



WCHA WEEKEND PREVIEW: DEC. 5-6, 2014

News and notes for the upcoming weekend of WCHA hockey

- The WCHA is home to a pair of top-five teams in the latest USCHO.com poll – No. 2 Minnesota State and No. 5 Michigan Tech. They are joined in the top-20 by No. 14 Bowling Green and No. 19 Northern Michigan.
- Minnesota State also sits atop both the PairWise and RPI rankings (despite playing the nation’s second-toughest schedule, according to both USCHO.com and College Hockey News). Michigan Tech is fifth in both ledgers, while Bowling Green is eighth.
- WCHA teams also own three of the NCAA’s top five winning percentages and four of the top 15 records (tied with Hockey East and the NCHC for most of any league).
 - Michigan Tech has the nation’s best record at 12-2-0 (.857), while Minnesota State is fourth (.786, 11-3-0), Bowling Green is sixth (.750, 10-3-1) and Northern Michigan is 11th (.708, 8-3-1).
- The WCHA’s goaltending corps continues to stake its claim as arguably the nation’s best. For example:
 - Minnesota State junior **Stephon Williams** leads the nation with a .917 winning percentage (11-1-0), while ranking fourth with a 1.52 goals against average.
 - Northern Michigan sophomore **Mathias Dahlström** is first nationally with a 1.19 GAA and four shutouts (tied), while ranking second with a .952 save percentage.
 - Michigan Tech junior **Jamie Phillips** has an NCAA-best 12 victories, while ranking third for GAA (1.50) and sixth for save percentage (.943).
 - Ferris State senior **CJ Motte** is tied for third with three shutouts, ranks ninth with a .936 save percentage and is 13th with a 1.82 GAA.
 - Alaska Anchorage freshman **Olivier Mantha** (12th, .935) and Alabama Huntsville sophomore **Carmine Guerriero** (14th, .931) are both in the top-20 for save percentage, while Bowling Green junior **Tommy Burke** (20th, 1.98) is in the upper echelon for GAA.
- Three WCHA series are on tap this weekend:
 - No. 14 Bowling Green travels to Marquette for a key series at No. 19 Northern Michigan.
 - No. 2/4 Minnesota State brings its six-game winning streak into a home series against Alaska, as the Nanooks visit Mankato for the first time since 1992-93.
 - Bemidji State visits Alaska Anchorage in the Seawolves’ final action of 2014.
- In the lone non-conference series of the weekend, Lake Superior State gets the first crack at the nation’s new top-ranked team when it travels to Grand Forks to face No. 1 North Dakota.
- **All three WCHA series can be viewed live via WCHA.tv.**

-Series previews begin on the next page-

All rankings listed by USCHO.com poll first, followed by USA Today / USA Hockey Magazine poll

WCHA

**No. 14 Bowling Green (7-1-0, 14 pts. / 10-3-1) at No. 19 Northern Michigan (5-3-0, 10 pts. / 8-3-1)
Berry Events Center; Marquette, Mich.**

Friday, Dec. 5 and Saturday, Dec. 6 (7:07 p.m. ET both nights) – WATCH LIVE ON [WCHA.TV](#)

- No. 14 Bowling Green travels to play No. 19 Northern Michigan in a battle of two ranked WCHA teams.
- The Falcons have a slight edge in the all-time series, leading 41-39-8. The two teams split in their only meeting last year.
- NMU sophomore G **Mathias Dahlström** currently leads the nation for goals against average (1.19) and shutouts (4). He is second in the country with a .952 save percentage.
- Wildcats' junior F **Darren Nowick** leads the team with four goals, 10 points and a +6 rating.
- BGSU senior D Mike Sullivan has seven points (1g, 6a) in his last seven games.
- Each team's penalty kill is nationally ranked. The Falcons lead the WCHA and rank second nationally at 92.5 percent (49-of-53), while the Wildcats sit at third in conference standings and fourth nationally at 91.7 percent (44-of-48).

**Alaska (2-6-0, 4 pts. / 7-7-0) at No. 2/4 Minnesota State (9-1-0, 18 pts. / 11-3-0)
Verizon Wireless Center; Mankato, Minn.**

Friday, Dec. 5 and Saturday, Dec. 6 (7:07 p.m. CT both nights) – WATCH LIVE ON [WCHA.TV](#)

- Winners of six straight games (the NCAA's longest current unbeaten streak), No. 2 Minnesota State hosts Alaska at home for a conference matchup.
- The Mavericks sit an impressive first overall in the nation in four different categories: goals (53), fewest shots on goal allowed per game (21.5), shot margin (+180) and shots on goal margin per game (+12.8). They also rank second in goals per game at 3.79.
- MSU junior G **Stephon Williams** not only earned WCHA Defensive Player of the Week accolades, but was also named one of the NCAA's Three Stars of the Week. Williams has a 1.52 goals against average, a .931 save percentage and a NCAA-best .917 winning percentage.
- Alaska junior F **Tyler Morley** is top-20 in the nation and tied for second in the WCHA with 11 assists. He has multi-assist efforts in three of his last five games.
- The Nanooks have dominated the all-time series, holding a commanding 11-1-0 lead. However, the first 10 contests were all during the Mavericks' Division II era. Alaska is making its first visit to Mankato since the 1992-93 season.

**Bemidji State (2-6-0, 4 pts. / 4-10-0) at Alaska Anchorage (2-6-0, 4 pts. / 5-7-2)
Sullivan Center; Anchorage, Alaska**

Friday, Dec. 5 at 7:07 p.m. AT / Saturday, Dec. 6 at 5:07 p.m. AT – WATCH LIVE ON [WCHA.TV](#)

- Bemidji State travels to Alaska Anchorage for only the ninth and 10th all-time meetings between the schools.
- After losing the first-ever game in the series in Nov. 2010, BSU is unbeaten in the last seven contests (5-1-2).
- BSU sophomore F **Nate Arentz** has six goals to lead the team, which also stand as a career-high. Arentz also leads the team with 12 points.
- With a shutout in UAA's last series, freshman G **Olivier Mantha** improved his goals against average to 2.26 and raised his save percentage to .935 – sixth and fourth, respectively, in the WCHA.
- Mantha's fellow freshmen lead the Seawolves with 11 goals on the season, including three from F **Anthony Conti**.

NON-CONFERENCE

Lake Superior State (3-9-0, 6 pts. WCHA / 3-13-0) at No. 1 North Dakota (5-2-1, 11 pts. NCHC / 10-3-2)

Ralph Engelstad Arena; Grand Forks, North Dakota

Friday, Dec. 5 at 7:37 p.m. CT / Saturday, Dec. 6 at 7:07 p.m. CT

- Lake Superior State will get the first crack at the nation's new top-ranked team, as the Lakers travel to Grand Forks for a non-conference series against No. 1 North Dakota.
- The weekend series marks the first time in the modern-era of college hockey that the two storied programs have met. The first and only meeting between the schools came in Dec. 1973, when LSSU dropped both games.
- Laker junior F **Bryce Schmitt** leads the team in goals (5) as well as overall points with 10 (5-5—10). Freshman D **James Roll** leads the squad in assists with seven.
- LSSU looks to pull out their first non-conference wins of the season, as the Lakers are currently 0-4-0 against teams outside of the WCHA.

IDLE

- Alabama Huntsville
- Ferris State
- No. 5/6 Michigan Tech

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).

MEDIA CONTACT

Matt Hodson

Associate Commissioner for Public Relations

E: mhodson@wcha.com

O: 952.818.8872

M: 612.801.2808

MORE INFORMATION

Website: wcha.com

Twitter: [@wcha_mhockey](https://twitter.com/wcha_mhockey)

Facebook: facebook.com/wchahockey

WCHA.tv: wcha.com/men/tv.php

--WCHA--