



May 7, 2019 • Week 15  
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## 2019 GNAC Baseball Standings

	GNAC			Overall			Home	Away	Neutral	Streak
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.				
+*Montana State Billings	30	10	.750	30	18	.625	12-4	15-13	3-1	Won 8
*Western Oregon	26	11	.703	29	11	.725	15-3	13-8	1-0	Won 4
*Northwest Nazarene	20	17	.541	24	22	.522	12-9	12-11	0-2	Won 2
*Saint Martin's	15	25	.375	19	30	.388	7-13	12-16	0-1	Lost 5
Central Washington	13	27	.325	16	31	.344	9-11	7-19	0-1	Lost 2
Concordia	13	27	.325	15	34	.306	8-13	7-21	0-0	Lost 4

+ - Indicates clinched regular season championship \* - Indicates clinched GNAC Championships berth

### LAST WEEK'S GAMES

#### Thurs., May 2

at Montana State Billings 5, Concordia 2\*  
at Montana State Billings 6, Concordia 2\*  
at Northwest Nazarene 4, Central Washington 1\*  
Central Washington 7, at Northwest Nazarene 3\*

#### Fri., May 3

Western Oregon 18, at Saint Martin's 0\*  
Western Oregon 6, at Saint Martin's 0\*  
at Montana State Billings 12, Concordia 9\*  
at Montana State Billings 7, Concordia 5\*  
at Northwest Nazarene 21, Central Washington 4\*  
at Northwest Nazarene 6, Central Washington 5\*

#### Sat., May 4

Western Oregon 7, at Saint Martin's 3\*  
Western Oregon 9, at Saint Martin's 4\*

### GNAC BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS at Porter Park, Portland, Ore.

#### Wed., May 8

Northwest Nazarene vs. Western Oregon, 2:30 p.m.  
Saint Martin's vs. Montana State Billings, 6 p.m.

#### Thurs., May 9

Loser Game 1 vs. Loser Game 2, 12 p.m.  
Winner Game 1 vs. Winner Game 2, 3:30 p.m.  
Winner Game 3 vs. Loser Game 4, 7 p.m.

#### Fri., May 10

Winner Game 4 vs. Winner Game 5, 12 p.m.  
Winner Game 6 vs. Loser Game 6, 3:30 p.m.\*

\* - If Necessary  
All Times Local To Game Site

## #GNACBaseball in 280 @GNACSports

**#ABuzzAtTheTop** Montana State Billings claimed its fourth regular-season title in the last five years last week, sweeping Concordia to clinch the championship. The Yellowjackets finished the regular season red-hot, winning their final eight games en route to the top seed at the GNAC Championships.

**#PrimedForPortland** The full GNAC Championships field is now set as Western Oregon, Northwest Nazarene and Saint Martin's will join Montana State Billings in Portland. The winner of the tournament will receive an automatic bid to the NCAA Division II Baseball Tournament for the first time in conference history.

**#SplittingTheSuperlatives** Montana State Billings and Western Oregon each put a pair of representatives on the All-GNAC special awards list. The group is headlined by Yellowjackets first baseman **Daniel Cipriano**, who was named the conference's Player and Newcomer of the Year.

**#OnDeck** The postseason will get underway on Wednesday as Western Oregon faces Northwest Nazarene and Montana State Billings takes on Saint Martin's. The tournament will see its first elimination game on Thursday afternoon, with the title tilt set for Friday.

## Get Social

### Twitter Accounts/Hashtags For GNAC Baseball Programs

GNAC	@GNACSports	#GNACBaseball
Central Wash.	@CWUAthletics	#ClawsOut
Concordia	@gocugo	#ShieldsUp
MSU Billings	@MSUBSports	
NW Nazarene	@NNUSports	
Saint Martin's	@SMUSaints	#SaintsAlive
Western Ore.	@WOUWolves	#WOUWolves

# GNAC Baseball Players of the Week



**Player**  
**Blayze Arcano, Western Oregon**  
**CF • 5-11 • Jr. • Ewa Beach, Hawaii**

Arcano led the Wolves on the final week of the season by going 8 for 13 with nine RBI in a four-game sweep of Saint Martin's. He had two hits in all four games. Arcano's ledger included RBI doubles in both of Friday's games, a two-run double in Saturday's opener and an RBI single in the Saturday finale.

**Also Nominated:** Jalen Garcia (Montana State Billings), Ben Johnson (Northwest Nazarene).



**Pitcher**  
**Steen Fredrickson, Montana State Billings**  
**RHP • 6-1 • Sr. • Ashland, Ore.**

Frederickson improved to 6-1 on the season in Friday's 12-9 victory over Concordia. In 6.2 innings, Frederickson allowed just one run on three hits and one walk while striking out eight. He faced just four batters over the minimum in the victory.

**Also Nominated:** Alex Roth (Western Oregon).

## Past GNAC Players of the Week

Date	Player	Pitcher
Jan. 28-Feb. 3	Damon Peters, CU	Tanner Inouye, SMU
Feb. 4-10	Kyle Redford, NNU	Connor Stevenson, CWU
Feb. 11-17	Micah McNicoll, SMU	Hunter French, CWU
Feb. 18-24	Kyle Redford, NNU	Cooper Webster, NNU
Feb. 25-Mar. 3	Daniel Cipriano, MSUB	Hunter French, CWU
Mar. 4-10	Conner Linebarger, MSUB	Dylan Barkley, MSUB
Mar. 11-17	Justin Wakem, WOU	Brooks Zimmer, MSUB
Mar. 18-24	Shawn Grandmont, NNU	Jarrod Molnaa, MSUB
Mar. 25-31	Landon Peterson, MSUB	Alex Roth, WOU
Apr. 1-7	Andrew Schleusner, MSUB	Ryan Dorney, SMU
Apr. 8-14	Wyatt Setian, MSUB	Tanner Inouye, SMU
Apr. 15-21	Jalen Garcia, MSUB	Mickey Walker, SMU
Apr. 22-28	Daniel Cipriano, MSUB	Austin Crowson, WOU
Apr. 29-May 5	Blayze Arcano, WOU	Steen Fredrickson, MSUB

Complete Player of the Week releases are available online at [GNACsports.com](http://GNACsports.com).

## GNAC News & Notes

**AWARDS SEASON:** The GNAC 2019 Baseball All-Conference Team was released earlier this week and a total of 47 players were named to the squad. Leading all selections was Montana State Billings first baseman **Daniel Cipriano**, named the GNAC Player of the Year after having one of the most explosive seasons in program history.

In all, a total of 16 honorees were repeat selections to the team. Montana State Billings led all teams with 13 selections to the GNAC Baseball All-Conference Team while Western Oregon and Saint Martin's had 11 and eight selections, respectively.

**REPRESENTATION IN REGIONAL RANKINGS:** In the 12th NCBWA West Region Rankings of the season, Montana State Billings is ranked No. 5 while Western Oregon is slotted at No. 6. The two teams finished the season in first and second in the GNAC standings.

UC San Diego tops the region, earning each of the possible eight first-place votes. The Tritons are 35-10 so far this season.

**IT'S AUTOMATIC:** For the first time in conference history, the GNAC will receive an automatic bid into the NCAA Division II Baseball Tournament in 2019. The winner of the GNAC Championships, held this week in Portland, will receive that automatic berth. Montana State Billings, Western Oregon, Northwest Nazarene and Saint Martin's qualified for the GNAC Championships after finishing the regular season inside the top four in the conference standings.

The defending GNAC Championships title-holders, Western Oregon, have won the tournament four times in the event's history. Northwest Nazarene enters with one tournament title.

# Around The GNAC

## MONTANA STATE BILLINGS



- Montana State Billings met Concordia in Billings last weekend, coming away with a sweep to clinch its fourth regular-season title in the last five years. The contests marked the club's final games of the regular season.

- The team was led offensively by senior **Jalen Garcia**, who hit at a .400 average while tallying five RBI and six runs over the series. Garcia enters the postseason ranked

fourth in the GNAC in both batting average (.366) and home runs (9). He was named to the GNAC All-Conference Team on Wednesday along with 12 of his teammates, a mark that led the league.

- Senior **Steen Fredrickson** was named GNAC Pitcher of the Week after a strong performance in Friday's regular-season title clinching victory. The right-hander went 6.2 innings, allowing just one run while striking out eight Cavaliers.

- Montana State Billings leads the conference with 79 home runs as the fourth month of the season begins. GNAC Player and Newcomer of the Year **Daniel Cipriano** tops the league with 17 homers, while senior **Matt Dillon** (15) and sophomore **Wyatt Setian** (12) round out the top three.

- The Yellowjackets will return to the field on Wednesday at the GNAC Championships, starting the postseason at 6 p.m. (PDT) against Saint Martin's.

## NORTHWEST NAZARENE



- The Nighthawks were back in action for four games last week, taking three contests against Central Washington. The club opened up the set with a 4-1 victory on Thursday, then outscored the Wildcats 27-9 en route to a Friday sweep.

- Northwest Nazarene was led by freshman **Ben Johnson**. Johnson tallied six RBI and three runs while hitting at a .364 batting average on the week. That brings Redford's average to .379 on the season. The mark leads the team among players with at least 50 at-bats, with senior **Kyle Redford** right behind at a .327 clip.

- Northwest Nazarene ranks third in the league with a 5.40 earned run average. Senior **Jesse Hilyard's** 4.12 ERA has him slotted at No. 3 in the GNAC individually.

- The Nighthawks are back in action this week, taking to Portland as the No. 3 seed in the conference tournament. Their week will start on Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. (PDT) against second-seeded Western Oregon.

## SAINT MARTIN'S



- Saint Martin's was back in action for four games against Western Oregon last week. The Saints were unable to come away with a victory against the Wolves.

- Senior **Colton Peha** led the team against the Wolves. The outfielder hit .286 while notching a .333 on-base percentage.

- Third baseman **Micah McNicoll** tops the team at the plate with a .309 batting average and 15 RBI.

- As a team, Saint Martin's ranks second in the league with a 5.01 earned run average. The club's 388 strikeouts also rank second in the conference.

- The Saints placed eight players on the GNAC All-Conference team, led by first team selections **Mickey Walker** and **Tanner Inouye**. Walker has recorded a league-high seven saves in his senior season in Lacey while Inouye was SMU's most consistent starting pitcher, tallying four wins and a 4.59 earned run average.

- The Saints will return to action at the GNAC Championships this week, opening the tournament against regular-season champion Montana State Billings. The game is set for a 6 p.m. start on Wednesday in Portland.

## WESTERN OREGON



- Western Oregon hit the road and earned a crucial series sweep to improve its NCAA at-large hopes last week. The set was highlighted by a blowout, 18-0 victory in Friday's lid-lifter in Lacey.

- Senior **Blayze Arcano** led the club offensively against SMU, tallying nine RBI while going 8 for 13 at the plate. Arcano earned GNAC Player of the Week honors for his performance, marking his club's fourth such award this season.

- Western Oregon is hitting .326 as a team, a mark that currently leads the conference. Its .417 on-base percentage also tops the GNAC.

- The team and conference leader in both strikeouts and ERA is right-hander **Alex Roth**. The Peoria, Ariz product currently tops the league with a 2.65 ERA and 80 strikeouts and was named the GNAC Pitcher of the Year on Wednesday.

- The club will return to the field on Wednesday to open up its postseason run against Northwest Nazarene. First pitch is set for 2:30 p.m. at Porter Park in Portland.

# GNAC Championships Preview

PORTLAND, Ore. – After earning its fourth regular-season title in five years, Montana State Billings tops the field for the 2019 GNAC Baseball Championships, beginning Wednesday at Porter Park on the campus of Concordia University.

A pair of conference tournament mainstays in addition to two teams anxious to return to the postseason make up the field. Entering the final week of the regular season, Montana State Billings, Western Oregon and Northwest Nazarene had all secured tournament berths while Saint Martin's clinched its spot last Saturday.

For the first time, the four teams will have something more than a trophy to play for with the tournament champion earning the GNAC's first-ever automatic berth into the NCAA Division II Championship.

Montana State Billings dominated throughout the conference season, winning eight of its final nine GNAC series while splitting the other. The Yellowjackets have smashed 79 home runs this year, smashing the conference's single-season record in the process.

The team leads the league in plenty of other offensive categories, including RBI (342), slugging percentage (.546) and runs scored (378).

Topping MSUB at the plate has been first baseman **Daniel Cipriano**. Cipriano won the GNAC's batting title with a .409 average and also paces the conference with 50 RBI, 17 home runs and a .534 on-base percentage.

Third baseman **Chris Arpan** and senior **Jalen Garcia** have also lit it up offensively. Arpan ranks second in the conference with a batting average of .370, while Garcia is hitting .366 and is slotted second in both hits (63) and doubles (14).

Back to defend its GNAC Championships title will be Western Oregon. Returning to the tournament for a seventh straight season, the Wolves may be the most balanced team in the field as they top the conference in both batting average (.326) and earned run average (3.96).

The Wolves pitching staff has thrown seven shutouts on the season, with one of the most recent coming in no-hit fashion from southpaw **Austin Crowson**. The performance marked just the fifth no-hitter in GNAC history.

Also dominant on the mound this season has been right-hander **Alex Roth**. Roth leads the league in earned run average (2.65) and enters the postseason with a perfect 6-0 record.

At the plate, the duo of **Jared McDonald** and **Griffey Halle** have been a handful for opposing staffs throughout the season. McDonald finds himself at the top of multiple GNAC statistical categories, ranking third with a batting average of .367, second in runs scored at 46 and fourth with a .457 on-base percentage. Halle enters the postseason hitting .333 and is slotted second in the conference with 48 RBI.

Northwest Nazarene is making its fourth GNAC Championships appearance in the last five years and its first under new head coach **Joe Schaeffer**.

The club is led by slugger **Kyle Redford**, who tops the team with a .327 batting average and 34 RBI. He is one of four Nighthawks to appear in all 46 games this season.

On the mound, senior **Jesse Hilyard** has been NNU's most consistent starting pitcher this year. Leading the team with a 4.12 earned run average, Hilyard has compiled a near-spotless record of 6-1 while striking out 38. Teammate **Cooper Webster** has thrown three complete games on the 2019 campaign, notching a team-leading 59 strikeouts in the process.

Rounding out the field is Saint Martin's, which will make its second-ever appearance in the GNAC Championships and its first since 2014. The Saints went .500 through a crucial month of April and then clinched a spot in the tournament on the penultimate day of the regular season.

Entering with one of the deepest pitching staffs in the field, right-hander **Tanner Inouye** tops the team with four wins and 77 strikeouts. The club also boasts the league-leader in saves with seven from senior **Mickey Walker**.

Freshman **Aaron Renaud** has made plenty of noise at the plate in his first collegiate season, hitting at a .307 average while tallying 26 RBI.

Action at the GNAC Championships begins on Wednesday with No. 2 seed Western Oregon facing third-seeded Northwest Nazarene at 2:30 p.m. Regular-season champion Montana State Billings will then take on No. 4 seed Saint Martin's at 6 p.m. The title game in the double-elimination tournament will begin on Friday at noon with a second game to follow if necessary.

## Regional Polls

### NCBWA WEST REGION RANKINGS

Poll No. 12 - May 6, 2019

Rk	School (1st)	Record	Points	Prev.
1.	UC San Diego (8)	35-10	80	1
2.	Azusa Pacific	34-11	72	2
3.	Cal State Monterey Bay	31-19	62	3
4.	Point Loma	28-17	58	t4
5.	<b>Montana State Billings</b>	<b>30-18 4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>t6</b>
6.	<b>Western Oregon</b>	<b>29-11</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>t6</b>
7.	Stanislaus State	29-21	35	t4
8.	Chico State	28-19	25	9
9.	San Francisco State	23-19-1	14	8
10.	Cal Poly Pomona	25-25	7	RV

### NCAA DIVISION II WEST REGION RANKINGS

Week 2 - May 1, 2019

Rk	School	Overall	In-Region
1.	Azusa Pacific	34-11	34-11
2.	UC San Diego	31-10	31-10
3.	Point Loma	28-17	26-16
4.	Cal St. Monterey Bay	31-19	31-19
5.	Stanislaus State	29-19	29-19
6.	<b>Western Oregon</b>	<b>24-11</b>	<b>24-11</b>
7.	<b>Montana State Billings</b>	<b>26-18</b>	<b>26-18</b>
8.	San Francisco State	21-15	21-15

# GNAC Baseball Statistics

TEAM BATTING	G	Avg	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	BB	SO	SB-ATT
Western Oregon	36	.322	1162	299	374	69	19	33	150	184	52-70
MSU Billings	44	.310	1500	348	465	104	12	68	158	395	36-49
Northwest Nazarene	42	.265	1322	242	350	76	11	27	163	331	79-105
Central Washington	44	.248	1362	211	338	64	5	17	160	382	40-54
Saint Martin's	45	.248	1417	192	351	65	7	16	134	346	34-48
Concordia (Ore.)	45	.228	1408	174	321	60	12	17	157	362	21-28
Totals	128	.269	8171	1466	2199	438	66	178	922	2000	262-354

TEAM PITCHING	G	ERA	W	L	Sv	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Western Oregon	36	4.18	25	11	6	292.2	270	178	136	142	347
Saint Martin's	45	4.58	19	26	8	359.1	351	226	183	138	367
Northwest Nazarene	42	5.51	21	21	7	335.0	398	255	205	147	235
Concordia (Ore.)	45	5.73	15	30	5	361.1	377	278	230	213	289
MSU Billings	44	5.78	26	18	15	353.2	397	274	227	151	366
Central Washington	44	6.19	15	28	6	349.0	410	300	240	185	357
Totals	128	5.36	121	134	47	2051.0	2203	1511	1221	976	1961

TEAM FIELDING	G	PO	A	E	Pct	DP	PBSBA-ATT
Saint Martin's	45	1078	390	53	.965	35	19 54-69
Central Washington	44	1047	329	58	.960	19	23 65-79
Western Oregon	36	878	304	50	.959	19	8 44-56
Northwest Nazarene	42	1005	349	58	.959	34	16 26-36
Concordia (Ore.)	45	1084	423	66	.958	31	16 49-71
MSU Billings	44	1061	361	71	.952	16	9 32-49
Totals	128	6153	2156	356	.959	154	91 270-360

INDIVIDUAL BATTING	G	Avg	AB	R	H	RBI	2B	3B	HR	BB
Cipriano, Daniel-MSUB	41	.410	134	49	55	45	9	1	16	16
Garcia, Jalen-MSUB	38	.363	157	33	57	27	11	4	6	9
Arpan, Chris-MSUB	39	.362	130	30	47	31	13	0	8	18
McDonald, Jared-WOU	34	.358	123	41	44	34	6	1	7	15
Lesmeister, Mitch-CWU	44	.351	154	35	54	22	8	1	4	16
Setian, Wyatt-MSUB	44	.343	178	39	61	42	16	2	10	13
Halle, Griffey-WOU	36	.341	132	37	45	48	5	5	9	15
Runge, Collin-WOU	36	.340	144	44	49	23	7	2	3	16
Redford, Kyle-NNU	42	.336	149	33	50	29	11	2	3	26
Chung, Patrick-WOU	36	.328	134	33	44	25	10	1	2	14
Renaud, Aaron-SMU	44	.319	141	15	45	26	10	0	1	16
Schleusner, Andrew-MSUB	36	.315	127	23	40	28	12	1	1	5
Tabaracci, Bennett-NNU	35	.307	127	26	39	12	7	3	1	5
McNicoll, Micah-SMU	37	.306	124	24	38	14	6	2	2	13
McCord, Connor-WOU	32	.305	118	35	36	35	5	2	8	16
Dillon, Matt-MSUB	40	.294	136	44	40	33	11	1	13	25
Hampson, Justin-CWU	42	.293	150	33	44	15	10	0	4	24
Ferrari, Rocco-NNU	42	.287	136	33	39	25	11	0	4	27
Arcano, Blayne-WOU	35	.286	112	21	32	18	6	3	0	4
Knowles, Liam-CU	45	.280	164	22	46	37	8	2	4	17

INDIVIDUAL PITCHING	App	ERA	W-L	Sv	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Roth, Alex-WOU	9	2.81	6-0	0	51.1	37	21	16	21	77
Crowson, Austin-WOU	8	3.62	4-1	0	37.1	30	18	15	15	46
Fredrickson, Steen-MSUB	11	4.12	5-1	0	67.2	65	36	31	25	71
Inouye, Tanner-SMU	11	4.23	4-4	0	61.2	52	33	29	24	75
Hilyard, Jesse-NNU	10	4.35	6-1	0	49.2	63	32	24	19	33
Streby, Clark-SMU	11	4.35	3-5	0	62.0	71	43	30	14	43
Stevenson, Connor-CWU	11	4.47	2-5	0	50.1	58	30	25	13	32
Huddleston, Trevor-CU	10	4.59	3-4	0	51.0	50	40	26	21	53
Johnson, Ben-NNU	10	4.64	4-4	0	54.1	67	35	28	8	36
Shoup, Aaron-SMU	11	4.66	3-7	0	67.2	62	39	35	25	61
Lusink, Jeffrey-CU	11	4.85	1-6	0	59.1	60	42	32	34	55
Fricke, Jacob-WOU	8	5.08	3-2	0	39.0	46	28	22	11	32
Molnaa, Jarrod-MSUB	11	5.27	6-2	0	56.1	57	42	33	27	62
Mackintosh, Keven-MSUB	11	5.46	5-3	0	56.0	57	37	34	11	61

## INDIVIDUAL LEADERS HITS

Setian, Wyatt-MSUB	61
Garcia, Jalen-MSUB	57
Cipriano, Daniel-MSUB	55
Lesmeister, Mitch-CWU	54
Redford, Kyle-NNU	50

## RUNS SCORED

Cipriano, Daniel-MSUB	49
Dillon, Matt-MSUB	44
Runge, Collin-WOU	44
McDonald, Jared-WOU	41
Setian, Wyatt-MSUB	39

## RUNS BATTED IN

Halle, Griffey-WOU	48
Cipriano, Daniel-MSUB	45
Setian, Wyatt-MSUB	42
Knowles, Liam-CU	37
McCord, Connor-WOU	35

## DOUBLES

Setian, Wyatt-MSUB	16
Arpan, Chris-MSUB	13
Grandmont, Shawn-NNU	12
Schleusner, Andrew-MSUB	12
4 Players Tied	11

## TRIPLES

Halle, Griffey-WOU	5
Peters, Damon-CU	5
Garcia, Jalen-MSUB	4
5 Players Tied	3

## HOME RUNS

Cipriano, Daniel-MSUB	16
Dillon, Matt-MSUB	13
Setian, Wyatt-MSUB	10
Halle, Griffey-WOU	9
2 Players Tied	8

## TOTAL BASES

Cipriano, Daniel-MSUB	114
Setian, Wyatt-MSUB	111
Garcia, Jalen-MSUB	94
Dillon, Matt-MSUB	92
Halle, Griffey-WOU	87

## STOLEN BASES

	SB-ATT
Ferrari, Rocco-NNU	16-22
Runge, Collin-WOU	15-17
Grandmont, Shawn-NNU	14-14
Redford, Kyle-NNU	13-16
2 Players Tied	12----