



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**16 ALUMNI FROM WCHA INSTITUTIONS ON NHL OPENING NIGHT ROSTERS**

*All 10 current WCHA schools represented, spanning 14 NHL clubs*

EDINA, Minn. – Oct. 8, 2014 – With a new season upon us, 16 alumni representing all 10 current Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) schools are on 2014-15 opening night National Hockey League (NHL) rosters, the league announced today. These skaters will play for 14 different NHL clubs.

“There is nothing like Opening Night, and we are very proud of all WCHA alumni – past and present – who have earned a chance to skate in the NHL this season,” said Commissioner Bill Robertson. “This year’s rosters, including players from each of our 10 schools, display the across-the-board talent of today’s WCHA. We look forward to watching this year’s NHL crop, along with the next generation of top talent play this season on WCHA ice.”

A full list of the 16 WCHA member institution alumni on NHL opening night rosters:

<b>Name, Pos.</b>	<b>NHL Team</b>	<b>School (Years)</b>
Will Acton, C	Edmonton Oilers	Lake Superior State (2007-11)
David Backes, C	St. Louis Blues	Minnesota State (2003-06)
Jay Beagle, RW	Washington Capitals	Alaska Anchorage (2005-07)
Kevin Bieksa, D	Vancouver Canucks	Bowling Green (2000-04)
Ryan Carter, C*	Minnesota Wild	Minnesota State (2004-06)
Curtis Glencross, LW	Calgary Flames	Alaska Anchorage (2002-04)
Eriah Hayes, RW	San Jose Sharks	Minnesota State (2009-13)
Brad Hunt, D	Edmonton Oilers	Bemidji State (2008-12)
Tim Jackman, RW	Anaheim Ducks	Minnesota State (2000-02)
Chad Johnson, G	New York Islanders	Alaska (2005-09)
Chris Kunitz, LW	Pittsburgh Penguins	Ferris State (1999-2003)
Matt Read, RW	Philadelphia Flyers	Bemidji State (2007-11)
Zach Redmond, D	Colorado Avalanche	Ferris State (2007-11)
Mike Santorelli, C	Toronto Maple Leafs	Northern Michigan (2004-07)
John Scott, LH	San Jose Sharks	Michigan Tech (2002-06)
Cam Talbot, G	New York Rangers	Alabama Huntsville (2007-10)

\*Pending NHL approval of contract

Minnesota State alumnus David Backes will wear the captain's "C" in St. Louis this season, while Kevin Biekša (Bowling Green), Curtis Glencross (Alaska Anchorage) and Chris Kunitz (Ferris State) will serve as alternate captains for Vancouver, Calgary and Pittsburgh, respectively.

An additional 19 products of current WCHA member institutions open the season on NHL minor league affiliates. There are 30 alumni currently in the front office or coaching staffs of NHL clubs.

### ***About Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA)***

The Western Collegiate Hockey Association, among the most historic, tradition-rich and successful conferences in all of collegiate athletics, proudly marks its 63<sup>rd</sup> season of men's competition in 2014-15. Covering five time zones and more than 4,200 miles, 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).

### **MEDIA CONTACT**

Matt Hodson

Associate Commissioner for Public Relations

E: [mhodson@wcha.com](mailto:mhodson@wcha.com)

O: 952.818.8872

M: 612.801.2808

### **MORE INFORMATION**

Website: [wcha.com](http://wcha.com)

Twitter: [@wcha\\_mhockey](https://twitter.com/wcha_mhockey)

Facebook: [facebook.com/wchahockey](https://facebook.com/wchahockey)

WCHA.tv: [wcha.com/men/tv.php](http://wcha.com/men/tv.php)

– WCHA –