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PRESS RELEASE

Joe Bertagna
 Commissioner
 Hockey East Association
 591 North Ave – #2
 Wakefield, MA 01880
 Office: (781) 245-2122
 Cell: (603) 512-1166
 jbertagna@HockeyEastOnline.com

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LEAGUE ANNOUNCES PRO AMBITIONS ALL-ROOKIE TEAM ~ Seven Individual Awards Also Announced ~

Wakefield, Mass. - The Hockey East Association announced its 2013-2014 Pro Ambitions All-Rookie Team on Wednesday afternoon, in addition to announcing seven individual awards and one team award.

Boston College goalie Thatcher Demko (San Diego, Calif.), Vermont forward Mario Puskarich (Fort Walton Beach, Fla.), and Northeastern forward Mike Szmatala (Commerce, Mich.) were all unanimous selections for the All-Rookie Team. Demko is also this season's Stop It Goaltending Champion, leading all Hockey East netminders with a 1.35 GAA and .948 save percentage in conference play, with a 9-1-1 record and two shutouts. Puskarich led all freshmen in league play in goals (13), points (19), and game-winning goals (4), while also leading all Hockey East skaters in shots per game (4.25). Szmatala leads all HEA rookies in scoring with 39 points in 37 games, after beginning his college career with 15 points during a nine-game point streak.

On defense, UMass Lowell's Michael Kapla (Eau Claire, Wis.) and Boston College's Steve Santini (Mahopac, N.Y.) were chosen as the top freshman blueliners. Kapla has recorded 16 points (2g, 14a) in 37 games, with 43 blocked shots and a plus-12 rating. Santini leads BC in blocked shots with 56, to go along with 2-8-10 totals and a plus-25 rating through 32 games.

At forward, Puskarich and Szmatala are joined by Boston University's Robbie Baillargeon (Enfield, Conn.) and Notre Dame's Vince Hinostroza (Bartlett, Ill.) as All-Rookie selections. Baillargeon led the Terriers in scoring this season, with 10 goals and 17 assists for 27 points, becoming the second straight freshman to lead BU in scoring after Danny O'Regan (Needham, Mass.) did so last year. Hinostroza was named Pro Ambitions Rookie of the Week four times, and was also the Pro Ambitions Rookie of the Month in October.

Several award winners were also announced, with the Charlie Holt Sportsmanship Award was given to Dick Umile's UNH Wildcats for the fifth consecutive season, as they set a league record with an average of just 7.8 penalty minutes per game in league play. Providence College junior forward Ross Mauermann (Janesville, Wis.) was selected as the recipient of the Len Ceglarski Individual Sportsmanship Award. Mauermann, the Friars' leading scorer for the third straight year, was assessed four minor penalties in 20 league games. Mauermann is also sharing the Gladiator Best Defensive Forward Award with Boston College senior forward Bill Arnold (Needham, Mass.). Arnold tied for the team lead in plus/minus for the Eagles, with a rating of plus-34.

Northeastern junior defenseman Josh Manson (Prince Albert, Sask.) was named the Old Time Hockey Best Defensive Defenseman. The Huskies' captain has a team-high plus-12 rating, playing an instrumental role in NU's ten-win improvement from last season. Manson's teammate, redshirt-junior goalie Clay Witt (Brandon, Fla.) earned the Three Stars Award, earning first star seven times in 19 league games played.

Boston College junior forward Johnny Gaudreau (Carneys Point, N.J.) is the Squad Locker Scoring Champion for the second-straight season, with 18 goals and 18 assists for 36 points in 20 Hockey East games. Gaudreau had nine more points than his nearest competitor, linemate Kevin Hayes (Dorchester, Mass.).

2013-14 Pro Ambitions All-Rookie Team

G: Thatcher Demko, Boston College (unanimous)
 D: Michael Kapla, UMass Lowell
 D: Steve Santini, Boston College
 F: Robbie Baillargeon, Boston University
 F: Vince Hinostroza, Notre Dame
 F: Mario Puskarich, Vermont (unanimous)
 F: Mike Szmatala, Northeastern (unanimous)



Squad Locker Scoring Champion

Johnny Gaudreau, Boston College (18-18-36)
 Runner-up: Kevin Hayes, Boston College (11-16-27)



Stop It Goaltending Champion

Thatcher Demko, Boston College (1.35 GAA, .948 Sv%)
 Runner-up: Steven Summerhays (1.89 GAA, .931 Sv%)



Charlie Holt Team Sportsmanship Award

New Hampshire (7.8 PIM/G)
 Runner-up: Providence (9.8 PIM/G)



Len Ceglarski Individual Sportsmanship Award

Ross Mauermann, Providence
 Runners-up: Bryan Rust, Notre Dame
 Conor Sheary, Massachusetts

Old Time Hockey Best Defensive Defenseman

Josh Manson, Northeastern
 Runner-up: Stephen Johns, Notre Dame

Gladiator Co-Best Defensive Forwards

Bill Arnold, Boston College
 Ross Mauermann, Providence
 Third Place: Jeff Costello, Notre Dame

Three Stars Award

Clay Witt, Northeastern
 Runner-up: Johnny Gaudreau, Boston College

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