



WCHA WEEKEND PREVIEW: OCT. 24-25, 2014

News and notes for the upcoming weekend of WCHA hockey

- For the first time this season, all 10 WCHA teams are in action, with a trio of league series and four non-conference sets.
- Eight of 10 WCHA teams are ranked or receiving votes in this week's USCHO.com or USA Today/USA Hockey Magazine polls. No. 8/7 Ferris State, No. 13/12 Minnesota State, No. 16 Alaska and No. 20 Alaska Anchorage are all ranked, while Bowling Green, Michigan Tech, Northern Michigan and Bemidji State are receiving votes.
- This marks only the second time that both the Nanooks and Seawolves have been simultaneously ranked in the USCHO.com poll; the other was Dec. 1, 2008.
- Ferris State begins defense of its MacNaughton Cup when it hosts Michigan Tech for the Bulldogs' first WCHA series. Northern Michigan (at Lake Superior State) and Minnesota State (vs. Alabama Huntsville) also play their first league series.
- WCHA teams are 15-11-1 (.574) against the rest of the NCAA in 2014-15. The WCHA has the most non-conference wins of any league in the country, while its winning percentage is second-best. WCHA schools have also posted an 8-3-0 (.727) mark against ranked opponents.
- This weekend's slate includes road series against Big Ten, ECAC, Hockey East and NCHC schools.

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

WCHA

Alabama Huntsville (0-2-0, 0 pts. / 0-4-0) at No. 13/12 Minnesota State (0-0-0, 0 pts. / 2-2-0)

Verizon Wireless Center; Mankato, Minn.

Friday, Oct. 24 and Saturday, Oct. 25 (7:07 p.m. CT both nights) - [WATCH LIVE ON WCHA.TV](http://WCHA.TV)

- No. 13/12 Minnesota State hosts Alabama Huntsville in the Mavericks' WCHA opener. The Chargers dropped a pair of league games to Bowling Green last weekend.
- MSU leads the all-time series 23-19-5, including a 13-6-4 edge in Mankato.
- Mavericks F **Brad McClure** is tied for the NCAA freshmen lead with three goals, matching fellow WCHA rookie Austin Vieth of Alaska.
- MSU senior F **Matt Leitner**, who had an eight-game points streak snapped last Saturday, ranks third among active NCAA D-I players with 124 career points.

Michigan Tech (2-0-0, 4 pts. / 2-0-0) at No. 8/7 Ferris State (0-0-0, 0 pts. / 2-1-0)

Ewingleben Ice Arena; Big Rapids, Mich.

Friday, Oct. 24 and Saturday, Oct. 25 (7:07 p.m. ET both nights) - [WATCH LIVE ON WCHA.TV](#)

- No. 8 /7 Ferris State, which has been ranked among the nation's top 10 for 23 consecutive weeks, opens defense of its MacNaughton Cup by hosting Michigan Tech this weekend.
- FSU is 17-0-1 in its last 18 home contests at Ewingleben Ice Arena. This weekend will represent the 52nd and 53rd straight regular season sellouts for Ferris State's "Dawg Pound" student section.
- The Huskies will skate for the first time since a season-opening sweep at Lake Superior State on Oct. 4-5. MTU scored 10 goals in those two contests and ranks second in the NCAA for scoring offense.
- MTU owns a slight 9-8-1 edge over the first 18 meetings, but Ferris State has won six of nine contests in Big Rapids. Prior to last season (when the Bulldogs won three of four), the teams had not played since 1995.
- FSU sophomore F **Chad McDonald** is tied for the NCAA lead with two game-winning goals this year, including an overtime strike last Friday night. In that game, Bulldogs senior G **CJ Motte** logged his 50th career victory – third among active NCAA D-I netminders.

Northern Michigan (0-0-0, 0 pts. / 2-0-0) at Lake Superior State (0-2-0, 0 pts. / 0-6-0)

Taffy Abel Ice Arena; Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

Friday, Oct. 24 at 7:37 p.m. ET / Saturday, Oct. 25 at 7:07 p.m. ET – [WATCH LIVE ON WCHA.TV](#)

- Lake Superior State hosts Northern Michigan in the first of four contests in the Cappel Cup series. The Cappel Cup is a memorial award named after the late Monsignor Louis Cappel, who served the Catholic Church in the Upper Peninsula for 61 years before he passed away in December 2007.
- LSSU holds a slight 24-23-6 advantage over the Wildcats at Taffy Abel Arena, but NMU has an all-time 62-37-10 series lead.
- The Lakers will honor their 1994 National Championship team as part of Great Lake State Weekend.
- LSSU freshman G **Gordon Defiel** leads all D-I rookie netminders with 275:47 minutes between the pipes this season.
- The Wildcats were the final WCHA team to play this season, opening their campaign with a sweep of then-No. 18 Wisconsin at the Resch Center in Green Bay.
- NMU sophomore G **Mathias Dahlström** earned WCHA Defensive Player of the Week honors after stopping 42 shots over the two games, including his fourth career shutout.

NON-CONFERENCE

No. 20 Alaska Anchorage (0-0-0, 0 pts. WCHA / 3-0-1) at Maine (0-0-0, 0 pts. HEA / 0-4-0)

Alfond Arena; Orono, Maine

Friday, Oct. 24 and Saturday, Oct. 25 (7:00 p.m. ET both nights)

- No. 20 Alaska Anchorage travels to the Lower 48 for the first time, going across the continent to play at Maine. UAA is making its first trip to Orono since Nov. 16-17, 1990 (0-1-1).
- The Seawolves and Black Bears met two weekends ago at the Kendall Hockey Classic. UAA posted a 3-1 triumph in the season opener and leads the all-time series, 4-2-1.
- UAA has outscored its opponents 5-0 in the third period this season. The Seawolves are tied for 14th nationally for scoring offense (3.50 goals per game) and 12th for scoring defense (1.75gpg).
- Sophomore D **Chase Van Allen**, who has a career-high four-game point streak, leads all WCHA players and is tied for second among NCAA D-I defensemen with six points (1g, 5a).

No. 16 Alaska (0-0-0, 0 pts. WCHA / 4-0-0) at Western Michigan (0-2-0, 0 pts. NCHC / 1-3-0)

Lawson Ice Arena; Kalamazoo, Mich.

Friday, Oct. 24 and Saturday, Oct. 25 (7:07 p.m. ET both nights)

- No. 16 Alaska is one of only three NCAA D-I teams to open 4-0-0, joining Robert Morris and defending national champ Union. The Nanooks swept both the Kendall Hockey Classic (Anchorage) and Brice Alaska Goal Rush (Fairbanks) for the first time ever.
- The Nanooks face their first road test when they travel to Kalamazoo, Mich. to face old CCHA foe Western Michigan. Alaska trails the all-time series 22-27-7, including a tie in the finals of the 2013 BAGR (won by the Nanooks in a shootout).
- The Nanooks, which twice last weekend erased third-period deficits to win, is tied for second in the nation with seven final-stanza goals this season.
- Freshman F **Austin Vieth** has scored three goals, tied with MSU's Brad McClure for most among NCAA D-I rookies. He is tied for third with four points overall.
- Sophomore G **Davis Jones**, one of 21 D-I goals who have yet to lose in 2014-15, is tied for second with three victories between the pipes.

Bemidji State (0-0-0, 0 pts. WCHA / 1-1-0) at No. 1 Minnesota (0-0-0, 0 pts. Big Ten / 2-0-0)

Mariucci Arena; Minneapolis, Minn.

Friday, Oct. 24 at 8:00 p.m. CT / Saturday, Oct. 25 at 7:00 p.m. CT

- Bemidji State faces another huge test with a two-game road set in Minneapolis against the top-ranked Gophers.
- The Beavers were off last week, after opening their season with a split against then-No. 2 North Dakota. BSU's win was its first in Grand Forks since 1970.
- Minnesota holds a 16-1-1 advantage in the series, including a 10-1-0 mark at home. BSU's lone win in the series was 10 games ago – a 6-2 triumph on Nov. 15, 2009 at Mariucci Arena.
- Freshmen **Gerry, Leo** and **Myles Fitzgerald** are one of 27 sets of brothers playing collegiate hockey this season and, on Oct. 10, became the second known set of triplets ever to play college hockey when they started as the Beavers' third forward line.
- Freshman G **Michael Bitzer** – one of seven Beavers who opened the year without a single game of college hockey experience – made 25 saves en route to a 5-1 victory at UND in his debut.

Bowling Green (2-0-0, 4 pts. WCHA / 3-1-0) at Clarkson (0-0-0, 0 pts. ECAC / 2-2-0)

Cheel Arena; Potsdam, New York

Friday, Oct. 24 at 7:00 p.m. ET / Saturday, Oct. 25 at 7:30 p.m. ET

- Bowling Green, which is receiving votes in both national polls, looks to continue its solid start in New York against ECAC foe Clarkson.
- The Falcons have gone 4-1-0 in the last five meetings against the Golden Knights, but trail the all-time series, 12-14-1 (including 2-3-0 at Cheel Arena).
- Bowling Green is tied for the WCHA lead with 14 goals through its first four games and is tied for 14th nationally with 3.50 scores per contest. The Falcons and Union have each received an NCAA-best 32 points from freshmen and sophomores (12g, 20a).
- BGSU has excelled at special teams, with a WCHA-best +7 rating. The Falcons have converted 7-of-23 power plays (30.4 pct.) and have killed off 14-of-15 (93.3 pct.) opponent man advantages, while also tallying a short-handed goal.
- Sophomore F **Kevin Dufour** has scored at least one goal in each game and leads all NCAA D-I players with six strikes overall. Falcons' freshman D **Nolan Valleau** has logged an assist in each contest and is tied for the NCAA lead with six helpers (tops among blue-liners and rookies).

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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