

Western Collegiate Hockey Association

Sara R. Martin
Commissioner
C 303 808-9366 • F 608 829-0200
smartin@wcha.com

Bill Brophy
Women's Public Relations Director
O 608 277-0282 • C 303 330-5468
bbrophy@wcha.com

WCHA Administrative Office
MSC 8302, WCHA
2211 S. Josephine Street
Denver, CO 80208-8302
O 303 871-4491 • F 303 871-4770

Bruce M. McLeod
Commissioner

bmcLeod@wcha.com

Carol LaBelle-Ehrhardt
Associate Commissioner of Operations
clabelle@wcha.com

Greg Shepherd
Supervisor of Officials
O/F 651 330-5131
gshepherdwcha@gmail.com

Doug Spencer
Associate Commissioner for PR
O 608 829-0100 • C 303 475-9283
dspencer@mailbag.com

Women's Teams

Bemidji State University
University of Minnesota
University of Minnesota Duluth
Minnesota State University
University of North Dakota
Ohio State University
St. Cloud State University
University of Wisconsin

Home of a Record 14 Consecutive National Championship Teams

2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013

2014 WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF

March 7-8 • Sanford Center
Bemidji, MN

visit us on the web at:

wcha.com
wcha.com/mobile



January 3, 2014/For Immediate Release

WCHA to be Well Represented at 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia Team USA Roster Features 11 Former WCHA Players; Up to 33 Current and Former League Players Could Compete in Winter Olympic Games

MADISON, Wis. – The women's Western Collegiate Hockey Association could be represented by as many as 33 current and former players at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia next month.

The roster for the United States team was announced by USA Hockey at the 2014 NHL Winter Classic on Wednesday, includes 11 current and former players from the WCHA. All 21 members of the squad have college ties and every player has competed in an IIHF Women's World Championship, including 18 who captured a gold medal last April to propel the United States to the No. 1 ranking in the world.

Three WCHA teams – Minnesota, Wisconsin and North Dakota – have players on the USA Roster and six WCHA member institutions will be represented in Sochi when the competition begins Feb. 8. The medal games will be held on Feb. 20.

Five current and former Gophers are set to represent the U.S. – Megan Bozek, Amanda Kessel, Gigi Marvin, Anne Schleper and Lee Stecklein. Marvin is the lone Olympic veteran among the Gopher representatives. The other Gophers Olympians all were a part of the unbeaten team which won the NCAA championship last season. Marvin is one of 11 USA athletes with Olympic experience, and Stecklein is the youngest player on the roster. Kessel and Stecklein have college eligibilities remaining.

Four former Badgers were named to the U.S. Olympic squad. They are forwards Brianna Decker, Meghan Duggan and Hilary Knight, along with goaltender Jessie Vetter. It marks the second Olympic Games for Duggan, Knight and Vetter as the trio played for UW head coach Mark Johnson in the 2010 Olympics, while Decker will make her Olympic debut.

Decker, Duggan and Vetter all took home the Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award, given to the nation's top player, at some point during their Wisconsin careers, while Knight is the all-time leading scorer in school history. Vetter and Duggan each won three national championships while at Wisconsin, while Knight was a part of two national championship teams and Decker was a member of the 2011 national championship squad.

Former North Dakota players Monique and Jocelyne Lamoureux were named to Team USA. It will be the second Olympic Winter Games for the Lamoureux twins, who played in their first Olympics winning silver with the U.S. in 2010 in Vancouver.

Along with the Lamoureuxs, UND also has three current players that were named to national team rosters for the 2014 Olympic Winter Games. Forwards Michelle Karvinen and Susanna Tapani will play for Team Finland, while defenseman Tanja Eisenschmid will play for Germany. Germany and Sweden have not yet announced their full rosters for the 2014 Olympic Winter Games, as former UND defenseman Susanne Fellner (Germany) and current defenseman Johanna Fallman (Sweden) are still in contention for spots on their respective national teams.

Potentially North Dakota may have seven former and current players in Sochi, second only among

more



WCHA school to Minnesota Duluth's potential eight representatives.

Minnesota will have seven players in Sochi, the five on Team USA and Finnish teammates goalie Noora Rätty, an all-American collegian last season, and defenseman Mira Jalouso. Wisconsin will have five players – the USA quartet will be joined by alum Meghan Mikkelsen, who was named to the Canadian Olympic squad. Mikkelsen won two national titles while at Wisconsin and was named the 2007 WCHA Defensive Player of the Year.

Minnesota State may have three players and alums in Sochi. Mavericks' freshman Anna Fiegert and alumni Nina Tikkinen have both been chosen to play for the German and Finnish National Team, respectively, in the Sochi Olympics. Fellow alumnus Emilia Andersson is a strong candidate to make the Swedish National Team.

Former Ohio State star Natalie Spooner has also been named to the 21-member Canadian team. And former Buckeyes Minttu Tuominen and Emma Terho (Laaksonen) will also be representing Team Finland.

Jocelyne Larocque became the 26th University of Minnesota Duluth women's hockey player to be named an Olympian, joining Haley Irwin and Caroline Ouellette on Canada's 2014 Winter Olympic roster. Both forwards, Irwin and Ouellette, played on Team Canada's gold medalists in 2010 in Vancouver. Ouellette is a three-time gold medalist for Canada (2010, 2006, 2002), while Larocque, an all-American defenseman, was one of the last players cut from the 2010 Canada Olympic squad after she was centralized for the first part of the 2009-10 NCAA season. After returning to UMD in January, she helped lead the Bulldogs to their fifth NCAA title that March.

With current Minnesota Duluth blueliner Tea Villila set to make her first Olympics with Finland and former Bulldog netminder Jennifer Harss named to Germany's Olympic squad for the second time, UMD already has a strong connection to Sochi. Current Bulldog Marie Delarbe will also look to make the German Olympic Team, while rookie defenseman Lara Stalder is expected to represent Switzerland. UMD alum Jenni Asserholt is also set to skate with Team Sweden.