



PRESS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAURA CROWELL, MARK JOHNSON AND NADINE MUZERALL AMONG THE FINALISTS FOR AHCA NATIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD

WCHA trio will lead their teams in Frozen Four semifinals on Thursday

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. – March 18, 2021 – Three Western Collegiate Hockey Association head coaches – Minnesota Duluth's **Maura Crowell**, Wisconsin's **Mark Johnson** and Ohio State's **Nadine Muzerall** – are among the six finalists for the American Hockey Coaches Association's CCM/AHCA Division I Women's Ice Hockey Coach of the Year Award, the AHCA announced Thursday.

Crowell, Johnson and Muzerall will all lead their teams in Frozen Four semifinals later today.

Crowell led Minnesota Duluth to a second-place finish in the WCHA regular season and has the Bulldogs back in the Frozen Four for the first time since 2010 this season. The 2017 AHCA Coach of the Year, she is one of three former winners of the award among this year's finalists.

Johnson, a four-time AHCA honoree, led the Badgers to their ninth WCHA regular season title and ninth WCHA postseason crown this season and has Wisconsin in contention for their sixth national championship. Johnson was previously honored by the AHCA in 2006, 2007, 2009 and 2011.

Muzerall led the Buckeyes to a berth in the WCHA Final Faceoff championship game after a third-place finish in the regular season. Ohio State earned their third NCAA tournament bid this season – and second in a row – and reached the Frozen Four for the second time in Muzerall's tenure in Columbus.

The WCHA trio is joined by Colgate's **Greg Fargo**, Northeastern's **Dave Flint** and Penn State's **Jeff Kampersal** on the finalist list. This year's winner will be announced on Friday, March 19.

About the Western Collegiate Hockey Association Women's League

The Women's League of the Western Collegiate Hockey Association is marking its 22nd season in 2020-21. The nation's premier women's hockey conference, WCHA member institutions have won a record 17 national championships since the league's inception in 1999 (including 16 of a possible 19 NCAA titles), while producing seven Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award winners, 105 All-Americans and numerous Olympic and national team members. The seven-team, NCAA Division I conference consists of: Bemidji State University (Beavers), the University of Minnesota (Golden Gophers), the University of Minnesota Duluth (Bulldogs), Minnesota State University (Mavericks), The Ohio State University (Buckeyes), St. Cloud State University (Huskies) and the University of Wisconsin (Badgers). The WCHA will grow to eight members with the addition of the University of St. Thomas (Tommyies) beginning with the 2021-22 season. For more information, visit wcha.com.

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