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June 25, 2012

Thirteen with WCHA Ties Selected in 2012 NHL Entry Draft Group Includes Four Returnees, Nine Incoming Freshmen; Two Chosen in Round 1

MADISON, Wis. – Thirteen (13) players with ties to Western Collegiate Hockey Association-member teams were selected in the 2012 National Hockey League (NHL) Entry Draft, held over the June 22-23 weekend at CONSOL Energy Center in Pittsburgh, Pa. The group included four returning league-member team skaters and nine incoming freshmen for 2012-13.

Chosen in Round 1 of the draft were University of North Dakota recruit and defenseman Jordan Schmaltz by the St. Louis Blues at No. 25 and University of Minnesota recruit and defenseman Brady Skjei by the New York Rangers at No. 28.

In Round 2, there were four selections with WCHA ties in University of Wisconsin recruit and forward Nicolas Kerdiles chosen by the Anaheim Ducks at No. 36, returning Wisconsin defenseman Jake McCabe chosen by the Buffalo Sabres at No. 44, University of Nebraska Omaha recruit and goaltender Anthony Stolarz selected by the Philadelphia Flyers at No. 45, and Minnesota State University recruit and forward Teddy Blueger chosen by the Pittsburgh Penguins at No. 52.

Returning University of Denver defenseman Joey LaLeggia, who was the league's rookie of the year and was an All-WCHA First Team pick in 2011-12, was chosen in Round 5 by the Edmonton Oilers.

By round, the 13 selections were (with name, year, position, current or future WCHA team, hometown, last amateur team, NHL Draft team, round, selection number):

Round 1: **Jordan Schmaltz**, Fr., D, University of North Dakota (Verona, WI/Green Bay-USHL): St. Louis, Round 1, #25; **Brady Skjei**, Fr., D, University of Minnesota (Lakeville, MN/USA Under-18 Team-USHL): New York Rangers, Round 1, #28.

Round 2: **Nicolas Kerdiles**, Fr., F, University of Wisconsin (Irvine, CA/USA Under-18 Team-USHL): Anaheim, Round 2, #36; **Jake McCabe**, So., D, University of Wisconsin (Eau Claire, WI/USA Hockey NTDP): Buffalo, Round 2, #44; **Anthony Stolarz**, Fr., G, University of Nebraska Omaha (Jackson, NJ/Corpus Christi-NAHL: Philadelphia, Round 2, #45; **Teddy Blueger**, Fr, F, Minnesota State University (Riga, Latvia/Shattuck-St. Mary's Prep): Pittsburgh, Round 2, #52.

Round 3: **Jujhar Khaira**, Fr., F, Michigan Tech University (Surrey, BC/Prince George-BCHL): Edmonton, Round 3, #63.

Round 5: **Joey LaLeggia**, So., D, University of Denver (Burnaby, BC/Penticton Veas-BCHL): Edmonton, Round 5, #123; **Brian Cooper**, Fr., D, University of Nebraska Omaha (Anchorage, AK/Fargo-USHL): Anaheim, Round 5, #127; **Brendan Woods**, So., F, University of Wisconsin (Fairfax, VA/Muskegon-USHL): Carolina, Round 5, #129.

Round 6: **Hunter (Samuel) Fejes**, Fr., F, Colorado College (Anchorage, AK/Shattuck St. Mary's Prep): Phoenix, Round 6, #178.

Round 7: **Jamie Phillips**, Fr., G, Michigan Tech University (Caledonia, ON/Toronto JC-OJHL): Winnipeg, Round 7, #190; **Jaycob Megna**, So., D, University of Nebraska Omaha (Northbrook, IL/Cedar Rapids-USHL): Anaheim, Round 7, #210.

Since its founding in 1951, the WCHA has had more than 775 players drafted by NHL teams.

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