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MTU'S PETAN, MSU'S WILLIAMS AND BSU'S G. FITZGERALD NAMED WCHA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK FOR GAMES OF NOV. 28-29, 2014

EDINA, Minn. – Dec. 1, 2014 – The last weekend of November in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) featured clutch performances from one of the league's top scorers, a pair of shutouts from the nation's hottest goaltender and a freshman's breakthrough weekend against a ranked opponent. The WCHA men's Players of the Week for games of Nov. 28-29, 2014 are: Michigan Tech junior forward **Alex Petan** (Offensive Player of the Week), Minnesota State junior goaltender **Stephon Williams** (Defensive Player of the Week) and Bemidji State freshman forward **Gerry Fitzgerald** (Rookie of the Week).

WCHA Offensive Player of the Week

Alex Petan, Jr., F, Michigan Tech (Delta, British Columbia)

Petan had three points, factored in both game-winning goals and was +5 overall to lead No. 5/6 Michigan Tech to a road sweep at Alabama Huntsville. The junior from Delta, British Columbia assisted on the game-winning strike in Tech's 4-2 victory on Friday, before netting the deciding tally the next night in a 5-2 triumph. He also assisted on the Huskies' first goal on Saturday. Petan is second nationally with four game-winning goals, while he has assisted on three other game-winners. The forward is tied for second in the WCHA with 15 overall points (eight goals and seven assists).

Also nominated: Brett Knowles, Jr., F, Minnesota State; Tyler Morley, Jr., F, Alaska

WCHA Defensive Player of the Week

Stephon Williams, Jr., G, Minnesota State (Fairbanks, Alaska)

Williams stopped all 45 shots he faced this weekend, recording consecutive shutouts as No. 2/4 Minnesota State swept host Lake Superior State. The junior from Fairbanks, Alaska turned back 24 shots in Friday's 7-0 win before kicking out all 21 shots during Saturday's 3-0 victory. The New York Islanders' draft pick is 11-1-0 between the pipes for an NCAA-best .917 winning percentage, while he ranks fourth nationally with a 1.52 goals against average. Williams now has seven career shutouts, tied for the most all-time at Minnesota State.

Also nominated: Jake Baker, Sr., D, Northern Michigan; Simon Dennis, Jr., D, Ferris State; Davis Jones, So., G, Alaska; Andrew Walsh, Sr., G, Bemidji State

WCHA Rookie of the Week

Gerry Fitzgerald, F, Bemidji State (Port Alberni, British Columbia)

Fitzgerald led the Beavers in scoring with three points, including his first collegiate multi-point effort and a game-winning goal, as Bemidji State split a non-conference series with then-No. 16 St. Cloud State. The freshman from Port Alberni, British Columbia lifted BSU to a 4-1 win on Saturday with the first game-winning goal of his young career, taking a double-assist from his two brothers (Myles and Leo) and finding the back of the net at the 8:13 mark of the third period. Fitzgerald scored a power-play goal and added an assist during the Beavers' loss on Friday night.

Also nominated: Andrew Dorantes, F, Ferris State; 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).

MEDIA CONTACT

Matt Hodson

Associate Commissioner for Public Relations

E: mhodson@wcha.com

O: 952.818.8872

M: 612.801.2808

MORE INFORMATION

Website: wcha.com

Twitter: [@wcha_mhockey](https://twitter.com/wcha_mhockey)

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