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**LAKE SUPERIOR STATE'S SACCOMAN AND KOSSOFF,  
BOWLING GREEN'S JOHNSON AND NORTHERN MICHIGAN'S LOUGHRAN  
NAMED WCHA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**

*Quartet honored for WCHA Quarterfinal games of March 8-9*

**BLOOMINGTON, Minn. – March 11, 2019** – Following the Quarterfinal round of the Western Collegiate Hockey Association Playoffs, the WCHA is proud to recognize four student-athletes as its Players of the Week. The honorees for games of March 8-9 are Lake Superior State junior **Collin Saccoman** (Defenseman) and senior **Nick Kossoff** (Goaltender), Bowling Green sophomore **Max Johnson** (Forward) and Northern Michigan Forward **Griffin Loughran** (Rookie).

**WCHA Forward of the Week**

**Max Johnson, So., Bowling Green (Lakeville, Minn.)**

Bowling Green's **Max Johnson** had a career-best series in Bowling Green's two game sweep of rival Michigan Tech in the Quarterfinals of the WCHA Playoffs. In a series full of storylines, Johnson helped ignite the Falcons' comeback win on Friday night with a goal and an assist before exploding for four more points on Saturday evening. The Lakeville, Minn., native recorded an assist on BG's first goal in the third period Friday evening, and then scored the game-winning power play goal less than two minutes later. Saturday saw the Huskies take an early lead before the Falcons tied the game on another goal assisted by Johnson. He then scored BGSU's second goal, assisted on their third, then tallied another power play goal in the second period to extend the Falcon lead back to two. The six points is a new career series high for the sophomore. Saturday, Johnson scored goals 16 and 17 on the season extending his team lead, and marking his third multi-goal game of the season. He now has 37 points on the season, tying him for second most on the roster. This is Johnson's second Forward of the Week honor this season.

*Honorable Mention:* **Diego Cuglietta, Sr., Lake Superior State** (recorded a goal and two assists in the Lakers' sweep of Bemidji State); **Jake Lucchini, Sr., Michigan Tech** (tallied both Tech goals in the Huskies' 6-2 loss on Saturday at Bowling Green); **Marc Michaelis, Jr., Minnesota State** (scored three goals, including one game-winner, in the Mavericks' Quarterfinal sweep of Alabama Huntsville).

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## **WCHA Defenseman of the Week**

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

Lake Superior State's **Collin Saccoman** led the nation with nine blocked shots, while leading WCHA blueliners in points (three), points per game (1.50) and goals per shot on goal percentage (.500) on the week as Lake Superior State swept fifth-seeded Bemidji State for its first-ever WCHA Playoffs series victory. Saccoman also tied for the lead among WCHA defensemen in goals (one), assists (two), goals per game (0.50), assists per game (1.00), power-play assists (two) and power-play points (two). With his nine blocked shots, Saccoman moved into a tie for the most blocked shots in the WCHA this season (92), which is also tied for the second-most in the nation. Saccoman began the weekend with two assists, six blocked shots and a +1 rating in the Lakers 4-2 win on Friday. Saccoman's first assist came on Lukas Kaelble's goal, scored at 18:29 of the second period, which broke a 1-1 tie and gave the Lakers a lead they would not relinquish. He then assisted on the game-winning goal, scored by Anthony Nellis at 9:49 of the third period. In Saturday's 3-1 win, Saccoman blocked another three shots and scored an empty-net insurance goal at 19:22 of the third period to seal the victory. This is Saccoman's third Defenseman of the Week award this season.

*Honorable Mention:* **Ian Scheid, Jr., Minnesota State** (had two assists and three blocks in the Mavericks' sweep of Alabama Huntsville); **Philip Beaulieu, Jr., Northern Michigan** (recorded two assists and four shots on goal as the Wildcats swept Alaska to advance to the WCHA Semifinals).

## **WCHA Goaltender of the Week**

### **Nick Kossoff, Sr., Lake Superior State (West Des Moines, Iowa)**

Lake Superior State's **Nick Kossoff** led all WCHA netminders in saves (68) and save percentage (.958), while tying for the WCHA lead in wins (two) and win percentage (1.000) to help Lake Superior State to a sweep of Bemidji State in the Quarterfinals of the WCHA Playoffs. In addition, his 1.50 goals against average ranked second in the conference. Kossoff began the weekend with 29 saves and a .935 save percentage as the Lakers defeated the Beavers 4-2 on Friday. He then tallied 39 saves and a .975 save percentage as the Lakers won 3-1 on Saturday night to earn their first-ever WCHA Playoffs series win. In Saturday's series-clinching victory, 17 of Kossoff's saves came in the third period, while the Lakers scored twice in the final period to win 3-1. This is Kossoff's second Goaltender of the Week award this season.

*Honorable Mention:* **Dryden McKay, Fr., Minnesota State** (allowed just two goals on 32 shots to help Minnesota State to a WCHA Quarterfinal sweep of Alabama Huntsville); **Atte Tolvanen, Sr., Northern Michigan** (stopped 64 shots in NMU's sweep of Bemidji State to become the school's career saves leader).

## **WCHA Rookie of the Week**

### **Griffin Loughran, Fr., F, Northern Michigan (West Seneca, N.Y.)**

Northern Michigan's **Griffin Loughran** notched three points for the Wildcats in its opening WCHA Quarterfinal game on Friday night. He scored a power play goal in the third period to narrow the game to 4-3. He also picked up assists on the first NMU goal as well as the overtime game-winning goal after circling around the net to draw the goalie then passing to teammate Joseph Nardi for the game-winner. This is Loughran's second Rookie of the Week honor this season.

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**Honorable Mention:** Jacob Nordqvist, Fr., D, Lake Superior State (recorded two assists, two blocked shots and a +2 rating in the Lakers' Quarterfinal series with Bemidji State); **Dryden McKay, F, G, Minnesota State** (posted a 1.01 goals against average and a .938 save percentage in MSU's sweep of Alabama Huntsville).

***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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