



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MINNESOTA STATE AND MICHIGAN TECH TO REPRESENT WCHA IN NCAA TOURNAMENT

*Mavericks earn overall top seed and will play RIT in Midwest Regional;
Huskies back in NAAs for first time since 1981 as second seed in West, will play St. Cloud State*

EDINA, Minn. – March 22, 2015 – Minnesota State and Michigan Tech, the two teams who finished 1-2 in the conference's regular season and met in the Final Five championship game, will continue their seasons by representing the men's Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) in the 2015 NCAA Division 1 Men's Ice Hockey Championship.

Minnesota State, which owns the nation's best winning percentage at .782 (29-7-3), was rewarded with the 16-team tournament's overall top seed and will face RIT (19-14-5), recipients of Atlantic Hockey's automatic bid, in the first round of the Midwest Regional at the Compton Family Ice Arena in South Bend, Ind. The Mavericks and Tigers will drop the puck at 3 p.m. CT / 4 p.m. ET on Saturday, March 28 in a game televised live on ESPNU. Nebraska Omaha (second seed) Harvard (third season) are the Midwest Regional's other two teams.

The country's only other 29-win team, Michigan Tech (29-9-2), earned the second seed in the West Regional and will meet third-seed St. Cloud State from the NCHC (at-large bid) in an opening round game Friday, March 27 at 3:30 p.m. CT / 4:30 p.m. ET at Scheels Arena in Fargo, N.D. The game will be aired live on ESPN3. The West Regional's top seed, North Dakota, will face Quinnipiac in the other first round contest.

"On behalf of the entire WCHA, we extend our congratulations to Minnesota State and Michigan Tech on extending their already excellent seasons," said WCHA Commissioner Bill Robertson. "These two have been at or near the top of the national rankings all season and we look forward to watching them carry the WCHA banner into the NCAA tournament."

Minnesota State is making its third-straight trip to the NCAA tournament (fourth in program history), having advanced in each season of head coach Mike Hastings' tenure. The Mavericks will be looking for the first NCAA tournament victory in school history during a season in which they have already captured the program's first MacNaughton Cup and successfully defended their Broadmoor Trophy title.

Michigan Tech is back in the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1981. The Huskies have previously played in 10 tournaments, winning the national championship in 1962, 1965 and 1975. Fourth-year head coach Mel Pearson has guided his team to a 15-win improvement from a year ago, matching Boston

University for tops in the country. The Huskies enter the tournament on a 13-2-1 run over their last 15 contests.

The winners of the West, Midwest, Northeast and East Regionals will advance to the 2015 Frozen Four, held at Boston's TD Garden on April 9 and 11.

The WCHA has produced a record 37 national championships since 1951, with the last coming from Minnesota Duluth in 2011.

2015 NCAA Division 1 Men's Ice Hockey Tournament

West Regional, Scheels Arena, Fargo, North Dakota, March 27th, 28th

#1 North Dakota vs. #4 Quinnipiac, 7pm CT / 8pm ET ESPNU

#2 Michigan Tech vs. #3 St. Cloud State, 3:30 pm CT / 4:30pm ET ESPN3

Northeast Regional, Verizon Wireless Center, Manchester, New Hampshire, March 27th, 28th

#1 Boston University vs. #4 Yale, 1pm CT / 2pm ET ESPNU

#2 Minnesota Duluth vs. #3 Minnesota, 4:30 p.m. CT / 5:30pm ET ESPNU

Midwest Regional, Compton Family Ice Arena, South Bend, Indiana, March 28th, 29th

#1 Minnesota State vs. #4 RIT, 3pm CT / 4pm ET ESPNU

#2 Nebraska Omaha vs. #3 Harvard, 6:30pm CT / 7:30pm ET ESPN3

East Regional, Dunkin Donuts Center, Providence, Rhode Island, March 28th, 29th

#1 Miami vs. #4 Providence, 5:30pm CT / 6:30pm ET ESPNU

#2 Denver vs. #3 Boston College, 2pm CT / 3pm ET ESPN2

An interactive bracket of the 2015 NCAA Division 1 Men's Ice Hockey Championship is available here:

<http://www.ncaa.com/interactive-bracket/icehockey-men/d1/2014>

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). For more information, visit wcha.com.

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)

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