

# Wildcat icers take on NCAA champs in Green Bay

Coaches often talk about wanting to test their teams early to see how they respond. NMU Hockey Coach **Walt Kyle '81 BS** will get that chance when his Wildcat icers take on the defending NCAA champion Wisconsin Badgers in a road "home" series.

The 'Cats will face off against the Badgers in a non-conference series at 7 p.m. (CST) on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 6-7, at the Resch Center in Green Bay. Northern is a member of the Central Collegiate Hockey Association and Wisconsin is a member of the Western Collegiate Hockey Association.

"Wisconsin has turned into one of the best college programs in the country over the last several years and last year won the national title," Kyle said. "It is certainly a high-quality opponent. Also, Wisconsin was a strong rival when Northern was also a member of the WCHA."

"The game is being played in an area where we feel we can draw fans from both Michigan and Wisconsin, and expose a large alumni base to our hockey program," said Kyle

According to NMU Athletic Director **Ken Godfrey '87 MA**, the event will provide a great outreach opportunity for NMU.

"I think this is a great opportunity for us to play a top-notch team in a top-notch facility," Godfrey said. "It gives a lot of our alumni and students from Wisconsin the opportunity to showcase their university to their home state while they partake in the activities surrounding the game."

A limited number of tickets remained for both nights as of press time, but the series is expected to sell out well in advance of the game dates. Tickets are \$22.50 and are available on the TicketStar system ([www.ticketstaronline.com](http://www.ticketstaronline.com)) or 800-895-0071. Tickets can also be purchased at the NMU Ticket Office in the Superior Dome.



Maunu and Zaniboni defend the net.

Wisconsin beat Boston College 2-1 to capture the NCAA crown in April. On the way to the title, the Badgers, who were ranked No. 3 in the country going into the NCAA tournament, downed Bemidji State (4-0), Cornell (1-0, 3OT) and Maine (5-2). The UW was 30-10-3 overall and 17-8-3 in WCHA action to tie for second place in the league standings. The Badgers finished third at the WCHA Tournament.

The UW team that takes on the 'Cats will feature Badger returning leading scorer junior Joe Pavelski (23-33-56), the fourth top scorer in Division I last year. However, the team will be minus the next four scorers from the championship

contingent: Robbie Earl (24-26-50), who gave up his senior year to turn pro and Adam Burish (9-23-32), Tom Gilbert (12-19-31) and Ryan MacMurchy (8-17-25)—seniors last year. Returning with Pavelski is senior goalie Brian Elliott, who last year posted a 27-5-3 record in 35 appearances. Elliott led the nation in goals against average at 1.55 and saves percentage at .938.

Northern returns 19 of 27 players, including three of its top five scorers from last year's team, which narrowly missed making the NCAA Tournament. The Wildcats posted a 22-16-2 overall record and tied for third in the CCHA at 14-12-2.

Top returners for the 'Cats are forwards senior Darin Olver (15-20-35), junior Mike Santorelli (15-18-33) and senior captain Pat Bateman (10-19-29). Seniors Zach Tarkir (3-11-14, +5), Matt Maunu (1-7-8, +11) and Bobby Selden (1-5-6, 0 +/-) will lead the defensive attack along with junior goalie Bill Zaniboni, who posted an 18-12-2 record with a 2.31 goals against average and a .916 saves percentage.

"Let's just say that starting off the year by beating the defending NCAA champion would definitely set the right tone for the goals we hope to accomplish in the upcoming season," said Kyle. "And we hope there is a lot of green and gold in the stands to help offset the red and white we know will be there. It is our home game after all, and we don't want Wisconsin to forget that."

—Cindy Paavola '84 BS



## Superior Dome may become building authority

The Superior Dome may become part of a state building authority if a bill by Rep. Tom Casperson-Escanaba to the House is approved.

The idea of the authority is an innovative strategy to help Northern lower its per-fiscal-year-equated student (FYES) rate, according to NMU President Les Wong.

"We have been discussing with the campus and community ways for the university to reduce the square footage that impacts the university state funding, including possibly leasing space to outside entities in facilities such as the University Center and the Jacobetti Center," said Wong.

The proposed legislation does not specifically include the Dome currently; it just allows for the creation of a state authority in the area.

Northern hopes to be named the management agent of the facility, so the university and the public will see little change in day-to-day operations. Financially, however, the Dome, including its maintenance and repair costs, will become the responsibility of the State of Michigan, and not NMU.

The drop in per-FYES funding rate will significantly help NMU compare more favorably to Michigan's other public universities and make Northern less vulnerable to large funding decreases, such as those proposed last year.

"Right now, the facility is worked into our per-FYES funding while the other universities don't have the world's largest wooden Dome counting against them. This authority would make for a better apples-to-apples comparison when looking at per-student funding at the different

universities," Wong said.

The Dome serves as the Upper Peninsula's conference center as it is the single largest events facility in the region. Several legislators have expressed interest in the Dome building authority idea since every region of the state has a state authority facility for such a purpose except the U.P. If the bill is passed by the legislature, it will proceed to Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

## Davis wins gold and silver at Torino Winter Games

Shani Davis, a Northern Michigan University junior education major, captured a gold and silver medal in long track speedskating at the Torino Winter Games in February.

Davis captured the top Olympic award in the 1,000 meters with a time of 1:07.03. His silver came in the 1,500 meters (1:46.13).

The former United States

Olympic Education Center resident athlete, who returns to NMU each summer to train and take classes, became the first black athlete to win an individual medal in the Winter Games.

He is also the first resident-athlete from NMU and the USOEC to win an Olympic gold medal since boxer Dave Reid won gold at the 1996 Atlanta Games, and the first at the Winter Games since short track speedskater Cathy Turner at the 1994 Lillehammer Games.

Davis caught the national media's attention in December when he attempted to become the first U.S. skater to qualify for both the long and short track teams in the same games, falling just short at the U.S. Short Track Speedskating Championships held at NMU's Berry Events Center.

Davis was one of 19 athletes and coaches with NMU or USOEC ties who were a part of the Torino

Games. The others included: current NMU sophomores and USOEC speedskaters Kimberly Derrick and Anthony Lobello; former USOEC speedskaters Allison Bayer, Caroline Hallisey, Alex Izykowski and J.P. Kepka; former USOEC long track skater Kip Carpenter; NMU junior cross country skiers Lindsey Weier and Lindsay Williams; former Wildcat cross country skiers Chris Cook '03 BS, Lars Flora (also a former USOEC skier) and Abigail Larson '00 BS, '04 MS; former USOEC skier Wendy Wagner; former USOEC biathletes Jacob Beste and Sarah Riley Kamilewicz; U.S. Assistant Cross Country Ski Coach Peter Vordenberg; U.S. Assistant Biathlon Coach James Upham '95 BS (named 2005 Biathlon Coach of the Year); U.S. Men's Ice Hockey General Manager Don Wadell '80 BS; and current USOEC Speedskating Coach Jimmy Jang who was the assistant to head coach, and former USOEC Coach Li Yan.



Since the Olympics, Davis has gone on to win his second consecutive all-around long track World Championship title, Lobello won a bronze medal in the 5,000-meter relay at the short track World Championships along with Izykowski and Kepka, former USOEC skater Amy Peterson was selected into the U.S. Speedskating Hall of Fame, USOEC coach Jimmy Jang was chosen by U.S. Speedskating as the 2005 Development Coach of the Year, and Vordenberg was named the head coach of the U.S. National Team.

—Cindy Paavola '84 BS