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UND'S HALLI KRZYZANIAK NAMED WCHA POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT FOR 2017

Two-time UND captain and exemplary student-athlete will be given \$7,500 to assist in postgraduate studies

EDINA, Minn. – May 16, 2017 – An unquestioned leader who has excelled on and off the ice for the University of North Dakota, while aspiring to become an Olympian and, later, a physician, **Halli Krzyzaniak** has been named the recipient of the 2017 WCHA Postgraduate Scholarship.

Now in its 14th year for the WCHA Women's League, the WCHA Postgraduate Scholarship Program awards an annual grant of \$7,500 for postgraduate studies.

"On behalf of the entire Western Collegiate Hockey Association family, we are thrilled to recognize Halli Krzyzaniak as this season's Postgraduate Scholarship recipient," said WCHA Vice President and Women's League Commissioner **Katie Million**. "Halli is an exemplary student-athlete; a leader and champion in all facets, who truly embodies the mission of the WCHA and its member institutions.

"During her time at the University of North Dakota, Halli served as a two-time captain, competed at the highest pre-Olympic levels of international hockey with Canada's National Women's Team, maintained a near-perfect standard of academic excellence and made invaluable contributions on campus and within the Grand Forks community. With graduation on the horizon, she will then train with Hockey Canada in pursuit of a spot on the 2018 Olympic Team, while harboring future ambitions to treat the next generation of student-athletes as a physician. The WCHA is thrilled to assist in Halli's inspiring future academic plans, while we applaud her commitment, effort and dedication.

"We thank Halli for being a tremendous ambassador for the WCHA and the sport of women's hockey, and wish her all the best in her future academic and personal endeavors."

2017 WCHA Postgraduate Scholarship Recipient

Halli Krzyzaniak, University of North Dakota (Neepawa, Manitoba)

For a wonderful example of the best of what college athletics can offer, look no further than Krzyzaniak. One of college hockey's top defensemen, a burgeoning star on the international scene with Canada's National Women's Team, a dedicated student with a 3.92 grade-point-average, and an engaged community member both in Grand Forks and her native Manitoba, she is an ideal representative of the University of North Dakota, the WCHA and the NCAA.

Twice voted by her peers to wear the captain's "C," Krzyzaniak was a three-time All-WCHA defenseman. She played in 139 career games, tallying 58 points on 14 goals and 44 assists. Most importantly, the blue-liner compiled a career plus-54 rating, helping UND to a 76-52-18 mark, four-straight berths in the WCHA Final Face-Off and a trio of season-ending, national top-10 rankings.

Krzyzaniak has also become a fixture for Hockey Canada during this time, participating in the last two World Championships and 4 Nations Cup tournaments. Recently, she was named to Canada's 28-player 2017-18 centralization roster, moving one step closer to fulfilling a dream of representing her country in the 2018 Winter Olympics.

While compiling a prestigious and ongoing athletic career, Krzyzaniak has excelled academically. She has compiled a near-perfect GPA and will graduate this spring with a bachelor's degree in UND's Honors program, while completing dual minors in chemistry and communication. Following preparation for the 2018 Olympics, Krzyzaniak plans on obtaining a master's degree, with the goal of attending medical school following her hockey career. Ultimately, she intends to become a surgeon specializing in orthopedics.

"I'm honored and humbled to be the recipient of this year's WCHA Postgraduate Scholarship, with such a strong pool of applicants," said Krzyzaniak. "Following graduation, I plan to continue my hockey career and then go to medical school. This scholarship will help make furthering my education and pursuing my dream job a reality, and I am very grateful for the support."

A 2017 CoSIDA Academic All-District® honoree, Krzyzaniak is a three-time WCHA Scholar-Athlete Award recipient and was a member of the WCHA All-Academic Team three years running. She has also spent six semesters on either the UND Dean's List or President's Honor Roll. Krzyzaniak has consistently given back to the community by volunteering across a variety of settings, both on campus, in the greater Grand Forks area and back home in Manitoba.

Nominating Krzyzaniak for the WCHA Postgraduate Scholarship was Dr. Sue Jenö, Faculty Athletics Representative at the University of North Dakota.

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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