



Hockey Commissioners Association

For Immediate Release:
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MINNESOTA'S NICK BJUGSTAD NAMED NATIONAL COLLEGE HOCKEY PLAYER OF THE MONTH CORNELL'S BRIAN FERLIN HONORED AS ROOKIE OF THE MONTH

WAKEFIELD, Mass. – University of Minnesota forward Nick Bjugstad, who led the nation with nine goals and also totaled 13 scoring points, is the Hockey Commissioners' Association National Division I Player of the Month for November.

A 6-5, 211-pound sophomore from Blaine, Minn., Bjugstad had a point in seven of Minnesota's eight games and a goal in six of the eight. His nine goals and four assists also came in games that featured only WCHA opponents or nationally-ranked teams (vs North Dakota, vs Wisconsin, vs St. Cloud State and vs Michigan State). In five road games, Bjugstad scored four goals and set up three others for seven points while in three home contests he had five goals – including two game-winners – and one assist for six points. He also netted the first hat trick of his collegiate career against St. Cloud State on Nov. 18 and got Minnesota on the board first in back-to-back victories against North Dakota.

A draftee of the NHL's Florida Panthers, Bjugstad also earned a +3 plus/minus rating during the month and scored on nine of his 26 shots on goal (34.6%). He is the first Golden Gopher to score nine goals in a month since Ryan Potulny scored nine in March of 2006.

Through 16 games this season, Bjugstad is tied for first in scoring among all Div. 1 players with 25 points (15g, 10a), currently sharing the top spot with Wisconsin's Justin Schultz and Mark Zengerle.

Brian Ferlin, a freshman forward at Cornell University, is the choice as HCA National Rookie of the Month for November.

The 6'2" 201-pound rookie from Jacksonville, Fla., manufactured 11 scoring points (5g, 6a) in eight games in the month of November for the Big Red, recording a seven-game scoring streak in the month, including seven points in the first three games.

Ferlin leads the ECAC Hockey scoring race after posting 10 points in the Big Red's first six conference games. Teams around the league have taken notice, tabbing the Boston Bruins draft pick as the Rookie of the Week on back to back occasions on Nov. 8 and Nov. 15.

Ferlin, who registered a plus-9 during the month, plays on the team's second line at the right wing position, as well as on the first power-play unit. He helped Cornell to a 6-2-0 record in November and leads all freshmen nationally in scoring points per game with a 1.22 mark. Ferlin is also second among ECAC Hockey players in both goals per game and assists per game at 0.83.



HCA Commissioners' Choice Awards November, 2011

National Player of the Month

Nick Bjugstad, F, Minnesota, WCHA

National Rookie of the Month

Brian Ferlin, F, Cornell, ECACH

Honorable Mention Player of the Month

Brandon Komm, G, Bentley, AHA

Tim Schaller, F, Providence, HEA

Austin Smith, F, Colgate, ECACH

Reilly Smith, F, Miami, CCHA

Honorable Mention Rookie of the Month

Daniel Bahntge, F, Mercyhurst, AHA

Austin Czarnik, F, Miami, CCHA

Grayson Downing, F, UNH, HEA

Jayson Megna, F, Nebraska-Omaha, WCHA

*Bob DeGregorio, Atlantic Hockey • Fred Pletsch, CCHA
Steve Hagwell, ECAC Hockey • Joe Bertagna, Hockey East
Bruce McLeod, WCHA*