

Western Collegiate Hockey Association

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1975, 1976, 1977, 1979, 1980, 1981,
1982, 1983, 1987, 1990, 1991, 1997,
2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006,
2011

Men's Member Teams

University of Alabama in Huntsville
University of Alaska Anchorage
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Bemidji State University
Bowling Green State University
Ferris State University
Lake Superior State University
Michigan Technological University
Minnesota State University
Northern Michigan University

2014 WCHA Final Five Playoff Championship Friday, March 21 & Saturday, March 22 Van Andel Arena, Grand Rapids, MI

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January 14, 2014/For Immediate Release

BSU's Ward and Wilkins, UAA's Kamal Named WCHA Men's Players of the Week

WCHA Offensive Player of the Week Cory Ward, F Bemidji State

Bemidji State University forward Cory Ward, who led all league players with four scoring points last weekend as the Beavers earned a two-game road sweep at Lake Superior State, is the WCHA Men's Offensive Player of the Week for Jan. 14, 2014.

A 5-10, 194-pound sophomore center from Las Vegas, Nev., Ward had four assists, including a career-best three in one game and another on a game-winning goal as Bemidji State earned its second league road sweep of the season and moved into fourth place in the WCHA race.

Ward posted a career-high three assists in the Beavers' 5-2 victory over the Lakers last Friday (Jan. 10) night in Sault Ste. Marie, which included a pair of helpers on the power-play. The trio of assists marked the first time a BSU player has posted three assists in a game since Matt Read accomplished the feat Feb. 5, 2011.

The Beavers' leading scorer then bounced back on Saturday (Jan. 11) evening to post an assist on teammate Matt Prapavessis' game-winning goal at 1:03 of the third period in an eventual 3-1 triumph.

Ward, who finished the weekend with a +2 plus/minus rating and also had three shots on goal, leads Bemidji State in scoring this season with 20 points (12g, 8a) while playing in all 24 games.

Also nominated: Garrett Thompson, F, FSU.

WCHA Defensive Player of the Week Chris Kamal, G Alaska Anchorage

University of Alaska Anchorage goaltender Chris Kamal, who backstopped his team to a sweep of pre-season WCHA favorite Minnesota State last weekend, is the WCHA Men's Defensive Player of the Week for Jan. 14, 2014.

A 5-10, 184-pound senior from Alpharetta, Ga., Kamal stopped 62 of 64 shots on goal for a .969 save percentage, had double-digit save totals in five of six periods, had four shutout periods, and held MSU to one power-play goal in 10 opportunities. The Mavericks, who outshot UAA 28-10 in game one and 36-16 in game two, had averaged 3.9 goals over their previous nine outings.

Last Friday (Jan. 10) in Anchorage, Kamal registered 27 saves to lead UAA to a 2-1 triumph, surrendering only a first period power-play goal. Then on Saturday (Jan. 11), he turned aside a season-high 35 shots and blanked MSU on all seven PPs, boosting the Seawolves to a 3-1 win, giving them their first home sweep over the Mavericks since 1983, and moving them into fifth place in the WCHA race.

Kamal, who has started the last five games with a 4-1 record, has a 2.10 season GAA and .922 SV%.

UAA, under first-year coach Matt Thomas, is off to its best start since 1998-99 when they posted an identical 11-9-2 record after 22 games. UAA is also 9-2-1 at home, the best home record since 1983-84 when they went 12-0 to start the season.

Also nominated: Matt Prapavessis, D, BSU; Tommy Burke, G, BGSU; CJ Motte, G, FSU.

WCHA Rookie of the Week Jesse Wilkins, G Bemidji State

Bemidji State University goaltender Jesse Wilkins, who fashioned back-to-back conference road victories at Lake Superior State last weekend, has been named the WCHA Men's Rookie of the Week for Jan. 14, 2014.

A 6-2, 185-pound freshman from Calgary, Alberta, Wilkins went 2-0-0 with a 1.50 goals-against average, stopped 75 of 78 shots on goal in the series for a .962 save percentage, had double-digit save totals in five of six periods and posted three shutout periods.

Wilkins stopped a career-best 41-of-43 shots last Friday (Jan. 10) night en route to his first collegiate victory in a 5-2 BSU decision over the host Lakers. Then last Saturday (Jan. 11) evening he posted 34 more saves as the Beavers completed the sweep with a 3-1 triumph.

In addition to his 75 total saves, Wilkins backstopped a BSU penalty-killing unit that held Lake Superior State to just 1-of-7 (14.3%) on the man-advantage during the two games.

Wilkins, who is 2-1-3 on the season, leads the Bemidji State team with a 2.28 goals-against average and a .935 save percentage in six appearances between the pipes.

Also nominated: Marcus Basara, F, UAF; Chad McDonald, F, FSU.