



WCHA WEEKEND PREVIEW: OCT. 31-NOV. 1, 2014

News and notes for the upcoming weekend of WCHA hockey

- Only five NCAA D-I teams have a perfect 1.000 winning percentage heading into this weekend, and the WCHA is home to a pair in No. 17 Michigan Tech and Northern Michigan (both 4-0-0).
- In fact, WCHA teams own six of the nation's top 20 winning percentages, matching Hockey East for the most top-20 records of any conference. In addition to the Huskies and Wildcats, the others are:
 - No. 16 Alaska (t-7th at .833, 5-1-1);
 - Bowling Green (t-11th at .750, 4-1-1);
 - Alaska Anchorage (t-17th at .667, 3-1-2) and No. 12 Minnesota State (t-17th at .667, 4-2-0).
- The WCHA owns a 17-15-3 (.529) non-conference record, matching the ECAC and NCHC for the second-most wins among any conference. WCHA schools are 8-5-0 (.615) against ranked non-conference opponents.
- All 10 WCHA teams are in action this Halloween weekend, including a trio of intriguing league series:
 - No. 12 Minnesota State visits a Bowling Green squad that has lost just once and boasts the nation's top scorer in sophomore F **Kevin Dufour**;
 - Bemidji State, which has defeated the nation's No. 2 team and nearly toppled the top-ranked school, hosts No. 16 Alaska in the WCHA openers for both schools;
 - Alaska Anchorage, off to its best start since 2007-08, opens its league schedule by hosting Lake Superior State.
- Three non-conference series are on tap, including a pair of intra-Michigan, WCHA-Big Ten rivalries:
 - No. 14/15 Ferris State travels to Michigan State;
 - No. 17 Michigan Tech hosts No. 15/13 Michigan for the first time since 1983;
 - Alabama Huntsville visits unbeaten Northern Michigan for a rare non-conference series between two WCHA teams.

-Series previews begin on the next page-

WCHA

No. 12 Minnesota State (2-0-0, 4 pts. / 4-2-0) at Bowling Green (2-0-0, 4 pts. / 4-1-1)

BGSU Ice Arena; Bowling Green, Ohio

Friday, Oct. 31 and Saturday, Nov. 1 (7:07 p.m. ET both nights) - [WATCH LIVE ON WCHA.TV](#)

- No. 12 Minnesota State visits Bowling Green, a team receiving votes in both polls following its 4-1-1 start, in a rematch of a 2014 WCHA Final Five semifinal (won by MSU, 4-0).
- MSU holds a 4-2-1 all-time series lead, with BGSU going 1-2-1 on home ice. The teams split last season's tightly-contested regular season series, in which all four games were one-goal contests and three were decided in overtime.
- The teams are tied for the WCHA scoring lead at 3.50 goals per game, while their 21 goals overall are tied for sixth-most in the country.
- Mavericks' senior D **Zach Palmquist**, who has not missed a game in his collegiate career, is tied for the NCAA lead among defensemen with three goals and eight points.
- Falcons' sophomore F **Kevin Dufour** has scored at least one goal in all six games and leads the nation with eight strikes overall. BGSU's underclassmen have contributed an NCAA-best 18 goals and 44 points.

No. 16 Alaska (0-0-0, 0 pts. / 5-1-0) at Bemidji State (0-0-0, 0 pts. / 1-3-0)

Sanford Center; Bemidji, Minn.

Friday, Oct. 31 at 7:37 p.m. CT / Saturday, Nov. 1 at 7:07 p.m. CT - [WATCH LIVE ON WCHA.TV](#)

- No. 16 Alaska continues its road trip at Bemidji State, which faces its third consecutive ranked opponent. The series marks the WCHA opener for both schools.
- BSU is 4-2-1 all-time against the Nanooks in a series that got its start in Jan. 1982. Alaska won last year's series, 2-1-1.
- Alaska is tied for seventh nationally with a .833 winning percentage (5-1-1), a hot start fueled by the nation's eighth-best defense (2.00 goals allowed per game). Nanooks' senior G **Sean Cahill** is eighth among NCAA netminders with a .947 save percentage.
- Bemidji State's 1-3-0 start has been against then-No. 2 North Dakota (1-1) and No. 1 Minnesota.
- Junior F **Markus Gerbrandt** has scored in three of the Beavers' first four games (including a two-goal game last Saturday at Mariucci Arena) and leads the team with five points overall (3g, 2a).

Lake Superior State (0-4-0, 0 pts. / 0-8-0) at Alaska Anchorage (0-0-0, 0 pts. / 3-1-2)

Sullivan Arena; Anchorage, Alaska

Friday, Oct. 31 and Saturday, Nov. 1 (7:07 p.m. AT both nights) – [WATCH LIVE ON WCHA.TV](#)

- Alaska Anchorage, 3-1-2 for its best start since 2007-08, hosts Lake Superior State for the Seawolves' first WCHA contests.
- Lake Superior State leads the all-time series, 6-2-0. The teams split four contests last season, with each team winning once on the road and once on home ice.
- The Lakers have not opened a season winless through nine games since 1998-99 (0-7-2).
- Senior F **Garrick Perry** leads Alaska with five points this season (1g, 4a), while freshman F **Austin Vieth** has scored a team-best three goals.
- LSSU freshman G **Gordon Defiel** leads the nation in minutes served in net (395:09), saves made (235) and shots faced (259).

NON-CONFERENCE

No. 14/15 Ferris State (0-2-0, 0 pts. WCHA / 2-3-0) at Michigan State (0-0-0, 0 pts. Big Ten / 1-3-0)

Munn Ice Arena; East Lansing, Mich.

Friday, Oct. 31 and Saturday, Nov. 1 (7:00 p.m. ET both nights)

- No. 14/15 Ferris State, which is in the national rankings for the 24th straight week, travels to East Lansing for a non-conference series at Michigan State.
- Ferris State has won four straight games over MSU, six of the last seven meetings and nine of the last 11 contests. A year ago, the Bulldogs recorded a 2-0 win over the Spartans in East Lansing in the US Hockey Hall of Fame Game.
- Backed by senior G **CJ Motte**, the Bulldogs are tied for eighth nationally for scoring defense (2.00 goals allowed per game) and tied for sixth for penalty kill efficiency (20-for-22, 90.9 pct.)
- Motte tallied 73 saves last weekend, including the 2,500th of his career. He currently ranks second among active NCAA netminders with 50 career wins and third with 2,560 saves.

No. 15/13 Michigan (0-0-0, 0 pts. Big Ten / 2-3-0) at No. 17 Michigan Tech (4-0-0, 8 pts. WCHA / 4-0-0)

John J. MacInnes Student Ice Arena; Houghton, Mich.

Friday, Oct. 31 and Saturday, Nov. 1 (7:07 p.m. ET both nights) - [WATCH LIVE ON WCHA.TV](#)

- No. 17 Michigan Tech, one of only five undefeated and untied teams in the nation, hosts No. 15/13 Michigan in the Huskies' home opener. This will be the Wolverines' first visit to Houghton since 1983.
- MTU's 4-0-0 start is its best since also winning the first four games of 2011-12 – **Mel Pearson's** first season as head coach.
- Michigan Tech and Michigan own one of the most-played rivalries in college hockey with 221 meetings since the series began in 1921. The Wolverines hold a 122-94-5 all-time series advantage, including a pair of one-goal victories last year in Ann Arbor.
- Pearson served as an assistant coach at Michigan for 24 years (1989-2011), helping the Wolverines to a 667-243-71 record, 11 Frozen Fours and two national championships.
- MTU junior G **Jamie Phillips** earned NCAA first star honors after stopping 67 of 68 shots last weekend in a road sweep at Ferris State. He ranks sixth nationally for both goals against average (1.25) and save percentage (.654).

Alabama Huntsville (0-4-0, 0 pts. WCHA / 0-6-0) at Northern Michigan (2-0-0, 4 pts. WCHA / 4-0-0)

Berry Events Center; Marquette, Mich.

Friday, Oct. 31 and Saturday, Nov. 1 (7:07 p.m. ET both nights) - [WATCH LIVE ON WCHA.TV](#)

- Alabama Huntsville and Northern Michigan skate in a rare non-conference series between WCHA schools. The Chargers and Wildcats will meet for their league set Jan. 16-17 in Alabama.
- NMU is 7-0-1 all-time against UAH, including a four-game sweep last season. The Wildcats, who will play at the Berry Events Center for the first time this season, are 5-1-0 in their past three home opening series.
- At 4-0-0, the Wildcats are one of five unbeaten and untied teams in the nation. The perfect four-game start is NMU's best since the program's 22-win campaign of 1999-2000.
- Led by the play of sophomore G **Mathias Dahlström**, NMU boasts the nation's stingiest scoring defense at 0.75 goals allowed per game. Dahlström is tied for the NCAA lead with two shutouts, while ranking second for goals against average (0.33) and fourth for save percentage (.968).
- Chargers' sophomore G **Carmine Guerriero** had a WCHA season-high 54 saves last Friday at Minnesota State. The next night, Huntsville native **Josh Kestner** scored his first collegiate goal.

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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