

MEN'S HOCKEY

NO PAIRWISE, NO PROBLEM



Bemidji State junior Owen Sillinger (12) celebrates after scoring in the first period against Bowling Green on Jan. 22 at the Sanford Center.

Jillian Gandsey / Bemidji Pioneer

Beavers in the hunt for NCAA berth

By Austin Monteith
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At this time of year, all eyes would normally be on the Pairwise comparison rankings, the metric used to select the field for the NCAA men's hockey tournament. That's not the case this season.

The lack of true nonconference games in college hockey has rendered the Pairwise practically useless in 2020-21.

Those rankings are updated in real time after every game and give teams an immediate sense of

AT A GLANCE

- ▶ **Who:** BSU vs. Northern Michigan
- ▶ **Where:** Sanford Center
- ▶ **When:** 7:07 p.m. Friday; 6:07 p.m. Saturday
- ▶ **Radio:** Beaver Radio Network/92.1 FM
- ▶ **Web stream:** FloHockey.tv

where they stack up in the tournament picture. Teams don't have that luxury this season.

The NCAA Division I Men's Ice Hockey Committee has not yet announced how teams will be selected for this year's tournament, though it seems likely a selection committee

will pick teams in a manner similar to how the fields for the NCAA basketball tournaments are selected each year.

The message is no different than any other year for Bemidji State.

"Guys have got to win," head coach Tom Serratore said. "I'm sure that's the same message that 25-30 teams in college hockey are telling their teams right now. You've got to win. ... I tell our guys there's pressure on you, pressure to win. But if there's pressure on you, that means you're having a good year."

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Jillian Gandsey / Bemidji Pioneer

Bemidji State junior Owen Sillinger (12) challenges Minnesota State goalie Ryan Edquist (35) in the third period on Jan. 29 at the Sanford Center.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Beavers are not pleased with WCHA tourney format

By Austin Monteith
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The news last week that only four teams will qualify for the WCHA Final Faceoff in March did not sit well with the Bemidji State women's hockey team.

All seven league members typically make the field for the WCHA playoffs. Instead of playing quarterfinal series, this season the league will jump straight to the single-elimination semifinals and final. The four-team event is scheduled for March 6-7 at Ridder Arena in Minneapolis.

That doesn't leave BSU in a good position.

With six games remaining in the regular season, the Beavers (2-10-2) currently sit in sixth place in the league standings with a .274 points percentage. They'll need to catch fourth-place Ohio State (9-5-0), which has a .619 points percentage, and has 26 points from 14 games compared to 11.5 points from 14 games for Bemidji State.

"It was certainly extremely disappointing to hear that decision," head coach Jim Scanlan said. "I think it's a real slap in the face for women's hockey."

"When you look at the Big Ten men... they have seven teams and

AT A GLANCE

- ▶ **Who:** BSU at Wisconsin
- ▶ **Where:** Madison, Wis
- ▶ **When:** 2:07 p.m. Friday, Saturday
- ▶ **Radio:** Beaver Radio Network/1300AM & 94.3 FM
- ▶ **Web stream:** BTN+



Scanlan

all seven are going to go to one site (at) Notre Dame and play. The NCHC, which (Minnesota) Duluth is a part of, they're going to have all of their men's teams participating in a postseason tournament. But for some reason, they don't feel women's hockey should have the same — all seven teams — should have the same availability, which I think really makes the women's game look insignificant."

The Big Ten men's hockey tournament will include all seven teams and will be single elimination. Likewise, all eight NCHC men's programs will compete in a single-elimination tournament in Grand Forks, N.D.

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WRESTLING



Bemidji senior Hoyt Solum, top, controls the match over St. Cloud's Logan Lunsford in the 170-pound match on Friday at the BHS Gymnasium.

Jillian Gandsey / Bemidji Pioneer

Jacks assemble deep lineups for another triangular sweep

By Micah Friez
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BEMIDJI — If you thought back-to-back triangulars would be tough on the Bemidji High School wrestling team — even coming off a loss — guess again.

Twenty-four hours removed from a trip to Browerville, the Lumberjacks took down St. Cloud Tech 51-20 and Fergus Falls 67-10 inside the BHS Gymnasium on Friday for their sixth sweep in seven triangulars this year.

"Wrestling two nights in a row, especially after the matches we had Thursday night in Browerville, it can be pretty taxing," Bemidji head coach Rance Bahr said. "That's the nice thing about our room. We have a lot of depth — 45 kids in the room. ... That's a big thing for us, not having just 14, 16 kids in the room. Having that number helps."

The Jacks proved as much on Friday, assembling two different line-

ups and still walking out with comfortable victories.

"Tonight, basically, we put together a second varsity squad in that dual against Fergus Falls, rested our main varsity guys and let these guys get an opportunity," Bahr said. "I think we learned a lot about ourselves last night. I was impressed with how the kids came back tonight, shrugged that off and moved forward."

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