



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**WCHA TO RECOGNIZE “SQUIRT A” TEAM FROM SARTELL AS
2015 FINAL FIVE HONORARY FIFTH TEAM**

Youth team to be recognized during first intermission of tonight’s championship game

EDINA, Minn. – March 21, 2015 – During the first intermission of tonight’s Broadmoor Trophy championship game – the nation’s only conference title contest to feature two top-five teams – the men’s Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) will honor the “Squirt A” team from the Sartell (Minn.) Youth Hockey Association as the “Honorary Fifth Team” for the 2015 WCHA Final Five.

The name “Final Five” has become synonymous with the WCHA and its treasured playoff championship. Originally dubbed the WCHA Final Five when the league’s five first-round playoff winners met at the St. Paul Civic Center at the end of the 1992-93 season, the moniker has stuck through different formats and venues.

To pay homage to the tournament name and the league’s long-standing mission of growing the game, the WCHA is proud to recognize the Sartell “Squirt A” team.

“This team’s message of positive parental involvement, and how they rallied behind a teammate’s family during a time of need, is a perfect representation of what the WCHA strives to be – both on and off the ice,” said WCHA Commissioner Bill Robertson.

With input from all members of the team, Sartell player Billy Vogt submitted this essay emphasizing the role parents play in youth hockey:

“My parents support my love of hockey by...”

Always coming to my games

Being my biggest fan

Coaching my team

Driving me to practice

Encouraging me to work hard

Finding the arenas

Going to meetings

Helping me with my equipment

Insisting on good sportsmanship
(We were happy that we won the Good Sportsmanship Award at our tournament last weekend.)

Just being there for me

Keeping me motivated.

Letting me do a bunch a different sports.

Making me do my homework before I can play. (I don't like this one...)

Noticing when I need a compliment

Organizing pond hockey games

Practicing with me and pushing me to do my best

Quickly getting me to the doctor when I had an accident

Respecting my ability

Sharpening my skates

Telling me I did good

Understanding I'm not always perfect

Volunteering in the penalty box

Washing my stinky equipment

eXpecting that I do my best

not Yelling at the refs

Zamboni (ing) our back yard rink

"Our team supports our parents too. Parker's mom has cancer that keeps coming back. We wear pink laces, some of us have pink tape on our sticks, and our goalie has pink cancer ribbons on his pads. We pray she gets better soon. We are a family and we support each other in Sartell. We skate for you, Amy!"

2015 WCHA Final Five Championship Game Tickets

Tickets for tonight's Broadmoor Trophy championship game between nationally second-ranked Minnesota State and No. 4 Michigan Tech, set for 6:07 p.m., are available for \$35 (\$20 for students with a valid college ID or youth wearing a hockey jersey). Tickets can be purchased at the Xcel Energy Center Box Office, Ticketmaster Ticket Centers, by calling 800-745-3000 or online at ticketmaster.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). For more information, visit wcha.com.

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