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UAF'S HUYSMANS, FSU'S MOTTE AND BSU'S BITZER NAMED WCHA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK FOR GAMES OF DEC. 12-13, 2014

EDINA, Minn. – Dec. 15, 2014 – After leading their respective teams to a 5-0-1 mark in league play this past weekend, the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) men's Players of the Week for games of December 12-13, 2014 are: Alaska junior forward **Nolan Huysmans** (Offensive Player of the Week), Ferris State senior goaltender **CJ Motte** (Defensive Player of the Week) and Bemidji State freshman goaltender **Michael Bitzer** (Rookie of the Week).

WCHA Offensive Player of the Week

Nolan Huysmans, Jr., F, Alaska (Ponoka, Alberta)

Huysmans had a three-point weekend (one goal, two assists), while factoring in both game-winning scores in Alaska's sweep of visiting Alabama Huntsville. The junior from Ponoka, Alberta assisted on Tayler Munson's overtime game-winner on Friday night, before scoring the first goal of Saturday's 4-0 triumph. Huysmans also added an assist on the Nanooks' third goal on Saturday, earning first star of the game honors.

Also nominated: Kenny Babinski, Jr., F, Ferris State; Philip Brewer, Sr., F, Bemidji State

WCHA Defensive Player of the Week

CJ Motte, Sr., G, Ferris State (St. Clair, Mich.)

Motte led Ferris State to a weekend home sweep of Lake Superior State, stopping 50-of-52 shots (.962 save percentage) with a 1.00 goals against average. The senior from St. Clair, Mich. allowed just two goals (including one power-play marker) in Friday night's 5-2 victory, before posting a 24-save shutout on Saturday night. Motte is now tied for the national lead with four shutouts this season, while his 14 career whitewashes are the most among all active NCAA netminders. He has led the Bulldogs to a 5-1-0 mark in their last six WCHA contests.

Also nominated: Carmine Guerriero, So., G, Alabama Huntsville; Davis Jones, So., G, Alaska; Jamie Phillips, Jr., G, Michigan Tech; Sam Windle, Sr., D, Bemidji State

WCHA Rookie of the Week

Michael Bitzer, G, Bemidji State (Moorhead, Minn.)

Bitzer backstopped Bemidji State to a 1-0-1 weekend against visiting Northern Michigan, posting a 1.44 goals against average and a .929 save percentage (39-of-42) in 125 minutes between the pipes. The freshman from Moorhead, Minn. stopped 20-of-22 shots in a 4-2 win Friday, before making 19 saves in a 1-1 draw Saturday (including two in overtime). Bitzer also played a key role for the Beavers' penalty kill unit, which held the Wildcats scoreless on the power play.

Also nominated: Andrew Mayer, F, Ferris State; Tayler Munson, F, Alaska; Dylan Steman, F, Michigan Tech

About Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA)

The Western Collegiate Hockey Association, among the most historic, tradition-rich and successful conferences in all of collegiate athletics, proudly marks its 63rd season of men's competition in 2014-15. Covering five time zones and more than 4,200 miles, the 10-team Division 1 conference consists of the University of Alabama in Huntsville (Chargers), the University of Alaska Anchorage (Seawolves), the University of Alaska (Nanooks), Bemidji State University (Beavers), Bowling Green State University (Falcons), Ferris State University (Bulldogs), Lake Superior State University (Lakers), Michigan Technological University (Huskies), Minnesota State University (Mavericks) and Northern Michigan University (Wildcats).

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