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23 ALUMNI FROM CURRENT WCHA INSTITUTIONS PLAYED IN NHL DURING 2015-15 REGULAR SEASON

All 10 current WCHA schools represented, spanning 17 NHL clubs

EDINA, Minn. – April 15, 2015 – Twenty-three alumni, representing each of the current 10 men’s Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) member institutions, skated in the National Hockey League (NHL) during the 2014-15 regular season. The group, which included captains, breakout stars and NHL firsts, spanned across 17 different NHL clubs.

A trio of these former collegians held leadership positions on their respective clubs, as Minnesota State alumnus David Backes wore the captain’s “C” in St. Louis, while Kevin Bieksa (Bowling Green) and Chris Kunitz (Ferris State) served as alternate captains for Vancouver and Pittsburgh, respectively.

Between the nets, Bowling Green alumnus Andrew Hammond burst upon the scene and helped lead Ottawa’s improbable run to the playoffs. Beginning Feb. 18, “The Hamburglar” posted a 20-1-2 record with a .941 save percentage and 1.79 goals against average in 23 starts.

Fellow goaltender Cam Talbot (Alabama Huntsville), forced into extensive action for the Presidents’ Trophy-winning New York Rangers during the second half of the season, ranked among the NHL’s top-10 for save percentage (4th at .926), GAA (4th at 2.21) and shutouts (5th with 8). He also earned the club’s prestigious Steven McDonald Extra Effort Award as voted by Rangers fans.

While Hammond collected his initial NHL victories, other firsts were enjoyed by a trio of alumni. Minnesota State’s Kael Mouillierat made his NHL debut with the New York Islanders (and scored his first goal), while both Bemidji State’s Brad Hunt (Edmonton) and Lake Superior State’s Zach Trotman (Boston) also netted their first career goals.

Fourteen alumni performed during the regular season on 10 teams that will be competing in the Stanley Cup playoffs: Anaheim (MSU’s Tim Jackman), Minnesota (MSU’s Ryan Carter), Nashville (NMU’s Mike Santorelli), New York Islanders (UAF’s Chad Johnson and MSU’s Mouillierat), New York Rangers (UAH’s Talbot), Ottawa (BGSU’s Hammond), Pittsburgh (FSU’s Kunitz), St. Louis (MSU’s Backes), Vancouver (BGSU’s Bieksa), Washington (UAA’s Jay Beagle, MTU’s Chris Conner, UAF’s Curtis Glencross and LSSU’s Steve Oleksy).

A full list of the 23 current WCHA member institution alumni who played in the NHL during the 2014-15 regular season follows on the next page.

Name, Pos.	NHL Team	School (Years)
Will Acton, C	Edmonton Oilers	Lake Superior State (2007-11)
David Backes, C	St. Louis Blues	Minnesota State (2003-06)
Jay Beagle, RW	Washington Capitals	Alaska Anchorage (2005-07)
Kevin Bieksa, D	Vancouver Canucks	Bowling Green (2000-04)
Ryan Carter, C	Minnesota Wild	Minnesota State (2004-06)
Chris Conner, RW	Washington Capitals	Michigan Tech (2002-06)
Curtis Glencross, LW	Calgary Flames/Washington Capitals	Alaska Anchorage (2002-04)
Andrew Hammond, G	Ottawa Senators	Bowling Green (2009-13)
Eriah Hayes, RW	San Jose Sharks	Minnesota State (2009-13)
Brad Hunt, D	Edmonton Oilers	Bemidji State (2008-12)
Tim Jackman, RW	Anaheim Ducks	Minnesota State (2000-02)
Chad Johnson, G	New York Islanders/Buffalo Sabres*	Alaska (2005-09)
Chris Kunitz, LW	Pittsburgh Penguins	Ferris State (1999-2003)
Travis Morin, C	Dallas Stars	Minnesota State (2003-07)
Kael Mouillierat, LW	New York Islanders	Minnesota State (2008-10)
Steve Oleksy, D	Washington Capitals	Lake Superior State (2008)
Tyler Pitlick, RW	Edmonton Oilers	Minnesota State (2009)
Matt Read, RW	Philadelphia Flyers	Bemidji State (2007-11)
Zach Redmond, D	Colorado Avalanche	Ferris State (2007-11)
Mike Santorelli, C	Toronto Maple Leafs/Nashville Predators	Northern Michigan (2004-07)
John Scott, LH	San Jose Sharks	Michigan Tech (2002-06)
Cam Talbot, G	New York Rangers	Alabama Huntsville (2007-10)
Zach Trotman, D	Boston Bruins	Lake Superior State (2009-12)

*Traded to Buffalo on March 2; did not play for Sabres

About the 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 marked 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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