



WCHA WEEKEND PREVIEW: FEB. 13-14, 2015

News and notes for the upcoming weekend of WCHA hockey

Opening Face-Off

- **Mavericks, Huskies and Falcons Lead WCHA Top-10 Presence:** The WCHA has three teams in the top 10 of both the USCHO.com and *USA Today/USA Hockey Magazine* opinion polls, along with the PairWise rankings. Minnesota State continues to lead all three rankings; Michigan Tech is fifth in the polls and sixth in the PairWise; and, Bowling Green is eighth in all three ledgers.
- **Winning Hockey:** The Mavericks and Huskies are 1-2 in the country for wins this season, while MSU, MTU and BGSU give the WCHA an NCAA-best three of the nation's top 10 winning percentages. Minnesota State's .810 mark (23-5-1) leads the country, Michigan Tech is tied for third at .750 (22-7-1) and Bowling Green is sixth at .696 (17-6-5).
- **Historically Good?:** Minnesota State (19 league wins with six games to play), Michigan Tech (17 with six) and Bowling Green (13 with eight) are all within striking distance of WCHA top-10 single-season conference win totals. Reaching 20 WCHA wins would match 16 other teams for the 10th-highest single-season total in conference history (both Ferris State and Minnesota State hit the mark last season). Twenty-one wins, the ninth-best total in WCHA history, has not been accomplished since North Dakota went 21-6-1 in 2010-11.
- **The Playoff Picture:** Minnesota State, Michigan Tech and Bowling Green have all clinched spots in the 2015 WCHA playoffs, while the Mavericks and Huskies (for the first time since 1992-93) have also secured home-ice advantage. Any combination of two Bowling Green wins, one Bowling Green win and a loss each for Bemidji State and Ferris State, or two losses each for Bemidji State and Ferris State would give the Falcons home-ice for the first round. Meanwhile, the remaining six playoff-eligible teams can all mathematically finish anywhere from fourth to 10th place, with eight games remaining for all but Lake Superior State (six contests).
- **Chasing Hobey:** Among the WCHA's seven Hobey Baker Award candidates, MSU's **Bryce Gervais** is now third nationally with 20 goals, MTU's **Tanner Kero** is tied for seventh with 37 points, MSU's **Matt Leitner** is third with 25 assists and MTU's **Jamie Phillips** is in the top 10 for wins (1st - 21), winning percentage (5th - .768) and GAA (7th - 1.85).

The Week Ahead

- **Home Ice Battle:** Fourth-place Northern Michigan hosts Bemidji State, one of two teams tied for fifth among playoff-eligible teams.
- **Jockeying for Position:** Lake Superior State and Alabama Huntsville, the two teams tied for seventh among playoff-eligible teams, face off this weekend in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.
- **You Look Familiar:** No. 8 Bowling Green and Ferris State play for the second straight weekend, this time in Big Rapids, Mich.
- **League Leaders Travel to Alaska:** No. 1 Minnesota State travels to Fairbanks for a series against the Nanooks, while No. 5 Michigan Tech - which trails the first-place Mavericks by four points in the league standings - visits Alaska Anchorage.

WCHA.tv

- All 10 WCHA games this weekend, spanning five series, can be viewed live via WCHA.tv

WCHA

No. 1 Minnesota State (19-2-1, 39 pts. / 23-5-1) at Alaska (9-12-1, 19 pts. / 14-13-1)

Carlson Center; Fairbanks, Alaska

Friday, Feb. 13 and Saturday, Feb. 14 (7:07 p.m. AT both nights) – [WATCH LIVE ON WCHA.TV](#)

- No. 1 Minnesota State, the nation's top-ranked team for the second consecutive week, travels to Fairbanks to take on Alaska at home. The Mavericks are now 18-2-1 in their last 21 contests, although one of those losses came to the Nanooks in OT on Dec. 5.
- Leading UAF in assists and overall points is junior F **Tyler Morley**. The upperclassman has recorded 10-19—29 and is also tied for first on the team with his ten goals.
- MSU junior F **Bryce Gervais** stands second on his team's scoring charts this season with 20-8—28. His 20 goals rank third in the nation and lead all WCHA players, while he has lit the lamp in four straight games (five overall).
- Junior G **Stephon Williams** stands 19-3-1 with a 1.66 goals against average and a .923 save percentage on the season. His 19 wins stand second in the nation and seventh on MSU's single-season list.
- Minnesota State ranks first in the nation in wins (23), winning percentage (.810), goals (110), power play goals (35), goal margin (+53), shot margin (+366), fewest shots on goal allowed per game (21.2) and shots on goal margin per game (+12.6).

No. 5 Michigan Tech (17-4-1, 35 pts. / 22-7-1) at Alaska Anchorage (4-14-2, 10 pts. / 7-15-4)

Sullivan Arena; Anchorage, Alaska

Friday, Feb. 13 and Saturday, Feb. 14 (7:07 p.m. AT both nights) – [WATCH LIVE ON WCHA.TV](#)

- No. 5 Michigan Tech visits Alaska Anchorage for a conference matchup. The Huskies are currently riding a six-game winning streak overall and is also 8-0-1 on the road in WCHA play.
- Leading UAA this season with 19 points and 15 helpers is junior F **Blake Tatchell**. He also leads all current UAA skaters with 76 career points.
- Following behind, senior F **Scott Allen** has 15 points on the year and has recorded 5-4—9 totals in the last 11 games.
- MTU senior D **Riley Sweeney** earned WCHA Defensive Player of the Week honors following his first two goals of the season the weekend prior. Up front, fellow senior F **Tanner Kero** is on a six-game point streak where he has scored five goals with five assists in the span.
- In net, Huskies' junior G **Jamie Phillips** currently ranks sixth in the country with his 1.85 goals against average and 12th in save percentage (.930).

No. 8 Bowling Green (13-4-3, 29 pts. / 17-6-5) at Ferris State (8-12-0, 16 pts. / 11-17-1)

Ewigleben Ice Arena; Big Rapids, Mich.

Friday, Feb. 13 and Saturday, Feb. 14 (7:07 p.m. ET both nights) – [WATCH LIVE ON WCHA.TV](#)

- No. 8 Bowling Green and Ferris State play for the second straight weekend, this time in Big Rapids, Mich. The Falcons are looking to clinch home-ice, while the Bulldogs are trying to get back into the top four.
- As a team, the Falcons boast the 16th-best offense in the nation as well as an NCAA-leading penalty kill unit, sitting at 93.1 percent (108-for-116). In combined special teams, BGSU sits fourth nationally at a rate of 125-for-229 (54.6 percent).
- Junior F **Ben Murphy** is currently tied for second on the team with 18 points. His three points last weekend earned him WCHA Offensive Player of the Week honors.
- In net for FSU, senior G **CJ Motte** is four wins away from matching school-record holder Mike Brown's all-time mark of 63 career victories. He's among the nominees for the 2015 Hobey Baker Award as well as the Senior CLASS Award, presented to an athlete who excels both on and off the ice.
- With two comeback wins last weekend, Bowling Green has retaken the all-time series lead against Ferris State, holding a 57-56-12 edge. However, the Bulldogs are 2-0-1 at home in the past three contests.

Bemidji State (6-10-4, 16 pts. / 10-14-4) at Northern Michigan (8-8-4, 20 pts. / 11-11-6)

Berry Events Center; Marquette, Mich.

Friday, Feb. 13 and Saturday, Feb. 14 (7:07 p.m. ET both nights) – WATCH LIVE ON [WCHA.TV](#)

- Fourth-place Northern Michigan hosts Bemidji State, one of the two teams tied for fifth among playoff-eligible teams. The Beavers are four points behind the Wildcats, but own a 1-0-1 edge this season against NMU.
- BSU sophomore F **Charlie O'Connor** leads the squad in goals with nine, while senior D **Matt Prapavessis** sits at the top of the leaderboard with 20 points overall. Fellow classmate and defenseman, **Sam Windle**, has a team-best 64 blocked shots to rank third in the WCHA and fifth in the country.
- Beavers' junior F **Cory Ward** has recorded a point in five of the Beavers' least seven games (2g-3a).
- NMU junior F **Darren Nowick** (7-11—18) and sophomore F **Dominik Shine** (7-11—18) lead the team in points, while sophomore D **Brock Maschmeyer** (8-7—15) sits atop in goals.
- Northern Michigan ranks 10th in the nation for combined special teams at 117-217 or 53.9 percent. The Wildcats are 97-114 on the penalty kill and 20-103 on the power play.

Alabama Huntsville (6-14-0, 12 pts. / 7-18-3) at Lake Superior State (6-16-0, 12 pts. / 7-22-1)

Taffy Abel Arena; Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Friday, Feb. 13 (7:37 p.m. ET) and Saturday, Feb. 14 (7:07 p.m. ET) – WATCH LIVE ON [WCHA.TV](#)

- Lake Superior State and Alabama Huntsville, the two teams tied for seventh among playoff-eligible teams, face off this weekend in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. The teams split their November series in Alabama.
- LSSU freshman G **Gordon Defiel** has been stellar in net as of late. He sits atop the nation in saves (906), shots faced (990), and tied for fourth for most games started in net this season. The rookie currently posts a .915 save percentage and three shutouts, good enough for a 10th-place tie nationally.
- In the opposing net, UAH sophomore G **Carmine Guerriero** posts a .926 save percentage that places him 19th in the nation and third in the WCHA.
- Freshman F **Max McHugh** leads the Chargers in points, while sitting fourth among all WCHA freshmen with 17 points (7g-10a).
- Sophomore D **Brandon Carlson** is tied for the national lead with 70 blocks. He headlines a defense that ranks fourth in the country with 434 blocks, as four Chargers are in the top-75 shot blockers in the NCAA.

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