



## **WCHA WEEKEND PREVIEW: NOV. 28-29, 2014**

### ***News and notes for the upcoming weekend of WCHA hockey***

- Four WCHA teams are ranked and a fifth is receiving votes in this week's national polls, including a season-high three in the *USA Today/USA Hockey Magazine* ledger. Michigan Tech is ranked sixth (USCHO.com) and fifth, while Minnesota State is seventh and Bowling Green 15th in both polls. Northern Michigan checks in at No. 19 in the USCHO.com rankings, while Ferris State received votes.
- WCHA teams own an NCAA-best four of the country's top 10 winning percentages: Michigan Tech is second at .833 (10-2-0), while Bowling Green (10-3-1), Minnesota State (9-3-0) and Northern Michigan (7-2-1) are all tied for fourth at .750.
- The WCHA owns the third-highest non-conference winning percentage among the six NCAA D-I leagues, posting a .558 mark (22-17-4) against the rest of the country.
- Michigan Tech's 10-0-0 start was the best in the 94-year history of Huskies hockey. Minnesota State is off to the best 12-game start in the program's D-I era, while Bowling Green has its best 14-game ledger since 1995-96. Northern Michigan has its best 10-game start since 1998-99.
  - Michigan Tech and Bowling Green join Miami as the nation's three 10-win teams entering the weekend.
- After a full slate of WCHA series last weekend, three league sets are ahead
  - No. 6/5 Michigan Tech heads to Alabama Huntsville to face a Chargers team that has already surpassed its victory total of a year ago.
  - No. 7 Minnesota State stays on the road at Lake Superior State
  - No. 19 Northern Michigan wraps up its stay in the Last Frontier by skating against the Nanooks in Fairbanks.
- WCHA teams will also play a pair of non-conference series:
  - Ferris State faces its third Big Ten opponent of the season when it travels to Wisconsin.
  - Bemidji State, which has faced a ranked opponent in each of its six series this season, continues that streak by hosting No. 16 St. Cloud State.
- **All three WCHA series, along with Bemidji State's games against St. Cloud State, can be viewed live via [WCHA.tv](http://WCHA.tv).**

*-Series previews begin on the next page-*

**WCHA**

**No. 6/5 Michigan Tech (8-2-0, 10 pts. / 10-2-0) at Alabama Huntsville (2-6-0, 4 pts. / 3-9-2)  
Von Braun Center; Huntsville, Alabama.**

**Friday, Nov. 28 and Saturday, Nov. 29 (7:07 p.m. CT both nights) – [WATCH LIVE ON WCHA.TV](#)**

- No. 6/5 Michigan Tech, which had a 10-game, season-opening winning streak snapped last weekend, travels south to face an improving Alabama Huntsville squad that has already surpassed its season victory total from a season ago.
- Huskies' junior F **Alex Petan** has scored in five straight games and leads the team with seven goals, as well as ranking second in the nation with three game-winning goals.
- Other notable Huskies in the national rankings include freshman D **Matt Roy** and sophomore D **Cliff Watson** (second and fifth, respectively, in blocked shots). Junior G **Jamie Phillips** is third in the nation with a 1.42 goals against average and fifth with a .950 save percentage.
- UAH freshman F **Max McHugh** leads the Chargers with seven points (3g-4a) on the year. Sophomore G **Carmine Guerriero** ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation with a .933 save percentage, and is seventh in the WCHA with a 2.43 goals against average. He has totaled 30 saves or more in seven games, including a season-best 54 saves at Minnesota State (Oct. 24).
- The Huskies and Chargers met for the first time last season, with MTU winning both contests.

**No. 7 Minnesota State (7-1-0, 14 pts. / 9-3-0) at Lake Superior State (3-7-0, 6 pts. / 3-11-0)  
Taffy Abel Arena; Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.**

**Friday, Nov. 28 (7:37 p.m. ET) and Saturday, Nov. 29 (7:07 p.m. ET) – [WATCH LIVE ON WCHA.TV](#)**

- Lake Superior State seeks redemption against No. 7 Minnesota State in their first meeting of the year. The Mavericks swept the series last year in the first-ever meetings between the schools, helping keep the Lakers out of the WCHA playoffs.
- MSU, which has matched an all-time program best with its No. 7 ranking, leads the nation with the fewest shots on goal allowed per game (21.3). The Mavericks rank second in shot margin (+148) and seventh in shots on goal per game (33.7).
- Mavericks' junior G **Stephon Williams** earned WCHA Defensive Player of the Week honors after a stellar weekend performance in a sweep at then-No. 1 Michigan Tech that improved his goals against average to 1.95 and his save percentage to .915. In front of him, junior F **Bryce Gervais**, who has eight goals in his last eight games, is tied for fourth in the nation with nine overall.
- Laker senior F **Chris Ciotti**, upon return from injury, has scored in three of the four games he's played in. He is currently a +6 plus/minus. Freshman D **James Roll**'s four assists last weekend garnered him WCHA Rookie of the Week accolades.

**No. 19 Northern Michigan (4-2-0, 8 pts. / 7-2-1) at Alaska (1-5-0, 2 pts. / 6-6-0)  
Carlson Center; Fairbanks, Alaska.**

**Friday, Nov. 28 and Saturday, Nov. 29 (7:07 p.m. AT both nights) – [WATCH LIVE ON WCHA.TV](#)**

- No. 19 Northern Michigan, ranked for the third straight week in the USCHO.com polls, remains in Alaska for a two game set against the Nanooks.
- The Wildcats own the advantage in the all-time series with a 30-10-12 record, including a 13-7-5 mark in Fairbanks. NMU went 2-2 last season against Alaska.
- NMU sophomore G **Mathias Dahlström** continues his domination in net, remaining No. 1 in the nation with a 0.99 goals against average, .958 save percentage and four shutouts. He recorded his fourth shutout of the season and seventh of his career last weekend at UAA.
- Northern Michigan is ranked No. 1 in the country with a scoring defense of 1.00 goals per game, while the Wildcats are second on the penalty kill at 41-of-43 (95.3%), and third in combined special teams at 45-of-75 (60.0%).
- Sophomore F **Marcus Basara**, following his three-goal weekend, leads the Nanooks and ranks in the top five of the WCHA with six strikes overall. Junior F **Tyler Morley** leads the team in points with ten, while ranking fourth in the conference with nine assists.

## NON-CONFERENCE

**Ferris State (4-4-0, 8 pts. WCHA / 7-6-0) at Wisconsin (0-0-0 Big Ten, 0 pts. / 0-8-0)**

**Kohl Center; Madison, Wisc.**

**Friday, Nov. 28 (7:00 p.m. CT) and Saturday, Nov. 29 (8:00 p.m. CT)**

- Coming off a four-game homestand, Ferris State visits Wisconsin for a pair of non-conference matchups. The Bulldogs are 2-1-0 this year against the Big Ten, going 1-0 against Michigan and 1-1 at Michigan Tech.
- FSU sophomore F **Chad McDonald**, leading the team with seven goals, enters the weekend as the reigning WCHA Offensive Player of the Week. He is also tied for second in the nation with three game-winning goals, while fellow F **Matt Robertson** is tied for eighth with two game-winning goals to date.
- Senior G **CJ Motte** earned a victory this past weekend, in what marked his 100<sup>th</sup> career contest in net for the Bulldogs. So far, Motte is ninth nationally in save percentage (.941), 10<sup>th</sup> in goals against average (1.72), and tied for third in the country with three shutouts this season.
- The Bulldogs have faced the Badgers four times in the series history, with each winning twice.

**No. 16 St. Cloud State (2-3-1 NCHC, 5 pts. / 5-6-1) at Bemidji State (2-6-0, 4 pts. / 3-9-0)**

**Sanford Center; Bemidji, Minn.**

**Friday, Nov. 28 (7:37 p.m. CT) and Saturday, Nov. 29 (7:07 p.m. CT) – WATCH LIVE ON [WCHA.TV](http://WCHA.TV)**

- Bemidji State plays host to No. 16 Saint Cloud State this weekend to continue a storied rivalry. The schools have met on 92 previous occasions, with BSU holding a slight 45-42-5 edge – including a 26-20-1 record versus the Huskies when playing at home.
- The Beavers are led by the strong duo of sophomore F's **Nate Arentz** and **Brendan Harms**, who each have five goals. Harms has now posted a point in each of the Beavers' last four games (2g-2a), marking his longest point streak of the season. Similarly, Arentz has four goals and two assists for six points in five Saturday contests to rank among the top 20 players in the country.
- With a team-high 30 blocked shots, BSU senior D **Sam Windle** ranks seventh in the nation.
- BSU has played a ranked team each weekend this season.

## IDLE

- Alaska Anchorage
- No. 15 Bowling Green

### ***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 63<sup>rd</sup> 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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