



Hockey Commissioners Association

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DENVER'S JOEY LALEGGIA NAMED HCA NATIONAL ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

TAMPA, Fla. – The Hockey Commissioners' Association (HCA) announced today that University of Denver defenseman Joey LaLeggia has captured the sixth annual HCA National Division I Rookie of the Year award.

The 5-foot-10, 180-pound defenseman skated in 42 of 43 games for the Pioneers this season and led NCAA rookie defensemen with 38 points on 11 goals and 27 assists.

LaLeggia, who garnered 27 first-place votes for National Rookie of the Year, was an All-WCHA Rookie Team selection, an All-WCHA First Team honoree and the 2011-12 WCHA Rookie of the Year. He finished the season with a +13 plus/minus rating, to go along with three power-play goals, a shorthanded goal and one game-winning tally on Dec. 31 vs. Air Force, a 7-1 DU victory. He also recorded 15 points (4g, 11a) during a season-high eight-game point streak from Dec. 30 to Jan. 28.

His overall point total ranked tied for fourth among all NCAA Division I rookies and was third among WCHA blueliners. LaLeggia notched at least one point in 23 games this season and tied for a team-best 13 multi-point efforts for Denver in his rookie campaign.

LaLeggia, who was a member of Denver's 10-player freshman class this season, finished first in WCHA rookie scoring and tied for first in WCHA defenseman scoring with 28 points on eight goals and 20 assists in 28 league games.

He was named HCA National Rookie of the Month for January while helping Denver to a 5-1-0 record in the month with 12 points (2g, 10a) in six games and was named WCHA Defensive Player of the week on Jan. 17th.

The HCA Rookie of the Year is selected in a vote by the assistant coaching staffs of all 58 NCAA Division I hockey teams. Players on the ballot receive five points for a first-place vote, three points for a second-place vote and one point for a third-place vote.

Each conference's Rookie of the Year serves as their respective league's nominee.

Previous winners of the award include: T.J. Tynan, Notre Dame (2011), Stephane Da Costa, Merrimack College (2010), Kieran Millan, Boston University (2009), Richard Bachman, Colorado College (2008) and Andreas Nodl, St. Cloud State (2007).

LaLeggia is the third winner to come from the Western Collegiate Hockey Association. Hockey East has featured two winners and the Central Collegiate Hockey Association has had one honoree.

HCA Commissioners' National Rookie of the Year Runners-Up:

Brian Ferlin, Cornell, ECAC
Alex Guptill, Michigan, CCHA
Alex Grieve, Bentley, AHA
Scott Wilson, UMass-Lowell, HEA

Previous Winners:

2007 Andreas Nodl, St. Cloud State
2008 Richard Bachman, Colorado College
2009 Kieran Millan, Boston University
2010 Stephane Da Costa, Merrimack College
2011 T.J. Tynan, Notre Dame



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