



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WCHA ANNOUNCES 2016-17 POSTSEASON AWARDS

Individual award winners, All-WCHA teams and All-Academic teams honored

EDINA, Minn. – March 2, 2017 – Enjoying its strongest season since the 2009-10 and 2010-11 campaigns, Minnesota Duluth captured a bevy of individual honors, while the quartet of schools that will vie for the league's postseason title at the Final Face-Off are well-represented in the women's Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) postseason awards and all-league teams for 2016-17, as announced today by WCHA Vice President and Women's League Commissioner **Katie Million**.

Lara Stalder, a top-three finalist for the 2017 Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award who has led Minnesota Duluth to a No. 2 national ranking, was named both the WCHA Player and Student-Athlete of the Year. **Sidney Morin**, a Bulldog co-captain, is the league's Defensive Player of the Year, while UMD bench boss **Maura Crowell** is the WCHA Coach of the Year. Wisconsin forward **Abby Roque** captured Rookie of the Year honors.

WCHA Player of the Year and Student-Athlete of the Year:

Lara Stalder, Sr., F, Minnesota Duluth (Luzern, Switzerland)

Stalder, a top-three finalist for the 2017 Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award, has been nothing short of sensational this season on and off the ice, helping Minnesota Duluth climb to No. 2 in the national rankings, compile its best league finish since 2010-11 and advance to this weekend's WCHA Final Face-Off – all while continuing to excel in the classroom and community. The senior from Luzerne, Switzerland finished second in the conference scoring race with 39 points during league play, while pacing the circuit with 18 goals and an outstanding plus-36 rating in 26 WCHA contests. The Bulldogs' 19 WCHA wins were the program's most since the 2009-10 campaign; Stalder had a hand in the game-winning goal in 15 of those contests, scoring a league-high six on her own, while assisting on nine others. Overall, she ranks second in the WCHA with 53 points in 32 games (her 1.66 points-per-game average is just .01 behind the leader), while she is tops with an NCAA-best plus-47 rating. She is also second nationally for points-per-game, fifth for total points and tied for fifth with 22 goals. To top it all off, Stalder missed two WCHA games while helping her native Swiss qualify for the 2018 Winter Olympics.

Away from AMSOIL Arena, Stalder has maintained a 3.80 grade-point average in the University of Minnesota Duluth's prestigious Labovitz School of Business and Economics. A two-time WCHA Scholar-Athlete Award recipient, she is one of a select number in the school's ReMAP project that is engaged in analyses of various business in the Duluth area.

WCHA Defensive Player of the Year: **Sidney Morin, Sr., D, Minnesota Duluth (Minnetonka, Minn.)**

One of the Bulldogs' co-captains, Morin is the defensive backbone and veteran leader for a Minnesota Duluth team that has won 24 games entering the 2017 WCHA Final Face-Off. The senior from Minnetonka, Minn. has excelled on both ends of the ice, tying for the NCAA lead among defensemen with a plus-37 rating and tying for sixth with 23 points (WCHA-best seven goals and 16 assists). She compiled a league defenseman-high 96 shots on goal in 28 WCHA games, while tying for third with a

plus-26 rating and ranking fifth with 14 points (6g-8a). Morin has also helped the Bulldogs hold opponents to just 1.65 goals-per-game, good for second in the WCHA and sixth nationally.

WCHA Rookie of the Year: Abby Roque, Fr., F, Wisconsin (Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.)

Roque emerged at the top of a heralded WCHA freshmen class, pacing league rookies in several offensive categories to help top-ranked Wisconsin repeat as league regular season champions. A premier playmaker who also excelled in special teams play, she led league rookies in WCHA play with 17 assists, 24 points (the only freshman to finish in the top-10 among all league skaters), four power-play goals, seven power-play points and 85 shots on goal. She was also tops among her peers with 233 face-off wins and a .605 percentage in the circle. Roque also led WCHA freshmen in many of the same overall categories, with 19 assists (third nationally), 27 points (tied for eighth in the NCAA), four power-play goals, 112 shots on goal, 300 face-off wins and a .599 percentage.

WCHA Coach of the Year: Maura Crowell, Minnesota Duluth

In her second season behind the Bulldog bench, Crowell has engineered Minnesota Duluth's best campaign since the early part of the decade. After guiding UMD to a surprise trip to the WCHA Final Face-Off in 2016, she brings the Bulldogs back to the league playoff championships in 2017 as the nation's second-ranked team – the program's highest perch since the 2010-11 season. Minnesota Duluth posted a third-place finish in the WCHA regular season standings with a 19-5-4-1 record, marking the Bulldogs' highest finish since 2010-11 and most league wins since 2009-10. While playing the nation's third-toughest schedule to date, UMD enters the Final Face-Off at 24-5-5 overall – the Bulldogs' most victories since the 2009-10 national champions finished 31-8-2.

All-WCHA First Team

The 2016-17 All-WCHA First Team forward line contains a trio of 2017 Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award top-10 finalists. **Stalder** is joined here by the NCAA's scoring leader, Minnesota junior **Kelly Pannek**; and, by Wisconsin junior **Annie Pankowski**. Pannek leads the country with 60 points, 41 assists, a 1.67 points-per-game average and 530 face-off wins; the Plymouth, Minn. native also won the conference scoring race with 44 points (14g-30a) in 28 WCHA games. Pankowski (Laguna Hills, Calif.) is on the first team for the second-consecutive year after compiling 35 points (16g-19a) in 24 league games and 50 overall (22g-28a) – good for a tie for sixth nationally.

The All-WCHA First Team for 2016-17 also includes three-time honoree **Lee Stecklein** from Minnesota and Wisconsin defenseman **Jenny Ryan**. Stecklein, a senior defenseman from Roseville, Minn., posted 16 points on a goal and 15 assists in 25 WCHA outings, while ranking fifth nationally among blue-liners with 24 points overall (4g-20a). An assistant captain for UW's regular season champions, Ryan led league defensemen with seven goals, two game-winners and 17 points (tied) in WCHA play; she also posted an impressive plus-23 rating.

The incomparable **Ann-Renée Desbiens** is the first-team goaltender. A top-three Patty Kaz finalist, the Wisconsin senior leads the nation with 25 wins, a .900 winning percentage (25-1-4), a 0.69 goals-against average, a .963 save percentage and 15 shutouts. She once again earned the league goaltending crown with a 0.68 GAA in 26 WCHA games, while also topping conference goaltenders with a .963 save percentage, 21 wins and 13 shutouts.

All-WCHA Second Team

The 2016-17 All-WCHA Second Team includes Minnesota Duluth senior **Ashleigh Brykaliuk**, Minnesota sophomore **Sarah Potomak** and Wisconsin senior **Sarah Nurse**. Brykaliuk, who at one point put together the Bulldogs' longest scoring streak since 1999-2000, finished with 10 goals and 21 assists in league play, and currently has 44 points overall (17g-27a). Potomak (Aldergrove, British Columbia), the 2015-16

National Rookie of the Year, finished third in the WCHA scoring race with 38 points (14g-24a) and is currently tied for sixth nationally with 50 points overall (18g-32a). One of the nation's top goal-scorers, Nurse (Hamilton, Ontario) is tied for third in the NCAA with 23 goals (and is tops with three hat tricks), while she was tied for third with 16 markers in WCHA competition.

The defensemen are **Morin** and North Dakota's **Halli Krzyzaniak**. Krzyzaniak, a senior from Neepawa, Manitoba, capped an impressive career with another fantastic season; she ranked fourth among WCHA blue-liners with 15 points (1g-15a) in 28 league games, while logging a plus-13 rating.

The second-team goaltender is redshirt-sophomore **Kassidy Sauve**, who rebounded after missing the entire 2015-16 season due to injury and posted a sensational season for Ohio State. The Whitby, Ontario native set a Buckeyes' single-season record with a national-best 1,135 saves – the second-highest total in WCHA history and the sixth-most in NCAA annals. She currently ranks third in the country with a .942 save percentage, while she was third with a .933 mark in WCHA play (and her league-best 861 saves were 103 more than any other goaltender).

All-WCHA Third Team

The forwards on the 2016-17 All-WCHA Third Team are Minnesota Duluth's **Katherine McGovern**, a senior from Scottsdale, Ari. who doubled her previous collegiate totals with a career-best 17 goals, 17 assists and 34 points (including 14 goals and 14 assists in league play); Minnesota's **Dani Cameranesi**, a senior from Plymouth, Minn. who, despite being sidelined since Dec. 4 due to injury still ranked eighth in the WCHA scoring race with 28 points (16g-12a) in 17 games; and, Wisconsin's **Emily Clark**, a junior from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan who finished with 14 goals, 21 assists and 35 points in conference contests, while leading the country with eight game-winning goals overall.

The third team defensemen are Minnesota senior **Megan Wolfe** and Ohio State redshirt-freshman **Jincy Dunne**. Wolfe (Eagan, Minn.) tied for the lead among WCHA blue-liners with five power-play assists and seven power-play points in conference play, while contributing 12 points overall (2g-10a). Dunne (O'Fallon Mo.) returned after missing last season with an injury and was a factor all over the ice, ranking sixth with 61 blocked shots in WCHA games (and tied for 11th nationally with 75 overall), while 14 points overall (4g-10a) and eight in league play (1g-7a).

Minnesota Duluth sophomore **Maddie Rooney**, who has backstopped the Bulldogs to this weekend's WCHA Final Face-Off, is the third-team goaltender. The Andover, Minn. native ranked second in WCHA play with a .940 save percentage and 19 wins, while she was third with a 1.69 goals-against average, 732 saves and five shutouts. Her 24 wins, .940 save percentage, 1.65 goals-against average, 873 saves and six shutouts overall all rank among the top-10 nationally.

WCHA All-Rookie Team

Roque headlines the 2016-17 WCHA All-Rookie team forwards, along with North Dakota's **Ryleigh Houston** (Winnipeg, Manitoba) and Minnesota Duluth's **Sydney Brodt** (North Oaks, Minn). That trio finished 1-3 in the WCHA freshman scoring race, with Houston producing 20 points on the strength of four goals and 16 assists, and Brodt compiling 17 with seven goals and 10 helpers. They were also the top-three in overall rookie scoring, with Houston (8g-18=26 pts) – who paced WCHA freshmen with three game-winning goals – edging out Brodt (8g-13a=21pts) for second, behind Roque.

Dunne and Wisconsin's **Mckenzie Steffen** make up the All-Rookie Team blue line. Steffen, a native of Centerville, Minn., led WCHA freshmen defensemen with three goals, two power-play strikes, four power-play assists, six power-play points and one game-winning goal in league play, while she was second (tied) with nine points and a plus-24 rating.

St. Cloud State's Janine Alder is in net for the All-Rookie Team. The Zurich, Switzerland native set the standard for SCSU rookie goaltenders, becoming the first freshman in program history to record multiple shutouts in a season with three. Two of those came in WCHA games, as she finished fourth with a .930 save percentage and 26 stops in 24 league contests.

About the 2016-17 WCHA Awards

Conference member team head coaches, assistant coaches and team captains vote for the WCHA individual award winners. The WCHA Defensive Player of the Year Award is chosen by the head coaches, while the WCHA Outstanding Student-Athlete of the Year is selected by the institutional faculty representatives.

All-Academic Team

The conference also released the 2016-17 WCHA All-Academic Team, comprised of 114 student-athletes representing all eight WCHA women's-member institutions.

2016-17 WCHA Award Winners

2016-17 WCHA Individual Awards

- Player of the Year: Lara Stalder, Sr., F, Minnesota Duluth
- Defensive Player of the Year: Sidney Morin, Sr., D, Minnesota Duluth
- Rookie of the Year: Abby Roque, Fr., F, Wisconsin
- Outstanding Student-Athlete of the Year: Lara Stalder, Sr., F Minnesota Duluth
- Coach of the Year: Maura Crowell, Minnesota Duluth
- Scoring Champion: Kelly Pannek, Jr., F, Minnesota
- Goaltending Champion: Ann-Renée Desbiens, Sr., G, Wisconsin

2016-17 All-WCHA First Team

- **Forwards:** Lara Stalder, Sr., Minnesota Duluth; Kelly Pannek, Jr., Minnesota; Annie Pankowski, Jr., Wisconsin
- **Defensemen:** Lee Stecklein, Sr., Minnesota; Jenny Ryan, Sr., Wisconsin
- **Goaltender:** Ann-Renée Desbiens, Sr., G, Wisconsin

2016-17 All-WCHA Second Team

- **Forwards:** Ashleigh Brykaliuk, Sr., Minnesota Duluth; Sarah Potomak, So., Minnesota; Sarah Nurse, Sr., Wisconsin
- **Defensemen:** Sidney Morin, Sr., Minnesota Duluth; Halli Krzyzaniak, Sr., North Dakota
- **Goaltender:** Kassidy Sauve, RS-So., Ohio State

2016-17 All-WCHA Third Team

- **Forwards:** Katherine McGovern, Sr., Minnesota Duluth; Dani Cameranesi, Sr., Minnesota; Emily Clark, Jr., Wisconsin
- **Defensemen:** Megan Wolfe, Sr., Minnesota; Jincy Dunne, RS-Fr., Ohio State
- **Goaltender:** Maddie Rooney, So., Minnesota Duluth

2016-17 WCHA All-Rookie Team

- **Forwards:** Abby Roque, Wisconsin; Ryleigh Houston, North Dakota; Sydney Brodt, Minnesota Duluth
- **Defensemen:** Jincy Dunne, Ohio State; Mekenzie Steffen, Wisconsin

- **Goaltender:** Janine Alder, St. Cloud State

2016-17 WCHA All-Academic Team

To qualify for the WCHA All-Academic Team, student-athletes must have completed one year of eligibility at present institution, prior to the current academic year and have a GPA of at least 3.0 for the previous two semesters or three quarters.

Following, by team, are the one hundred, fourteen (114) 2016-17 WCHA All-Academic Team honorees:

Bemidji State University

Emily Bergland (So., F, Thief River Falls, Minn.); Mackenzie Bruch (Sr., G, Barrie, Ontario); Erin Deters (Jr. G, Sartell, Minn.) Carley Esse (Sr., D, Cloquet, Minn.); Reilly Fawcett (Jr., F, Proctor, Minn.); Melissa Hunt (So., D, Hartney, Manitoba); Madison Hutchinson (Sr., D, Manitou, Manitoba); Alexis Joyce (Jr., D, Lakeville, Minn.); Lisa Laiti (So., D, Fairbanks, Alaska); Sylvia Marolt (So., F, Thief River Falls, Minn.); Lauren Miller (Sr., F, Brockville, Ontario); Brittini Mowat (Sr., G, Glenboro, Manitoba); Ciscely Nelson (Jr., F, Roseau, Minn.); Natalie Stanwood (So., D, West Vancouver, British Columbia); Emma Terres (Jr., F/D, New Hope, Minn.); Summer Thibodeau (Jr., F, Maple Grove, Minn.); Bailey Wright (Jr., F, Anchorage, Alaska)

University of Minnesota

Sydney Baldwin (Jr., D, Minnetonka, Minn.); Anna Barlow (So., D, South St. Paul, Minn.); Dani Cameranesi (Sr., F, Plymouth, Minn.); Kelsey Cline (Sr., D/F, Bloomington, Minn.); Paige Haley (Sr., D/F, Red Wing, Minn.); Tianna Gunderson (So., F, Roseau, Minn.); Emma May (So., G, Eagan, Minn.); Kelly Pannek (Jr., F, Plymouth, Minn.); Sidney Peters (Jr., G, Geneva, Ill.); Cara Piazza (Jr., F, Darien, Ill.); Sarah Potomak (So., F, Aldergrove, British Columbia); Nicole Schammel (Jr., F, Red Wing, Minn.); Kate Schipper (Sr., F, Brooklyn Park, Minn.); Sierra Smith (So., F, Stillwater, Minn.); Lee Stecklein (Sr., D, Roseville, Minn.); Taylor Williamson (So. F, Edina, Minn.); Megan Wolfe (Sr., D, Eagan, Minn.)

University of Minnesota Duluth

Lynn Astrup (Jr., D, Warroad, Minn.); Shelby Brossart (So., D, Grand Forks, N.D.); Ashleigh Brykaliuk (Sr., F, Brandon, Manitoba); Catherine Daoust (Jr., D, L'Île-Bizard, Québec); Reagan Haley (So., F, Red Wing, Minn.); Jessica Healey (Jr., D, Edmonton, Alberta); Linnea Hedin (Jr., D, Huddinge, Sweden); Maria Lindh (Jr. F, Stockholm, Sweden); Michelle Löwenhielm (Jr., F, Sollentuna, Sweden); Katherine McGovern (Sr., F, Scottsdale, Ariz.); Sidney Morin (Sr., D, Minnetonka, Minn.); Morgan Morse (So., F, Lakeville, Minn.); Katherine Mrazova (Sr., F, Prague, Czech Republic); Maddie Rooney (So., G, Andover, Minn.); Lara Stalder (Sr., F, Lucerne, Switzerland); Emma Yanko (So., F, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

Minnesota State University, Mankato

Emily Antony (So., F, Plymouth, Minn.); Katie Bidulka (So., G, Oakville, Ontario); Corbin Boyd (So., F, Minnetonka, Minn.); Lindsey Coleman (Jr., F, Burnsville, Minn.); Amanda Conway (Jr., F, Naperville, Illinois); Hannah Davidson (Jr., F, Kitchener, Ontario); Lena Duesterhoeft (So., D, Munich, Germany); Anna-Maria Fiegert (Sr., D, Landshut, Germany); Megan Hinze (So., D, Carver, Minn.); Anna Keys (Jr., D, Cottage Grove, Minn.); Amanda Martin (Jr., F, Peoria, Ariz.); Jordan McLaughlin (So., F, Grand Rapids, Minn.); Brianna Quade (Sr., G, Newcastle, Ontario); Savannah Quandt (Sr., F, Mankato, Minn.); Emma Wittchow (Jr., D, Burnsville, Minn)

University of North Dakota

Breanna Berndsen (So., F, Kelowna, British Columbia); Kristen Campbell (Fr., G, Brandon, Manitoba.); Annie Chipman (Sr., G, Winnipeg, Manitoba); Taylor Flaherty (So., D, Lakeville, Minn.); Kayla Gardner (Sr., F, Warroad, Minn.); Gracen Hirschy (Sr., D, Fort Wayne, Ind.); Anna Kilponen (So., D, Orivesi,

Finland); Rebekah Kolstad (So., F, Mankato, Minn.); Halli Krzyzaniak (Sr., D, Neepawa, Manitoba); Lisa Marvin (Sr., F, Warroad, Minn.); Dorci Medgyes (So., F/D, Budapest, Hungary); Amy Menke (Sr., F, Shakopee, Minn.) Marissa Salo (Sr., F, Grand Rapids, Minn.); Lexie Shaw (Sr., G, Troy, Mich.); Vilma Tanskanen (So., F, Vantaa, Finland)

Ohio State University

Jessica Dunne (Jr., D, O'Fallon, MO.); Jincy Dunne (Fr., D, O'Fallon, MO.); Julianna Iafallo (Jr., F, Eden, N.Y.); Erin Langermeier (So., F, Westlake, Ohio.); Katie Matheny (Sr., F, Chesterfield, Mo.); Dani Sadek (Jr., D, Lakeville, Minn.); Cassidy Sauve (So., G, Whitby, Ontario); Lauren Spring (Jr., F, Kelowna, British Columbia); Maddy Field (So., F, Oakville, Ontario)

St. Cloud State University

Brittney Anderson (Jr., D, Hudson, WI.); Taylor Crosby (So., G, Cole Harbour, Nova Scotia); Madeleine Dahl (So., D, Edina, Minn.); Ivy Dynek (So., F, Northfield, Illinois); Alyssa Erickson (Jr., F, Mission, British Columbia); Lauren Hesperheide (Sr., F, Shakopee, Minn.); Caroline Markström (Sr., D, Kovland, Sweden); Christa Moody (Sr., D, Battle Creek, Mich.); Suvi Ollikainen (So., F, Klaukkala, Finland); Payge Pena (Sr., F, Maple Ridge, British Columbia); Hannah Potrykus (So., F, Brighton, Mich.); Jenna Redford (Sr., D, Soldotna, Alaska); Kelsey Saelens (Sr., F, Winnipeg, Manitoba); Emma Turbyville (Jr., D, Chicago, Ill.); Julia Tylke (So., F, Delafield, Wis.)

University of Wisconsin

Ann-Renée Desbiens (Sr., G, La Malbaie, Quebec); Mikaela Gardner (So., D, Plainfield, Illinois); Mikayla Johnson (Sr., F, Madison, Wis.); Sydney McKibbin (Sr., F, Oakville, Ontario); Nali Mullan (Jr., G, Hudson, WI.); Annie Pankowski (Jr., F, Laguna Hills, Calif.); Maddie Rolfes (Jr., D, West Des Moines, Iowa); Jenny Ryan (Jr., D, Victor, N.Y.); Sophia Shaver (So., F, Wayzata, Minn.); Lauren Williams (Jr., D, Windsor, Ontario)

About the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA)

The women's Western Collegiate Hockey Association has won a record 16 national championships in 17 years since its inception in 1999, while producing six Patty Kazmaier Award winners, 86 All-Americans and numerous Olympic and international team members. The eight-team Division 1 conference consists of: Bemidji State University (Beavers), the University of Minnesota (Golden Gophers), the University of Minnesota Duluth (Bulldogs), Minnesota State University (Mavericks), the University of North Dakota, Ohio State University (Buckeyes), St. Cloud State University (Huskies) and the University of Wisconsin (Badgers). For more information, visit www.wcha.com.

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