



## MCSA Midwest Collegiate Cup: Mt. Ashwabay Skiathlon & ABR Team Sprint Results

*Badger Men & Women take breakout leads despite St. Olaf individual wins;  
first MCSA Team Sprint a success in Ironwood*



*Above: Start of the Women's 30k Mt. Ashwabay Summit Skiathlon. Photo: David Zoll*

BAYFIELD, WI & IRONWOOD, MI: The Midwest Collegiate Cup concluded its second week of competition with back-to-back events, a new race format, and the University of Wisconsin at the head of the Men's and Women's standings. Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup> saw the league return to the Mt. Ashwabay Summit 30k Skiathlon, one of the most challenging events in college racing and among the most [stalwart fixtures of the MCSA schedule](#), while Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> pitted athletes in a classic-technique Team Sprint—the (nominal) capstone of the annual USCSA National Championships, but a previously untested format in our region. While St. Olaf College skiers finished first in the Men's and Women's Skiathlon—with Jack Aldrich claiming his [second win in as many weeks](#), and Anna



Above: Start of the Men's Skiathlon. Photo: David Zoll.



Above: UWM's Eleanor Bennett and Anne Straka. Photo: David Zoll.

Peikert notching her first-ever MCSA victory—the Badgers decisively led the Men's team standings on Saturday, and won both the Men's and Women's relays on Sunday.

Indeed, among the more notable features of the unfolding season is the Badgers' consistency. While [St. Olaf's "Orange Wall"](#) has monopolized many an MCSA podium in many a past season, the only podium sweep so far in 2026 has gone to the UW-Madison Men in the Half-Noque 24k Classic. Beyond that, the Badger Men and Women have each managed to put at least one skier on the podium of *every* early-season event—both the skate and classic disciplines at the Half-Noque, the Mt. Ashwabay Skiathlon, and now in the Team Sprint. For their efforts, UW-Madison now leads the Men's and Women's Cup chases. The coming weekend in Mora, Minnesota will show whether they can keep this consistency, well, consistent; until then, the details on the MCSA's Deep-North Double-Header are below.

### *Mt. Ashwabay Skiathlon Breakdown*

Two disciplines. Two pairs of skis. Two, 15-kilometer laps. Two ascents of the titular Alpine hill. The Mt. Ashwabay Summit speaks in doubles, testing athletes' mastery of both disciplines, their pacing, and their race strategies—there is, after all, only one downhill sprint to the finish line!

Additionally, there is only *one* Collegiate Cup points haul at day's end, and one 50-point winner per race.<sup>1</sup> It is for this reason—on top of its technical challenges—that Mt. Ashwabay often plays a decisive role in the Collegiate Cup standings: there's is no hiding behind a skate or classic specialty!

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<sup>1</sup> Unlike, for example, the Half-Noque or American Birkebeiner, where skiers may score in the skate or classic disciplines.



## *Skiathlon Results*

In the **Women's 30k Skiathlon**, **Anna Peikert** (SOC) scored her first-ever MCSA win by a comfortable margin, finishing in 1:41:17. Teammate **Annika Fuhrmann** (SOC) took second in 1:43:59, returning to the MCSA podium after taking third at the Classic Sprint [at the 2025 Regional Championships](#). **Anne Straka** (UWM), second in last weekend's Half-Noque Skate, took third in 1:44:58.

In the **Men's 30k Skiathlon**, SOC's **Jack Aldrich** went two-for-two in his rookie season, winning in 1:29:17. **Philip Kram** (UWM), third in the Half-Noque Skate, took second in 1:29:41; **Henry Brandt** (UMD)—[last year's winner at Mt. Ashwabay](#)—held on to a podium spot in 1:30:40.

With Peikert and Fuhrmann in the lead, the **St. Olaf College Women** took the day in Bayfield, with 172 points. The **University of Wisconsin-Madison** was second, with 134 points. **Carleton College**, making their 2026 Cup debut, took third, with 112 points.

In the **Men's Division**, the **University of Wisconsin-Madison** put all of their scorers in the top-ten, winning the day with 183 points. The **University of Minnesota-Duluth** followed, with 121 points; **St. Olaf College** was third, with 113 points.

## *From the Athletes*

Reached for comment on her first-ever win, Anna Peikert (SOC) wrote that the 30k Skiathlon was “the farthest distance I have ever raced, so my strategy was to make sure I prepared well by fueling



*Above: Carleton College's Hollin Keyser-Parker.*

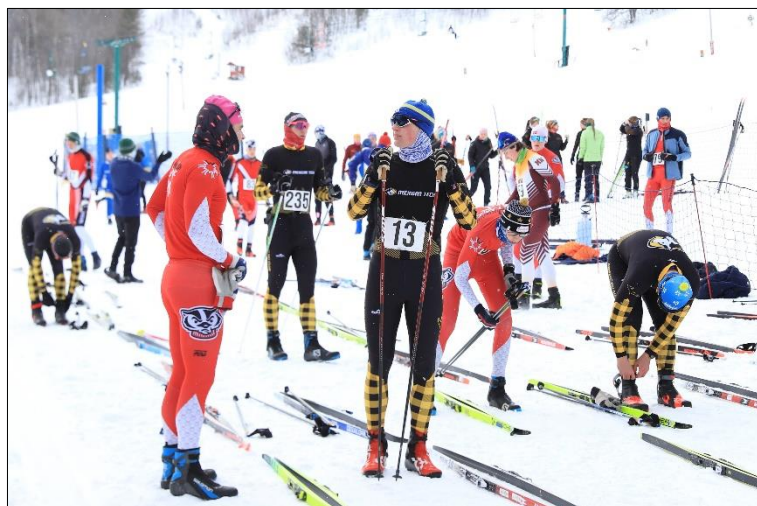
*Below, from front: Philip Kram (UWM), Jack Aldrich (SOC), James Kyes (UWM). Photo: David Zoll.*





and prioritizing sleep beforehand,” and then “maintained a consistent effort throughout the entire race” itself. Peikert raced with teammate Annika Fuhrmann, “and we worked together to maintain a strong pace. On the second lap, I focused on carrying speed throughout the entire course, especially on the uphill, and tried to catch some skiers ahead of me on the trail. Overall, I’m feeling really excited for the rest of the season and to see what my teammates and I can accomplish at Regionals.”

Last weekend’s Half-Noque win made Jack Aldrich (SOC) “really excited for the skiathlon” in Mt. Ashwabay. While the 15-kilometer classic leg “started with a relaxed pace as the pack was settling in,” the group fractured about halfway in, when “four of us broke away from the rest of the group. We stayed together through the transition zone and into the first part of the skate,” as the leaders took a few kilometers to “settle into the skate technique after the transition.” After Saint Scholastica’s Kai Donnelly<sup>2</sup> left the pack, Aldrich and Phil Kram (UWM) “traded places leading,” before Aldrich “made a break once we crested [the Mt. Ashwabay climb], forming a small gap between us. The rest of the race, I pushed really hard to keep the gap, and kept the pedal down until the finish. It was nice to have Phil to work with on the skate portion because we were both tired.” Aldrich expressed that, “overall, it was a fun race, especially because my family came up to cheer,” and he and the Oles are looking forward to the Vasa and Dala races in Mora, MN.



Above: Start line of the Mt. Ashwabay Summit Skiathlon. Photo: David Zoll.

For his part, Phil Kram (UWM) was pleased with his second-place finish, and although “conditions were definitely slower than [2025], it was fun to ski with so many chill guys who just love skiing.” Kram noted his satisfaction with “a lot of hours on my bike and also strength training this summer,” which have led to “big improvements over the last year”—and with the Badger Men’s roster. “Being able to put six guys in the top-10 is pretty exciting in a long race that tests both

techniques . . . Our two new freshmen Soren Hanhan [9<sup>th</sup> place] and Sam Tripp [10<sup>th</sup> place], who

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<sup>2</sup> The College of St. Scholastica is not affiliated with the MCSA.



both come from the MSHSL, add great depth to our team. Overall I’m feeling very proud to have our lead in the Collegiate Cup, and a group of guys who have fun and learn from each other every day.”

Team Scores: Women							
MCSA Rank		Composite Score					
1	SOC	172	Anna Peikert (50)	Annika Fuhrmann (46)	Hjelle Personius (34)	Greta Hedman (32)	Sophia House (10)
2	UWM	134	Anne Straka (43)	Eleanor Bennett (30)	Sylvia Meza (26)	Stella Meza (24)	Lillie Hokanson (11)
3	CC	112	Katie Davis (37)	Katie Pohlig (28)	Hollin Keyser-Parker (1)	Leah Coleman (16)	Meg Maclaury (13)
4	UMD	83	Dani Schlichting (22)	Eleanor Grossman (20)	Kate Martin (15)	Kira Wolf (14)	Sophia Bevis (12)
5	UMNTC	44	Hadley Jensen (40)	Adilynn Jones (1)	Savannah Krull (1)	Elaina Jones (1)	Carmen McLaren (1)
6	UWEC	3	Laura Johnson (2)	Emily Hopke (1)			
7	MTU	3	Astrid Myhre (3)				
Team Scores: Men							
MCSA Rank		Composite Score					
1	UWM	183	Philip Kram (46)	James Kyes (40)	Benjamin Martin (37)	AJ Hemink (32)	Soren Hanhan (28)
2	UMD	121	Henry Brandt (43)	Austin Back (30)	Liam Urbanowicz (20)	William Bauer (18)	Aidan Guiney (10)
3	SOC	113	Jack Aldrich (50)	Tait Myers (34)	Haakon Erdahl (24)	Owen Larsen (4)	Liam Caputo Sullivan (1)
4	MTU	45	Hayden Zoll (22)	Isaac Oldenburg (15)	Gabriel Hallgren (8)		
5	UMNTC	33	Braden Kavanagh (14)	Ethan Collis (12)	Ethan Jossi (5)	Jack Callinan (1)	Ian Grossenbacher-McGlamery (1)
6	CC	2	Soren Miner (1)	Graham Hausken (1)			
Total Teams: 13							
Total Skiers: 88							

Above: Collegiate Cup Scores at the Mt. Ashwabay Summit Skiathlon, 1/31/2026.  
Scores calculated using the Mathie-Halvorson System.



Above: MCSA teams at the ABR Team Sprint, February 1, 2026.

### ABR Team Sprint Breakdown

Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> saw roughly half of Saturday’s field head east across the Michigan border for the MCSA’s first-ever Team Sprint. Designed to replicate the Team Sprint at the USCSA National Championships, squads of three athletes raced three 1.6-kilometer laps each (to a total of approximately 15-kilometers per squad), in classic discipline. Schools were permitted to field an unlimited number of squads, with a schools two fastest squads scoring, and the winning squad receiving 100 Collegiate Cup points. Schools with fewer than three

skiers raced on combined teams, where their point totals were assigned proportionately to their squad composition.



Sunday's Team Sprint was the product of diligent collaboration between MCSA student volunteers and the ABR Trails Foundation. Emma Reineke (UMNTC), Ben Bauer (UMD), and Kenna Karel (UMD) drafted the race plan, assisted with race setup, and timed and scored the event, with Bauer designing the course. ABR's Matthew Shruck and Eric Anderson coordinated registration, event setup, and facilities setup, and groomed a superb, two-tracked sprint course through the Cherry Dairy and Blueberry Bluffs trails. Said Karel: "Ben and Emma set up a clear and fun course. The stadium looked very professional, complete with a USCSA flag." While the event was a marked departure from the Collegiate Cup's typical marathon-distance fare, "at least four seasoned skiers said that it was their favorite MCSA race," and the athletes "even had some citizen skiers cheering us on!"

Shruck agreed that the event was a success, writing that the Team Sprint "was a really fun day and it was awesome to see the excitement on the faces of [the MCSA's] student racers. We're so glad that you enjoyed your time here and that the race went well!"



Above: Start of the Men's Team Sprint.  
Below: Start of the Women's Team Sprint.



### *Team Sprint Results*

In the **Men's Team Sprint**, the **University of Wisconsin-Madison A-Squad** (Benjamin Martin, James Kyes, Philip Kram) were the inaugural MCSA winners, finishing in 44:00.36. The **University of Minnesota-Duluth A-Squad** (Henry Brandt, Austin Back, William Bauer) took second in 45:12.09; the **UWM B-Squad** (AJ Hemink, Leo Rotar, Soren Hanhan) were third in 48:33.11.

In the **Women's Team Sprint**, another Badger victory: the **University of Wisconsin-Madison A-Squad** (Lillie Hokanson, Eleanor Bennett, Anne Straka) finished first in 56:29.11. The **University of Minnesota-Duluth A** (Kira Wolf, Danika Schlichting, Eleanor Grossman) and **B-Squads** (Kate Martin, Kenna Karel, Isabelle Mayer) were second and third, finishing in 57:51.36 and 1:00:20.

In Collegiate Cup standings, the **University of Wisconsin-Madison** continued their winning streak in the **Men's Division**, taking the third



event of the 2026 season with 153 points. The **University of Minnesota-Duluth** took second, with 107 points. The **University of Minnesota-Twin Cities** finished third, with 3 points.

In the **Women’s Division**, the podium repeated itself: the **University of Wisconsin-Madison** carried the day with 102 points. The **University of Minnesota-Duluth** took second, with 90 points; the **University of Minnesota-Twin Cities** finished third, with 2 points.

Henry Brandt (UMD) wrote that he “had an absolute blast at the Team Sprints, and I think everyone there also had an incredible time.” Brandt praised “the grooming and course setup” as “fantastic thanks to Ben Bauer and the ABR grooming crew.” While the Bulldogs “definitely had some large competition going against Madison, I think we held our own and it was very fun racing some sprints before Regionals to shake off our ski marathon legs.”

Bauer and Reineke concurred that the event went “smoothly.” The MCSA is extraordinarily grateful to Shruck, Anderson, Reineke, Bauer, and Kenna for making this novel race format possible, and looks forward to collaborating with ABR in the future.

Team Scores: Women			
MCSA Rank		Composite Score	
1	UWM	102 Lillie Hokanson, Eleanor Bennett, and Anne Straka (100)	Lily Thatcher, Bridget Price, and Allyson Nafstad (2)
2	UMD	90 Kira Wolf, Danika Schlichting, and Eleanor Grossmen (60)	Kate Martin, McKenna Karel, and Isabelle Mayer (30)
3	UMNTC	2 Maria Hanson, Carmen McLaren, and Stella Christensen (2)	
4	MTU	1 Addie Colello, Clara Bartlett, and Astrid Myhre (1)	
Team Scores: Men			
MCSA Rank		Composite Score	
1	UWM	153 Ben Martin, James Kyes, and Philip Kram (100)	AJ Hemink, Leo Rotar, and Soren Hanhan (53)
2	UMD	107 Henry Brandt, Austin Back, and William Bauer (73)	Liam Urabanowicz, Alex Heidorn, and Aiden Guiney (33)
3	UMNTC	3 Isaiah Voges, Diego Guevara, and Braden Kavanagh (2)	Ian Grossenbacher-McGlamery, Kyle Kolberg, and Hayden Zoll (1)
4	MTU	1 Ian Grossenbacher-McGlamery, Kyle Kolberg, and Hayden Zoll (1)	
Total Teams: 8			
Total Skiers: 45			

*Above: Collegiate Cup Scores at the ABR Team Sprints, 2/1/2026.  
Scores calculated using the Mathie-Halvorson System.*

### *Collegiate Cup Standings and Looking Ahead*

With three races, and three wins, under their belts, the **University of Wisconsin-Madison Men** lead the chase for the Collegiate Cup by nearly 200 points, with 542 total points. In second, the **University of Minnesota-Duluth** maintains a silver season, taking second across three events, with 363 total points. Despite fielding no squads on Sunday, **St. Olaf College** remains in third, with 232 points.



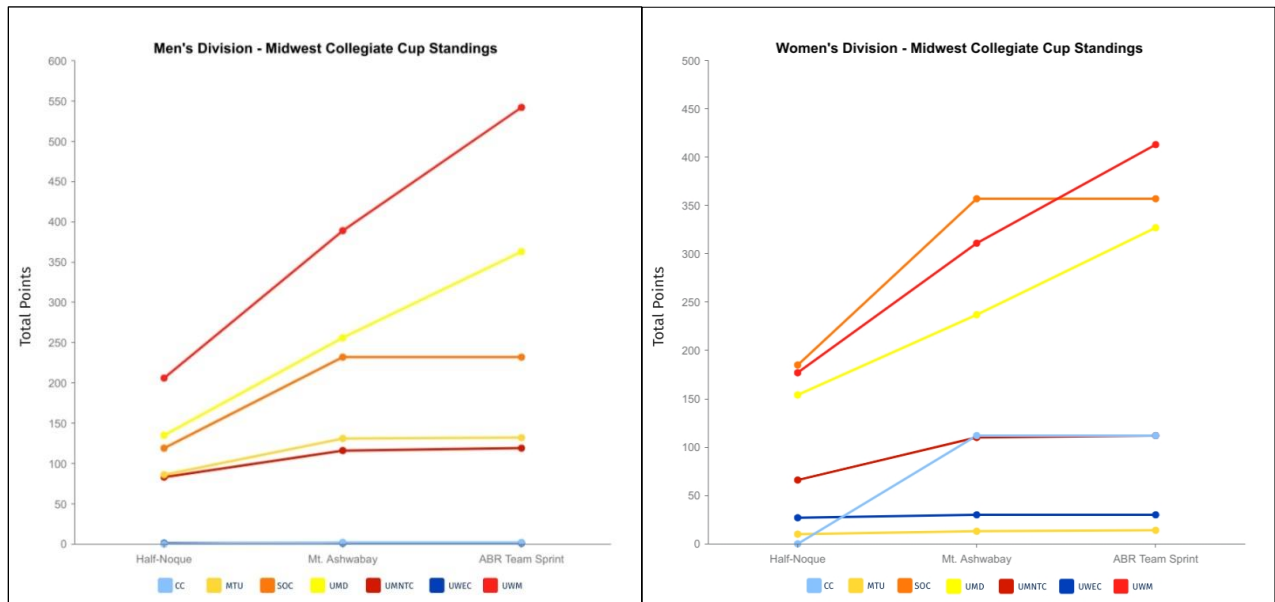
In the **Women's Division**, Sunday's race was an important win for the **University of Wisconsin-Madison**—pushing the Badger women into first place, with 413 points. Also with no squads at ABR, **St. Olaf College** fell to second, with 357 points. Meanwhile, the **University of Minnesota-Duluth** has closed the gap to second, in third with 327 points.

Collegiate Cup Score: Women						
MCSA Rank		Composite Score	Noquemanon	Mt. Ashwabay	ABR Sprints	
1	UWM	413	177	134	102	
2	SOC	357	185	172	0	
3	UMD	327	154	83	90	
4	CC	112	0	112	0	
4	UMNTC	112	66	44	2	
6	UWEC	30	27	3	0	
7	MTU	14	10	3	1	

Collegiate Cup Score: Men						
MCSA Rank		Composite Score	Noquemanon	Mt. Ashwabay	ABR Sprints	
1	UWM	542	206	183	153	
2	UMD	363	135	121	107	
3	SOC	232	119	113	0	
4	MTU	132	86	45	1	
5	UMNTC	119	83	33	3	
6	CC	2	0	2	0	
7	UWEC	1	1	0	0	

*Above & Below: Collegiate Cup Standings, 2/1/2026.  
Scores calculated using the Mathie-Halvorson System.*



With the Badgers leading both divisions and three events completed, a further three events on the Collegiate Cup calendar remain: the Vasaloppet USA (Mora, MN), the MCSA Regional



Above: Men's Team Sprint podium.  
Below: Women's Team Sprint podium.



Championships (Rhinelander, WI), and the American Birkebeiner (Cable-Hayward, WI). Of those, the Vasaloppet USA has the best chance of breaking the UWM Men's winning streak, and putting the St. Olaf College Women back in first place for the Women's Division. The Oles conventionally place all of their athletes in the 34k Dala Skate, with powerful results: the SOC Men recorded the league's highest-ever single-day points total [in 2023, winning 213 points](#); the SOC Women nearly matched that record [in 2025, winning 208 points](#). The SOC Men have swept the MCSA's Dala podium in every year that they have contested the race (2022 2023, and 2025); the SOC Women did so in 2025, with Amaeli Kam-Magruder and Lily Hubanks tying for the overall event win. However, there are ample points up for grabs in the 51k Vasa Skate—and it remains to be seen whether UMD, UWM or Carleton College, typically the leaders in that event, send any top skiers to the Dala to disrupt the Oles' designs.

**The Midwest Collegiate Cup will compete in the Dala 34k and Vasa 51k Skate on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>.**

**Full MCSA results are available [here](#).**

*USCSA is the sports federation for collegiate team ski and snowboard competition in America. The organization believes that student-athletes of all levels and abilities should have access to quality and exciting venues of competition. Our athletes agree that our team orientation fosters a collaborative approach across their collegiate athletic and academic careers, and often this mentality proves indispensable in their adult lives and careers. USCSA includes over 175 institutions from coast to coast, fielding over 5,000 female and male alpine, freestyle, Nordic, and snowboarding athletes who participate in more than 300 events annually.*

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