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FOUR WCHA PLAYERS AMONG TOP-10 FINALISTS FOR 2015 PATTY KAZMAIER MEMORIAL AWARD

***North Dakota's Amsley-Benzie and Minnesota's Brandt, Cameranesi and Ramsey
in the running for college hockey's top individual honor***

EDINA, Minn. – Feb. 26, 2015 – Four Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) players are among the top-10 finalists for the 2015 Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award, as announced today by the USA Hockey Federation. The honor is bestowed annual upon the top player in NCAA Division I ice hockey and this year will be unveiled at a brunch ceremony at the McNamara Alumni Center in Minneapolis, Minn. on Sat., March 21 as part of the NCAA Women's Frozen Four weekend hosted by the University of Minnesota.

The four WCHA nominees include the lone goaltender among the top-10 finalists, one of just two defensemen and a pair of forwards:

Shelby Amsley-Benzie, Junior, Goaltender, North Dakota (Warroad, Minn.)

Leads all NCAA Division I goaltenders with a .955 save percentage, stopping 609 of 638 shots faced ... Current record is 16-6-3 and ranks third nationally with 1.15 goals-against average ... Tied for third in the nation with nine shutouts ... In conference play, leads all goaltenders in save percentage (.955), as well as goals-against average (1.17) with a 13-6-3 record ... Set new records at North Dakota for career wins, career shutouts and single-season shutouts ... On pace to set program records for single-season save percentage and goals against-average ... Four-time WCHA Defensive Player of the Week ... Volunteered at the French Fry Feed in September and with the University of North Dakota Hockey Fan Fest.

Hannah Brandt, Junior, Forward, Minnesota (Vadnais Heights, Minn.)

Ranks second among NCAA Division I skaters in points (62) and assists (35) through 34 games ... Ranks third nationally in points per game with 1.82 and is tied for third in goals with 27 ... Tied for fifth with 14 power-play points ... In conference play, ranks first in points (50), goals (21), assists (29) and points per game (1.85) through 27 games ... Ranks second in power-play points with 12 ... Only seventh Gopher and 25th NCAA player to surpass 200 career points ... WCHA Preseason Player of the Year and three-time WCHA Offensive Player of the Week ... Volunteered with Hope Kids, University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital, Windom Area Youth Hockey and Special Olympics Minnesota, as well as Gophers Strike Out Cancer, Feed My Starving Children, Maplewood Care Center and local youth hockey associations.

Dani Cameranesi, Sophomore, Forward, Minnesota (Plymouth, Minn.)

Ranks fourth among NCAA Division I skaters in points (55), is tied for seventh in goals (21), places third in assists (34) and sixth in points per game (1.62) in 34 games ... Is tied for fourth overall with six game-winning goals and is tied for eighth with 13 power-play points ... In conference play, leads all skaters with 13 power-play points and five game-winning goals ... Ranks second in the conference with 43 points, 17 goals, 26 assists and 1.59 points per game ... Four-time WCHA Offensive Player of the Week ... Volunteered with Hope Kids and Hope Day Festival, Special Olympics Minnesota, Golden Gopher Fund Thank-a-thon and the University of Minnesota Unlimited Dance Marathon.

Rachel Ramsey, Senior, Defenseman, Minnesota (Chanhassen, Minn.)

Ranks second among all NCAA Division I defenseman with 31 points and 23 assists, while sitting third with 0.89 points per game through 35 contests ... Tied for third overall with eight goals ... In conference play, leads all defensemen with 24 points, 17 assists and 0.86 points per game, while ranking second with seven goals through 28 games ... Sits ninth in the conference among all skaters with 24 points, fifth with 17 assists and 10th with 0.86 points per game ... Volunteered with Hope Kids and Hope Day Festival, University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital, Minnetonka Youth Hockey and annual Gopher Athletics food drive and toy drive.

The three finalists (to be announced March 5), including the recipient of the 2015 Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award, will be chosen by a 13-person selection committee made of NCAA Division I 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 WCHA has been honored with six recipients of the Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award: Minnesota's **Krissy Wendell** in 2005, Wisconsin's **Sara Bauer** in 2006, Wisconsin's **Jessie Vetter** in 2009, Wisconsin's **Brianna Decker** in 2012 and Minnesota's **Amanda Kessel** in 2013.

For more information, including how to buy tickets to the March 21 brunch and award ceremony, visit http://www.pattykaz.com/news_article/show/483455?referrer_id=714911.

About the Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award

An award of The USA Hockey Foundation, the Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award is annually presented to the top player in NCAA Division I 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 lead the Tigers to the Ivy League Championship in three consecutive seasons (1981-84), Patty Kazmaier-Sandt died on Feb. 15, 1990, at the age of 28 following a long struggle with a rare blood disease.

2015 WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF

Tickets for the premiere league championship in women's college hockey - the WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF - are on sale now. The 2015 WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF, which will determine the league's playoff champion and recipient of its automatic berth to the NCAA Tournament, will be held March 7 and 8 at Ralph Engelstad Arena in Grand Forks, N.D. All-tournament packages or single-session tickets can be purchased at the Ralph Engelstad Arena box office, Ticketmaster Ticket Centers, by calling 800-745-3000 or online at ticketmaster.com.

About Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA)

The women's Western Collegiate Hockey Association has won a record 14 national championships in 15 years since its inception in 1999, while producing six Patty Kazmaier Award winners, 70 All-Americans and numerous Olympic and international team members. The eight-team Division 1 conference consists of: Bemidji State University (Beavers), the University of Minnesota (Golden Gophers), the University of Minnesota Duluth (Bulldogs), Minnesota State University (Mavericks), the University of North Dakota, Ohio State University (Buckeyes), St. Cloud State University (Huskies) and the University of Wisconsin (Badgers).

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