



WCHA WEEKEND PREVIEW: JAN. 2-4, 2015

News and notes for the upcoming weekend of WCHA hockey

- The WCHA enters the second half as the only conference with two top-five teams in the USCHO.com and *USA Today/USA Hockey Magazine* rankings (last issued Dec. 15):
 - Minnesota State and Michigan Tech are Nos. 3 and 5, respectively, in both polls.
 - No. 13 Bowling Green gives the league a trio of ranked teams.
- Those same three teams also give the WCHA three teams in the top 10 of the PairWise rankings (tied with the NCHC for most among any conference):
 - No. 1 Minnesota State
 - No. 6 Bowling Green
 - No. 7 Michigan Tech
- Finally, that trio gives the WCHA three of the top-10 winning percentages in the country, matching Hockey East for the most of any conference:
 - No. 2 Michigan Tech (.778, 14-4-0)
 - No. 3 Minnesota State (.765, 13-4-0)
 - No. 5 (tied) Bowling Green (.750, 11-3-2)
- WCHA teams have posted a .509 winning percentage in nonconference play (26-25-7), matching the league's entire 2013-14 victory output (26-46-12, .381). This season's record includes a 12-10-1 mark (.542) against ranked nonconference opponents.
- The second half of the league season – and the final 82 WCHA games – kick off with a trio of series:
 - No. 3 Minnesota State travels to Northern Michigan in a rematch of a 2014 WCHA first round playoff series.
 - Alabama Huntsville, just two points behind Alaska Anchorage and Lake Superior State for the eighth and final playoff spot, hosts the Seawolves.
 - Ferris State, winners of five of its six WCHA games, visits an Alaska team that went 3-1-0 in December.
- A pair of nonconference series await:
 - No. 13 Bowling Green skates against No. 19 Robert Morris in a big series. Saturday's game, hosted by the Falcons, is the Winterfest outdoor game at Fifth Third Field in Toledo, Ohio.
 - No. 5 Michigan Tech wraps up its nonconference schedule by visiting Wisconsin at the Kohl Center in Madison.
- **All three WCHA series, along with the Bowling Green vs. Robert Morris outdoor game, can be viewed live via WCHA.tv.**

WCHA

**No. 3 Minnesota State (10-2-0, 20 pts. / 13-4-0) at Northern Michigan (5-5-2, 12 pts. / 8-5-3)
Berry Events Center; Marquette, Mich.**

Friday, Jan. 2 and Saturday, Jan. 3 (7:07 p.m. ET both nights) – WATCH LIVE ON [WCHA.TV](#)

- No. 3 Minnesota State, winners of 8 of its last 9 games, opens the 2nd half against Northern Michigan at the Berry Events Center.
- The Mavericks and Wildcats met for the 1st time in program history last season, with Minnesota State winning 5 of 6 games – including a pair of 1-goal victories in the 1st round of the WCHA playoffs.
- The series pits an explosive offense against a stingy defense. Minnesota State ranks 2nd nationally with 3.94 goals per game, while Northern Michigan is tied for 6th in the country by allowing just 1.81 scores per contest.
- Mavericks' sophomore D **Casey Nelson** has a 6-game point streak (2-7—9), while freshman F **Brad McClure** is on a 4-game run (2-4—6).
- NMU sophomore G **Mathias Dahlström**, who missed the Wildcats' last series prior to the break, remains among the NCAA leaders for GAA (7th at 1.74), save percentage (10th at .934) and shutouts (t-1st with 4).

**Alaska Anchorage (2-6-2, 6 pts. / 5-7-4) at Alabama Huntsville (2-10-0, 4 pts. / 3-14-3)
Von Braun Center; Huntsville, Ala.**

Friday, Jan. 2 and Saturday, Jan. 3 (7:07 p.m. CT both nights) – WATCH LIVE ON [WCHA.TV](#)

- Alaska Anchorage visits Alabama Huntsville in a series of two teams entering the 2nd half battling for one of the league's final playoff spots. The Seawolves currently hold a two point edge over the Chargers.
- UAA leads the all-time series, 18-2-1, including a 1-0-1 mark last year in Huntsville.
- The Seawolves have not played since twice tying against visiting Bemidji State on Dec. 5-6. UAH, by contrast, was in action Dec. 20-21 at No. 12 Nebraska Omaha (with a loss and a tie).
- UAA freshman G **Olivier Mantha** owns a .928 save percentage, which is on track to break the all-time school single-season record of .921 set in 2003-04 by Chris King.
- On the other side, Chargers' sophomore netminder **Carmine Guerriero** ranks 11th nationally and 4th in the WCHA with a .932 save percentage.
- In UAA's last game (Dec. 6), senior F **Brett Cameron** broke an 11-game goalless drought with a 4-goal outburst (most by a NCAA D-I player this season).

**Ferris State (6-4-0, 12 pts. / 9-9-1) at Alaska (5-7-0, 10 pts. / 10-8-0)
Carlson Center; Fairbanks, Alaska**

Friday, Jan. 2 and Saturday, Jan. 3 (7:07 p.m. AT both nights) – WATCH LIVE ON [WCHA.TV](#)

- Just four days removed from playing in the Great Lakes Invitational, Ferris State will travel to Alaska to play a Nanooks squad that hasn't skated since Dec. 12-13.
- Both teams have played well as of late, with the Bulldogs winning 5 of their last 6 WCHA games and the Nanooks coming off a 3-1-0 December.
- The two teams each posted a sweep on home ice last season, while the Nanooks own a slight 32-31-4 all-time series edge.
- FSU junior F **Matt Robertson** has netted at least a point in 8 of his last 10 contests (2-11—13).
- Bulldogs' senior G **CJ Motte** continues to rank among NCAA leaders for GAA (11th at 1.81), save percentage (8th at .935) and shutouts (t-1st with 4).
- Alaska junior F **Tyler Morley** leads the WCHA and is 17th nationally with 1.19 points per game. His 19 points are two behind Michigan Tech's Tanner Kero for the overall WCHA scoring lead.

NON-CONFERENCE

**No. 5 Michigan Tech (10-2-0, 20 pts. WCHA / 14-4-0) at Wisconsin (0-2-0, 0 pts. B1G / 1-10-1)
Kohl Center; Madison, Wis.**

Friday, Jan. 2 and Saturday, Jan. 3 (7:00 p.m. CT both nights – Saturday's game televised on BTN)

- No. 5 Michigan Tech, after going 1-1 to finish 3rd at the Great Lakes Invitational, wraps up its nonconference schedule with a 2-game series at Wisconsin.
- The Huskies are 4-2-0 against other leagues, including a 2-1-0 mark against the Big Ten (all against Michigan).
- MTU trails, 55-99-11, in a series that dates back to the 1927-28 season. Tech left Madison with a pair of ties back in Dec. 2012, but has not won in Wisconsin since Nov. 2, 2007.
- MTU is tied for the most wins in the country (14), while ranking 2nd for winning pct. (.778). The Huskies are 9-1-0 away from Houghton, including a perfect 8-0-0 mark in true road games.
- Senior F **Tanner Kero**, who was named to the All-GLI team, leads the WCHA and is tied for 10th nationally with 21 points (6g, 15a).

**No. 13 Bowling Green (8-1-1, 17 pts. WCHA / 11-3-2) vs. No. 19 Robert Morris (9-2-3, 21 pts. AHA / 12-3-3)
Saturday, Jan. 3 at Fifth Third Field; Toledo, Ohio**

Winterfest Outdoor Game (12:00 p.m. ET) - [WATCH LIVE ON WCHA.TV](#)

Sunday, Jan. 4 at 84 Lumber Arena; Pittsburgh, Pa. (7:05 p.m. ET)

- No. 13 Bowling Green plays a unique "home-and-home" series with No. 19 Robert Morris, as the Falcons will host the Colonials in Saturday's Winterfest outdoor game at Fifth Third Field in Toledo, Ohio (home of the Detroit Tigers' triple-A affiliate, the Toledo Mud Hens).
- The outdoor game will be the first for both Bowling Green and Robert Morris, and just the second in the state of Ohio (Ohio State vs. Michigan at Progressive Field in 2012).
- Sunday's finale will be played at Robert Morris' home rink. BGSU is 7-1-2 on the road.
- Bowling Green enters the series unbeaten since Nov. 15 – a 5-game run (4-0-1) that is tied for the 3rd-longest active streak in the nation. The Falcons are also 11-3-2, the program's best start since the 1995-96 season.
- The series will pit a pair of high-scoring offenses. Robert Morris leads the nation with 3.94 goals per game, while Bowling Green is 11th at 3.31 scores per contest.
- The Falcons defeated the Colonials in the only previous meeting between the schools, earning a 3-2 victory in the consolation game of the 2013 Three Rivers Classic.

IDLE

- Bemidji State and Lake Superior State

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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