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FIVE WCHA PLAYERS SELECTED DURING INAUGURAL NWHL DRAFT

*Seniors-to-be from Minnesota and Wisconsin chosen by
National Women's Hockey League franchises*

EDINA, Minn. – June 20, 2015 – Five players from the women's Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) – all hailing from the league's 2015 Frozen Four representatives, Minnesota and Wisconsin – were selected this afternoon in the inaugural National Women's Hockey League (NWHL) Draft. All players who have completed their junior seasons at a four-year accredited college were eligible for selection in the draft; all those selected during today's draft will complete their senior seasons at the collegiate level before entering the professional ranks.

NWHL Draft selection order was determined by a lottery, with the league's four flagship franchises choosing five players each during a five-round, 20-player draft in the following order: New York Riveters, Connecticut Whale, Boston Pride and Buffalo Beauts. Below is a full list of WCHA players chosen:

- Hannah Brandt, F, University of Minnesota (Connecticut Whale, 1st Round – 2nd pick overall)
- Courtney Burke, D, University of Wisconsin (Buffalo Beauts, 1st Round – 4th pick overall)
- Milica McMillen, D, University of Minnesota (Connecticut Whale, 3rd Round – 10th pick overall)
- Amanda Leveille, G, University of Minnesota (Buffalo Beauts, 3rd Round – 12th pick overall)
- Maryanne Menefee, F, University of Minnesota (Connecticut Whale, 4th Round – 14th pick overall)

The first round was comprised of two WCHA student-athletes and two selections from Hockey East. Defending national champion Minnesota had four players chosen, matching Boston College for the most of any school in the country.

"We are proud of these exceptional student-athletes and excited they will be afforded the opportunity to continue playing the sport they love at a professional level after their collegiate careers," said Commissioner Aaron Kemp. "That the conference had five players selected speaks to the world class talent of the WCHA. We look forward to watching these women compete during the 2015-16 WCHA season and beyond."

Per the NWHL, after completing her college career, a drafted player can then sign with the team that selected her. Or, she can opt into free agency, and sign with any of the other three teams. A player who is eligible to be selected and is not drafted becomes a free agent after completing her senior year.

The inaugural [NWHL](#) season, which will coincide with the draftees' senior collegiate campaigns, will take place from October to March, including preseason, an All-Star weekend and playoffs. The puck is set to drop for the regular season on October 17, 2015 and playoffs will conclude the season in March 2015.

Each team will have two organized practices per week and play one game each weekend (nine home games and nine away games).

About the 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, 76 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 www.wcha.com.

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