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## UAA'S TATCHELL AND MANTHA, AND LSSU'S DEFIEL NAMED WCHA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK FOR GAMES OF JAN. 16-17, 2015

EDINA, Minn. – Jan. 19, 2015 – Clutch, late-game offensive performances and stellar goaltending by a pair of freshmen highlight the men's Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) Players of the Week for games of Jan. 16-17, 2015. The honorees are: Alaska Anchorage junior forward **Blake Tatchell** (Offensive Player of the Week), Lake Superior State freshman goaltender **Gordon Defiel** (Defensive Player of the Week) and Alaska Anchorage freshman goaltender **Olivier Mantha** (Rookie of the Week).

### WCHA Offensive Player of the Week

#### **Blake Tatchell, Jr., F, Alaska Anchorage (North Battleford, Saskatchewan)**

Tatchell furnished a three-point weekend, factoring in both game-winning scores, as Alaska Anchorage swept in-state rival Alaska with a pair of one-goal road wins in Fairbanks. The junior from North Battleford, Saskatchewan picked up the primary assist on both UAA goals in a 2-1, Friday night victory. On Saturday, Tatchell lifted the Seawolves to a 3-2, overtime triumph when he netted the game-winning goal 3:07 into the extra period. Tatchell's heroics lifted UAA to its first road wins of the season and a 2-0 lead in the Alaska Airlines Governor's Cup.

*Also nominated:* Alex Globke, So., F, Lake Superior State; Frank Misuraca, Jr., F, Alabama Huntsville; Blake Pietila, Sr., F, Michigan Tech; Kyle Schempp, So., F, Ferris State

### WCHA Defensive Player of the Week

#### **Gordon Defiel, Fr., G, Lake Superior State (Stillwater, Minn.)**

Defiel backstopped Lake Superior State to its first sweep of the season, while also picking up the third shutout of his rookie campaign. The freshman from Stillwater, Minn. made 76 saves in the two victories over Bemidji State, including a career-high 44 stops during a thrilling, 1-0 victory on Friday. Defiel turned back all 24 shots faced in the first period Friday, tying for the sixth-highest single-period total in WCHA history. The first-year collegian was unscored upon for the first 110 minutes of the series and finished with a .974 save percentage. Defiel leads all NCAA goaltenders with 758 saves this season.

*Also nominated:* Tommy Burke, Jr., G, Bowling Green; Carmine Guerriero, So., G, Alabama Huntsville; Stephon Williams, Jr., G, Minnesota State

## **WCHA Rookie of the Week**

### **Olivier Mantha, G, Alaska Anchorage (La Tuque, Québec)**

Mantha stopped 80 of 83 shots on the weekend, leading Alaska Anchorage to a pair of one-goal road wins in Fairbanks and a 2-0 lead in the Alaska Airlines Governor's Cup. The freshman from La Tuque, Québec matched his career high with 46 saves Saturday night, allowing the Seawolves to escape with a 3-2, overtime win despite being outshot 48-16. Mantha also had 34 saves Friday, including nine in the third period, as UAA earned a 2-1 victory. With a .928 save percentage during his rookie campaign, Mantha is on pace to eclipse UAA's single-season record of .921 (set in 2003-04 by Chris King.)

*Also nominated:* Max McHugh, F, Alabama Huntsville; Luke Sandler, F, Lake Superior State

### ***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 63<sup>rd</sup> 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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