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MSU'S COATTA, FSU'S KALLEN AND WENDT, AND UAF'S MARTINSSON NAMED WCHA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK FOR GAMES OF OCT. 19-20, 2018

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. – Oct. 22, 2018 – Before opening league play this weekend, the men's Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) Players of the Week compiled impressive outings in nonconference competition to earn accolades for games of Oct. 19-20, 2018. The honorees are: Minnesota State University senior **Max Coatta** (Forward), Ferris State University junior **Nate Kallen** (Defenseman), University of Alaska Fairbanks junior **Anton Martinsson** (Goaltender) and Ferris State freshman forward **Hunter Wendt** (Rookie).

WCHA Forward of the Week

Max Coatta, Sr., Minnesota State (Minnetonka, Minn.)

Coatta had a huge weekend with a WCHA-best four goals (tied for the NCAA lead) and an assist for a league-high five points, helping No. 7 Minnesota State to a road series split at No. 16 North Dakota. The senior scored three times (including two power-play markers) for his second career hat trick in Friday's 7-4 victory – Minnesota State's first win in Grand Forks since March 10, 2006. Coatta added another power-play goal, along with a man-advantage assist, in Saturday's 4-3 loss. The Mavericks' co-captain led the NCAA with four power-play points, while his five overall tied for third-best in the country. This is Coatta's first career WCHA weekly award.

Honorable Mention: Frankie Melton, So., Ferris State (had a goal and an assist Friday, helping the Bulldogs to a 5-2 nonconference win over Mercyhurst).

WCHA Defenseman of the Week

Nate Kallen, Jr., Ferris State (San Diego, Calif.)

Kallen tied for the WCHA defenseman scoring lead this past weekend, tallying a pair of assists in Ferris State's nonconference home split against Mercyhurst. The junior from San Diego, Calif. produced the first assist on Cooper Zech's power-play goal in the second period Friday, giving the Bulldogs a 2-1 lead they would not relinquish en route to a 5-2 victory. Kallen added three shots on goal and five blocked shots, as his play helped Ferris State outshoot Mercyhurst by a 68-39 tally over the two-game set. This is Kallen's first career WCHA weekly award.

Honorable Mention: Chris Jandric, Fr., Alaska (tallied two points, both on power-play assists, during the Nanooks' nonconference road series at No. 9 Denver).

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WCHA Goaltender of the Week

Anton Martinsson, Jr., Alaska (Klippan, Sweden)

Martinsson backstopped Alaska to a tie at No. 9 Denver on Saturday night, while leading WCHA goaltenders in nearly every category. His 123:26 in net, 64 saves and .914 save percentage were all tops, while his 2.92 GAA was best among those WCHA netminders that started both games last weekend. The junior from Klippan, Sweden made 39 stops Friday (including 26-straight in the second and third periods), yielding three goals in a 4-1 loss. Saturday night, he helped the Nanooks to a tie despite being outshot 16-2 in the third period and overtime, as 14 of his game-high 25 saves came in the final 25 minutes. This is Martinsson's first WCHA weekly award of the 2018-19 season and his third career honor.

Honorable Mention: Roni Salmenkangas, Fr., Ferris State (earned his first collegiate win with a 21-save effort, including 14 in the third period, as the Bulldogs defeated Mercyhurst, 5-2, on Friday).

WCHA Rookie of the Week

Hunter Wendt, F, Ferris State

Wendt tallied a WCHA rookie-best three points, scoring his first two collegiate goals and adding an assist in Ferris State's 5-2, nonconference win over Mercyhurst on Friday. Playing just his second collegiate contest, the freshman from Troy, Mich. was all over the scoresheet Friday night. He opened the game's scoring with a goal 7:41 into the second period, had the first assist on Marshall Moise's eventual game-winning marker late in the same stanza, while capping the night with a power-play strike at 14:48 of the third period. Wendt also added 14 face-off wins and a blocked shot on the weekend, earning his first career WCHA weekly award.

Honorable Mention: Chris Jandric, D, Alaska (tallied two points, both on power-play assists, during the Nanooks' nonconference road series at No. 9 Denver); **Julian Napravnik, F, Minnesota State** (scored his first career goal, a power-play marker for the No. 7 Mavericks in Saturday's nonconference road loss at No. 16 North Dakota).

About the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) Men's League

The Western Collegiate Hockey Association, among the most historic, tradition-rich and successful conferences in all of collegiate athletics, will proudly mark its 67th season of men's competition in 2018-19. 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). For more information, visit wcha.com.

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