



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **WCHA ANNOUNCES 2015-16 COMPOSITE SCHEDULE**

***Highlights include 140-game quest for the MacNaughton Cup, nonconference tests and return of Final Five to Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids, Mich.***

EDINA, Minn. – May 4, 2015 – The annual 140-game quest for the MacNaughton Cup, an exciting nonconference schedule that includes seven in-season tournaments and the return of the Final Five to Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids, Mich., highlight the 2015-16 composite schedule for the men’s Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA), as announced today by Commissioner Bill Robertson.

The announced schedule for the WCHA’s 64<sup>th</sup> season of competition outlines game dates and opponents (both conference and nonconference) for each of the league’s 10 member institutions. Game times, which will follow the :07 and :37 format for league games and nonconference home contests, will be determined at a later date.

“On behalf of the WCHA and its member institutions, I am thrilled to announce the league’s 2015-16 schedule,” said Robertson. “This past season was a successful one on many levels and we are excited to build upon that foundation when we drop the puck again in October. I look forward to watching our teams compete on the national stage with an enticing nonconference schedule, including seven prestigious tournaments and several marquee series. Likewise, as the past two seasons have shown, the chase for the MacNaughton Cup is unrivaled for its intensity and passion.

“Additionally, we are excited to once again return to Grand Rapids, Mich. and the Van Andel Arena for the 2016 Final Five. Bringing our jewel event to this vibrant locale promises to be a showcase for the WCHA, our member teams, student-athletes and coaches, and our tremendous fans.”

***The full 2015-16 WCHA composite schedule can be found at the conclusion of this press release.***

### **Nonconference Schedule**

WCHA member institutions have, at minimum, 65 scheduled games against nonconference opponents, with the opportunity for up to 69 depending on how tournaments play out. As of May 4, the nonconference slate includes contests against Atlantic Hockey (four games against three schools), the Big Ten (18 against all six), ECAC Hockey (four to six against two to four), Hockey East (two or three against one or two), the NCHC (22 against six) and Arizona State (Alaska Anchorage, Alaska, Bemidji State and Lake Superior state will play a total of six contests against the Sun Devils).

Eight league schools will carry the conference banner into seven in-season tournaments, including a trio hosted by WCHA schools.

Alaska Anchorage and Alaska will host the Kendall Hockey Classic (Anchorage) and Brice Alaska Goal Rush (Fairbanks), respectively, while competing in both. Bemidji State will defend its North Star College Cup title in Saint Paul, Minn., where it will be joined once again by Minnesota State. Ferris State will participate in the Mariucci Classic in Minneapolis, while Michigan Tech will invite Northern Michigan to its Great Lakes Invitational in Detroit. Lake Superior State will play in a pair of tourneys – the Ice Breaker Tournament (Portland, Maine) and the Catamount Cup (Burlington, Vermont).

A full breakdown of nonconference opponents and tournaments, by institution:

- Alabama Huntsville – vs. Connecticut, vs. Colorado College, at North Dakota
- Alaska Anchorage – Kendall Hockey Classic (Arizona State and St. Cloud State), Brice Alaska Goal Rush (RPI and American International), vs. Penn State
- Alaska – Kendall Hockey Classic (St. Cloud State and Arizona State), Brice Alaska Goal Rush (American International and RPI), at Wisconsin
- Bemidji State – Minnesota Duluth (home-and-home), North Dakota (home-and-home), vs. Arizona State, North Star College Cup (Minnesota and St. Cloud State)
- Bowling Green –Ohio State (home-and-home), Western Michigan (home-and-home), at Canisius, at RIT, vs. Clarkson, Miami (home-and-home)
- Ferris State – Western Michigan (home-and-home), vs. Wisconsin, Mariucci Classic (teams TBA), at Michigan
- Lake Superior State – Ice Breaker Tournament (teams TBA), at Michigan State, vs. Arizona State, Catamount Cup (Brown, Colgate, Vermont)
- Minnesota State – vs. Omaha, at St. Cloud State, Minnesota (home-and-home), North Star College Cup (Minnesota and St. Cloud State)
- Michigan Tech – at Michigan State, Great Lakes Invitational (Michigan and Michigan State)
- Northern Michigan – at Wisconsin, Great Lakes Invitational (Michigan and Michigan State), vs. Minnesota Duluth

### **League Play**

The 140-game quest for the MacNaughton Cup begins with a single league series, Michigan Tech at Ferris State, Oct. 16 and 17 – the first of 18 weekends that feature at least one WCHA matchup. The conference race begins in earnest with four series over Halloween weekend (Oct. 30 through Nov. 1), while Nov. 28-29 is the first of six weekends that feature a full slate of five WCHA series (also Dec. 4-5, Dec. 11-12, Jan. 8-9, Feb. 26-27 and March 4-5). Each team will play a total of 28 WCHA games (14 at home and 14 on the road). Teams play five other league members four times each and four others two times each.

Among the highlights:

- Minnesota State and Michigan Tech, the two teams that finished one-two atop the league's 2014-15 standings and met for the Broadmoor Trophy, skate Jan. 15-16 in Houghton, Mich. for their lone regular season series of the season.
- Alaska Anchorage and Alaska will play in the annual Alaska Airlines Governor's Cup, facing off Dec. 11-12 in Anchorage before wrapping up the regular season March 4-5 in Fairbanks.
- The Cappel Cup, awarded each year to either Lake Superior State or Northern Michigan, will be contested in league play Feb. 26-27 in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. The teams will also meet for a home-and-home, nonconference series Oct. 16-17.
- Longtime rivals from their Division II and College Hockey America days, Alabama Huntsville and Bemidji State will renew acquaintances Nov. 27-28 in Huntsville and Feb. 26-27 in Bemidji.
- Bowling Green and Ferris State, two schools that have each participated in the last two Final Fives, meet in Ohio on the season's penultimate weekend, Feb. 26-27.

- Intrastate rivals Bemidji State and Minnesota State bookend their league season with series Oct. 23-24 in Bemidji and March 4-5 in Mankato.
- 2015 WCHA playoff rematches occur between Minnesota State and Lake Superior State (Jan. 22-23 at MSU), Michigan Tech and Alabama Huntsville (Nov. 6-7 at UAH), Bowling Green and Northern Michigan (Nov. 27-28 at BGSU), and Bemidji State and Ferris State (Dec. 4-5 at FSU and Jan. 22-23 at BSU).

### **2016 WCHA Playoffs and Final Five**

The top eight teams in the final regular season standings (two points earned for a WCHA win in regulation or overtime, one point for a league tie) advance to the 2016 WCHA playoffs, which commence with four best-of-three, quarterfinal round series hosted at the home sites of the top four seeds the weekend of March 11-13. The four winners advance to compete for the Broadmoor Trophy (and an automatic berth to the NCAA tournament) at the 2016 WCHA Final Five, set for March 18 and 19 at the Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids, Mich. Located in the heart of Michigan's second-largest city, the venue is the home of the IHL's Grand Rapids Griffins and was the site of the 2014 Final Five.

### **2014-15 in Review**

The second season of the "new look" WCHA proved that the league, like it has been for the better part of seven decades, will continue among the sport's elite – both on and off the ice.

Among the highlights:

- No. 7/6 Minnesota State, No. 9 Michigan Tech and No. 18 Bowling Green gave the WCHA three ranked teams in the final USCHO.com and *USA Today/USA Hockey Magazine* opinion polls.
- Minnesota State (first), Michigan Tech (third) and Bowling Green (seventh) gave the WCHA an NCAA-best three of the nation's top 10 winning percentages. Alaska (19<sup>th</sup>) rounded out the WCHA quartet in the top 20, just one behind Hockey East for most of any conference.
- MacNaughton Cup and Broadmoor Trophy champion Minnesota State earned the top overall seed for the NCAA tournament, where the Mavericks were joined by Michigan Tech.
- The WCHA finished with the third-best nonconference record in the country at .493 (30-31-9).
- Alaska (Kendall Hockey Classic and Brice Alaska Goal Rush), Lake Superior State (Florida College Classic) and Bemidji State (North Star College Cup) all captured in-season tournament titles.
- Minnesota State's Mike Hastings was named STX/ACHA Division I Men's Coach of the Year.
- Four WCHA players earned CCM All-America honors – First Teamers Tanner Kero (MTU) and Matt Leitner (MSU), and Second Teamers Colton Parayko (UAF) and Zach Palmquist (MSU).
- MTU's Kero and Jamie Phillips were finalists for the Hobey Baker and Mike Richter Awards honoring the nation's top player and goaltender, respectively.
- Michigan Tech's Mel Pearson was tabbed as the College Hockey News Coach of the Year, while Minnesota State's Bryce Gervais earned Third Team All-USCHO.com honors.
- Kero and Ferris State's CJ Motte earned First Team Senior CLASS All-America status.
- Twenty players have signed professional contracts since the college season ended.

### ***About the 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 marked 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). For more information, visit [wcha.com](http://wcha.com).

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– WCHA –



# 2015-16 WCHA Composite Schedule (as of May 4, 2015)

## OCTOBER

### Saturday, October 3

Toronto at Bowling Green (EX)  
U.S. Nat'l Dev. Team at Northern Michigan (EX)

### Sunday, October 4

U.S. Nat'l Dev. Team at Lake Superior State (EX)

### Friday, October 9

Laurentian vs. Michigan Tech (EX)  
Connecticut at Alabama Huntsville (NC)  
Bemidji State at Minnesota Duluth (NC)  
Bowling Green at Ohio State (NC)  
Ferris State at Western Michigan (NC)  
Omaha vs. Minnesota State (NC)  
Northern Michigan at Wisconsin (NC)

### **KENDALL HOCKEY CLASSIC (Anchorage, AK)**

St. Cloud State vs. Alaska (NC)  
Arizona State vs. Alaska Anchorage (NC)

### **ICE BREAKER TOURNAMENT (Portland, ME)**

Lake Superior State (NC – Teams TBA)

### Saturday, October 10

Laurentian vs. Michigan Tech (EX)  
Connecticut at Alabama Huntsville (NC)  
Minnesota Duluth at Bemidji State (NC)  
Western Michigan at Ferris State (NC)  
Omaha vs. Minnesota State (NC)  
Northern Michigan at Wisconsin (NC)

### **KENDALL CLASSIC (Anchorage, AK)**

Arizona State vs. Alaska (NC)  
St. Cloud State vs. Alaska Anchorage (NC)

### **ICE BREAKER TOURNAMENT (Portland, ME)**

Lake Superior State (NC – Teams TBA)

### Tuesday, October 13

Bowling Green at Western Michigan (NC)

### Friday, October 16

Michigan Tech at Ferris State\*  
North Dakota vs. Bemidji State (NC)  
Bowling Green at Canisius (NC)  
Lake Superior State at Northern Michigan (NC)  
Minnesota State at St. Cloud State (NC)

### **BRICE ALASKA GOAL RUSH (Fairbanks, AK)**

RPI vs. Alaska Anchorage (NC)  
American International vs. Alaska (NC)

### Saturday, October 17

Michigan Tech at Ferris State\*  
Bemidji State at North Dakota (NC)  
Bowling Green at RIT (NC)  
Northern Michigan at Lake Superior State (NC)  
Minnesota State at St. Cloud State (NC)

### **BRICE ALASKA GOAL RUSH (Fairbanks, AK)**

American Int'l vs. Alaska Anchorage (NC)  
RPI vs. Alaska (NC)

## OCTOBER (CONT.)

### Thursday, October 22

Lake Superior State at Michigan State (NC)

### Friday, October 23

Alaska Anchorage at Alabama Huntsville\*  
Minnesota State at Bemidji State\*  
Michigan Tech at Northern Michigan\*  
Wisconsin at Ferris State (NC)  
Lake Superior State at Michigan State (NC)

### Saturday, October 24

Alaska Anchorage at Alabama Huntsville\*  
Minnesota State at Bemidji State\*  
Northern Michigan at Michigan Tech\*  
Wisconsin at Ferris State (NC)

### Friday, October 30

Alabama Huntsville at Lake Superior State\*  
Alaska at Minnesota State\*  
Bemidji State at Northern Michigan\*

### Saturday, October 31

Alabama Huntsville at Lake Superior State\*  
Bowling Green at Alaska Anchorage\*  
Alaska at Minnesota State\*  
Bemidji State at Northern Michigan\*

## NOVEMBER

### Sunday, November 1

Bowling Green at Alaska Anchorage\*

### Friday, November 6

Michigan Tech at Alabama Huntsville\*  
Northern Michigan at Alaska\*  
Lake Superior State at Bowling Green\*  
Minnesota State at Ferris State\*

### Saturday, November 7

Michigan Tech at Alabama Huntsville\*  
Northern Michigan at Alaska\*  
Lake Superior State at Bowling Green\*  
Minnesota State at Ferris State\*

### Friday, November 13

Ferris State at Alaska Anchorage\*  
Alaska at Bemidji State\*  
Bowling Green at Michigan Tech\*  
Arizona State at Lake Superior State (NC)  
Minnesota State vs./at Minnesota (NC)

### Saturday, November 14

Ferris State at Alaska Anchorage\*  
Alaska at Bemidji State\*  
Bowling Green at Michigan Tech\*  
Arizona State at Lake Superior State (NC)  
Minnesota State vs./at Minnesota (NC)

## NOVEMBER (CONT.)

### Friday, November 20

Alabama Huntsville at Bowling Green\*  
Alaska at Ferris State\*  
Lake Superior State at Bemidji State\*  
Minnesota State at Northern Michigan\*  
Penn State at Alaska Anchorage (NC)  
Michigan Tech at Michigan State (NC)

### Saturday, November 21

Alabama Huntsville at Bowling Green\*  
Alaska at Ferris State\*  
Lake Superior State at Bemidji State\*  
Minnesota State at Northern Michigan\*  
Penn State at Alaska Anchorage (NC)  
Michigan Tech at Michigan State (NC)

### Friday, November 27

Bemidji State at Alabama Huntsville\*  
Alaska Anchorage at Minnesota State\*  
Michigan Tech at Alaska\*  
Northern Michigan at Bowling Green\*  
Ferris State at Lake Superior State\*

### Saturday, November 28

Bemidji State at Alabama Huntsville\*  
Alaska Anchorage at Minnesota State\*  
Michigan Tech at Alaska\*  
Northern Michigan at Bowling Green\*  
Ferris State at Lake Superior State\*

## DECEMBER

### Friday, December 4

Northern Michigan at Alabama Huntsville\*  
Alaska Anchorage at Michigan Tech\*  
Lake Superior State at Alaska\*  
Bemidji State at Ferris State\*  
Minnesota State at Bowling Green\*

### Saturday, December 5

Northern Michigan at Alabama Huntsville\*  
Alaska Anchorage at Michigan Tech\*  
Lake Superior State at Alaska\*  
Bemidji State at Ferris State\*  
Minnesota State at Bowling Green\*

### Friday, December 11

Alabama Huntsville at Minnesota State\*  
Alaska at Alaska Anchorage\*  
Bowling Green at Bemidji State\*  
Ferris State at Northern Michigan\*  
Michigan Tech at Lake Superior State\*

### Saturday, December 12

Alabama Huntsville at Minnesota State\*  
Alaska at Alaska Anchorage\*  
Bowling Green at Bemidji State\*  
Ferris State at Northern Michigan\*  
Michigan Tech at Lake Superior State\*

*All dates subject to change*

*\* Denotes Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) game*





# 2015-16 WCHA Composite Schedule (as of May 4, 2015)

## DECEMBER (CONT.)

### Friday, December 18

Colorado College at Alabama Huntsville (NC)

### Saturday, December 19

Colorado College at Alabama Huntsville (NC)

### Tuesday, December 29

#### **GREAT LAKES INVITATIONAL (Detroit, MI)**

Michigan Tech, Northern Michigan,  
Michigan, Michigan State (NC)

#### **SHERATON/TD BANK CATAMOUNT CUP**

##### **(Burlington, VT)**

Lake Superior State, Brown,  
Colgate, Vermont (NC)

### Wednesday, December 30

Western Michigan at Bowling Green (NC)

#### **GREAT LAKES INVITATIONAL (Detroit, MI)**

Michigan Tech, Northern Michigan,  
Michigan, Michigan State (NC)

#### **SHERATON/TD BANK CATAMOUNT CUP**

##### **(Burlington, VT)**

Lake Superior State, Brown,  
Colgate, Vermont (NC)

#### **MARIUCCI CLASSIC (Minneapolis, MN)**

Ferris State (NC – Teams TBA)

### Thursday, December 31

#### **MARIUCCI CLASSIC (Minneapolis, MN)**

Ferris State (NC – Teams TBA)

## JANUARY

### Friday, January 1

Bemidji State at Alaska\*  
Alabama Huntsville at North Dakota (NC)

### Saturday, January 2

Bemidji State at Alaska\*  
Alabama Huntsville at North Dakota (NC)  
Clarkson at Bowling Green (NC)

### Sunday, January 3

Clarkson at Bowling Green (NC)

### Friday, January 8

Alaska at Alabama Huntsville\*  
Bemidji State at Alaska Anchorage\*  
Bowling Green at Lake Superior State\*  
Ferris State at Michigan Tech\*  
Northern Michigan at Minnesota State\*

### Saturday, January 9

Alaska at Alabama Huntsville\*  
Bemidji State at Alaska Anchorage\*  
Bowling Green at Lake Superior State\*  
Ferris State at Michigan Tech\*  
Northern Michigan at Minnesota State\*

## JANUARY (CONT.)

### Friday, January 15

Alabama Huntsville at Ferris State\*  
Alaska Anchorage at Lake Superior State\*  
Alaska at Northern Michigan\*  
Minnesota State at Michigan Tech\*  
Arizona State at Bemidji State (NC)

### Saturday, January 16

Alabama Huntsville at Ferris State\*  
Alaska Anchorage at Lake Superior State\*  
Alaska at Northern Michigan\*  
Minnesota State at Michigan Tech\*  
Arizona State at Bemidji State (NC)  
Bowling Green at Miami (NC)

### Thursday, January 21

Alaska Anchorage at Bowling Green\*

### Friday, January 22

Alaska Anchorage at Bowling Green\*  
Ferris State at Bemidji State\*  
Lake Superior State at Minnesota State\*

### Saturday, January 23

Ferris State at Bemidji State\*  
Lake Superior State at Minnesota State\*

### Friday, January 29

Alabama Huntsville at Alaska Anchorage\*  
Michigan Tech at Bowling Green\*  
Alaska at Wisconsin (NC)  
Minnesota Duluth at Northern Michigan (NC)  
**NORTH STAR COLLEGE CUP (St. Paul, MN)**  
Bemidji State, Minnesota State,  
Minnesota, St. Cloud State (NC)

### Saturday, January 30

Alabama Huntsville at Alaska Anchorage\*  
Michigan Tech at Bowling Green\*  
Alaska at Wisconsin (NC)  
Minnesota Duluth at Northern Michigan (NC)  
**NORTH STAR COLLEGE CUP (St. Paul, MN)**  
Bemidji State, Minnesota State,  
Minnesota, St. Cloud State (NC)

## FEBRUARY

### Friday, February 5

Alaska Anchorage at Northern Michigan\*  
Ferris State at Alaska\*  
Bowling Green at Minnesota State\*  
Lake Superior State at Michigan Tech\*

### Saturday, February 6

Alaska Anchorage at Northern Michigan\*  
Ferris State at Alaska\*  
Bowling Green at Minnesota State\*  
Lake Superior State at Michigan Tech\*

## FEBRUARY (CONT.)

### Friday, February 12

Minnesota State at Alabama Huntsville\*  
Bemidji State at Lake Superior State\*  
Northern Michigan at Ferris State\*  
Miami at Bowling Green (NC)

### Saturday, February 13

Minnesota State at Alabama Huntsville\*  
Bemidji State at Lake Superior State\*  
Northern Michigan at Ferris State\*

### Friday, February 19

Alabama Huntsville at Northern Michigan\*  
Lake Superior State at Alaska Anchorage\*  
Bowling Green at Alaska\*  
Michigan Tech at Bemidji State\*  
Ferris State at Michigan (NC)

### Saturday, February 20

Alabama Huntsville at Northern Michigan\*  
Lake Superior State at Alaska Anchorage\*  
Bowling Green at Alaska\*  
Michigan Tech at Bemidji State\*

### Friday, February 26

Alabama Huntsville at Bemidji State\*  
Minnesota State at Alaska Anchorage\*  
Alaska at Michigan Tech\*  
Ferris State at Bowling Green\*  
Northern Michigan at Lake Superior State\*

### Saturday, February 27

Alabama Huntsville at Bemidji State\*  
Minnesota State at Alaska Anchorage\*  
Alaska at Michigan Tech\*  
Ferris State at Bowling Green\*  
Northern Michigan at Lake Superior State\*

## MARCH

### Friday, March 4

Bowling Green at Alabama Huntsville\*  
Alaska Anchorage at Alaska\*  
Bemidji State at Minnesota State\*  
Lake Superior State at Ferris State\*  
Northern Michigan at Michigan Tech\*

### Saturday, March 5

Bowling Green at Alabama Huntsville\*  
Alaska Anchorage at Alaska\*  
Bemidji State at Minnesota State\*  
Lake Superior State at Ferris State\*  
Michigan Tech at Northern Michigan\*

--END REGULAR SEASON--

All dates subject to change

\* Denotes Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) game



## 2015-16 WCHA Composite Schedule (as of May 4, 2015)

### **WCHA QUARTERFINALS**

#### **Friday-Sunday, March 11-13**

WCHA Quarterfinals

Best-of-three series, hosted by higher seed

### **2016 WCHA FINAL FIVE**

**Van Andel Arena, Grand Rapids, MI**

#### **Friday, March 18**

Semifinal #1

Semifinal #2

#### **Saturday, March 19**

Broadmoor Trophy Championship Game