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WCHA LANDS 37 PLAYERS IN 2018 NHL DEVELOPMENT CAMPS

Players representing nine league schools attend 21 camps

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. – July 16, 2018 – Marking the next step in their potential professional journeys, 37 players with ties to men’s Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) programs – including 24 slated to skate in the league this upcoming season – were invited to participate in 2018 National Hockey League (NHL) Development Camps. The group, which represents nine league institutions, is involved in camps for 22 NHL clubs.

The 24 players expected to be on 2018-19 WCHA rosters feature 10 underclassmen (five incoming freshmen and five sophomores), along with eight juniors and six seniors. That group also includes six NHL draft picks, along with 18 free-agent invitees.

Twenty-eight (28) players who played in the 2017-18 WCHA season earned invitations either as a draftee or free-agent signee, including league Offensive and Overall Player of the Year and First-Team All-American **C.J. Suess** (Minnesota State / Winnipeg Jets), Defensive Player of the Year and Second-Team All-American **Alec Rauhauser** (Bowling Green / Los Angeles Kings) and Rookie of the Year **Jake Jaremko** (Minnesota State / Nashville Predators). Other all-league players to skate in NHL Development Camps were: All-WCHA First Team performers **Troy Loggins** (Northern Michigan / Arizona Coyotes) and **Zach Frye** (Alaska / San Jose Sharks); All-WCHA Second Team selections **Mitch McLain** (Bowling Green / Minnesota Wild), **Adam Rockwood** (Northern Michigan / Vancouver Canucks) and Second-Team All-American **Philip Beaulieu** (Northern Michigan / Boston Bruins); All-WCHA Third Team honorees **Zeb Knutson** (Minnesota State / Wild), **Darien Craighead** (Northern Michigan / New York Islanders), **Robbie Payne** (Northern Michigan / Dallas Stars), **Ian Scheid** (Minnesota State / Ottawa Senators) and **Mitch Reinke** (Michigan Tech / St. Louis Blues); and, WCHA All-Rookie Team members **Brandon Kruse** (Bowling Green / Vegas Golden Knights) and **Connor Mackey** (Minnesota State / Buffalo Sabres).

The Minnesota Wild led all NHL clubs by bringing four WCHA-affiliated players to Development Camp (**Knutson**, **McLain**, Bemidji State’s **Gerry Fitzgerald** and Michigan Tech’s **Mark Auk**). The Stanley Cup champion Washington Capitals invited Alaska Anchorage alumnus **Mason Mitchell** and former Lake Superior State defenseman **Kris Bindulis**, along with incoming Ferris State freshman **Cooper Zech** (the 2017-18 BCHL Top Defenceman Trophy winner). Bemidji State alumnus **Zach Whitecloud**, who made his NHL debut this past April with the Vegas Golden Knights, joined **Kruse** (a 2018 draft pick) in camp for the Western Conference champs. Another 2018 draftee, Minnesota State freshman-to-be **Nathan Smith**, joined **Suess** and Bowling Green’s **Lukas Craggs** with the Winnipeg Jets; the Toronto Maple Leafs also had a trio of WCHA players with incoming freshmen **Matthew Barnaby** (Lake Superior State) and **Chris Van Os-Shaw** (Minnesota State), along with Michigan Tech’s **Thomas Beretta**.

Bowling Green, which has produced four-straight 20-win seasons, led the WCHA with nine current and former players in 2018 NHL Development Camps. Back-to-back WCHA Tournament champion Michigan Tech and defending MacNaughton Cup winner Minnesota State were tied for second with seven players apiece, while Northern Michigan had six players from its 25-win, WCHA Championship game squad in 2017-18 earn invites.

WCHA-affiliated players at 2018 NHL Development Camps

*** denotes played in the WCHA during the 2017-18 season**

Player, Pos.	School	NHL Development Camp	Status (2018-19 Class)
Mason Mitchell, F	Alaska Anchorage	Washington Capitals	Signed (Alumnus)
*Zach Frye, D	Alaska	San Jose Sharks	Signed (Alumnus)
*Gerry Fitzgerald, F	Bemidji State	Minnesota Wild	Signed (Alumnus)
*Zach Whitecloud, D	Bemidji State	Vegas Golden Knights	Signed (Alumnus)
*Stephen Baylis, F	Bowling Green	Boston Bruins	Free Agent (Sr.)
*Ryan Bednard, G	Bowling Green	Florida Panthers	Draft (Jr.)
*Lukas Craggs, F	Bowling Green	Winnipeg Jets	Free Agent (Jr.)
Mark Friedman, D	Bowling Green	Philadelphia Flyers	Signed (Alumnus)
*Brandon Kruse, F	Bowling Green	Vegas Golden Knights	Draft (So.)
*Mitch McLain, F	Bowling Green	Minnesota Wild	Signed (Alumnus)
*Alec Rauhauser, D	Bowling Green	Los Angeles Kings	Free Agent (Jr.)
*Adam Smith, D	Bowling Green	Nashville Predators	Draft (Sr.)
Tim Theochardis, D	Bowling Green	Columbus Blue Jackets	Free Agent (Fr.)
Cooper Zech, D	Ferris State	Washington Capitals	Free Agent (Fr.)
Matthew Barnaby, F	Lake Superior State	Toronto Maple Leafs	Free Agent (Fr.)
Kris Bindulis, D	Lake Superior State	Washington Capitals	Signed (Alumnus)
*Steven Ruggiero, D	Lake Superior State	Anaheim Ducks	Draft (Jr.)
*Mark Auk, D	Michigan Tech	Minnesota Wild	Free Agent (Alumnus)
*Thomas Beretta, F	Michigan Tech	Toronto Maple Leafs	Free Agent (Jr.)
*Jake Jackson, F	Michigan Tech	San Jose Sharks	Draft (Sr.)
*Jake Lucchini, F	Michigan Tech	Pittsburgh Penguins	Free Agent (Sr.)
Angus Redmond, G	Michigan Tech	Anaheim Ducks	Signed (Alumnus)
*Mitch Reinke, D	Michigan Tech	St. Louis Blues	Signed (Alumnus)
*Cooper Watson, D	Michigan Tech	Dallas Stars	Free Agent (So.)
*Jake Jaremko, F	Minnesota State	Nashville Predators	Free Agent (So.)
*Zeb Knutson, F	Minnesota State	Minnesota Wild	Free Agent (Alumnus)
*Connor Mackey, D	Minnesota State	Buffalo Sabres	Free Agent (So.)
*Ian Scheid, D	Minnesota State	Ottawa Senators	Free Agent (Jr.)
Nathan Smith, F	Minnesota State	Winnipeg Jets	Draft (Fr.)
*C.J. Sues, F	Minnesota State	Winnipeg Jets	Signed (Alumnus)
Chris Van Os-Shaw, F	Minnesota State	Toronto Maple Leafs	Free Agent (Fr.)
*Philip Beaulieu, D	Northern Michigan	Boston Bruins	Free Agent (Jr.)
*Darren Craighead, F	Northern Michigan	New York Islanders	Free Agent (Jr.)
*Troy Loggins, F	Northern Michigan	Arizona Coyotes	Free Agent (Sr.)
*Robbie Payne, F	Northern Michigan	Dallas Stars	Signed (Alumnus)
*Adam Rockwood, F	Northern Michigan	Vancouver Canucks	Free Agent (Sr.)
*Adam Roeder, D	Northern Michigan	St. Louis Blues	Free Agent (So.)

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, will proudly mark its 67th season of men's competition in 2018-19. 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 Fairbanks (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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