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## **UAF'S T. MORLEY, BSU'S BITZER AND UAA'S AZURDIA NAMED WCHA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK FOR GAMES OF FEB. 27-28, 2015**

EDINA, Minn. – March 2, 2015 – A prolific scorer, a red-hot goaltender and a clutch freshman highlight the men's Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) Players of the Week for games of Feb. 27-28, 2015. The honorees are: Alaska junior forward **Tyler Morley** (Offensive Player of the Week), Bemidji State freshman goaltender **Michael Bitzer** (Defensive Player of the Week) and Alaska Anchorage forward **Austin Azurdia** (Rookie of the Week).

### **WCHA Offensive Player of the Week**

#### **Tyler Morley, Jr., F, Alaska (Burnaby, British Columbia)**

Morley had a WCHA-high five points this weekend, tallying a pair of game-tying goals with three assists as Alaska earned a road sweep with a pair of comeback victories at Alabama Huntsville. The junior from Burnaby, British Columbia knotted Friday's contest 2-2 with a short-handed goal halfway through the third period, then was credited with the primary assist on the game-winning strike five minutes later. His first period goal tied Saturday's game 1-1, while he later added a pair of assists – including on another tying goal – as the Nanooks rallied for a 4-3, overtime victory.

*Also nominated:* Max McHugh, Fr., F, Alabama Huntsville

### **WCHA Defensive Player of the Week**

#### **Michael Bitzer, Fr., G, Bemidji State (Moorhead, Minn.)**

Bitzer led Bemidji State to a three-point weekend at Ferris State, giving the Beavers a one-point lead in the race for the final home ice slot in the WCHA playoffs. The freshman from Moorhead, Minn. played every second of the series, recording a 0.96 goals against average and stopping 76-of-78 shots for a .974 save percentage. The rookie came within one shot of a then-career-high save total with 35 stops in a 2-1, series-opening victory, before establishing his collegiate standard with 41 saves in a 1-1 draw Saturday. In addition, he served as the last line of defense for a BSU penalty-kill unit that held Ferris State scoreless on all eight power-play opportunities.

*Also nominated:* CJ Motte, Sr., G, Ferris State; Colton Parayko, Jr., D, Alaska; Jamie Phillips, Jr., G, Michigan Tech

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## **WCHA Rookie of the Week**

### **Austin Azurdia, F, Alaska Anchorage (Wenatchee, Wash.)**

Facing a must-win situation, Azurdia had a three-point night to lead Alaska Anchorage to a 6-1 upset victory over No. 11 Bowling Green on Saturday night. The rookie netted what was eventually the game-winning goal with a first-period tally, and then factored in both of UAA's third-period goals with an assist and his second score of the game. The win allowed the Seawolves to keep their WCHA playoff hopes alive entering the final weekend of the regular season.

*Also nominated:* Tyler Andrew, F, Ferris State; Brandon Hawkins, F, Bowling Green; Josh Kestner, F, Alabama Huntsville

### ***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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