



WCHA PLAYOFF CHAMPIONSHIP

The Western Collegiate Hockey Association's annual postseason playoff tournament, which was introduced for the 1959-60 season, has included numerous formats over the past 50-plus years.

Formats have included: one round of four teams (1960-61); one round and a finals (1961-62); one round and a championship game (1962-65); two rounds with eight teams (1965-68); eight teams at East and West regionals (1968-71); eight teams in two rounds of two-game total goals series (1971-76, 1977-81); eight teams in two rounds of two-game total goals series plus a two-team championship (1976-77, 1981-87); an opening round, best-of-three series at campus sites followed by a four-team playoff championship at one venue (1988-92); and, a first round, best-of-three series at campus sites followed by a WCHA Final Five at one venue (1993-2016).

Bringing the singular intensity and passion of playoff college hockey directly to its member institution fans, since 2017 the entirety of the WCHA Men's League postseason – from the quarterfinals through the championship game – have been hosted by the highest remaining seeds at on-campus venues. The "WCHA Playoffs" consist of four (4) best-of-three, quarterfinal round series hosted by the league's top four regular-season finishers, followed by two (2) best-of-three semifinal round series hosted by the highest remaining seeds. The "WCHA Championship" is a single game, hosted by the highest remaining seed.

Since 1982, the WCHA has crowned one annual playoff champion. From 1982 to 1984, the WCHA playoff champion was presented with the MacNaughton Cup (1982-84). From 1985 through 2017, the league's postseason winner received the Broadmoor Trophy. In 2018, in honor of an icon and beloved figure in both WCHA and college hockey history, the league introduced the Jeff Sauer WCHA Championship Trophy, Presented by Anderson's Pure Maple Syrup.

JEFF SAUER WCHA CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY, PRESENTED BY ANDERSON'S PURE MAPLE SYRUP

The beginning of each season brings with it the hope and promise that the late Jeff Sauer gave to all. Each day carries the love of hockey that shone through with his ever-present smile. At season's end, a championship – the ultimate symbol of teamwork and unity that Coach Sauer exemplified.

Beginning with the 2018 season, the Men's League of the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) is honored to present the Jeff Sauer WCHA Championship Trophy, Presented by Anderson's Pure Maple Syrup, to be awarded each season to the WCHA Postseason Tournament Champion.

Jeff Sauer's association with the WCHA spanned six decades, beginning with his playing career at Colorado College in the 1960s, continuing through 31 years as head coach of the Tigers (1971-82) and Wisconsin (1982-2002), and for 14 seasons (2003-17) in various consulting capacities to the Commissioner and Association Office.

The trophy, designed by renowned manufacturer Jostens, stands more than two feet high on its own (and more than three-feet high upon its perpetual base) and will weigh approximately 46 pounds altogether (about 30 without the base). The hockey stick uprights are solid, brass-plated in 24-karat gold, while the rest of the trophy is produced with a mix of metals and aluminum accents, around a polished steel bowl. In the center is a bronze-cast medallion plated in gold with the name "Jeff Sauer" to symbolize the trophy's namesake. The octagon-shaped base is made of the same materials and features nickel silver plates for etching the history of past winning teams.

