

Western Collegiate Hockey Association

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Home of a Record 37 Men's National Championship

Teams Since 1951

1952, 1953, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1968, 1969, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1987, 1990, 1991, 1997, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2011

Men's Conference Members

University of Alaska Anchorage

Bemidji State University

Colorado College

University of Denver

Michigan Technological University

University of Minnesota

University of Minnesota Duluth

Minnesota State University

University of Nebraska Omaha

University of North Dakota

St. Cloud State University

University of Wisconsin

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WCHA Final Five

March 15-17

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wcha.com



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St. Cloud State to Leave WCHA after 2012-13 Season Huskies to Join Newly-Formed NCHC; WCHA Will Persevere

MADISON, Wis. – St. Cloud State University, a member of the Western Collegiate Hockey Association since the start of the 1990-91 season, today (Sept. 22, 2011) announced they will leave the league to join the newly-founded National Collegiate Hockey Conference (NCHC) effective with the 2013-14 season. The Huskies thus become the eighth of the 12 current WCHA-member teams to leave college hockey's most historic and successful conference following the 2012-13 campaign.

"No question we are all disappointed by this latest announcement," said Commissioner Bruce M. McLeod, "but on behalf of the entire Association, we want to take this time to wish the Huskies and their men's hockey program all the best in the future. St. Cloud State has been a valued and productive member of the WCHA."

The Huskies were granted membership into the WCHA for the 1990-91 season, with their best regular season finishes in the league coming in 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2006-07 when they placed second. In 2000-01, SCSU won the WCHA playoff championship and Broadmoor Trophy.

"But in saying that," said Commissioner McLeod, "we also want to reiterate in the strongest possible terms that the Western Collegiate Hockey Association will persevere, soldier on and continue to do things as we always have – in a first-class manner. The eight programs that currently make up the new-look WCHA beginning in 2013-14 – Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Fairbanks, Bemidji State, Ferris State, Lake Superior State, Michigan Tech, Minnesota State and Northern Michigan – are 100% committed to Division 1 ice hockey and we are looking forward to working together towards a common goal of providing a first-class environment for our product, our student-athletes and our fans and doing what's right for our sport. Our brand is strong and we intend to build on that."

The WCHA also has an open invitation for future membership out to current CCHA-member Bowling Green State University.

The WCHA, home to a record 37 national championships teams since it's founding in 1951, will continue to operate as a 12-team conference for the 2011-12 and 2012-13 seasons, with this marking the league's 60th season. Current members consist of University of Alaska Anchorage, Bemidji State University, Colorado College, University of Denver, Michigan Technological University, University of Minnesota, University of Minnesota Duluth, Minnesota State University, University of Nebraska Omaha, University of North Dakota, St. Cloud State University and the University of Wisconsin. Earlier this year (March 21) the Big Ten announced the formation of a new Division 1 men's hockey conference that will begin play in 2013-14 and include current WCHA-members Minnesota and Wisconsin. Then in July, the formation of a new Division 1 league – the National Collegiate Hockey Conference – was announced and that it would

include current WCHA-members Colorado College, Denver, Minnesota Duluth, Nebraska Omaha and North Dakota, along with CCHA-member Miami.

History of WCHA Expansion and Contraction

The Western Collegiate Hockey Association was founded in 1951 and began play for the 1951-52 season as the Midwest Collegiate Hockey League (MCHL) with the seven original members being Colorado College, University of Denver, University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Michigan Technological University, University of Minnesota and University of North Dakota.

Following the 1952-53 season, the MCHL evolved into the Western Intercollegiate Hockey League (WIHL) for 1953-54, maintaining the same original seven member teams. The conference continued play through the 1957-58 campaign.

There was no league play in 1958-59 after the WIHL was disbanded in March of 1958 for one season; however most of the original member teams continued to play home-and-home schedules. The seven original member teams then resumed formal league competition for the 1959-60 season under the new name Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA).

For the 1965-66 season, the WCHA expanded to eight teams by adding the University of Minnesota Duluth. The University of Wisconsin was then admitted to the WCHA for the 1969-70 season to bring membership to nine teams, followed by the addition of University of Notre Dame for the 1971-72 campaign which upped the membership to 10 teams.

Michigan, Michigan State, Michigan Tech and Notre Dame then left the WCHA following the 1980-81 season to join the Central Collegiate Hockey Association (CCHA), reducing the WCHA to six teams for the 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84 campaigns.

Michigan Tech then returned to the WCHA beginning with the 1984-85 season and together with newly-admitted member Northern Michigan University, brought league membership back to eight teams.

The WCHA then admitted St. Cloud State University as a ninth member for the 1990-91 season, followed by the inclusion of University of Alaska Anchorage as a 10th member for the 1993-94 season.

Northern Michigan then left the WCHA following the 1996-97 season to rejoin the CCHA. The WCHA then expanded again for the 1999-2000 season with the admittance of Minnesota State University, Mankato as a 10th member.

Most recently, and beginning with the 2010-11 season, Bemidji State University and the University of Nebraska Omaha were granted admission to the WCHA to bring current men's membership to 12 teams.