. "But that's no excuse."

Michigan Tech 0 1 2 -- 3 Wisconsin 1 0 1 -- 2

First period: W -- Suter 2 (Joudrey, Carlson), 8:14. Penalties: None.

Second period: MT -- Engelhardt 4 (Murphy, Conner), 5:45 (pp). Penalties: Suter, W, :51; Bruckler, W (served by Boeser), 4:56; Radovich, MT, 7:43; Dora, MT, 13:59; Scott, MT, 19:03; Werner, MT, 19:07; Carlson, W, 19:07.

Third period: MT -- Conner 16, 6:52 (sh); W -- Suter 3 (Talafous, Gilbert), 9:35; MT --Conner 17 (Werner), 12:18. Penalties: Scott, MT, 5:55; Engelhardt, MT, 5:55; Bourque, W, 5:55.

Saves: MT (Luker 13-11-9) 33; W (Bruckler 9-5-4) 18.

Power play: MT 1 for 2; W 0 for 4. Att. -- 12,132.

EDITOR-NOTES: A similar version of the story appeared in the first edition on page E1. The headline was the same.

January 10, 2004, Saturday, BC cycle

Michigan Tech 88, Hillsdale 69

HOUGHTON, Mich.

Josh Buettner's 33 points led Michigan Tech to an 88-69 win over Hillsdale on Saturday.

The Huskies (9-2, 3-1 Great Lakes Intercollegiate) took the lead for good on Jason Marcotte's three-point shot at 9:40 of the second half, making the score 60-57. Marcotte finished with 23 points in the game.

Michigan Tech led by 21 with just more than two minutes remaining in the game.

Cory Coe and Tom Farmer combined for 28 points for Hillsdale (9-6, 2-3). Marius Kliokys added 10 points off the bench for the Chargers.

The Huskies trailed, 42-38, at the half.

January 10, 2004, Saturday, BC cycle

Michigan Tech 3, No. 3 Wisconsin 2

MADISON, Wis.

Chris Conner scored a pair of go-ahead goals in the third period, carrying Michigan Tech to a 3-2 upset victory over No. 3 Wisconsin on Saturday night.

Conner's second goal put the Huskies ahead 3-2 with 7:42 remaining.

Bryce Luker made 33 saves to backstop Michigan Tech (4-12-4, 2-8-2 Western Collegiate Hockey Association), which broke a four-game losing streak and won for just the second time in its last 18 games against Wisconsin (14-5-5, 8-3-5).

Defenseman Ryan Suter had two goals for the Badgers, whose school-record stretch of unbeaten league games ended at 13.

Conner gave the Huskies a 2-1 lead with his fifth short-handed goal of the season. Suter tied it with his second score of the game just 2:43 later.

But Conner responded, roofing a wrist shot over fallen Wisconsin goaltender Bernd Bruckler another 2:43 later to give Michigan Tech a split of the two-game series.

The Badgers won 4-2 on Friday.

Conner has 17 goals for the season, a team high. Bruckler made 18 saves, but his personal unbeaten streak ended at 15 games.

The Badgers outshot the Huskies 35-21.

Suter gave the Badgers a 1-0 lead in the first period, banking a shot from behind the goal line off Luker's stick and into the net.

Michigan Tech's Brett Engelhardt evened things in the second period on a power play he drew when he was hit in the face by Bruckler.

January 10, 2004, Saturday, BC cycle

Michigan Tech 3, Wisconsin 2

MADISON, Wis.

Chris Conner scored a pair of goals, including the game-winner, in Michigan Tech's 3-2 upset of No. 3 Wisconsin Saturday night.

But it was an incident when the teams met the night before that may have been the spark for the upset.

Conner improved his team-leading goal total to 17 with his second goal of the third period, breaking a 2-2 tie with 7:42 remaining and giving the last-place Huskies a win over the first-place team in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association.

On Friday night, Michigan Tech (4-12-4, 2-8-2 WCHA) had the potential tying goal waved off with under four minutes left in a 4-2 loss to the Badgers. Afterward, Wisconsin defenseman Tom Gilbert said it appeared his team was playing like it was a bye week against the Huskies, whom the Badgers (14-5-5, 8-3-5) had beaten in 16 of the 17 games in the series before Saturday.

"For them to say it was a bye weekend gets us fired up and ready to play," said Conner, who tied a school record with his fifth short-handed goal of the season to give the Huskies a 2-1 lead earlier in the third period.

"We showed them that we're not a pushover."

Bryce Luker made 33 saves for the Huskies, who broke a four-game losing streak and won for the first time in seven games.

Huskies coach Jamie Russell said it was a great reward for a team that hasn't had many rewards this season.

"When we went in and talked to the guys, I said, 'Don't be denied tonight. You do what it takes to win,' " Russell said.

Defenseman Ryan Suter scored twice for the Badgers, whose unbeaten string in league games ended at 13.

Bernd Bruckler made 18 saves in seeing his personal unbeaten streak end at 15 games.

The Badgers are 2-2-1 in their last five games.

"I think we respect every team in our league. I think this is the best league in the country, and on any given night any team can beat anyone," Wisconsin defenseman Dan Boeser said. "They showed that tonight."

Conner gave the Huskies a 2-1 lead with his short-handed goal 6:52 into the third period. Suter tied it with his second score of the game just 2:43 later.

But Conner responded, roofing a wrist shot over a fallen Bruckler another 2:43 later to give Michigan Tech a split of the two-game series.

The Badgers outshot the Huskies 35-21. Conner had five of Michigan Tech's shots.

"They outworked us," Wisconsin coach Mike Eaves said. "We could have won both games, too. The difference-maker tonight was Mr. Conner. As much as we tried to highlight when he was on the ice to our people, he was the difference-maker. Good for him."

Suter gave the Badgers a 1-0 lead in the first period, banking a shot from behind the goal line off Luker's stick and into the net.

Michigan Tech's Brett Engelhardt evened things in the second period on a power play he drew when he was hit in the face by Bruckler.

It was the second goal of the weekend for Engelhardt, who would have had the tying goal on Friday had it not been disallowed. The Huskies fed off the pain of that loss on Saturday.

"This is a huge win for us," said Conner, who also had an assist on Engelhardt's goal. "We've had some tough breaks lately, the whole first half. Even last night, we had a tough break on that goal called back. Tonight, we knew we had to come out and play strong. We played very well, got the breaks and kept working."

Capital Times

January 10, 2004 Saturday, ALL Editions

CRUISE, CONTROL: BADGERS COAST INTO FIRST DISALLOWED GOAL SINKS TECH RALLY

Todd D. Milewski The Capital Times

To be certain, there were accomplishments. First place. Another school record. Gaining a win total greater than all of last season by the second weekend in January.

But the University of Wisconsin hockey team left the Kohl Center Friday night knowing it had stolen one from Michigan Tech. The Badgers built a 3-0 lead after the first period, then spent the next 40 minutes in what appeared to be a lackadaisical stupor, watching as their victory was saved only by a referee's decision to disallow an apparent tying goal in the last four minutes.

It was no time to celebrate, not after the third-ranked Badgers sweated through a 4-2 victory over a team that they admitted they took too lightly. They would have had plenty of cause, most notably the move into sole possession of first place in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association, if they had played the final two periods the way they did the first.

"It doesn't mean as much, that's for sure, because of the way we played," UW coach Mike Eaves said. "So, those are nice things to talk about, but we have to be concerned with the way we played.

"We were embarrassed in our own barn. We were outworked in our own barn."

Wisconsin goaltender Bernd Bruckler made 32 saves and was the other saving grace for the Badgers, who in essence needed a follow-up question by referee Pete Friesma to hold on.

With 3 minutes, 42 seconds remaining and the UW clinging to a 3-2 lead, the Huskies' Brett Engelhardt sent a centering pass to the front of the net, where it glanced off Bruckler's stick, off defenseman Tom Gilbert's body and toward the goal.

Bruckler made a swipe at the puck as it went toward the goal line. He said he didn't know whether the puck actually crossed the line, but the goal judge lit up the red light to signal a goal. Friesma, however, never signaled a goal, and motioned that he didn't see the play and had to confer with the goal judge.

The first indication the crowd of 10,541 got that the tying goal was no good was when Engelhardt, the Huskies' captain, threw his head back in exasperation while getting the verdict from Friesma. The explanation Michigan Tech coach Jamie Russell said he got from Friesma was that the referee asked the goal judge two questions:

First, was it a goal? The goal judge responded in the affirmative. The second question probed deeper: Did you see any space between the goal line and the puck, which would confirm the goal? It's that query that caused the goal judge to indicate he wasn't totally sure.

Madison, WI: SPORTS; Pg. 1C

The majority of the evidence seems to point to the puck crossing the line, which is what Russell's players near the net reported to him.

"They flat out said it went in," Russell said.

So the Badgers can consider themselves extremely lucky to be in first place, two points ahead of idle St. Cloud State and North Dakota, which has four games in hand on Wisconsin.

Up 3-0 after one period, the Badgers appeared on their way to a successful reunion. Eaves and freshmen Ryan Suter, Jeff Likens and Jake Dowell were making their first appearances in a UW game since leaving to join the United States team at the World Junior Championship just before Christmas.

The UW also set a school record with its 13th straight league game without a loss. With their 14th win of the season, the Badgers (14-4-5 overall, 8-2-5 WCHA) passed the win total of last season.

Rene Bourque got out of a three-game point drought in a hurry, finding the net just 1:19 into the game. Ross Carlson scored his second goal in the three games since he made his UW debut. Gilbert had three points and his fourth goal in the last five games, the eventual game-winner that came with 0.4 seconds left in the first period.

But the disconcerting part about the final two periods, when Frank Werner and Engelhardt cut into the lead for Tech (3-12-4, 1-8-2), washes out the good feelings that normally would come from such a list of notables.

"We just sat back and said, I guess our job is done,'" Eaves said. "And then we had to scramble like hell to win a game. Shame on us."

Gilbert said the Badgers saw the last-place Huskies had only four league points and thought the weekend was going to be "an easy bye," judging by the way they played after the first period.

"You can kind of say it was a lucky win to keep the streak going again," Gilbert said. "Obviously, the streak's important to us, and we should take this as a lesson for tomorrow night."

EDITOR-NOTE: E-mail: tmilewski@madison.com

GRAPHIC: MICHELLE STOCKER/THE CAPITAL TIMES: Wisconsin senior forward Rene Bourgue scores the first goal of the game Michigan against Tech goalie Cam Ellsworth just 1 minute, 19 seconds into the first period Friday night at the Kohl Center. UW hockey coach Mike Eaves walks onto the Kohl Center ice Friday night during a special presentation to honor his U.S. team's gold medal victory at the World Junior Championship earlier this week.

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Detroit Free Press

January 10, 2004 Saturday 2 EDITION

COLLEGE HOCKEY: Wolverines rally past Buckeyes

FREE PRESS STAFF AND NEWS SERVICES

Jason Ryznar scored the winning goal early in the third period Friday and Michigan rallied past Ohio State, 3-2, at Yost Arena.

Eric Nystrom gave Michigan the lead at 4:32 of the first period.

Ohio State came back and took a 2-1 lead on goals from Rod Pelley and Dan Knapp 1 7 seconds apart early in the second period.

Milan Gajic, who assisted on Nystrom's goal, tied the score for the Wolverines at 17:51 of the second period.

Ryznar scored the winner at 6:23 for U-M (13-7-1, 8-4-1 Central Collegiate Hockey Association).

The Buckeyes are 13-8-1, 8-5-1.

Michigan State 2, Massachusetts-Lowell 0: Dominic Vicari made 25 saves, including 11 in the third period, for the host Spartans. Michigan State (12-10-1) got goals from Lee Falardeau and Adam Nightingale in the first period. Chris Davidson made 24 saves for Massachusetts-Lowell (10-9-3).

Bowling Green 5, Notre Dame 4 (OT): Host Bowling Green (5-10-6, 3-7-3 CCHA) scored the final three goals, including James Unger's winner at 4:32 of overtime. Unger also had two assists. Notre Dame is 10-7-2, 7-6-2.

Northern Michigan 5, Miami (Ohio) 2: Jamie Milam's three-point effort led host Northern (10-8-1, 8-7-0 CCHA). Miami is 11-8-2, 8-4-1.

Western Michigan 4, Alaska-Fairbanks 2: Patrick Dwyer scored twice and host Western (10-9-3, 6-6-2 CCHA) got all of its goals in the third period. Fairbanks is 9-10-0, 8-7-0.

Wisconsin 4, **Michigan Tech** 2: Host Wisconsin (14-4-5, 8-2-5) set a school record with its 13th straight WCHA game without a loss. Frank Werner and Brett Engelhardt scored for Tech (3-12-4, 1-8-2).

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

January 10, 2004 Saturday FINAL EDITION

SPORTS; Pg. 10C

UW doesn't impress its toughest critic

JEFF POTRYKUS jpotrykus@journalsentinel.co m

Madison -- Mike Eaves should have been giddy.

His third-ranked University of Wisconsin hockey team. playing with its full complement of players for the first time since mid-December, had extended its Western Collegiate Hockey Association unbeaten streak to a school-record 13 games and moved into sole possession of first place with a 4-2 victory over last-place Michigan Tech.

Yet the demanding Eaves was seething after leaving the ice Friday night at the Kohl Center.

"There were three things in that game that were great," the coach said. "We had a great start. We had great goaltending. And there was great work ethic by Michigan Tech in the second and third periods.

"We were embarrassed in our own barn."

Friday should have been a night of celebration.

Minutes before the opening face-off, school officials honored Eaves and freshmen Ryan Suter, Jeff Likens and Jake Dowell, who recently helped the United States win a historic gold medal in the World Junior championships.

Yet after building a 3-0 lead on first-period goals by senior winger Rene Bourque, freshman winger Ross Carlson and sophomore defenseman Tom Gilbert, the Badgers' play deteriorated dramatically over the final two periods.

"We kind of came into this game (thinking) it was a bye," said Gilbert, who had a goal and two assists. "That's the way we played in the second and third (periods)."

goaltender Bernd Junior Bruckler, who recorded 25 of his 32 saves in the final two periods, made several spectacular saves and extended his unbeaten streak to a school-record 15 games (10-0-5).

However, with his teammates sagging, Bruckler allowed goals midway through the second and third periods and nearly allowed the tying goal at 16 minutes 18 seconds of the final period.

A centering pass was redirected on net and the puck trickled behind Bruckler, who turned and dived in an effort to get his stick on the puck.

The goal judge turned on the red light, signaling the puck had crossed the goal line, but referee Pete Friesma didn't see the puck cross the goal line.

TV replays were inconclusive, Friesma eventually waved off the goal and UW's Robbie Earl closed the scoring with an empty-net goal with 5 seconds left.

"It was impossible for me to tell if it went in or not." Bruckler said.

Two things were certain:

UW (14-4-5 overall, 8-2-5 WCHA) moved into sole possession of first place in the league, two points ahead of idle St. Cloud State (12-7-3, 8-5-3).

And Eaves was disheartened by his team's effort.

"I don't know how much we respected Michigan Tech," Eaves said. "We had to scramble like hell to win the game.

"Shame on us."

Wisconsin State Journal

January 10, 2004 Saturday, ALL Editions

Madison: SPORTS; Pg. C1

UW ALONE ATOP WCHA BUT EAVES, PLAYERS WELCOMED BACK WITH LACKLUSTER VICTORY

Andy Baggot Wisconsin State Journal

He appeared composed and no worse for the wear, but if you looked closely Friday night you could see powder burns all over University of Wisconsin men's hockey coach Mike Eaves.

Based on his analysis after UW lucked into a 4-2 Western Collegiate Hockey Association win over Michigan Tech, Eaves had just gone off in the home dressing room at the Kohl Center.

"We were embarrassed in our own barn," he said.

The tone was terse, the words seemingly forced through clenched teeth.

"I don't know how much we respected Michigan Tech," Eaves said. "We had to scramble like hell to win a game. Shame on us."

The first-place Badgers played 20 solid minutes, built a 3-0 lead and decided to email in the rest, much to the chagrin of the announced crowd of 10,541. The lastplace Huskies, meanwhile, fought gamely over the second and third periods only to be psychologically squashed by a questionable decision by referee Pete Friesma.

"It's a lesson that we had better put in our file cabinet and hopefully not have to use again," Eaves said.

The overall effort served to detract from the big-picture effects of the triumph. Thirdranked UW (14-4-5 overall, 8-2-5 WCHA) moved into sole possession of first place in the league heading into the series finale tonight. It also set a school record for the longest unbeaten streak in WCHA play (8-0-5).

"Those are nice things to talk about, but we have to be concerned with the way we played," Eaves said.

Only Bernd Bruckler (32 saves) performed well for the Badgers. En route to setting a school record for the longest unbeaten streak by a goaltender (10-0-5), he thwarted two breakaways in the second and made a highlight reel stop on a short-handed 2-on-1 by Tech early in the third.

The first 20 minutes produced two distinct impressions: The Badgers appeared energized by the return of Eaves, center Jake Dowell and defensemen Jeff Likens and Ryan Suter -they missed the previous four games while helping Team USA to the gold medal in the World Junior Championships in Finland. They also appeared totally dominant.

No one from Tech (3-12-4, 1-8-2) appeared to try too hard, whether the task called for backchecking, hitting someone or going hard to the net. UW took full advantage of the resistence factor courtesy of goals by winger Rene Bourque, winger Ross Carlson (power play) and defenseman Tom Gilbert (power play).

The goal by Gilbert came with less than 1 second remaining in the opening session and seemed to reinforce the mistaken notion that the Badgers had an easy night ahead. After all, UW handily swept the series in November and had beaten the Huskies in 15 of the previous 16 meetings coming into the weekend.

"It was kind of like an easy bye, it seemed like," Gilbert said.

The clubs switched roles for the final 40 minutes. The Badgers did everything halfhearted. The Huskies followed the lead of their captain, winger Brett Engelhardt of Sheboygan, and clawed their way back into it.

Winger Frank Werner capped an odd-man rush by beating Bruckler midway through the second period. Engelhardt made it 3-2 midway through the third when he hummed a one-timer from the left circle past Bruckler on the power play.

With under 4 minutes left, it appeared Engelhardt had brought the Huskies even. He threw a centering pass on net from the right circle that

Bruckler got a stick on. The puck went airborne, hit Gilbert and appeared to trickle back and into the net as the red goal light went on.

Friesma was not in position to see whether the puck crossed the line, so he was left to quiz the goal judge.

"(Friesma) told me he asked the goal judge two questions," Tech coach Jamie Russell related. "Did it go in? ... Was there any white between the puck and the goal line?"

The goal judge said he thought the puck went in, but could not answer the second definitively.

"Based on that," Russell said, "(Friesma) disallowed the goal."

It was a decision that left both coaches less than pleased with the outcome.

GRAPHIC: Steve Apps State Journal: Rene Bourque rips a shot past Huskies goalie Cam Ellsworth just 1 minute, 19 seconds into the game Friday night at the Kohl Center. UW scored twice more in the first period. Clockwise from left, UWs Tom Gilbert, Andrew Joudrey, Robbie Earl and Ryan Suter celebrate Gilberts power-play goal with less than 1 second left in the first period Friday night. The Badgers held on for a 4-2 victory.

January 9, 2004, Friday, BC cycle

No. 3 Wisconsin 4, Michigan Tech 2

MADISON, Wis.

Rene Bourque broke a three-game pointless skid with his seventh goal of the season, and No. 3 Wisconsin set a school record for the longest stretch of games without a conference loss by beating Michigan Tech 4-2 Friday night.

Ross Carlson and Tom Gilbert had first-period goals for the Badgers, who haven't lost in their last 13 Western Collegiate Hockey Association games. They are 8-0-5 in that stretch - a streak that is a game longer than the mark set by the 1976-77 Wisconsin team that went on to win the national championship.

Bernd Bruckler made 32 saves for Wisconsin (14-4-5, 8-2-5), which took over sole possession of first place in the WCHA.

Frank Werner and Brett Engelhardt scored for the Huskies (3-12-4, who 1-8-2),have lost four in a row and are winless in their last six games (0-5-1).

Michigan Tech had a potential tying goal waved off with 3:42 remaining in the third period.

Bourgue, Wisconsin's leading scorer, ended his drought just 1:19 into the first period.

Carlson scored his second goal in just his third game for the Badgers with two minutes left, and Gilbert, a defenseman, scored his fourth goal in the last five games with 0.4 seconds remaining in the first period.

Michigan Tech, which is 0-9-2 away from home this season, pulled starting goaltender Cam Ellsworth after the first period. He stopped 16 of the 19 shots he faced. Bruce Luker made 21 saves over the last two periods.

January 9, 2004, Friday, BC cycle

Wisconsin 4, Michigan Tech 2

MADISON, Wis.

Michigan Tech coach Jamie Russell was sure his team had an equalizing goal. Wisconsin players weren't so sure the Huskies didn't.

But the potential game-tying goal by Brett Engelhardt with under four minutes left Friday night was waved off, and the third-ranked Badgers held on for a 4-2 victory and sole possession of first place in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association.

Defenseman Tom Gilbert had a goal and two assists for the Badgers, who set a school r ecord with their 13th straight league game without a loss.

Gilbert was one of the central players in the disallowed goal that could have tied the score for Michigan Tech.

Engelhardt sent a centering pass toward the front of the net, where Wisconsin goaltender Bernd Bruckler got his stick on it and deflected it up off Gilbert, who was retreating to guard the crease area.

It rebounded off Gilbert and dropped near the goal line.

Bruckler made a swipe at the puck but the goal judge turned on the red light to signal a goal.

Referee Pete Friesma didn't signal a score, however, and after consulting with the goal judge indicated there was no goal.

Russell said Friesma told him the goal judge thought it was a goal, but couldn't be sure.

Bruckler said he also wasn't sure whether the puck crossed the goal line, but the Huskies players who were near the net had a more firm belief.

"They flat out said it was in," said Russell, whose team rallied from a 3-0 deficit with a Frank Werner goal in the second period and a power-play score by Engelhardt in the third.

"I thought we showed a lot of character and played well in the second and third periods. The guys are frustrated with not getting results."

Wisconsin, which jumped out to the 3-0 lead in the first 20 minutes, moved out of a tie with idle St. Cloud State for first place in the WCHA.

The Badgers (14-4-5, 8-2-5 WCHA) also passed the 1976-77 team for the longest unbeaten streak in league play.

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But Wisconsin coach Mike Eaves was frustrated with his team's play in the final two periods.

"It's embarassing, the way we did not get the crowd into the game in the second and third because of the way we played," he said. "And I hope they feel that. They should. Because the type of team that we want to be, the way we want to play, where we want to go, the type of team that played in the second and third period doesn't get there.

"I'm happy that we got the points, disappointed in the way we played. We'll see tomorrow whether we've learned our lesson and moved on."

Rene Bourque, who is tied for Wisconsin's scoring lead, ended a three-game point drought with a goal just 1:19 into the game that kicked off the Badgers' three-goal first period.

Ross Carlson scored his second goal in just his third game for the Badgers with two minutes left and Gilbert scored his fourth goal in the last five games with 0.4 seconds remaining.

Michigan Tech (3-12-4, 1-8-2), which is 0-9-2 away from home this season, pulled starting goaltender Cam Ellsworth after the first period. He stopped 16 of the 19 shots he faced. Bryce Luker made 21 saves over the last two periods.

Robbie Earl added an empty-net goal with 5.3 seconds left to put the game away.

Bruckler finished with 32 saves for the Badgers.

The Huskies, who lost their fourth in a row and are 0-5-1 in their last six games, fell to 1-16 in their last 17 games against Wisconsin.

Friday's game marked the first time since the first game of the season that **Michigan** Tech's Chris Conner, Taggart Desmet and Colin Murphy haven't played on the same line.

That trio has produced 34 of the Huskies' 53 goals this season. Murphy had the only point of the night by that group, an assist on Engelhardt's goal.

Before the game, Wisconsin honored four members of the U.S. team that won the gold medal at the World Junior Championship in Finland on Monday. Eaves, center Jake Dowell and defensemen Ryan Suter and Jeff Likens were recognized at center ice for their efforts, which culminated with a 4-3 victory over Canada in the gold-medal game in Helsinki.

Detroit Free Press

January 9, 2004 Friday 3 EDITION

MEN'S ROUNDUP: Izzo dismisses Cotton but leaves door open

BY JEMELE HILL, FREE PRESS SPORTS WRITER EAST LANSING

Brandon Cotton couldn't make up his mind, so Michigan State coach Tom Izzo did it for him.

Izzo said Thursday that Cotton, a freshman point guard from Detroit DePorres, was no longer part of the team, though Cotton remains undecided about whether he will transfer.

"If you want to be a part of the team, you have to be a part of the team," Izzo said. "Every day, I have to keep saying, 'I don't know. I don't know.' I'm trying to deal with a 19-yearold kid that's been through a lot, and I'm trying to be as delicate as I can. It just kept dragging on."

Cotton has been dealing with the shooting death of an uncle nearly two weeks ago, as well as other personal problems. Neither Izzo nor Cotton's mother, Monica Smith, would disclose what those problems were. Cotton also had issues with playing time, though he missed three weeks with a stress fracture. He appeared in three games, playing a total of 16 minutes.

Izzo has not released Cotton from his scholarship, which gives him the option of staying in school without playing basketball.

"I don't know exactly what he's going to do," Izzo said. "I'm not counting on him as a player right now. Whether he goes back to school, that's his decision."

Although Izzo isn't counting on Cotton this season, he didn't rule out the possibility that Cotton might return to the team. "I have no reason to close the door completely because he didn't do anything legally or morally wrong," Izzo said. "There were no issues like that. He's just been confused."

Top 25

Arizona 95, California 75: Hassan Adams scored 19 points for No. 3 Arizona (10-1, 1-0 Pac-10). The victory tied Lute Olson with Fred Enke for the most career wins, 509, by an Arizona coach. Marquise Kately led the visiting Golden Bears (5-7, 1-2) with 18 points.

Stanford 63, Arizona State 62: Josh Childress scored a rebound basket with 9.4 seconds to play, giving No. 4 Stanford (12-0, 3-0 Pac-10) the victory at Arizona State (6-5, 0-2).

Gonzaga 87, Pepperdine 70: Cory Violette scored 20 points to lead No. 16 Gonzaga (11-2, 1-0 West Coast). The host Waves (5-11, 0-1) lost their fifth in a row.

State

Chicago State 70, Oakland U. 69 (OT): Tony Weeden led Chicago State with 15 points, including a jumper that tied it at 65 as regulation time ran out. Cortney Scott led the (7-8, Grizzlies 1-2 Mid-Continent) with 19 points. Host Chicago State (2-14, 1-2) broke a 33-game losing streak to Division I schools.

Wayne State 53, Michigan Tech 48: Kendon Edwards had 12 points and seven rebounds to lead the Warriors (7-6, 3-2 Great Lakes) to the upset of the 11th-ranked Huskies in Houghton. Wayne State held Michigan Tech to 5-for-26 shooting in the first half and took a 24-14 lead at the break. Josh Buettner scored 15 points for the Huskies (8-2, 2-1).

Mercyhurst 81, Saginaw Valley State 54: Joshua Helm scored 32 points for Mercyhurst (10-4, 4-0 Great Lakes). Anthony Parker scored 21 points for the host Cardinals (8-5, 2-2).

Gannon 77, Lake Superior State 67: Geoff Husted led Gannon (12-2, 3-1 Great Lakes) with 30 points. Scott Jamison scored 16 points for the host Soo Lakers (5-8, 0-5).

Northern Michigan 86, Hillsdale 59: Billy Hill scored 20 points to lead host Northern Michigan (7-6, 1-3 Great Lakes). Cory Coe and Tom Farmer led Hillsdale (9-5, 2-2) with 17 points each.

Michigan Community College

Oakland CC 74, Alpena CC 71: Craig Myree had 19 points, five assists and six steals for the host Raiders (5-8, 1-2 MCCAA). Julius Barnett had 18 points, seven rebounds and five assists. Reserve Brent Wichtner led Alpena (3-9, 1-3) with 25 points, Drew Kemp had 23 points and

four steals, and Eric Muszynski had 16 rebounds.

Macomb CC 75, Kirtland CC 65: Tony Davis led host Macomb with 26 points and 17 rebounds, Philip Jones scored 18 points, and Gerald Dozie added 15 points and 15 rebounds.

Notebook: Concordia of Ann Arbor pulled off one of the biggest upsets in school history Wednesday night when the host Cardinals beat Cor-77-75. Cornernerstone, stone (14-4) is ranked No. 10 in NAIA Division II and had won its last four games by an average of 31.5 points. Concordia is 4-9. Junior guard Matt Mikel of Farmington led Concordia with 25 points and six assists. Sophomore forward Jared Adamson of St. Clair had 16 points and 13 rebounds.

Detroit Free Press

January 9, 2004 Friday 3 EDITION

WOMEN'S ROUNDUP: Vincent's last-second shot lifts Wayne State

FREE PRESS STAFF AND NEWS SERVICES

Senior guard Ebony Vincent drove into the lane and made a jumper with 1.9 seconds left, and Wayne State defeated Michigan Tech, 63-61, on Thursday, its first victory in Houghton in 16 seasons.

Before Vincent's shot, Michigan Tech committed a fivesecond violation after a time-out with 21.4 seconds left and the game tied.

Vincent scored 15 points and had nine assists. Forward Jodi Young led Wayne State with 22 points and six rebounds.

Wayne State is 4-8, 1-4 in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. Michigan Tech is 6-4, 2-1.

Forward Andrea Novak led Michigan Tech with 19 points and 10 rebounds.

Wayne State's last victory in Houghton was Jan. 9, 1988.

Lake Superior State 72, Gannon Becky 56: Marguardt-King scored 18 points and grabbed 12 rebounds as host Lake Superior State snapped Gannon's eightgame winning streak. Lake Superior State is 11-2, 4-1 GLIAC. Gannon is 10-4, 3-1.

Saginaw Valley State 53, Mercyhurst 44: Senior guard Jennifer Brogger scored 11 of her 20

points in host Saginaw Valley's 15-5 run in the final 3:30. Saginaw Valley is 10-3, 2-2 GLIAC. Mercyhurst is 0-11, 0-4.

Top 25

Duke 77, Georgia Tech 45: Alana Beard had 17 points as visiting Duke won its 46th consecutive game in the Atlantic Coast Conference. The No. 1 Blue Devils are 12-1, 3-0. The Yellow Jackets are 10-4, 1-1.

Tennessee 83, Arkansas 44: Brittany Jackson scored 14 points for host Tennessee in the Southeastern Conference opener for both teams. The No. 5 Lady Vols (11-1) extended their SEC home-game winning streak to 48. The Lady Razorbacks are 11-3.

Minnesota 72, Northwestern 40: Lindsay Whalen had 21 points for visiting Minnesota. The No. 6 Gophers (13-0, 2-0 Big Ten) are off to the best start in school history. Northwestern is 7-6, 0-2.

Stanford 60, Arizona State 46: Nicole Powell scored 29 points for No. 7 Stanford (12-2, 5-0 Pac-10) at home. Arizona State is 8-5, 2-2.

Louisiana Tech 110, Nevada 47: Trina Frierson scored 20 points as Louisiana Tech extended to 152 its home winning streak against unranked foes. The No. 8 Lady Techsters are 9-2, 2-1 Western Athletic. Nevada is 2-11, 1-2.

Penn State 92, Iowa 64: Kelly Mazzante scored 30 points for host Penn State. The No. 9 Lady Lions are 10-3, 3-0 Big Ten. Iowa is 7-6, 1-1.

Georgia 88, Mississippi State 70: Christi Thomas had 27 points and 15 rebounds to lead host Georgia in the SEC opener for both teams. No. 12 Georgia is 12-2. Mississippi State is 5-8.

North Carolina 58, North Carolina State 57: La'Tangela Atkinson scored the winner from underneath the basket with 3.9 seconds left for visiting North Carolina. Atkinson finished with 13 points. The No. 13 Tar Heels are 13-1, 3-0 ACC. N.C. State is 8-8, 0-3.

Illinois 52. Ohio State 51: Angelina Williams scored 15 points for host Illinois, which barely held on when Ohio State rallied from a 17point halftime deficit. No. 22 Ohio State is 9-3, 1-1 Big Ten. Illinois is 7-6. 1-1.

Michigan Community College

Oakland CC 76, Alpena CC 44: Guard Patrice Andre scored 20 points and forward Meagan Thornsberry 17 for host Oakland (7-6, 2-1). Alpena is 2-10, 0-4.

Schoolcraft 72, St. Clair CC 65: Center Crystal Pittman scored 22 points for host Schoolcraft (9-4, 3-0). Mary Czarnecki and Taleesha Hardy each scored 14 for St. Clair (7-7, 1-2).

Grand Forks Herald

January 9, 2004 Friday

North Dakota: OTHER

Sports briefs

Anchorage: When sophomore Curtis Glencross had a hat trick in a win over Colorado College on Dec. 12, it was the first three-goal game for an Anchorage player in nearly four years Assistant captain John Hopson, who had three goals and three assists in his last three games, has quit the team, citing the amount of ice time he was getting Sophomore defenseman Matt Hanson has been ruled academically ineligible.

Colorado College: Senior captain Colin Stuart, who missed nine games with a separated shoulder, returned in a big way with the game-winning goal and two assists in a 7-1 win over Wayne State. He then set up the game-winning goal in a 2 -1 win over St. Lawrence a night later.

Denver: The Pioneers finished the nonconference portion of their schedule with a 10-0 record by beating St. Lawrence and Wayne State. Goalie Adam Berkhoel posted his ninth career shutout in a 2-0 win over St. Lawrence and is second on DU's alltime list for shutouts. His four shutouts this season tie him for most in the nation.

Michigan **Tech**: Sophomore forward Chris Connor leads the nation in shorthanded goals with four Tech athletic director Rick Yeo played in the very first Great Lakes Invitational in 1965, has been both an assistant coach and head coach in it, and directed this year's tournament.

Minnesota: Senior forward Jon Waibel, from Baudette, Minn., has three goals in his last three games. They are his only goals of the season The Gophers drew a total of 20,478 fans for its two nonconference games with Boston University, the highest attendance in history for a series at Mariucci Arena.

Minnesota-Duluth: Junior wing Luke Stauffacher has started the year off right with five goals and two assists in his first two games in 2004. Included in that was his first college hat trick, the fourth by a Bulldog this season, the most since the 1995-96 season The Bulldogs are unbeaten (10-0) when leading after two periods but winless (0-4-2) when trailing after two.

Minnesota State-Mankato: Forward Shane Joseph has been the hottest Maverick, with seven goals and 12 assists for 19 points in his last 11 games All five goals scored by Mankato defensemen this year have been by freshmen.

St. Cloud State: An anonymous donor has given the Huskies money toward the purchase of new video scoreboards at the National Hockey Center. The boards, expected to cost \$500,000 and being built by Daktronics of Brookings, S.D., are not expected to be installed until next season The Huskies drew a season-high 6.685 fans each night for its series with UND.

Wisconsin: The Badgers have a WCHA unbeaten streak of 12 games (7-0-5), tying the school record set by the 1976-77 Badgers, who won 12 straight games on their way to an NCAA championship Senior defenseman Dan Boeser is one of 14 nominees for the Hockey Humanitarian Award and the only one on the list from the WCHA in men's hockey.

Wisconsin State Journal

January 9, 2004 Friday, ALL Editions

Madison: SPORTS; Pg. C2

UW MEN'S HOCKEY PREVIEW

Andy Baggot

Series vitals

* What: The third-ranked University of Wisconsin Badgers (13-4-5 overall, 7 -2-5 WCHA) vs. the Michigan Tech Huskies (3-11-4, 1-7-2) in a Western Collegiate Hockey Association series.

* When, where: 7:05p.m. today and Saturday, Kohl Center.

* TV: Today's game will shown live on UPN14 and tape-delayed on WHA (Ch.21) at 10:30p.m., with Aaron Sims and Ron Vincent. Saturday's game will be shown live on FSN, with Paul Braun and Tom Sagissor.

* Radio: WIBA (1310AM) with Brian Posick and Rob Andringa.

* Injuries: UW -- None reported. MT - -None reported.

* Did you know? The 14-game unbeaten streak for Bernd Bruckler (9-0-5) is the longest for a UW goaltender since Duane Derksen had a 14-gamer that spanned the 1989-90 and 1991-92 seasons (12-0-2).

* Tonight's tentative UW lineup: Forward -- Rene Bourque-Andrew Joudrey-Ryan MacMurchy, Robbie Earl-Jake Dowell-Ross Carlson, Nick Licari-Adam Burish-A.J. Degenhardt, Mark Heatley-Pete Talafous-John Funk. Defense -- Ryan SuterTom Gilbert, Andy Wozniewski-Jeff Likens, Dan Boeser-Jon Krall. Goal - -Bruckler.

Five things to know

* Gold-medal tribute: Dowell, Likens, Suter and UW coach Mike Eaves will be acknowledged in a pregame ceremony tonight for their roles in helping Team USA to the gold medal in the World Junior Championships.

* A vein of consistency: Boeser is working on an 11-game streak in which he has not had a negative plus/minus rating. He is plus-9 over that span.

* Primary threat: UW has allowed more than one power-play goal in a game only four times this season and the Huskies were one of the teams to do it. Tech has a respectable man-advantage unit, but the Badgers have killed off 60 of the last 63 opposing power plays spanning the last 13 games (.952).

* Run no more: Tech's high-octane line of Taggert Desmet, Colin Murphy and Chris Conner -- dubbed "Run DMC" -- is no longer making music together. Huskies coach Jamie Russell split them up in practice this week in an attempt to find a more-balanced offense.

* Hat trick: Tech is 0-8-2 on the road, 0 -6-2 on Olympic-sized surfaces and 1-15 against the Badgers since the 1999-2000 season.

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January 8, 2004, Thursday, BC cycle

Wayne, Mich. 53, Michigan Tech 48

HOUGHTON, Mich.

Kendon Edwards scored 12 points and pulled down seven rebounds to lead Wayne State to a 53-48 win over Michigan Tech on Thursday night.

Tarig Mills and Oscar Sanders added 11 and 10 points respectively for the Warriors (7 -6, 3-2 Great Lakes Intercollegiate). Darrell Evans had seven assists to go with his five points.

Josh Buettner led Michigan Tech (8-2, 2-1) with 15 points. Bob Evans added 14 points and Jason Marcotte chipped in 11 for the team.

Wayne State, which led 24-14 at the half, outshot Michigan Tech 48.8 percent to 34.7 percent in the game.

Wayne State had a 30-29 edge in rebounds.

Argus Leader

January 4, 2004 Sunday

Sioux Falls, SD: SPORTS; Pg. 1C

Jackrabbit men win battle of unbeatens

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Andy Moeller's free-throw line jumper gave South Dakota State a four-point lead with 15 seconds remaining as the Jackrabbits held on to defeat Michigan Tech 64-60 in a battle of unbeaten teams Saturday in Houghton, Mich.

Moeller had team highs of 15 points and 10 rebounds.

SDSU, ranked No. 3 in NCAA Division II, is 16-0. Tech, ranked 11th, fell to 8-1.

Tech had rallied from doubledigit deficits in each half and took the lead at 57-56 on two free throws by Bob Evans. But back-to-back baskets by Jared DeJong and a field goal by Derrick Schantz pushed the Jacks on top 62-57.

Evans then hit a 3-pointer, cutting it to 62-60.

Schantz and DeJong each had 12 points whille freshman Ben Beran had 10 points and nine rebounds.

A 3-pointer by Marquise Richardson at the buzzer gave the Jacks a 37-29 halftime lead after Tech had rallied from a 30-17 deficit to get

within 32-29. SDSU opened a 43-29 lead following two free throws by Beran with 16:11 to play, then Tech's defense led the comeback that saw the Huskies tie the game at 49. SDSU had just four secondhalf field goals before DeJong scored at the 3:32 mark, putting the Jacks on top 58-57. The Jacks finished the second half 8-for-22, 36.4 percent.

But the Jacks still outshot the Huskies 46 percent to 31.1 percent, and SDSU had a 40-33 rebounding advantage.

Josh Buettner led Tech with 24 points while Evans had 10.

The Jacks were against shorthanded as neither Matt Jones nor Josh Cerveny made the trip to Michigan.

SDSU will open North Central Conference play at home next weekend, hosting the University of South Dakota on Friday and Nebraska-Omaha on Saturday.

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE (16-0)

Derrick Schantz 3-8 5-8 12, Joe Green 2-5 0-0 5, Jared DeJong 6-8 0-0 12, Andy Moeller 6-17 1-2 15, Marquise Richardson 2-5 2-2 7, Jake Wenig 0-3 0-1 0, Jared Gass 1-1 0-0 1, Calvin Melaney 0-0 1-2 1. Ben Beran 3-4 4-6 10. Totals 23-50 13-21.

MICHIGAN TECH (8-1)

Jeff McHenry 1-3 1-2 4, Josh Buettner 8-21 7-9 24, Eddie Ross -0 0-0 0, Bob Evans 2-7 4-4 10, Jason Marcotte 2-13 0-0 6, Stephen Folson 0-1 0-0 0, Kelsey Fors 2-6 0-0 6, Radayl Richardson 1-7 2-4 4, Jason maes 3-3 0-0 6. Totals 19-61 14-19 60.

Halftime - SDSU 37, MTU 29. 3-pt FG - SDSU 5-17 (Moeller 2-8, Richrdson 1-1, Schantz 1-3, Green 1-3, Wenig 0-2), MTU 8-32 (Fors 2-6, Evans 2-7, Marcotte 2-10, McHenry 1-2, Buettner 1-5, Richardson 0-2). Rebounds - SDSU 40 (Moeller 10, Beran 9), MTU 33 (McHenry 7). Fouls - SDSU 17, MTU 19. Fouled out -None. Assists-SDSU 10 (Richardson 3), MTU 14 (Marcotte 4). Steals-SDSU 4 (Beran 2), MTU 9 (Marcotte 3). Blocked shots - SDSU 3. MTU 4 (Buettner 3). Turnovers -SDSU 14, MTU 8. A - 1,575.