



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEVEN WCHA PLAYERS ON HOBEBY BAKER AWARD FAN BALLOT

Fans can help choose college hockey's top player; first phase of balloting runs now through March 8

EDINA, Minn. – Jan. 7, 2015 – Seven men's Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) players are among the 59 candidates on the initial fan ballot for the 2015 Hobey Baker Award, given annually to college hockey's top player.

The WCHA nominees, from five institutions, are: **Bryce Gervais** (Jr., F, Minnesota State); **Tanner Kero** (Sr., F, Michigan Tech); **Jean-Paul LaFontaine** (Sr., F, Minnesota State); **Matt Leitner** (Sr., F, Minnesota State); **Tyler Morley** (Jr., F, Alaska); **CJ Motte** (Sr., G, Ferris State); **Jamie Phillips** (Jr., G, Michigan Tech).

That grouping includes four of the WCHA's points leaders (in order: Kero, Morley, Leitner and Gervais), a returning Top 10 Hobey Baker finalist and the country's active shutouts leader (Motte), and a goaltender currently among the nation's top-10 for wins, save percentage and goals against average (Phillips). Additionally, both Leitner and LaFontaine are among the NCAA's active leaders in career points and goals, while Leitner is second for assists and LaFontaine is the country's active leader with 28 collegiate power-play goals.

The first phase of fan balloting runs from Jan. 7 through March 8, 2015. Phase two of fan balloting will begin on March 19 from the list of the Top Ten Hobey Baker finalists. The fans' vote accounts for a full one percent of the total ballot in each phase in selecting this year's award recipient.

Fans can vote via the Hobey Baker website: www.hobeybakeraward.com. Click on the "Vote for Hobey" icon and follow the prompts to make your selection from this year's outstanding crop of college hockey players. Detailed bios are available for each candidate.

Award criteria include candidates emulating the exceptional character traits exhibited by the award's namesake, Hobey Baker. A legendary American hero, Baker was a World War I fighter pilot and was known as America's greatest amateur athlete in his day, excelling at hockey and football at Princeton University. Award candidates must demonstrate strength of character both on and off the ice, contribute to the integrity of his team and display outstanding skills in all phases of the game. Consideration should be given to scholastic achievement and sportsmanship.

Key Hobey Baker **announcement dates** for 2015 include:

- Top Ten list of candidates: March 19
- Hobey Hat Trick of three finalists: April 2
- Hobey Baker Award announcement: April 10

The 2015 Hobey Baker Award winner will be announced from a field of three Hobey Hat Trick finalists on Friday, April 10, 2015 during the NCAA Frozen Four Championships in Boston, MA. For more info on the Hobey Baker Award or to access the Hobey logo, please visit www.hobeybakeraward.com.

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 63rd 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).

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