



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FERRIS STATE'S McDONALD NAMED WCHA STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**  
*Bulldogs' senior honored by WCHA Faculty Athletics Representatives for excellence on the ice,  
in the classroom and in the community*

EDINA, Minn. – March 21, 2017 – Ferris State University senior forward Chad McDonald, who helped lead the Bulldogs to a pair of NCAA tournament appearances in four years, while also holding a 3.94 grade-point average, has been named the 2017 men's Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) Student-Athlete of the Year. The honor is voted upon by the Faculty Athletics Representatives of the league's 10 member institutions.

McDonald was a four-year contributor to one of the WCHA's top programs, helping Ferris State to a MacNaughton Cup as league regular season champions, a Broadmoor Trophy as postseason champs and a pair of appearances in an NCAA tournament regional final. The Battle Creek, Mich. native scored 38 goals with 46 assists for 84 points in 145 collegiate games, reaching the 20-point mark in three of his four seasons. After suffering a season-ending elbow injury in the WCHA Final Five, McDonald went through surgery and rehabilitation in time to return to the ice for Ferris State's 2016-17 season opener. A leader in all facets, he was selected by his peers to serve as one of the Bulldogs' assistant captains for his senior campaign.

In May, McDonald will graduate with a B.S. in Business Administration, an A.S. in Legal Studies and a Certificate in data mining. Often found tutoring teammates, he has helped inspire a Ferris State team that ranked among the nation's top-10 teams in the annual NCAA Academic Progress Report (APR) in each of his four years. A three-time WCHA Scholar-Athlete Award recipient and All-Academic Team member, McDonald was named to the 2016 CoSIDA Academic All-District Team and is once again a candidate for national honors in 2017.

Away from campus, McDonald has volunteered for a variety of different organizations that help those with disabilities, both in Big Rapids (playing floor hockey with Big Rapids Special Olympians) and his native Battle Creek (serving as a mentor for Community Inclusive Recreation). In addition, he has spent time speaking to fifth-grade students from low-income households about the importance of education, and what it takes academically to pursue their dream of becoming a collegiate student-athlete.

A finalist for the 2017 Senior CLASS Award, McDonald has plans to attend law school. He aims to pursue a career in the National Hockey League (NHL), with aspirations of one day becoming a general manager.

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

The Western Collegiate Hockey Association, among the most historic, tradition-rich and successful conferences in all of collegiate athletics, is proudly marking its 65<sup>th</sup> season of men’s competition in 2016-17. 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](http://wcha.com).

**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)  
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