

# Western Collegiate Hockey Association

**Bruce M. McLeod**

Commissioner

**Carol LaBelle-Ehrhardt**

Assistant Commissioner of Operations

**Greg Shepherd**

Supervisor of Officials

**Administrative Office**

Western Collegiate Hockey Association

2211 S. Josephine Street, Room 302

Denver, CO 80210

p: 303 871-4491. f: 303 871-4770

clabelle@wcha.com

**Doug Spencer**

Associate Commissioner for Public

Relations

Western Collegiate Hockey Association

559 D'Onofrio Drive, Ste. 103

Madison, WI 53719-2096

p: 608 829-0100. f: 608 829-0200

dspencer@mailbag.com

## 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

## 2012 Red Baron™

### WCHA Final Five

March 15-17

Xcel Energy Center Saint Paul, MN

[wcha.com](http://wcha.com)



October 4, 2011/For Release at 3:00 pm CT

## Bowling Green State University to Join WCHA Family Addition of Falcons for 2013-14 Ups Future League Membership to Nine Teams

MADISON, Wis. – The Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) is extremely pleased today (Oct. 4, 2011) to officially introduce Bowling Green State University as the newest member of the Association family effective with the 2013-14 season. The Falcons announced earlier today at a press conference that they were accepting the WCHA's invitation for membership.

"We are absolutely elated to welcome Bowling Green into the Association family," said Commissioner Bruce M. McLeod. "Across the board, BGSU is a first-class institution with a dynamic and proven athletic and hockey program that has enjoyed on-going successes. They are 100% committed to being among the nation's premier ice hockey programs and they will be a tremendous addition to our new-look WCHA. They enjoy enthusiastic support from both their fans and their community and will be a great fit. This is indeed a special day for the WCHA, for Bowling Green, and for college hockey in general."

"I'd like to thank the presidents of the institutions in the WCHA for extending this invitation," said BGSU President Dr. Mary Ellen Mazey. "Our University and our hockey program has many similarities to the current WCHA members and we are excited to join with these schools in two years."

"The WCHA is a great fit for BGSU," Director of Athletics Greg Christopher said. "WCHA teams are committed to the highest level of college hockey and competing for championships, just as we are at Bowling Green."

"We're building our program to compete for championships," Head Coach Chris Bergeron said. "I'm excited about the direction our program is headed and the league we are moving towards because of the opportunities it provides for us to continue to develop BGSU hockey."

Bowling Green has played in the Central Collegiate Hockey Association (CCHA) since its creation in 1971, and is the only founding institution to never leave the conference. The CCHA has yielded national collegiate champions, Hobey Baker award winners, and Stanley Cup champions in roughly 40 years of existence. CCHA players have combined for 174 All-American honors, including 88 First-Team selections. Bowling Green defenseman Ken Morrow was the CCHA's first First-Team All-American in 1978. As a member of the CCHA, Bowling Green has produced seven conference regular season championships, five conference tournament championships, nine NCAA tournament appearances, two frozen four appearances, and one national championship (1984). The Falcons have also yielded two Hobey Baker Award winners (George McPhee and Brian Holzinger) as members of the CCHA.

WCHA men's membership for the 2013-14 season will include current league members University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA), Bemidji State University (BSU), Michigan Technological University (MTU), and Minnesota State University, Mankato (MSU) along with new members University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), Bowling Green State University (BGSU), Ferris State University (FSU), Lake Superior State University (LSSU), and Northern Michigan University (NMU).

The WCHA, home to a record 37 national championships teams since its founding in 1951, will continue to operate as a 12-team conference for the 2011-12 and 2012-13 seasons. Current members are 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 University of Wisconsin.

Earlier this year (March 21) the Big Ten announced the formation of a new hockey conference that would include current WCHA-members Minnesota and Wisconsin and begin play in 2013-14. On July 13, WCHA members Colorado College, Denver, Minnesota Duluth, Nebraska Omaha and North Dakota announced they would be leaving following the 2012-13 season to form a new league (National Collegiate Hockey Conference) which will begin play in 2013-14. Then on Sept. 22, St. Cloud State announced they were leaving the WCHA for the NCHC.

## **About Bowling Green State University**

(courtesy of [www.bgsu.edu](http://www.bgsu.edu))

Bowling Green State University offers a transforming and defining educational experience for its diverse community of more than 21,000 students (approximately 18,000 are undergraduates). Known for outstanding examples for academic programs believed to lead to student success, the university has been cited repeatedly in U.S. News & World Reports Americas Best Colleges edition for exceptional first-year programs and residential living/learning communities.

BGSU pairs its signature values exploration program with academic learning to prepare graduates to go out into the world as critical thinkers, skilled communicators, and ethical leaders in all areas of study. The university is an international leader with such top-caliber programs as supply chain management, digital media, and photochemical sciences. BGSU is the 14th-largest producer of teachers in the country and is the only Ohio university with glass pilot training that allows students to use digital instrumentation in a glass cockpit aircraft.

**The Arts:** The arts take a front-row seat at BGSU, where students can participate in more than 400 cultural events on campus each year. Plans are underway to bring together dance, music, theater, and digital arts under one roof in a new state-of-the-art collaborative arts center.

**Faculty & Students:** More than 900 full-time faculty members devote their energies to teaching, research, and working closely with students. Their reputations as scholars, authors, and teachers complement their roles as people who care about students and the future of the university. BGSU attracts students who balance academic excellence with involvement in nearly 325 student organizations and a wide range of service-learning opportunities.

**Location & Campus Living:** BGSU's park-like campus is located in the city of Bowling Green, a vibrant community of 29,600 residents in northwest Ohio. Most restaurants and businesses are within walking or biking distance of the campus residence halls. All students are permitted to have cars on campus and the university also provides shuttle bus service with both on- and off-campus routes. Approximately 7,000 students live in the university's 17 residence halls and 30 houses with a variety of room configurations and dining options available.

## **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.

For 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, where it will remain through 2012-13.