



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

46 PLAYERS FROM WCHA SCHOOLS TO COMPETE AT 2017 WORLDS

Nation’s best college hockey conference to be well-represented in Plymouth, Mich.

EDINA, Minn. – March 31, 2017 – The women’s Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) – long a fixture on the international stage – will be represented by 46 current, incoming or former student-athletes at the 2017 International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) World Championships, beginning today (March 31) and running through April 7 in Plymouth, Mich.

The 46 women with WCHA ties include representation from seven of the league’s member institutions (University of Minnesota, University of Minnesota Duluth, Minnesota State University, University of North Dakota, Ohio State University, St. Cloud State University and University of Wisconsin), competing for each of the tournament’s eight participating countries (United States of America, Canada, Czech Republic, Germany, Finland, Russia, Sweden and Switzerland).

Fifteen (15) student-athletes played during the 2016-17 collegiate season: **Maddie Rooney** (Minnesota Duluth), **Kelly Pannek** (Minnesota) and **Lee Stecklein** (UMN) for the U.S.; **Emily Clark** (Wisconsin), **Halli Krzyzaniak** (North Dakota) and **Sarah Potomak** (UMN) for Canada; **Kateřina Mrázová** (UMD) for the Czech Republic; Minnesota State teammates **Lena Düsterhöft** and **Anna-Maria Fiegert** for Germany; UND teammates **Anna Kilponen** and **Emma Nuutinen** for Finland; Minnesota Duluth forwards **Maria Lindh** and **Michelle Löwenhielm** for Sweden; and, **Janine Alder** (St. Cloud State) and **Lara Stalder** (UMD) for Switzerland.

A full breakdown of WCHA on-ice participation, including the 30 league alumnae competing (and one incoming freshman at St. Cloud State, German forward **Laura Kluge**) is below. Additionally, Minnesota Duluth alumna **Caroline Ouellette** is serving as an assistant coach for Team Canada.

For more information on the 2017 IIHF World Championships, visit www.2017womensworlds.com.

United States of America (Group A)	Canada (Group A)
<i>Goaltenders (2)</i> Alex Rigsby, Wisconsin *Maddie Rooney, Minnesota Duluth	<i>Defense (3)</i> Jocelyne Larocque, D, Minnesota Duluth Meaghan Mikkelson, D, Wisconsin *Halli Krzyzaniak, D, North Dakota
<i>Defense (3)</i> Megan Bozek, Minnesota Monique Lamoureux-Morando, North Dakota *Lee Stecklein, Minnesota	<i>Forwards (6)</i> *Emily Clark, F, Wisconsin Sarah Davis, F, Minnesota Haley Irwin, F, Minnesota Duluth *Sarah Potomak, F, Minnesota Natalie Spooner, F, Ohio State Blayre Turnbull, F, Wisconsin
<i>Forwards (8)</i> Hannah Brandt, Minnesota Brianna Decker, Wisconsin Meghan Duggan, Wisconsin Amanda Kessel, Minnesota Hilary Knight, Wisconsin Jocelyne Lamoureux-Davidson, North Dakota	

Gigi Marvin, Minnesota *Kelly Pannek, Minnesota	
Finland (Group A)	Russia (Group A)
<i>Goaltenders (2)</i> Noora Rätty, Minnesota Eveliina Suonpää, Minnesota Duluth <i>Defense (3)</i> Mira Jalosuo, Minnesota *Anna Kilponen, North Dakota Minttu Tuominen, Ohio State <i>Forwards (3)</i> Michelle Karvinen, North Dakota *Emma Nuutinen, North Dakota Susanna Tapani, North Dakota	<i>Forwards (2)</i> Iya Gavrilova, Minnesota Duluth Alexandra Vafina, Minnesota Duluth
Czech Republic (Group B)	Germany (Group B)
<i>Forwards (1)</i> *Kateřina Mrázová, Minnesota Duluth	<i>Goaltenders (1)</i> Jennifer Harss, Minnesota Duluth <i>Defense (3)</i> *Lena Düsterhöft, Minnesota State Tanja Eisenschmid, North Dakota *Anna-Maria Fiegert, Minnesota State <i>Forwards (1)</i> ^Laura Kluge, St. Cloud State
Sweden (Group B)	Switzerland (Group B)
<i>Defense (3)</i> Johanna Fällman, North Dakota Emilia Ramboldt (Andersson), Minnesota State Annie Svedin, Ohio State <i>Forwards (3)</i> *Maria Lindh, F, Minnesota Duluth *Michelle Löwenhielm, F, Minnesota Duluth Pernilla Winberg, F, Minnesota Duluth	<i>Goaltenders (1)</i> *Janine Alder, St. Cloud State <i>Forwards (1)</i> *Lara Stalder, Minnesota Duluth

* - Played in WCHA in 2016-17

^ - Incoming freshman for 2017-18

About the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA)

The women's Western Collegiate Hockey Association has won a record 16 national championships in 18 years since its inception in 1999, while producing seven Patty Kazmaier Award winners, 94 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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