



## MCSA Midwest Collegiate Cup: Vasaloppet USA Results

*St. Olaf Women sweep overall Dala; Fischer, Coleman, Rova claim first MCSA wins;  
UW-Madison Men skate to Cup lead*



*Above: Amaeli Kam-Magruder and Lily Hubanks (SOC) share the laurels at the 36k Dala finish. Photo: SkimnySki.com.*

MORA, MN: Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> brought 92 skiers across 16 teams to Mora, Minnesota for the Vasaloppet USA 48k Vasa and 36k Dala races. A modified course, standings shakeups, and snow-driven skate racing defined this second contest of the 2025 Midwest Collegiate Cup, with an overall podium sweep for the St. Olaf Women, three inaugural wins for MCSA racers, and consistent skiing placing new teams in the thick of the hunt for the Men's and Women's Championship titles.

In the Women's 36k Dala, decorated veteran Lily Hubanks (SOC: [2023 USCSA National Champion](#) and [2024 National runner-up](#), to *briefly* summarize her league accolades) and 2024 sensation Amaeli Kam-Magruder (SOC: [2024 Half-Noque Classic winner](#); 2024 USCSA 15k Classic Champion)



returned from the [World University Games](#) to place second and first, respectively, in the overall standings. They were joined by teammate Lily Ward in third. While the Ole Women are familiar faces on MCSA podiums, [last week's Mt. Ashwabay coverage](#) predicted “new power players” would disrupt traditional rivalries on the circuit—a prognosis which proved accurate.

In the Men's 36k Dala, Paavo Rova (SOC) captured his first MCSA win (taking 3<sup>rd</sup> overall); in the 48k Vasa, Henry Fischer (UST) and Leah Coleman (CC) notched their maiden MCSA victories in the Men's and Women's races. While the St. Olaf Women continue to lead the chase for the Cup, the Carleton College Women—who have yet to end a season on the Cup podium—remain in second place overall; in the Men's Cup, UW-Madison has taken the lead, and are opening ground in a bid for their first-ever Championship title.

### *Vasaloppet USA Breakdown*

While the Mt. Ashwabay Summit Skiathlon tests athletes' skate, classic, and ski-swapping abilities, the Vasaloppet USA events are the season's marquee skating races. The windswept and frequently-frigid Mora Steppe (the [2022 Vasaloppet started at -11°F](#)) demands steady, controlled gliding; without decisive terrain features, racers who would bolt for better placements must carefully choose if, and when, to leave the safety of the pack.

For climbing specialists or downhill daredevils, the course can be a grueling grind of continual endurance. But, for those willing to brave a breakaway, blueberry soup—and a bounty of Collegiate Cup points—await!

In the **Women's 48k Vasa**, **Leah Coleman** (CC) logged her first-ever MCSA victory, crossing the line in 3:04:38. Gophers **Lydia Anderson** (UMNTC, 3:07:30) and **Hadley Jensen** (UMNTC, 3:10:36) took second and third. This marks Anderson's first MCSA podium.

The **Men's 48k Vasa** witnessed another new collegiate leader, with **Henry Fischer** (UST) (8<sup>th</sup> overall) taking the day in 2:23:06.



From Left: UMD teammates Audrey Urbanowicz and Mikaela Hetchler.  
Photo: SkinnySki.com.

**Benjamin Martin** (UWM) (9<sup>th</sup> overall) was second for the MCSA in 2:24:56; **Benjamin Bauer** (UMD) followed in 2:27:30.

In the **Women's 36k Dala**, the St. Olaf Women achieved a remarkable sweep, not merely of the MCSA, but of the *overall* podium. Returning to her second year of league racing, **Amaeli Kam-Magruder** outsprinted **Lily Hubanks** by two tenths of a second, taking the laurel wreath in 1:55:06.0 against Hubanks'



1:55:06.2. Teammate **Lily Ward** was third, landing her first MCSA podium in 1:58:45. In total, Oles were four of the top five, and six of the top ten, collegiate finishers.

In the **Men's 36k Dala**, the St. Olaf Men dominated the MCSA standings, with four of the top five, and eight of the top ten, collegiate finishers. **Paavo Rova** (3<sup>rd</sup> overall) claimed his first MCSA win in 1:45:45; **Tait Myers** (6<sup>th</sup> overall) ([2023 MCSA Dala winner](#)) outprinted **Daniel Gladkov** (7<sup>th</sup> overall) 1:48:49.0 to 1:48:49.6. This is Gladkov's first MCSA podium.

An "Orange Wall," "flooding the zone"—call it what you will; as in previous years, Oles' decision to place all their athletes in the 36k Dala paid off. Sweeping the college podiums in both events, the **St. Olaf College Women** took

the day's team victory with 208 points; the **St. Olaf College Men** had similar cause for celebration, ranking first in Mora with 191 points.

Led by Coleman, the **Carleton College Women** were—as in Mt. Ashwabay last week—second on the day, with 150 points. The **University of Minnesota-Twin Cities Women** took third, with 117 points.

In the Men's standings, the **University of Wisconsin-Madison Men** were second (as keen observers will note, *also* repeating their Mt. Ashwabay placement), with 173 points. The **University of Minnesota-Duluth Men** took third, with 134 points.

| Team Scores: Women (Vasaloppet USA) |       |                  |                    |                 |                    |               |
|-------------------------------------|-------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| MCSA Rank:                          | Team: | Composite Score: |                    |                 |                    |               |
| 1                                   | SOC   | 208              | Kam-Magrunder (50) | Hubanks (46)    | Ward (43)          | Tomten (37)   |
| 2                                   | CC    | 150              | Coleman (50)       | Loescher (34)   | Keyser-Parker (26) | Davis (22)    |
| 3                                   | UMNTC | 117              | Anderson (35)      | Casper (24)     | Jensen (24)        | Krull (18)    |
| 4                                   | UWM   | 106              | Straka (40)        | Wulff (28)      | Bennett (20)       | Licha (12)    |
| 5                                   | UWEC  | 37               | Robertson (15)     | Johnson (10)    | Williams (9)       | Hopke (3)     |
| 6                                   | UMD   | 3                | Urbanowicz (1)     | Wolf (1)        | Schlichting (1)    |               |
| 7                                   | UST   | 1                | Lawn (1)           |                 |                    |               |
| Team Scores: Men (Vasaloppet USA)   |       |                  |                    |                 |                    |               |
| MCSA Rank:                          | Team: | Composite Score: |                    |                 |                    |               |
| 1                                   | SOC   | 191              | Rova (50)          | Myers (44)      | Gladkov (40)       | Hastings (31) |
| 2                                   | UWM   | 173              | Martin (46)        | Kram (39)       | Kyes (35)          | Hemink (31)   |
| 3                                   | UMD   | 134              | Bauer (43)         | Urbanowicz (36) | Brandt (33)        | Back (18)     |
| 4                                   | UMNTC | 118              | Holm (29)          | Anderson (26)   | Collis (24)        | Taylor (23)   |
| 5                                   | UST   | 56               | Fischer (50)       | Amundson (6)    |                    |               |
| 6                                   | CC    | 21               | Bartel (11)        | Grimlund (8)    | Gonzalez (1)       | Miner (1)     |
| 7                                   | NC    | 12               | Youngberg (7)      | Fischer(5)      |                    |               |
| 8                                   | NMU   | 9                | Hulteen (9)        |                 |                    |               |
| 9                                   | UWEC  | 1                | Bachman (1)        |                 |                    |               |
| Total Teams: 16                     |       |                  |                    |                 |                    |               |
| Total Skiers: 92                    |       |                  |                    |                 |                    |               |

Above: Vasaloppet USA Team Standings, 2/9/2025. Calculated using the Mathie-Halvorson Scoring System.



Turning to Collegiate Cup standings, **St. Olaf College** has already opened a commanding lead in the **Women's Division**. With back-to-back victories, they have 373 total points. While losing ground to the Oles, **Carleton**

**College** increased their lead against third place—sitting comfortably in second, with 270 Collegiate Cup points. After earning few points in Mora due to the small collegiate Women's Vasa field (the MCSA uses a field-size-dependent scale when calculating points back from first place), the University of Minnesota-Duluth slipped to fifth place; the **University of Minnesota-Twin Cities** rose to third, with 194 total points.

| Collegiate Cup Scores: Women |       |                 |              |                 |
|------------------------------|-------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| MCSA Rank                    | Team  | Composite Score | Mt. Ashwabay | Vasaloppett USA |
| 1                            | SOC   | 373             | 165          | 208             |
| 2                            | CC    | 270             | 120          | 150             |
| 3                            | UMNTC | 194             | 77           | 117             |
| 4                            | UWM   | 180             | 74           | 106             |
| 5                            | UMD   | 80              | 77           | 3               |
| 6                            | UWEC  | 72              | 35           | 37              |
| 7                            | MTU   | 27              | 27           | 0               |
| 8                            | NC    | 1               | 1            | 0               |
| 9                            | UST   | 1               | 0            | 1               |

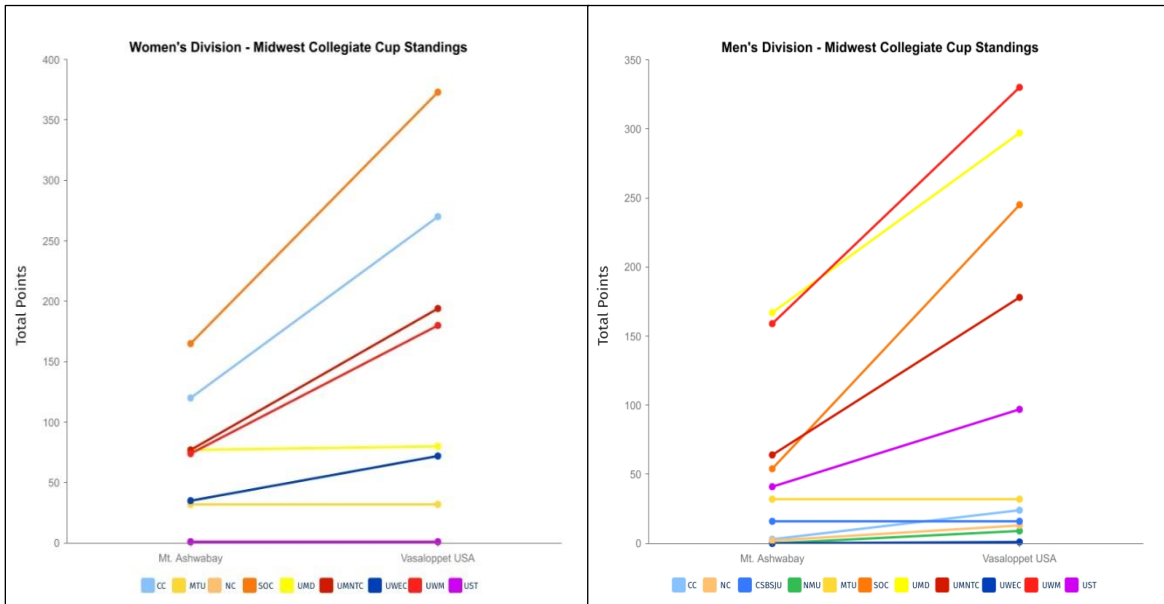
  

| Collegiate Cup Scores: Men |        |                 |              |                 |
|----------------------------|--------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| MCSA Rank                  | Team   | Composite Score | Mt. Ashwabay | Vasaloppett USA |
| 1                          | UWM    | 332             | 159          | 173             |
| 2                          | UMD    | 301             | 167          | 134             |
| 3                          | SOC    | 245             | 54           | 191             |
| 4                          | UMNTC  | 182             | 64           | 118             |
| 5                          | UST    | 97              | 41           | 56              |
| 6                          | MTU    | 32              | 32           | 0               |
| 7                          | CC     | 24              | 3            | 21              |
| 8                          | CSBSJU | 16              | 16           | 0               |
| 9                          | NC     | 14              | 2            | 12              |
| 10                         | NMU    | 8               | 0            | 8               |
| 11                         | UWEC   | 1               | 0            | 1               |

Total Teams: 20

*Above & Below: Midwest Collegiate Cup Team Standings, 2/9/2025. Calculated using the Mathie-Halvorson Scoring System.*

In the **Men's Division**, consistency is paying off for the **University of Wisconsin-Madison**: two second-place finishes have put them in the lead, with 332 points. However, three-time Collegiate Cup Champions—the **University of Minnesota-Duluth**—are still very much in the hunt, with 301 total points. Meanwhile, **St. Olaf College's** robust Dala showing has pushed them into third with 245 points, displacing the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.







Above: Carleton College skiers start the 36k Dala  
Below: Tait Tyers (SOC, leading), Daniel Gladkov (SOC, obscured)  
and James Kyes (UWM, in red) finish the 36k Dala.  
Photos: SkinnySki.com.



### *From the Athletes*

While the falling snow may have complicated conditions on Saturday, it provided a welcome reprieve from conditions that have prevailed throughout this season—and that canceled the Vasaloppet USA in 2024. “I love the atmosphere of the Dala and missed doing it last year when it was cancelled,” wrote Lily Hubanks (SOC: 2<sup>nd</sup>, Women’s Dala). “I skied the entirety of the race with my teammate Amae [Kam-Magruder] and it was a great learning experience for me in terms of skiing with a pack, drafting in the windy, open sections, and working as a team.”

Kam-Magruder (SOC: 1<sup>st</sup>, Women’s Dala) agreed, stating that she and Hubanks “paced the entire race together and used a lot of drafting from taller people. It was nice to let someone else break the wind!” Lest the pair’s razor-thin finish imply an inter-team rivalry, Kam-Magruder noted: “We wanted to tie [at] the finish because we couldn’t have done it without each other!” Both

athletes expressed their satisfaction with an exciting and demanding day of racing, with Hubanks praising “all the performances from the Oles. Everyone continues to prove that they [can] ski a variety of distances and continue to perform really well.”

The dynamics of group racing also defined Henry Fischer’s MCSA 48k Vasa win (UST: 8<sup>th</sup> overall). Although he “started a little too far back at the beginning,” Fischer battled up through the notoriously-dense mass-start crowd “to the tailing pack behind the leaders within the first 10 kilometers, and stuck with those guys for most of the race.” Fischer “felt very comfortable going into the last lap, where [he] started pushing harder to break away from some of the others in [his] pack.” While he has “a lot to learn from this race going forward,” Fischer wrote that he’s “excited to finally get an MCSA win.”

“I was left feeling a little disappointed from the last race at Mt. Ashwabay, where I had some issues that were out of my control. It’s good to see that my training over the past year has really been effective, and I feel that I have much more to accomplish.”



Reflecting on her first-ever collegiate win, Leah Coleman (CC: 1<sup>st</sup>, MCSA 48k Vasa) wrote she was pleasantly surprised to learn of the breakout result. “To be honest, I really haven’t been feeling strong this season because it’s so difficult to train on snow,” she wrote. “My race plan was to conserve energy in the first three laps, then accelerate the last lap, but I found myself kind of just trying to hold on.” Even so, it appears her circumspect approach to pacing paid off—netting her 50 points for the Carleton Women, and a top-twenty finish in the overall Women’s Vasa.

Finally, for MCSA Dala winner Paavo Rova (SOC: 3<sup>rd</sup> overall), Saturday was a race “without a lot of expectations or pressure,” so he “just decided to ski it and see what happens.” However, Rova confessed he *did* have some external incentives: “The prize for doing well in the Dala is a hand-painted Dala Horse from Sweden, and I wanted one, so I definitely had a little motivation to do well.” As Rova watched the group around him dwindle, he stuck with the leaders, and “had a ton of fun racing and am really happy with the race and the results! And I won a Dala Horse!”

### *Looking Ahead*

Two events on the Collegiate Cup calendar remain: the MCSA Regional Championships, and the American Birkebeiner. Moreover, two wildcards remain very much in-play: the Carleton College Women, whose second-place standing could secure them their first-ever Cup podium, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison—currently in leading the Men’s Division—who could end a Duluth Dynasty and claim their first Cup Championship.

Reached for comment, Cole Long (UWM, MCSA Liaison) wrote that this has been an encouraging start to the season for the Badgers. “Our Men’s Team has really stepped it up this year in terms of consistent training, team depth, and a strong mindset. It’s



*Above, from left: 48k Vasa Men’s 18-24 Age Group award-winners Benjamin Martin (UWM), Henry Fischer (UST), and Emmett Donohue (alumnus, UMD). Photo: Henry Fischer.*

*Below: UWM skiers Ben Martin, Philip Kram, and AJ Hemink at the finish. Photo: Cole Long.*







been exciting to welcome two new, fast freshmen, Philip Kram and James Kyes, who have brought more depth to an already-competitive squad.” With solid distribution of classes on the team, “we’ve seen a lot of guys pushing each other in workouts, which has paid off greatly in the first couple races.”

However, Long emphasized that the Badgers are “aware of how close the top three teams are, and know that nothing is guaranteed. We’re staying focused and confident, and know that anything can happen in the last two weeks of the season.”



*Above: Scenes from the 2023 MCSA Regional Championships in Rhinelander, WI. No Regionals event was held in 2024.*

*Below: The MCSA’s last appearance on the Main Street Podium, at the 2023 Collegiate Cup Finals.*



Indeed, we should rest assured that “anything can”—and will!—happen as the MCSA returns to Rhinelander, Wisconsin for the 2025 Regional Championships. On Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, our skiers will compete in the **first-ever Collegiate Cup Sprint**, followed by a 10k Skate on Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. Points scored at Regionals will add to Teams’ cumulative Collegiate Cup totals, and qualify teams for the [2025 USCSA National Championships in Bend, Oregon](#), irrespective of Collegiate Cup standings.

The 2025 Collegiate Cup will conclude with the American Birkebeiner. Friends, family, and spectators should be aware that [the MCSA will return to the storied Main Street Podium at 3:00pm on Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>](#) Join us as we crown our 2025 Collegiate Cup Champions in delirium of Birkie Fever!

**MCSA Nordic results from the Vasaloppet USA are available [here](#).**

Last week’s MCSA Mt. Ashwabay Press Release is available [here](#).



*Interested in joining or building a USCSA team? [View our 2024-25 Teams Guide.](#)*

*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.*

###

*For more information or to schedule an interview, please visit <https://www.uscsa.org>.*