



PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**LAKE SUPERIOR STATE'S NELLIS AND SACCOMAN,
MINNESOTA STATE'S MCKAY AND NAPRAVNIK
NAMED WCHA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**

Quartet honored for games of Feb. 1-2

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. – Feb. 4, 2019 – Following Week 17 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 Feb. 1-2 are: Lake Superior State senior **Anthony Nellis** (Forward) and junior **Collin Saccoman** (Defenseman) and Minnesota State freshmen **Dryden McKay** (Goaltender) and **Julian Napravnik** (Rookie).

WCHA Forward of the Week

Anthony Nellis, Sr., Lake Superior State (Breakeyville, Quebec)

Lake Superior State's **Anthony Nellis** scored a WCHA-leading three goals and added two assists to tie with teammate Diego Cuglietta for the WCHA lead in points (5) on the week. Nellis' performance helped Lake Superior State to a two-game WCHA series sweep at Ferris State. Nellis tied with teammate Ashton Calder for the WCHA lead in power-play goals, while leading the WCHA in power-play points (3), shots on goal (11) and shots on goal per game (5.50) on the week. Nellis also tied for the most goals scored and the most power-play goals scored in the nation. Nellis began the week with two goals and one assist for three points as Lake Superior State defeated Ferris State 6-3 on Friday. He then backed up Friday's performance with one goal and one assist for two points in Saturday's 4-2 victory. In addition, he recorded a +2 rating.

Honorable Mention: John Schilling, Sr., Bowling Green (assisted on the tying goal and scored the game-winning goal in overtime in Bowling Green's 3-2 OT win at Northern Michigan on Friday; finished the weekend with two goals and an assist).

WCHA Defenseman of the Week

Collin Saccoman, Jr., Lake Superior State (Stillwater, Minn.)

Lake Superior State's **Collin Saccoman** was stellar on both the offensive and defensive ends of the ice in the Lakers' series sweep at Ferris State – tallying one goal (a game winner) and one assist for two points in the series, and tying for the most blocked shots (nine) in NCAA Division I men's hockey on the week. Saccoman began the weekend with an assist, five blocked shots and a +1 rating in Lake State's 6-3 win on Friday. He then scored the game-winning goal, tallied four blocked shots and garnered a +2 rating as the Lakers completed their road sweep of the Bulldogs with a 4-2 victory on Saturday. With his goal, Saccoman increased his season goal total to nine – the highest goal total by a WCHA blueliner in 2018-19.

Honorable Mention: Jack McNeeley, So., Minnesota State (recorded three assists, one shot on goal, one blocked shot and a +4 rating in the Mavericks' home sweep of Alabama Huntsville).

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WCHA Goaltender of the Week

Dryden McKay, Fr., Minnesota State (Downers Grove, Ill.)

Minnesota State freshman **Dryden McKay** stopped 26-of-27 shots in two wins over visiting Alabama Huntsville. Registered his third career shutout with 12 saves in Saturday's 4-0 win over the Chargers. Stands 16-5-1 with a 1.91 goals against average and a .921 save percentage in his first college season.

Honorable Mention: Mareks Mitens, So., Lake Superior State [stopped 26 shots and recorded a .929 save percentage to backstop the Lakers to a 4-2 win at Ferris State on Saturday to complete Lake State's first road sweep of the Bulldogs since 1993].

WCHA Rookie of the Week

Julian Napravnik, F, Minnesota State (Bad Nauheim, Germany)

Minnesota State freshman forward **Julian Napravnik** scored twice and added two assists in helping No. 6 Minnesota State to a pair of home league wins over Alabama Huntsville. Registered nine shots on goal and had a +3 rating for the weekend. Scored his second game-winning goal of the season in Friday's 6-1 victory over the Chargers. Assisted on Chris Van Os-Shaw's game-winner in Saturday's 4-0 triumph. The Bad Nauheim, Germany, native 19 points on seven goals and 12 assists in 29 games in his first year of college hockey.

Honorable Mention: Cooper Zech, D, Ferris State [Recorded two assists, one blocked shot, one power play point and four shots on goal in Ferris State's series with Lake Superior State]; **Ashton Calder, F, Lake Superior State** [tallied two goals and one assist in Lake Superior State's 6-3 win at Ferris State on Friday for new career highs in goals and points].

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 67th 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.

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