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**BSU'S BITZER AND MSU'S BRICKLEY NAMED 2016-17 ALL-AMERICANS**  
*Beavers' goaltender garners first-team honors; Mavericks' defenseman on second team*

EDINA, Minn. – April 7, 2017 – The Player and Defensive Player of the Year, respectively, from the men's Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) have been named CCM/AHCA Hockey All-Americans for 2016-17, as Bemidji State goaltender **Michael Bitzer** earned first-team West region honors and Minnesota State defenseman **Daniel Brickley** garnered second-team accolades. Both players are first-time All-Americans.

Bitzer backstopped Bemidji State to the program's first MacNaughton Cup as WCHA regular season champion, solidifying his place as one of the nation's top goaltenders with an exceptional junior campaign – one of the best-ever by a league netminder. The Moorhead, Minn. native set the all-time WCHA record with a sparkling 1.40 goals-against average in his 27 league games, while also pacing the circuit with a .940 save percentage (second in league history), 20 wins (tied for seventh), a .778 winning percentage, five shutouts (tied for third) and 1625:40 in net.

The first-team All-WCHA goaltender and league Player of the Year ended his season with a 1.71 overall goals-against average, currently best in the country, while he tied his own Bemidji State single-season record with six shutouts (also tied for most in the NCAA). Bitzer finished with a 22-14-3 record, tying for ninth nationally for wins and becoming the first BSU goalie with 22 victories in a season since Steve O'Shea (22-12-1) in 1986-87. He was in the net for every Beaver victory in 2016-17, as the team won its most league games of its seven WCHA campaigns and posted its most overall triumphs since 2009-10.

Brickley was the top two-way player in the WCHA, pacing league defensemen with 19 assists, 26 points and 14 power-play points in just 22 league contests, while ranking second with 55 blocked shots. The first-team All-WCHA performer and league Defensive Player of the Year nearly became the first blue-liner in 20 years to lead the league in scoring, falling just four points shy – despite missing six games due to injury.

The sophomore from Sandy, Utah wrapped up his campaign with eight goals, 23 assists and 31 points – currently tied for the 10<sup>th</sup>-most nationally among defensemen (third for underclassmen). Brickley also added 72 blocked shots and a plus-9 rating, helping Minnesota State to a 22-win season and a trip to the WCHA semifinals.

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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, proudly completed 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).

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