

MCSA Midwest Collegiate Cup: Half-Noquemanon Results

by Luke Dykowski

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MCSA Midwest Collegiate Cup: Half-Noquemanon Kicks Off 2021-22 Season

MCSA skiers secure top spots; UMNTC opens with narrow leads

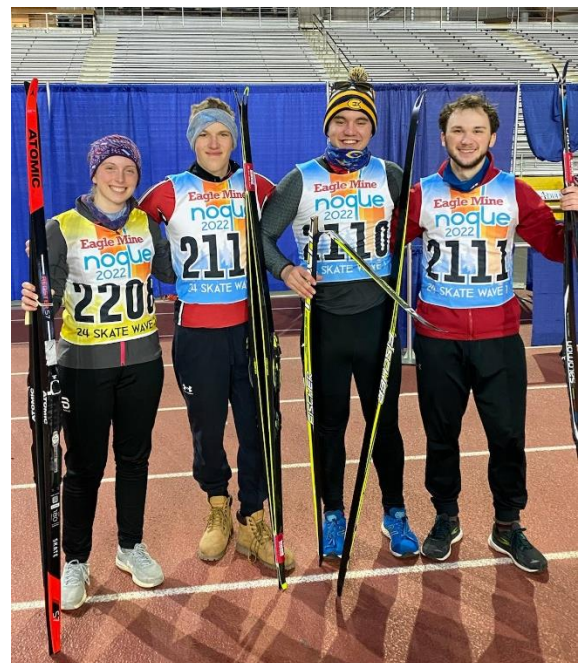
The Midwestern Collegiate Ski Association (MCSA) returned to racing this weekend, with a field of seventy-seven skiers beginning the chase for the 2021-22 Midwest Collegiate Cup at the Upper Peninsula's Half-Noquemanon. After a year of racing as the [MCNL](#), the MCSA has officially re-assumed sanction by the United States Collegiate Ski & Snowboard Association (USCSA), and enthusiastically returned the Noque – a leading supporter of its [inaugural season](#) – to the head of its competitively schedule.

Intermittent snowfall, gusting winds, and soft decks did not stop MCSA skiers from leading a spirited downhill dash to the Superior Dome. In fact, MCSA athletes topped the overall podiums in three of the four Half-Noquemanon events, with University of Minnesota - Duluth skiers Shelby Suhr and Jordan Woods winning the Women's and Men's 24k Classic races, and Michigan Technological University's Henry Campbell winning the Men's 24k Skate race. They were followed by the largest Midwestern club collegiate field in over three decades – a remarkable attestation to the rapid growth of the MCSA and the dynamism of the clubs which compose it.

Despite the gold-medal finishes from the league's Far Northern schools, the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities Men and Women appear determined to [retain](#) their Midwest Collegiate Cup titles. Both teams returned across the Brule at the head of the MCSA cumulative standings, although their narrow leads promise an exciting season of close competition ahead.



Above (from left): UMNTC skiers Eric Wurst, Nathan Grossklauss, Nathan Bich, Luke Dykowski, Lily Den Hartog, Alex Gude, Ian Boylan, Noah Struck, Kaia Hilgendorf-Roost, Ben Crouse and Andrew Larson pose with chilly smiles outside the Superior Dome. Photo courtesy of Alex Gude.



Right (from left): UWEC skiers Claire Bussman, Doug Swenson, Hans Ernst, and Ben Drangstveit after Saturday's ski. The course's sharp turns were not without casualties – note Ernst's broken ski. Photo courtesy of Hans Ernst.

Half-Noquemanon Breakdown

As the MCSA enters its third season, founding skiers graduate, seasoned veterans remain, and new faces emerge as leaders on and off the racecourse. While Saturday's field included many familiar names, it was USCSA rookies (first-year USCSA competitors, irrespective of their graduating class) who occupied six out of twelve podium spots.

Finishing the **Women's 24k Classic** in 1:32:19.1, **Shelby Suhr** (UMD) won both the overall and MCSA fields – an impressive performance for her first USCSA race. Suhr was followed by fellow rookies **Isabelle Middelstadt** (UMNTC) in second, and UMD teammate **Eleanor Dolan** in third.

The Bulldogs kicked their way to the head of the **Men's 24k Classic** as well, with **Jordan Woods** (UMD) first across the line in 1:11:12.0. Golden Gophers **Nathan Bich** (UMNTC) and **Alex Gude** (UMNTC) finished in second and third, respectively.

Canine mascots returned to the top of the podiums in the skate races, with USCSA rookie **Lucy Campbell** (MTU) giving the Huskies the win in the **Women's 24k Skate**. Campbell cruised to the Superior Dome in 1:10:54.5, ahead of **Lily Den Hartog** (UMNTC) and **Kaia Hilgendorf-Roost** (UMNTC), also making her USCSA debut.

Not to be outdone, brother **Henry Campbell** (MTU) finished first in the overall and MCSA fields for the **Men's 24k Skate** in a breakneck 1:02:12.2. He was followed closely by **Ethan Anderson** (UMD). **Luke MacKinnon** (UMNTC) finished his first USCSA race in third.

Looking to team results, the **University of Minnesota - Twin Cities** leads the **Women's Division** with 140 points, followed by the **University of Wisconsin - Madison** (112 points) and the **University of Minnesota – Duluth** (66). While the bulk of the Women's scorers came from the 24k Skate, Middelstadt's classic points gave the Gophers an important edge over the Badgers, and Suhr's decisive classic victory secured a podium spot for the Bulldogs. Meanwhile, L. Campbell's skate win keeps Michigan Technological University well within striking distance of the cumulative podium.

Standings are even closer in the **Men's Division**, where a mere 25 points separate first and third place. The **University of Minnesota - Twin Cities** currently leads with 187 points, thanks to solid finishing clusters in the skate and classic races. The team holds a razor-thin lead over the **University of Minnesota - Duluth** (177 points) and **Michigan Technological University** (162 points), whose top performances in both disciplines (notably by Woods, Anderson, and H. Campbell) could promise a standings shakeup in the coming weeks.

Team Scores: Women (Half-Noque)								
MCSA Rank:	Team:	Composite Score:						
1	UMNTC	140	Den Hartog (44)	Hilgendorf-Roost (39)	Middelstadt (30)	Green (15)	Anderson (12)	
2	UWM	112	Susong (34)	Straka (29)	Reinemann (22)	Klein (18)	Schwartz (9)	
3	UMD	66	Suhr (50)	Dolan (15)	Houts (1)			
4	MTU	50	Campbell (50)					
5	UWEC	25	Bussman (25)					
Team Scores: Men (Half-Noque)								
MCSA Rank:	Team:	Composite Score:						
1	UMNTC	187	MacKinnon (43)	Bich (42)	Gude (36)	Ryan (34)	Wurst (32)	
2	UMD	177	Woods (50)	Anderson (46)	Dybing (37)	Halverson (26)	Hanson (18)	
3	MTU	162	Campbell (50)	Miller (40)	Hudriik (30)	Fraley (24)	Jensen (18)	
4	UWM	104	Wenz (30)	Dicke (24)	Gordon (20)	Jaeger (16)	Lee (14)	
5	UWEC	30	Swenson (22)	Drangstveit (8)				
Total Teams: 10								
Total Skiers: 77								

Half-Noquemanon Team Standings, 1/22/2022. Calculated using the Mathie-Halvorson Scoring System.

From the Athletes

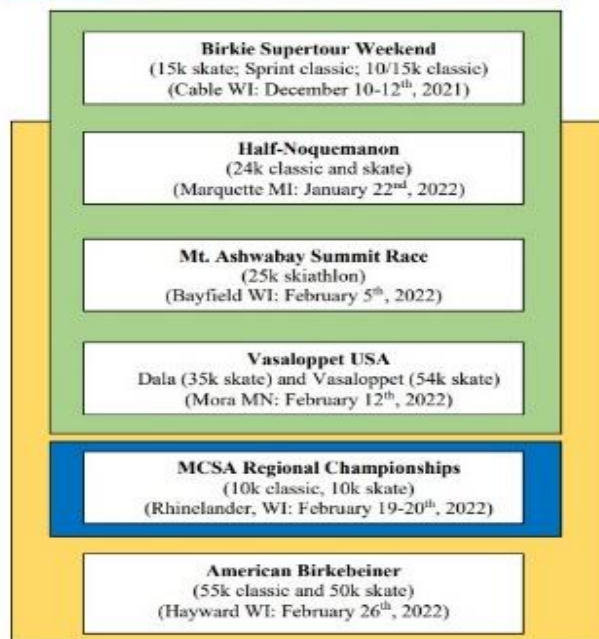
Reflecting on Saturday, Men’s Classic leader Jordan Woods cited the Noque as “one of [his] favorite races of the year,” with the course’s rapid descents and tight corners making it “fun, yet challenging.” With fast skis and “nearly perfect” weather complementing a dedicated team of volunteers and coordinators, Woods described this weekend as an “awesome event.” UMD teammate and Women’s Classic winner Shelby Suhr agreed that “the Noque course was beautiful and so much fun to ski,” and found that competing “with other college students from around the Midwest” left her “thrilled for the rest of the races this winter!”

In the Men’s and Women’s Skate categories, the Siblings Campbell narrated contests defined by close, technical racing. “Most of [the course] was narrow, lots of turns, punchy climbs, some areas of soft snow, some ice, some dirt and leaves, and lots of other skiers to snake around. That all kept things interesting,” Henry wrote – including “end[ing] up off the trail at the bottom of a hill after dodging a few skiers.” Henry was joined in this brief dismount by UMD’s Ethan Anderson, behind whom he skied “for most of the race,” pulling away only on the final straightaway to “get to the warm soup and coffee inside.” Lucy found that the course’s technicality and traffic “played to [her] strengths” – and while this obscured “where [she] was in proximity to the other women,” it motivated her to keep “pushing the whole time, not knowing whether [she] was getting caught or close to catching someone else.” Moreover, this enabled her to “get and give encouragement to the other racers as we went by, and to work with some of the collegiate men throughout the course.”



Above (from left): MTU skiers Mike Fraley, Louis Hindman, Henry Campbell, Eric Jensen, Jonathan Hudrlik, Seamus Barry, Cal McNabb, and Lucy Campbell. Photo courtesy of Henry Campbell.

	Individuals must participate in TWO of these events to score at the MCSA Regional Championships
	These five events are cumulatively scored as the Midwest Collegiate Cup
	The top TWO Men’s and Women’s teams at the MCSA Regional Championships advance to USCSA Nationals



Looking Ahead

The MCSA will take a rest weekend before resuming an aggressive battery of races, beginning with the Mt. Ashwabay Summit 25k Skiathlon on Saturday, February 5th. The MCSA Regional Championships (February 19th-20th) will determine which teams attend the USCSA National Championships, while the American Birkebeiner (February 26th) will conclude the Midwest Collegiate Cup – with the winners being crowned on the storied Main Street podium. The MCSA’s full schedule is listed at left.

A Brief Note on Scoring

The 2021-22 season has categories of scored competition – a cumulative, World-Cup style racing circuit (the Midwest Collegiate Cup) and the MCSA Regional Championships.

The Midwest Collegiate Cup scores teams against one another at popular citizen races; much like the International Biathlon Union World Cup, the Collegiate Cup includes the MCSA Regional Championships in its cumulative scoring totals. Meanwhile, Regionals is an MCSA-only race which will determine which MCSA Clubs qualify to attend the USCSA National Championships in Lake Placid, New York.

The Midwest Collegiate Cup uses the Mathie-Halvorson Scoring System, which it has since the 2019-20 season. This system uniquely balances the size and variety of regional teams by allowing teams of any size to score, and enabling scoring across multiple disciplines.

The winner of any race receives fifty points. Points back from fifty are determined by the size of the MCSA field at an event (so that, for example, second place in a field of twenty skiers is worth more than second place in a field of two skiers). For a field of thirty or more skiers, a fixed FIS points scale is used. All finishers receive at least one point, incentivizing large team participation.

At a given event, the top five racer scores from each team are added to calculate the Team Score. Teams can score with as few as a single skier. Team Scores from all five Collegiate Cup events are added to determine final standings. The MCSA will provide awards for the top three Men's and Women's teams.

The determining equation of the Mathie-Halvorson Scoring System can be found in Appendix I of the [MCSA Nordic Charter](#). You can see a working example of the system, and use the field size adjuster in the yellow column of the “Mathie-Halvorson System” sheet, [here](#).