



WCHA WEEKEND PREVIEW: NOV. 21-22, 2014

News and notes for the upcoming weekend of WCHA hockey

- College hockey's premier series this weekend is in Houghton, Mich., as No. 1 Michigan Tech puts its perfect record on the line against No. 9 Minnesota State. The Huskies' 10-0-0 start is the best in school history and is the longest season-opening streak in the NCAA since Air Force's 13-game run to begin the 2008-09 campaign.
- In addition to the Huskies and Mavericks, the WCHA is also home to No. 17 Northern Michigan and No. 18 Bowling Green. Ferris State is receiving votes in both the USCHO.com and USA Today/USA Hockey Magazine polls.
- WCHA teams own three of the nation's top 10 and four of the country's top 15 winning percentages, matching Hockey East in both counts for the most among any conference:
 - Michigan Tech (1st at 1.000, 8-0-0)
 - Northern Michigan (t-2nd at .812, 6-1-1)
 - Bowling Green (t-10th at .708, 8-3-1)
 - Minnesota State (t-12th at .700, 7-3-0)
- For the first time this season, the upcoming weekend features a full slate of five WCHA series. **All games can be viewed live via WCHA.tv.**
 - No. 1 Michigan Tech hosts No. 9 Minnesota State.
 - Alaska Anchorage returns home from an 11-day, four-game road trip to host No. 17 Northern Michigan, which boasts the nation's stingiest defense.
 - No. 18 Bowling Green, which set a BGSU Ice Arena attendance record last Friday, hosts Bemidji State. The Beavers will play a ranked opponent for the fifth straight series.
 - Ferris State continues its four-game homestand by hosting Alabama Huntsville.
 - Lake Superior State will entertain Alaska at Taffy Abel Arena. The Lakers will also sponsor the seventh annual "Pink in the Rink" celebration to raise money and awareness for local health and wellness organizations.

-Series previews begin on the next page-

WCHA

**No. 9 Minnesota State (5-1-0, 10 pts. / 7-3-0) at No. 1 Michigan Tech (8-0-0, 16 pts. / 10-0-0)
John J. MacInnes Student Ice Arena; Houghton, Mich.**

Friday, Nov. 21 and Saturday, Nov. 22 (7:07 p.m. ET both nights) – [WATCH LIVE ON WCHA.TV](#)

- College hockey's marquee matchup for the weekend is a top-10 showdown in Houghton, Mich., between No. 1 Michigan Tech and No. 9 Minnesota State.
- Michigan Tech leads the nation in scoring margin (+2.20), is second in scoring defense (1.20gpg) and second in penalty kill (94.2 percent). Similarly, Minnesota State ranks first with the fewest shots on goal allowed per game (19.08) and second in shot margin (+149).
- MTU junior G **Jamie Phillips** is the nation's only undefeated netminder at 10-0-0. Phillips ranks third in the country in save percentage (.957) and fourth in goals against average (1.20).
- Huskies' junior F **Alex Petan** has a goal in three-straight games. All three strikes have been game-winners, ranking him third in the nation. Petan leads the Huskies with five goals, while his 10 points (5a) rank second behind senior F **Tanner Kero** (12 pts. on 4g and 8a).
- Mavericks' junior F **Bryce Gervais** has eight goals in his last six games. Gervais is tied for the NCAA lead with nine goals overall, while his 14 points (5a) are good for 11th nationally. His four power-play tallies are tied for second in the country.
- Minnesota State leads the all-time series 28-16-6, but MTU owns a 12-11-3 advantage at home.

**No. 17 Northern Michigan (3-1-0, 6 pts. / 6-1-1) at Alaska Anchorage (1-5-0, 2 pts. / 4-6-2)
Sullivan Arena; Anchorage, Alaska**

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- Alaska Anchorage returns home following an 11-day, four-game road stretch to host No. 17 Northern Michigan.
- The Wildcats have one of the nation's top defensive units, as NMU ranks first in goals allowed per game (0.75), second in combined special teams (34/56), third on the penalty kill (30/32) and fourth in scoring margin (+1.75).
- This success is due largely to sophomore G **Mathias Dahlström**. He is currently ranked first in the country in goals against average (0.74), save percentage (.970) and shutouts (3).
- Junior F **Blake Tatchell** is UAA's leading scorer among forwards with nine points (2g-7a). Sophomore D **Chase Van Allen** leads the team with eight assists.
- NMU is 22-12-9 all-time against Alaska Anchorage. Last year, the Wildcats split with the Seawolves during conference play.

**Bemidji State (2-4-0, 4 pts. / 3-7-0) at No. 18 Bowling Green (5-1-0, 10 pts. / 8-3-1)
BGSU Ice Arena; Bowling Green, Ohio.**

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- Bemidji State looks to turn around their four-game losing skid as they travel to Ohio to take on No. 18 Bowling Green, which is in the USCHO.com top 20 for the second straight week.
- The Beavers will continue their streak of playing ranked opponents, as they have done every series this season (No. 2 North Dakota, No. 1 Minnesota, No. 16 Alaska, No. 13 Minnesota State and No. 5 Michigan Tech).
- BGSU's early season success has been helped by strong special teams play. The Falcons rank third on both the power play (19.1percent) and penalty kill (90.9 percent). In fact, the Orange and Brown has killed off its last 13 penalties.
- Falcons' junior F **Brent Tate** has totaled three goals, 10 shots, and one power-play goal in the only four games he's played this season.
- Sophomore F **Nate Arentz** is leading BSU and is fourth among the league's top goal scorers with five, as well as tied for the team lead in points with eight.
- The two teams have split the first four meetings, with the Falcons sweeping last year.

Alabama Huntsville (1-5-0, 2 pts. / 2-8-2) at Ferris State (3-3-0, 6 pts. / 6-5-0)

Ewigleben Ice Arena; Big Rapids, Mich.

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- Ferris State, coming off a dominating sweep at home, hosts Alabama Huntsville in Big Rapids.
- The Bulldogs swept the Chargers in their first-ever WCHA action last season and own the all-time series lead by a 9-2-0 count.
- FSU enters the weekend with two players being named WCHA Players of the Week following their sweep of Alaska Anchorage. Sophomore F **Gerald Mayhew** (4g-3a) was named WCHA Offensive Player of the Week and senior G **CJ Motte** (.948 save percentage) claimed WCHA Defensive Player of the Week.
- Motte notched his NCAA active career-leading 13th collegiate start shutout this past weekend and enters the series tied for seventh nationally with a 1.58 GAA and .948 save percentage.
- The Chargers' first full recruiting class under head coach **Mike Corbett** has continued to impress. F **Max McHugh** (3g-2a) and D **Brandon Parker** (0g-5a) headline the class as the pair is tied for the team lead in points with five, followed by F **Brennan Saulnier** (1g-3a), F **Josh Kestner** (2g-1a), D **Cody Champagne** (1g-1a) and D **Richard Buri** (1g-0a). The UAH freshmen have combined for 20 points so far this season, the most for any class on the roster.

Alaska (0-4-0, 0 pts. / 5-5-0) at Lake Superior State (2-6-0, 4 pts. / 2-10-0)

Taffy Abel Arena; Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

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- Lake Superior State faces off at home against an Alaska squad seeking its first WCHA win of the season.
- LSSU leads the all-time series 31-18-6, including a 24-8-1 mark in Sault Ste. Marie.
- Junior F **Tyler Morley** leads the Nanooks with eight points, stemming from a team-leading seven assists. In only eight games played, his seven assists put him at third in the WCHA.
- Laker junior F **Bryce Schmitt** (4g-3a) continues to lead the team in points with seven. In net, freshman G **Gordon Defiel** (2-8-0) registered his first collegiate shutout this past weekend, stopping all 26 shots he faced. Defiel was named the WCHA Rookie of the Week for Nov. 13-15 and now ranks fourth nationally in saves with 309.
- Alaska has the second most number of penalty minutes in the conference, coupled with the third best penalty kill. The Nanooks have killed off 89.2% (33/37) of penalties.

About Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA)

The Western Collegiate Hockey Association, among the most historic, tradition-rich and successful conferences in all of collegiate athletics, proudly marks its 63rd season of men's competition in 2014-15. Covering five time zones and more than 4,200 miles, the 10-team Division 1 conference consists of the University of Alabama in Huntsville (Chargers), the University of Alaska Anchorage (Seawolves), the University of Alaska (Nanooks), Bemidji State University (Beavers), Bowling Green State University (Falcons), Ferris State University (Bulldogs), Lake Superior State University (Lakers), Michigan Technological University (Huskies), Minnesota State University (Mavericks) and Northern Michigan University (Wildcats).

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