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MICHIGAN TECH'S TANNER KERO NAMED FINALIST FOR HOBEBY BAKER AWARD
WCHA Player of the Year among 10 candidates for college hockey's top honor

EDINA, Minn. – March 19, 2015 – Michigan Tech senior forward Tanner Kero has been named one of the top 10 finalists for the 2015 Hobey Baker Memorial Award, given annually to college hockey's top player.

A senior forward from Hancock, Mich., Kero was named the 2014-15 WCHA Player of the Year, the WCHA Outstanding Student-Athlete of the Year and to the All-WCHA First Team.

The Huskies' co-captain has helped lead Tech to a number four national ranking and a trip to this weekend's WCHA Final Five. Among the most prolific playmakers in the country, Kero led the WCHA in conference scoring (13-21—34) and overall scoring (18-25—43) during the regular season. His 45 points overall (19 goals and 26 assists) entering the Final Five are tied for 10th-most nationally, while his tied for ninth with a +23 rating. A consistent and clutch performer, he has tallied 12 multi-point efforts and is tied for third in the country with seven game-winning goals.

In the classroom, Kero maintains a 3.72 GPA in mathematics with a concentration in actuarial sciences. He has been honored as a WCHA Scholar-Athlete and earned a spot on the All-Academic team in all three years in which he has been eligible. Also one of 10 finalists for the 2015 Senior CLASS Award, Kero also volunteers in the Koaches Kids reading program for elementary schools, local youth hockey programs and numerous local charity events in the Houghton, Mich. area.

Along with Kero, the other top-10 finalists are: Union senior forward Daniel Ciampini, Boston College freshman forward Jack Eichel, RIT senior forward Matt Garbowsky, Michigan senior forward Zach Hyman, Denver senior defenseman Joey LaLeggia, North Dakota junior goaltender Zane McIntyre, Minnesota junior defenseman Mike Reilly, Harvard junior forward Jimmy Vesey and Robert Morris senior forward Cody Wydo.

The ten finalists were selected by voting from all 59 Division I college hockey head coaches and by online fan balloting.

Next, the 27-member Selection Committee and an additional round of fan balloting will determine this year's Hobey Baker winner.

Fans can vote via the Hobey Baker website: www.hobeybakeraward.com from March 19-29. Click on the "Vote for Hobey" icon and follow the prompts to make your selection from this year's 10 finalists. Detailed bios are available for each candidate. The fans' vote accounts for a full one percent of the total ballot in each phase in selecting this year's award recipient.

Award criteria include candidates emulating the exceptional character traits exhibited by the award's namesake, Hobey Baker. A legendary American hero, Baker was a World War I fighter pilot and was known as America's greatest amateur athlete in his day, excelling at hockey and football at Princeton University. Award candidates must demonstrate strength of character both on and off the ice, contribute to the integrity of his team and display outstanding skills in all phases of the game. Consideration should be given to scholastic achievement and sportsmanship.

The Hobey Hat Trick (three finalists) will be announced on April 2, 2015 and the Hobey Baker Award winner will be announced Friday, April 10, 2015 from Boston, MA during the NCAA Frozen Four. The award announcement will take place at America's oldest hockey arena, Matthews Arena (built in 1910) and once known as Boston Arena, a rink where Hobey Baker played. The announcement will be televised live on NESN and the NHL Network and can be followed on the Hobey Baker website at 5:00 p.m. ET.

For more info on the Hobey Baker Award, please visit www.hobeybakeraward.com

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). For more information, visit wcha.com.

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