



WCHA WEEKEND PREVIEW: DEC. 12-13, 2014

News and notes for the upcoming weekend of WCHA hockey

- The WCHA is the only conference in the nation with two top-five teams in the latest national polls, with Minnesota State and Michigan Tech sitting Nos. 3 and 4, respectively, in both the USCHO.com and *USA Today/USA Hockey Magazine* rankings.
- With No. 13 Bowling Green – which is riding the nation's second-longest active unbeaten streak (4-0-1) – the WCHA has a trio of top-20 teams.
- The Mavericks, Huskies and Falcons also give the WCHA three of the top-10 best winning percentages in the country, matching Hockey East for most of any conference.
 - Michigan Tech continues to hold the NCAA's best record at 12-2-0 (.857), while Minnesota State (12-4-0) and Bowling Green (11-3-2) are tied for sixth with a .750 mark.
- Entering college hockey's final full weekend of the 2014 calendar year and the unofficial halfway point of the season, Minnesota State sits atop the PairWise rankings. They are joined by No. 5 Michigan Tech and No. 8 Bowling Green.
- Three WCHA series are on tap this weekend:
 - Lake Superior State and Ferris State renew a 37-year-old rivalry when they skate at Ewigleben Ice Arena, where the Bulldogs are 20-3-1 in their past 24 home contests.
 - Northern Michigan, which is 6-2-0 away from Marquette (including two neutral site wins), travels to Bemidji State to face a Beavers squad unbeaten in its last three games (1-0-2).
 - Following an off week, Alabama Huntsville looks to snap a three-game losing skid when it visits the Nanooks in Fairbanks, Alaska.
- This weekend is also full of non-conference intrigue, with on the nation's marquee matchups once again taking place in Houghton, Mich.:
 - No. 4 Michigan Tech hosts No. 9 Minnesota Duluth for the latest in a rivalry that dates back to 1952, but this time carries huge implications: both teams are in the top five of the PairWise rankings (UMD is second, while MTU is fifth).
 - No. 3 Minnesota State hosts Princeton for the Mavericks' first contests against an ECAC opponent this season.
- **All three WCHA series, along with the Michigan Tech – Minnesota Duluth top-10 showdown, can be viewed live via WCHA.tv.**

-Series previews begin on the next page-

WCHA

Lake Superior State (3-9-0, 6 pts. / 3-15-0) at Ferris State (4-4-0, 8 pts. / 7-7-1)

Ewigleben Ice Arena; Big Rapids, Mich.

Friday, Dec. 12 and Saturday, Dec. 13 (7:07 p.m. ET both nights) – WATCH LIVE ON [WCHA.TV](#)

- Reviving a 37-year old rivalry that began in the 1977-78 season, Lake Superior State travels to Big Rapids to take on Ferris State.
- Historically, the Lakers hold an edge in the series lead with a 66-47-14 ledger over their long-time rival. However, they are just 2-5-3 in the last 10 games played at FSU.
- LSSU senior F **Stephen Perfetto** (5-3—8) and junior F **Bryce Schmitt** (5-5—10) are tied for the team lead in goals, while freshman D **James Roll** continues to lead the Lakers in assists with eight.
- In net for the Lakers, freshman G **Gordon Defiel** sits atop the WCHA leaderboard in total saves (476) as well as total shots faced (532).
- FSU junior F **Matt Robertson** leads the Bulldogs with 15 points (4g, 11a), while sophomore F **Chad McDonald** is tops with eight goals (t-3rd in the WCHA).
- FSU is 20-3-1 in its last 24 home games in front of its “Dawg Pound” student section, which will mark its 58th and 59th-straight regular season sellouts this weekend.

Northern Michigan (5-4-1, 11 pts. / 8-4-2) at Bemidji State (2-6-2, 6 pts. / 4-10-2)

Sanford Center; Bemidji, Minn.

Friday, Dec. 12 at 7:37 p.m. CT / Saturday, Dec. 13 at 7:07 p.m. CT – WATCH LIVE ON [WCHA.TV](#)

- Bemidji State, unbeaten in its last three games (1-0-2), hosts Northern Michigan. The Wildcats swept the lone series last year, but BSU holds an all-time 4-3-1 edge.
- Freshman F **Gerry Fitzgerald** is on a four-game point streak (3g, 4a) and now leads BSU’s rookie class with nine points overall (3g, 6a).
- Seniority at the blueline for BSU has dominated the blocked-shot category. Senior D **Sam Windle** is tied for second in the nation with 39 total blocks, while fellow classmate D **Matt Prapavessis** sits in a tie for sixth in the nation with 38.
- NMU senior defender **Mitch Jones** leads the team in plus-minus with a +6 rating. Behind him, sophomore G **Mathias Dahlström** still boasts a solid 1.74 goals against average and a .934 save percentage, good for third among WCHA goaltenders overall.
- The Wildcats are 6-2-0 away from Marquette this season, including 4-2-0 in true road games.

Alabama Huntsville (2-8-0, 4 pts. / 3-11-2) at Alaska (3-7-0, 6 pts. / 8-8-0)

Carlson Center; Fairbanks, Alaska

Friday, Dec. 12 and Saturday, Dec. 13 (7:07 p.m. AT both nights) – WATCH LIVE ON [WCHA.TV](#)

- Following an off week, Alabama Huntsville looks to snap a three-game losing skid when the Chargers visit Fairbanks for a matchup with Alaska.
- The Chargers total the most penalty kills in the nation (81), due largely in part to both sophomore D **Brandon Carlson** and classmate G **Carmine Guerriero**. Carlson leads the nation with 41 blocked shots while Guerriero stands tall in the net with a 2.49 goals against average and a .931 save percentage, good for 15th in the nation.
- UAH points leader, freshman F **Max McHugh**, sits at sixth in the conference for most points by a rookie, in addition to totaling at least one tally in each of the last four games.
- Alaska junior F **Tyler Morley** is now tied for third in the WCHA with 16 points. He averages 1.14 points per game, a mark which is second in the conference.
- After an 0-4-0 start to conference play, the Nanooks have split each of their last three WCHA series (at Lake Superior State, vs. Northern Michigan and at Minnesota State),
- The Nanooks hold a 13-4-1 all-time record over the Chargers, including an impressive 7-2-0 mark at home in Fairbanks.

NON-CONFERENCE

No. 9 Minnesota Duluth (7-3-0, 21 pts. NCHC/11-5-0) at No. 4 Michigan Tech (10-2-0, 20 pts. WCHA/12-2-0)

John J. MacInnes Student Ice Arena; Houghton, Mich.

Friday, Dec. 12 and Saturday, Dec. 13 (7:07 p.m. ET both nights)

- Once again, college hockey's premiere matchup is in Houghton, as No. 4 Michigan Tech welcomes No. 9 Minnesota Duluth in the nation's lone top-10 showdown this weekend. The Huskies enter the weekend with the NCAA's best record at 12-2-0 (.857).
- The Huskies lead the all-time series, which dates back to 1952, at 119-85-20. At home, MTU has a 60-34-11 mark. However, UMD is unbeaten in the last six games and 14 of the last 15 contests.
- MTU senior F **Tanner Kero** leads the conference in scoring with three goals and 12 assists in WCHA games, while junior F **Alex Petan** ranks fifth with 12 points on seven goals and five assists.
- Defensively, freshman D **Matt Roy** is second in the nation with 39 blocked shots. Sophomore D **Cliff Watson**, a San Jose Sharks draft pick, ranks seventh with 32 blocked attempts.
- In net, junior G **Jamie Phillips** is second in the nation in goals against average (1.50) and fourth in save percentage (.943). He is also leading the nation in wins (12) and win percentage (.857).

Princeton (1-7-0, 2 pts. ECAC / 2-9-1) at No. 3 Minnesota State (10-2-0, 20 pts. WCHA / 12-4-0)

Verizon Wireless Center; Mankato, Minn.

Friday, Dec. 12 and Saturday, Dec. 13 (7:07 p.m. CT both nights)

- No. 3 Minnesota State hosts Princeton for their first games against an ECAC opponent this season. The Mavericks are 7-1-0 in their last eight games and 10-2-0 in their last 12 contests.
- MSU holds an impressive national ranking in many categories. They are first in goals (62), fewest shots on goal allowed per game (21.3), shot margin (+207) and shots on goal margin per game (+12.9). MSU is third in goals per game (3.88) and sixth in shots on goal per game (34.25).
- Sophomore D **Casey Nelson**, who carries a five-game point-scoring streak (2-5—7) into the weekend, is tied for sixth in the nation among blueliners with 14 points.
- Junior forwards **Dylan Margonari** and **Bryce Gervais** are currently tied for second in the conference with three game-winning goals apiece. Gervais' 10 goals overall lead the WCHA.
- Junior G **Stephon Williams** stands 11-2-0 with a 1.86 goals against average and a .914 save percentage. He has two shutouts this season and seven whitewashes for his career, which ties the all-time Minnesota State record.

IDLE

- Alaska Anchorage and No. 13 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 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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