



WCHA WEEKEND PREVIEW: OCT. 17-18, 2014

News and notes for the upcoming weekend of WCHA hockey

- Eight WCHA teams are in action this weekend, with one league series, four non-conference sets and the Brice Alaska Goal Rush on tap.
- WCHA teams are 8-7 in non-conference action, including a 5-2-0 mark against ranked opponents.
- This weekend's slate includes games against Atlantic Hockey, Big Ten, ECAC, Hockey East and NCHC schools.
- After going a perfect 4-0-0 in the Kendall Hockey Classic last weekend in Anchorage, the host Nanooks and Seawolves will welcome two more opponents to the Last Frontier for the Brice Alaska Goal Rush in Fairbanks.
- 12 of the 14 games this weekend will be broadcast via WCHA.tv, NBC Sports Network or FOX Sports North.

All rankings listed by USCHO.com poll first, followed by USA Today / USA Hockey Magazine poll

WCHA

Bowling Green (0-0-0, 0 pts WCHA / 1-1-0) at Alabama Huntsville (0-0-0, 0 pts WCHA / 0-2-0)

Propst Arena at Von Braun Center; Huntsville, Ala.

Friday, Oct. 17 and Saturday, Oct. 18 (7:07 p.m. both nights) - [WATCH LIVE ON WCHA.TV](#)

- The Falcons and Chargers open their WCHA schedules this weekend with a two-game series in Huntsville, Ala. Both teams received votes in this week's USCHO.com poll.
- Bowling Green holds a 10-3-1 all-time advantage, including a 5-2-0 mark in Alabama. Last Dec. 7, UAH captured its first WCHA victory with a 4-3, overtime triumph in Ohio.
- Both teams received outstanding special teams play in their season opening series last weekend. UAH converted on 2-of-5 power plays (40.0% - 5th in NCAA) and killed 11 of 12 (91.7% - 12th NCAA). BGSU scored on 3-of-11 opportunities (27.3% - 11th NCAA) and turned back 5-of-6 chances (83.3%).
- Falcons sophomore F **Kevin Dufour** scored three of BGSU's five goals last weekend, while rookie D **Nolan Valleau** assisted on four tallies. Chargers sophomore D **Brandon Carlson** had a career-high four-point effort (2g, 1a) last Saturday night.

NON-CONFERENCE

#4/6 Ferris State (0-0-0, 0 pts WCHA / 1-0-0) at St. Lawrence (0-0-0, 0 pts. ECAC / 1-1-0)

Appleton Arena; Canton, New York

Friday, Oct. 17 and Saturday, Oct. 18 (7:00 p.m. ET both nights)

- No. 4 /6 Ferris State, which has been ranked among the nation's top 10 for 22 consecutive weeks, returns to regular season action with a road series at ECAC foe St. Lawrence.
- The Bulldogs lead the all-time series, which originated in 1993, by a 7-3-0 margin. Three years ago (2011-12), FSU opened its run to the NCAA Frozen Four by sweeping the Saints in Canton.
- Ferris State's lone regular season game thus far was a 4-3 victory over then-No. 8/7 Michigan in front of a capacity crowd at Ewingleben Ice Arena on Oct. 4, as sophomore F **Chad McDonald** scored a pair of goals and senior G **CJ Motte** turned away 34 shots.
- The Falcons recorded a 4-1 victory over visiting Wilfrid Laurier in an exhibition contest last Friday. FSU utilized every freshman on its roster.

Lake Superior State (0-2-0, 0 pts. WCHA / 0-4-0) at Notre Dame (0-0-0, 0 pts. Hockey East / 0-2-0)

Compton Family Ice Arena; South Bend, Ind.

Friday, Oct. 17 at 7:35 p.m. ET / Saturday, Oct. 18 at 6:05 p.m. ET – WATCH LIVE ON NBCSN

- Lake Superior State visits Notre Dame for a nationally televised non-conference series. Both contests will be broadcast on the NBC Sports Network.
- The two storied programs have squared off since the 1981-82 season, with Notre Dame holding an all-time 34-25-7 edge. The Irish have swept two-game series in South Bend each of the last two years.
- Both the Lakers and Irish are looking for their first wins of the season. Last weekend, LSSU dropped a pair of road contests at Robert Morris, while ND lost both games of its own Icebreaker Tournament.
- Freshmen have logged all 240 minutes between the pipes for the young Lakers this season. **Gordon Defiel** has been in net for 90.2% of the time, turning back 137 shots while allowing 14 goals (.907 save percentage). LSSU also had five freshmen on its blue line during last Friday's game in Pittsburgh.

No. 12 Minnesota State (0-0-0, 0 pts. WCHA / 1-1-0) vs. No. 20 UMD (0-0-0, 0 pts. NCHC / 1-1-0)

Friday, Oct. 17 at 7:07 p.m. CT (Duluth, Minn.) – WATCH LIVE ON FOX SPORTS NORTH

Saturday, Oct. 18 at 7:07 p.m. CT (Mankato, Minn.) - WATCH LIVE ON WCHA.TV

- No. 12 Minnesota State faces No. 20 Minnesota Duluth in a home-and-home series between ranked, intra-state rivals.
- The Mavericks trail the all-time series, 17-26-6, including a loss last year in the North Star College Cup at the Xcel Energy Center.
- Saturday's game will mark the home opener for MSU. A year ago, the Mavericks were 16-1-1 at the Verizon Wireless Center.
- Senior F **Matt Leitner**, who ranks second among active NCAA Division I players with 83 assists, has a seven-game points streak dating back to last year.

**No. 18 Wisconsin (0-0-0, 0 pts. Big Ten / 0-2-0) vs. Northern Michigan (0-0-0, 0 pts. WCHA / 0-0-0)
Resch Center; Green Bay, Wisc.**

Friday, Oct. 17 and Saturday, Oct. 18 (7:07 p.m. CT both nights) - [WATCH LIVE ON WCHA.TV](#)

- Northern Michigan, the only WCHA team yet to play this season, opens its campaign by hosting a two-game series against No. 18 Wisconsin at the Resch Center in Green Bay.
- This is the fourth consecutive season NMU has opened against the Badgers, earning a 3-3-0 split in those contests. The Wildcats swept a two-game set at the Resch Center when the teams skated there to open the 2012-13 campaign. NMU trails the all-time series, however, 27-45-6.
- The Wildcats return 26 of the 34-player roster from a season ago. All four goalies return, including sophomore **Mathias Dahlstrom**, who led all NCAA rookies in 2013-14 with 2034:28 minutes between the pipes.
- Seniors **Mitch Jones** and **Reed Seckel**, who both tied for second on the team with 23 points a year ago, also return.

7th ANNUAL BRICE ALASKA GOAL RUSH

**Penn State (0-0-0, 0 pts. Big Ten / 1-0-1) vs. Alaska Anchorage (0-0-0, 0 pts. WCHA / 2-0-0)
Carlson Center; Fairbanks, Alaska**

Friday, Oct. 17 at 5:07 p.m. AT - [WATCH LIVE ON WCHA.TV](#)

- Alaska Anchorage, which won both games of its own Kendall Hockey Classic last weekend, stays in its home state for the Brice Alaska Goal Rush in Fairbanks. The Seawolves received votes in both the USCHO.com and USA Today / *USA Hockey Magazine* polls.
- UAA is 7-5 all-time at the BAGR, including tournament championships in 2008 and 2001.
- This will be the first-ever meeting between the Seawolves and Nittany Lions.
- After one full weekend of college hockey, UAA is tied for 10th in the nation offensively (3.50 goals per game) and tied for fifth on the defensive side (1.50 goals allowed per contest).

**Air Force (1-1-0, 2 pts. AHA / 1-1-0) at No. 19 Alaska (0-0-0, 0 pts WCHA / 2-0-0)
Carlson Center; Fairbanks, Alaska**

Friday, Oct. 17 at 8:07 p.m. AT - [WATCH LIVE ON WCHA.TV](#)

- Alaska opens its home schedule by hosting the seventh annual Brice Alaska Goal Rush at the Carlson Center in Fairbanks. The Nanooks are looking to win their third straight BAGR and fourth in the last five seasons.
- The Nanooks are 18-5-2 all-time against Air Force, including an 8-0-1 ledger in Alaska.
- Alaska climbed to No. 19 in the USCHO.com poll after going 2-0-0 and winning the Kendall Hockey Classic by virtue of goal differential.
- Sophomore G **Davis Jones** earned WCHA Defensive Player of the Week and was named the Most Outstanding Player at the Kendall after stopping 33 of 35 shots on the weekend (.942 save pct.).

Air Force vs. Alaska Anchorage
Carlson Center; Fairbanks, Alaska
Saturday, Oct. 18 at 4:07 p.m. AT - [WATCH LIVE ON WCHA.TV](#)

- UAA is 14-5-2 all-time against Air Force, including a 4-2 victory last season in Anchorage.

Penn State at Alaska
Carlson Center; Fairbanks, Alaska
Saturday, Oct. 11 at 7:07 p.m. AT - [WATCH LIVE ON WCHA.TV](#)

- The Nanooks and Nittany Lions will meet for the first time.
- Penn State head coach Guy Gadowsky was the bench boss in Fairbanks from 1999-2004, earning CCHA Coach of the Year honors in 2002 after guiding the Nanooks to a 22-win campaign. In September, he was inducted into the Alaska Nanooks Hall of Fame.

IDLE

- Bemidji State and Michigan Tech

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).

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