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MINNESOTA STATE'S KATHLEEN ROGAN AND MICHIGAN TECH'S TANNER KERO NAMED WCHA POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS FOR 2015

Exemplary student-athletes will be given \$7,500 each to assist in postgraduate studies

EDINA, Minn. – May 28, 2015 – A pair of Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) student-athletes who have excelled both on and off the ice – Kathleen Rogan of Minnesota State University and Tanner Kero of Michigan Technological University – are the women's and men's WCHA Postgraduate Scholarship recipients for 2015.

Now in its 12th year, the WCHA Postgraduate Scholarship Program awards grants of \$7,500 each for postgraduate studies.

“On behalf of the entire Western Collegiate Hockey Association family, we are thrilled to recognize Kathleen Rogan and Tanner Kero as this season's Postgraduate Scholarship recipients,” said women's Commissioner Aaron Kemp and men's Commissioner Bill Robertson in a joint statement. “Kathleen and Tanner are both exemplary student-athletes who embody the true mission of the WCHA and its member institutions.

“During their time on campus, Kathleen and Tanner competed at the highest level of college hockey, maintained a standard of academic excellence and made invaluable contributions within their communities. We are inspired by their commitment, effort and dedication; we thank them for being tremendous ambassadors for the WCHA; and we wish them all the best in their future academic and personal endeavors.”

2015 WCHA Postgraduate Scholarship Recipient (Women)

Kathleen Rogan, Minnesota State University (Vancouver, British Columbia)

Rogan has been a model of perseverance, leadership and all-around excellence during her time at Minnesota State. On the ice, she finished her Mavericks career ranked third in program history with 39 collegiate goals and fourth with 82 points (in 135 games). The prolific scorer also owns the school record with three career hat tricks and owns a share of the team standard with a four-goal game. Stellar numbers indeed; however, they are even more impressive when considering the amount of games Rogan missed due to injury throughout her career.

Yet, it was the specific injury – a concussion suffered during her sophomore year and the subsequent setbacks throughout her time on campus – that helped shape Rogan's academic track and future plans. After graduating this May with a cumulative 3.65 GPA and a degree in community health education,

Rogan plans to attend an accelerated graduate nursing program to earn a Master of Nursing degree. With a nursing license, she then hopes to pursue her passion for medicine and helping others, while ultimately obtaining her nurse practitioner's license.

"I feel extremely fortunate to have been chosen for this scholarship," said Rogan. "This honor will allow me to pursue my dream of becoming a nurse. After going through my concussion issues, I felt that nursing would be something that I could do in helping others, the way nurses and other medical professionals helped me overcome my injuries. Nursing will give me the capability to be involved in a patient's treatment and recovery process.

"This is undoubtedly a big honor, with a lot of deserving people. I think the WCHA has a lot of tremendous student-athletes. This means a great deal in that I can continue my future without having to worry about the financial side."

A four-time WCHA All-Academic Team honoree, Rogan is just the ninth player in league history to earn four [Scholar-Athlete Awards](#). Her numerous volunteer activities include work with local youth hockey programs and community health-related initiatives.

Nominating Rogan for the WCHA Postgraduate Scholarship was Jeff Pribyl, Faculty Athletic Representative at Minnesota State.

2015 WCHA Postgraduate Scholarship Recipient (Men)

Tanner Kero, Michigan Technological University (Hancock, Mich.)

Kero helped return Michigan Tech to national prominence with his stellar play on the ice, while maintaining a cumulative 3.72 GPA in mathematics with a concentration in actuarial sciences. In recognition of a stellar senior campaign in which he led the WCHA in conference scoring (13-21 – 34 in 28 games) and tied for 12th nationally with 46 points in 41 games (20 goals and 26 assists), Kero was a Hobey Baker Award top-10 finalist, was named the 2014-15 WCHA Player of the Year, the WCHA Outstanding Student-Athlete of the Year and to the All-WCHA First Team, and also earned Senior CLASS First Team All-America status.

After signing a contract with the NHL's Chicago Blackhawks in April and recording eight points in 12 games (including playoffs) with the AHL's Rockford IceHogs, Kero will pursue his dreams of playing professional hockey – while anticipating the opportunity to someday move toward his goal of obtaining a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree.

"I am very happy and honored to receive this scholarship," said Kero. "I am fortunate to have the chance to continue playing hockey; however, this is never a certainty. Coming out of Michigan Tech, I have learned how important education is. The opportunity to pursue a MBA will allow me to further apply what I learned during my undergraduate studies, enhance my knowledge in various business-related areas and expand my future employment and personal options. The college hockey experience has been second-to-none; what I learned in the classroom and overall as a person will help me so much in the future."

The Huskies' assistant captain as a junior and co-captain as a senior, Kero tallied 111 points in 153 games in a Michigan Tech uniform (55 goals and 56 assists). He was also a three-time WCHA All-Academic Team honoree and was thrice recognized with the [WCHA Scholar-Athlete Award](#). Kero's volunteer work includes efforts with the Koaches Kids reading program for elementary schools, local youth hockey programs, and numerous community service projects and service days.

Nominating Kero for the WCHA Postgraduate Scholarship was Bill Sproule, Faculty Athletic Representative at Michigan Tech.

About the women's Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA)

The women's Western Collegiate Hockey Association has won a record 15 national championships in 16 years since its inception in 1999, while producing six Patty Kazmaier Award winners, 80 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). For more information, visit wcha.com.

About the men's 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).

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