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## **UAH'S A. BEAULIEU, NMU'S P. BEAULIEU & TOLVANEN AND FSU'S ZECH NAMED WCHA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**

*Quintet honored for games of Jan. 3-5, 2019*

**BLOOMINGTON, Minn. – Jan. 7, 2019** – Following Week 13 of the 2018-19 season, the men's Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) is proud to recognize four student-athletes as its Players of the Week. The honorees for games of Jan. 3-5, 2019 are: University of Alabama Huntsville junior **Austin Beaulieu** (Forward), Northern Michigan University junior **Philip Beaulieu** (Defenseman) and senior **Atte Tolvanen** (Goaltender) and Ferris State University freshman defenseman **Cooper Zech** (Rookie).

### **WCHA Forward of the Week**

**Austin Beaulieu, Jr., Alabama Huntsville (Coral Springs, Fla.)**

Beaulieu led the Charger offense in two games against Ferris State with four points on a team-high three goals and one assist. The Coral Springs, Fla., native tied for first in the WCHA in point (4) and goals (3) and delivered two goals – including the game-winner in overtime – in Saturday's 4-3 win over the Bulldogs. Beaulieu also scored a go-ahead goal in the third period of Friday night's contest.

*Honorable Mention:* **Dominic Lutz, Jr., Ferris State** (led the Bulldogs with a team-high tying three points in FSU's weekend split with Alabama Huntsville, tallying all three points in Ferris State's 6-5 overtime win on Friday); **Hampus Eriksson, So., Lake Superior State** (led the WCHA in assists on the weekend with three, ranked second in faceoff win percentage at .727 and fifth in faceoff wins with 24); **Walker Duehr, So., Minnesota State** (posted three points in Minnesota State's home sweep of then-first place Michigan Tech over the weekend, including a power play goal and power play assist).

### **WCHA Defenseman of the Week**

**Philip Beaulieu, Jr., Northern Michigan (Duluth, Minn.)**

Beaulieu scored three power play goals in three minutes during the third period of Saturday's contest with the Nanooks to secure a sweep for NMU. The Duluth, Minn., native also added an assist in Friday's matchup. His four points tied for the WCHA lead over the weekend among all league skaters and he is now top-10 among NCAA defensemen for points and assists this season. The weekly honor is the second of the season for Beaulieu, who was previously recognized on Dec. 17.

*Honorable Mention:* **Dillon Eichstadt, Sr., Bemidji State** (recorded an assist to establish a new single-season scoring high with 10 points and led the WCHA in blocked shots with 10 on the weekend); **Cooper Zech, Fr., Ferris State** (tallied three points on two goals and an assist in the Bulldogs' split at Alabama Huntsville, the leading point total among all defensemen and rookies over the weekend); **Lukas Kaelble, So., Lake Superior State** (led the WCHA and tied for first national with a +5 rating over the weekend as the Lakers swept Alaska Anchorage); **Ian Scheid, Jr., Minnesota State** (recorded two assists, six shots on goal and one blocked shot along with a +2 rating in the Mavericks' home sweep of Michigan Tech).

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## **WCHA Goaltender of the Week**

### **Atte Tolvanen, Sr., Northern Michigan (Vihti, Finland)**

Tolvanen won his third and fourth-consecutive games between the pipes over the weekend for the Wildcats with a road sweep of Alaska. He was one of two league goaltenders to pick up a pair of wins last weekend and is now second in the WCHA with 11 victories this season. Friday's 4-0 shutout was the Vihti, Finland, native's 12<sup>th</sup> of his career, tying the Northern Michigan school record. The blanking was also his fourth of the season. Tolvanen's 52 saves and .963 save percentage were his second-best weekend performances of the season in those categories. The recognition is Tolvanen's third Player of the Week honor. He was previously selected on Nov. 5 and Dec. 10.

*Honorable Mention:* **Ryan Bednard, Jr., Bowling Green** (posted a 1-1 record, a 1.77 goals against average and a .928 save percentage in the Falcons' home split with Bemidji State); **Mareks Mitens, So., Lake Superior State** (led the WCHA and ranked seventh nationally in save percentage at .968 and tied for first in the league in goals against at 1.00 in the Lakers' sweep of Alaska Anchorage); **Dryden McKay, Fr., Minnesota State** (stopped 45-of-48 shots in the Mavericks' sweep of Michigan Tech for a .938 save percentage).

## **WCHA Rookie of the Week**

### **Cooper Zech, D, Ferris State (South Lyon, Mich.)**

Ferris State University freshman defenseman Cooper Zech totaled three points on two goals and an assist in a weekend split at Alabama Huntsville as he continued his impressive play. Zech's three points tied for the team high and were the most by a WCHA defensive player or rookie on the weekend. He finished an impressive +4 on the ice and had seven shots with two blocks in a series that saw both games go to overtime. Zech had an assist on the Bulldogs' first goal in Friday's victory and then scored two of the Bulldogs' three markers in Saturday's game. This is Zech's third Rookie of the Week recognition. He was first honored on Dec. 10 and again on Jan. 3.

*Honorable Mention:* **Bauer Neudecker, F, Alabama Huntsville** (tied for first among WCHA rookies with three points on a goal and two assists on the weekend with the assists also sharing the rookie league weekend lead); **Nick Cardelli, F, Bemidji State** (netted the first game-winning goal of his career in Bemidji State's 3-2 victory at Bowling Green on Thursday); **Ashton Calder, F, Lake Superior State** (tied for the WCHA rookie assist high on the weekend with two and was second in plus-minus at +3 in the Lakers' sweep at Alaska Anchorage); **Dryden McKay, Fr., Minnesota State** (stopped 45-of-48 shots in the Mavericks' sweep of Michigan Tech for a .938 save percentage); Grant Loven, F, Northern Michigan (recorded his first mutli-point outing of the season with a goal and an assist in the Wildcats' 4-0 win at Alaska).

## ***About the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) Men's League***

The Western Collegiate Hockey Association, among the most historic, tradition-rich and successful conferences in all of collegiate athletics, will proudly mark its 67<sup>th</sup> season of men's competition in 2018-19. 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 Fairbanks (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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