

# Western Collegiate Hockey Association

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## WCHA 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

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March 6, 2014/For Release at 12:00 pm CT

## Minnesota's Hannah Brandt Named One of Three Finalists for 2014 Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award

MADISON, Wis. – University of Minnesota sophomore forward Hannah Brandt is one of three finalists for the 2014 Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award, the USA Hockey Foundation announced today. Along with Brandt, the finalists are senior forward Jamie Lee Rattray from Clarkson University and junior forward Jillian Saulnier from Cornell University.

The Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award is bestowed annually upon the top player in NCAA Division 1 women's ice hockey and this year will be unveiled at a brunch ceremony at Oakdale Theater in Wallingford, Conn., on Saturday, March 22, as part of the 2014 NCAA Women's Frozen Four weekend hosted by Quinnipiac.

Amanda Kessel, a forward, became the second Golden Gopher all-time to win the prestigious Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award when she took home the award last season. Krissy Wendell, also a forward, was Minnesota's first Patty Kaz winner in 2005.

The recipient of the 2014 Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award will be chosen by a 13-person selection committee made up of NCAA Division 1 women's ice hockey coaches, representatives of print and broadcast media, an at-large member and a representative of USA Hockey, the national governing body for the sport of ice hockey in the United States.

The selection process commenced in February when NCAA Division 1 women's ice hockey coaches were asked to nominate players for the award. Players who were nominated by two or more coaches were then placed on an official ballot, which was sent back to the coaches to vote for the top-10 finalists, which were announced last week and included Brandt's teammate and forward Rachael Bona and Wisconsin forward Brittany Ammerman.

Brandt, a center from Vadnais Heights, Minn., leads the NCAA in scoring with 61 points (21 goals, 40 assists, also best in the NCAA). She intends to study Health and Wellness in the Inter-College Program. Brandt was recognized as a WCHA Scholar-Athlete this season. She has volunteered with the University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital, Special Olympics Minnesota, Roseville Youth Hockey Association, Minneapolis Youth Hockey Association, University of Minnesota Medical Center - Fairview Hospital, Hope Kids and the Maplewood Care Center.

"Hannah is the type of player that immediately makes others more productive," Minnesota Coach Brad Frost said. "When she is on the ice, every one of her teammates automatically becomes more dangerous because of her vision, play-making, and hockey sense. Hannah is also incredibly gifted as a goal scorer, with a shot release second to none and puck handling skills that create chaos for defensemen and goaltenders. She understands the game at the highest level and is the offensive leader of our team.

"On the defensive side of the puck, she leads our team on the penalty-kill, wins face-offs, and is often times matched against the top lines of our opponents in key defensive zone situations. Most of all, Hannah is unselfish, deflects praise and cares deeply about the success of the program and her teammates. Hannah has proven to everyone over the past two seasons that she is indeed a special student-athlete both on and off the ice."

The independent accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP, tabulated the ballots.

### Patty Kazmaier Top-Three Finalists

**Hannah Brandt, Forward, Minnesota:** Brandt leads the nation in points (61), assists (40) and assists per game (1.11). She is tied for ninth in the NCAA in goals (21) and tied for 14th in game-winning goals (4). The sophomore leads the WCHA in points (46) and assists (30) in conference play and is tied for second in goals (16). The Vadnais Heights, Minn., native has been named WCHA Offensive Player of the Week once this season and was selected as a WCHA Scholar-Athlete. Off the ice, she



volunteered with the University of Minnesota Amplatz Children’s Hospital, Special Olympics of Minnesota, Roseville Youth Hockey Association, Minneapolis Youth Hockey Association, University of Minnesota Medical Center Fairview Hospital, Hope Kids and the Maplewood Care Center.

**Jamie Lee Rattray, Forward, Clarkson:** Rattray ranks second in the NCAA in points (57) and goals (28), and is tied for seventh in assists (29). She leads the NCAA in power-play tallies (9) and is tied for sixth nationally in game-winning markers (5). The senior forward ranks first in the ECAC in points (44), and second in the league in both goals (21) and assists (23) during league play. A three-time ECAC Player of the Month (November, December, January) and three-time ECAC Player of the Week, she has also been honored as a five-time member of the ECAC Weekly Honor Roll. Rattray is an active member in the Clarkson women’s hockey team’s participation with the Lil’ Knight Club, which volunteers with youth hockey players in the area. She also helped paint the Potsdam, N.Y., Helping Hands building and assisted in fundraising for the Dalton Guyette Memorial Award, given annually to provide opportunities to less fortunate children in the area.

**Jillian Saulnier, Forward, Cornell:** Saulnier is fifth in the NCAA in points (52), second nationally in goals-per-game (0.84), tied for third in goals (26) and 12th in assists (26). The Cornell junior leads the ECAC in goals (22) and ranks second in points (43) during conference outings while sitting in a third-place tie among ECAC skaters with 21 assists. She was named ECAC Player of the Week on Feb. 11. Away from the rink, Saulnier participated in the Do it for Daron game on Jan. 31 to raise awareness for mental health issues, as well as the Athlete Ally game to show support for LGBT inclusion within sports. Additionally, she registered to donate bone marrow through Be The Match registry, helped raise money for the Cancer Resource Center of the Finger Lakes region and actively served in the Cub Club Little Sister Organization.

**About the Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award:** An award of The USA Hockey Foundation, the Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award is annually awarded to the top player in NCAA Division 1 women’s ice hockey. Selection criteria includes outstanding individual and team skills, sportsmanship, performance in the clutch, personal character, competitiveness and a love of hockey. Consideration is also given to academic achievement and civic involvement.

**About Patty Kazmaier:** The Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award is named in honor of the late Patty Kazmaier, who was a four-year varsity letter-winner and All-Ivy League defenseman at Princeton University from 1981-86. An accomplished athlete who helped the Tigers to the Ivy League Championship in three consecutive seasons (1981-84), Patty Kazmaier-Sandt died Feb. 15, 1990, at the age of 28 following a long struggle with a rare blood disease.

**Past Recipients • Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award**

Year	Name	School	Position	Hometown
1998	Brandy Fisher	University of New Hampshire	Forward	Potsdam, NY
1999	A.J. Mleczko	Harvard University	Forward	Nantucket, MA
2000	Ali Brewer	Brown University	Goaltender	Racine, WI
2001	Jennifer Botterill	Harvard University	Forward	Winnipeg, MB
2002	Brooke Whitney	Northeastern University	Forward	Snohomish, WA
2003	Jennifer Botterill	Harvard University	Forward	Winnipeg, MB
2004	Angela Ruggiero	Harvard University	Defenseman	Harper Woods, MI
2005	Krissy Wendell	University of Minnesota	Forward	Brooklyn Park, MN
2006	Sara Bauer	University of Wisconsin	Forward	St. Catharines, ON
2007	Julie Chu	Harvard University	Forward	Fairfield, CT
2008	Sarah Vaillancourt	Harvard University	Forward	Sherbrooke, QC
2009	Jessie Vetter	University of Wisconsin	Goaltender	Cottage Grove, WI
2010	Vicki Bendus	Mercyhurst College	Forward	Wasaga Beach, ON
2011	Meghan Duggan	University of Wisconsin	Forward	Danvers, MA
2012	Brianna Decker	University of Wisconsin	Forward	Dousman, WI
2013	Amanda Kessel	University of Minnesota	Forward	Madison, WI