



Hockey Commissioners Association

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NORTH DAKOTA'S CORBAN KNIGHT HONORED AS NATIONAL COLLEGE HOCKEY PLAYER OF THE MONTH MIAMI'S RYAN MCKAY NAMED ROOKIE OF THE MONTH

WAKEFIELD, Mass. – North Dakota forward Corban Knight, who averaged 2.2 points per game and extended his current point-scoring streak to 13 consecutive games while leading his team to an unbeaten 4-0-1 record, has been named the Hockey Commissioners' Association National Division 1 Player of the Month for December.

A 6-2, 200-pound senior alternate captain from High River, Alberta, Knight scored a team-leading 11 points in five December contests on six goals and five assists, earned a +9 plus/minus rating and won 61.1% of his face-offs. His six goals came on just 15 shots for a 40% shooting percentage. He scored a goal in every game during the month with multiple-point outings in four of those. He was named the WCHA Offensive Player of the Week on Dec. 18 after a six-point series (3g, 3a) and +5 plus/minus rating in a two-game conference road sweep at Michigan Tech, including a career-high four-points and the game-winning goal in UND's 6-1 win on Dec. 14. He had three points as North Dakota took three of four WCHA points from No. 6 Denver on Dec. 7-8 with a 6-1 win and 2-2 (ot) tie. And he opened the month with a goal and an assist, including one on the game-tying goal with just :13 seconds remaining in regulation, in an eventual 3-2 overtime win at No. 18 Colorado College on Dec. 1.

A draftee of the National Hockey League's Florida Panthers, Knight is riding a 13-game point streak and five-game goal-scoring streak through games of Jan. 3, both of which are the longest of his collegiate career. He is North Dakota's top scorer through 17 games this season with 23 points (8g, 15a), is tied for first in the WCHA scoring race with 8-11=19, and has career totals of 44 goals, 76 assists and 120 points in 137 games.

Miami freshman goaltender Ryan McKay is the HCA Rookie of the Month for December. He appeared in four games for Miami during the month of December, posting a 2-2-0 record with one shutout. His 0.76 goals-against average and a .970 save percentage were tops in the league for December. The freshman netminder didn't allow more than one goal in a game in December, as both of his losses were 1-0 losses. McKay allowed only three goals during the month on 99 shots.

The Palatine, Ill., native returned from injury on Dec. 1 at Alaska, where he blocked 26 shots to earn his second career shutout. In his next start, McKay suffered a 1-0 loss to Lake Superior, with the lone goal for the Lakers coming on the power play. In his next outing on Dec. 15, the 6-foot-0, 225-pound goaltender again allowed just one goal, the first even-strength goal allowed in his career, backstopping the RedHawks to a 3-1 win over in-state rival Ohio State with a 22-save performance. His final appearance of December came in the championship game at the Three Rivers Classic in Pittsburgh, where McKay made 20 saves in a 1-0 loss to Robert Morris. McKay was also very strong on the penalty kill all month, as the RedHawks went 20-for-21 down a man with him in net. He helped kill seven penalties at Alaska and five in each of his final two games of the month, including a pair of 5-on-3 kills against Robert Morris.



HCA Commissioners' Choice Awards December 2012

National Player of the Month
Corban Knight, F, North Dakota, WCHA

National Rookie of the Month
Ryan McKay, G, Miami, CCHA

Honorable Mention Player of the Month
Branden Gracel, F, Massachusetts, HEA
Eric Hartzell, G, Quinnipiac, ECACH
Eric Levine, G, Robert Morris, AHA
T.J. Tynan, F, Notre Dame, CCHA

Honorable Mention Rookie of the Month
Kyle Baun, F, Colgate ECACH
Rocco Grimaldi, F, North Dakota, WCHA
Alexander Kuqali, D, RIT, AHA
Kevin Roy, F, Northeastern, HEA

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