

# **Hockey Commissioners Association** For Immediate Release:

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## Union's Mike Vecchione Wins National College Hockey Player of the Month **New Hampshire's Patrick Grasso Earns Rookie of the Month Honors**

WAKEFIELD, Mass. - Union senior forward Mike Vecchione (Saugus, Mass.) who led the Dutchmen to a 6-1-1 record and a No. 20 national ranking last month was named the Hockey Commissioners' Association National Division 1 Player of the Month for October.

The 5-10, 195-pound captain finished the month as the Division I leader in goals (10) and multi-point games (5), ranking tied for first in both points (16) and points per game (2.00), tied for second in power-play goals (4), second in face-off wins (134) and tied for fourth in plus/minus (8).

The Saugus, Massachusetts native produced at least one point in seven of eight games in Oct. and won 68.7% of his face-offs (134-195). He scored a career-high four goals and tied a career-high with five points in a 5-2 win against Niagara on Oct. 22, finishing the weekend with eight points (6g, 2a), which earned him both ECAC Hockey Player of the Week honors and NCAA Division 1 First Star of the Week (Oct. 25). On Oct. 7 he produced two points (1G, 1A) in a 4-3 win at then-No. 11 ranked Michigan on the season-opener. On Oct. 21 he led the Dutchmen to a 5-2 win in their home opening game at Messa Rink, scoring two goals and adding one assist. He also potted the overtime winner in a 3-2 victory against Route 7 rival Rensselaer on Oct. 29 and assisted on the game-winning goal the previous evening earning him a spot on the league's weekly honor roll.

Vecchione, who earns his first-career HCA National Monthly Award, currently ranks third in Union's Division I era in career points (130), is the Division I active career leader in points and assists (78) and sits tied for third in goals (52).

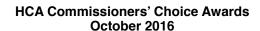
The HCA National Rookie of the Month for October is Patrick Grasso (Ankeny, Iowa) from the University of New Hampshire. Grasso, a 5-7, 175-pound forward, began his collegiate rookie campaign by collecting 10 points on eight goals and two assists in the month of October, good enough to lead all Hockey East rookies in points and goals. In just six games on the month, Grasso leads the freshman class in power-play goals (5) and power-play points (6). His eight goals also

rank second-most in the nation, and is the highest total by an NCAA rookie. In Hockey East conference play, his four goals and five points were good to lead the league.

The Ankeny, Iowa native recorded three multi-point efforts on the month, including a four-goal outing on October 29 against Merrimack. In that contest, he netted three goals in a span of 3:56 while also recorded the game-winning goal. The night prior, he set up the decisive tally in a 4-1 win over UMass.

Grasso has helped New Hampshire to a 3-3-0 start, including winning their last two. The victory over Merrimack also marked New Hampshire head coach Richard Umile's 350th career win in Hockey East play.

Currently, Grasso sits in second in the NCAA in goal scoring with eight strikes and 13th overall with his 10 points. The firstyear forward also has yet to take a penalty through his first six games in a New Hampshire Wildcat uniform.



**National Player of the Month** Mike Vecchione, Union, ECAC Hockey

**National Rookie of the Month** Patrick Grasso, New Hampshire, Hockey East

### **Honorable Mention Player of the Month**

Mitch Hults, Lake Superior State, WCHA Brock Boeser, North Dakota, NCHC Nick Schilkey, Ohio State, Big Ten Parker Gahagen, Army West Point, AHA Anders Bjork, Notre Dame, HEA

## **Honorable Mention Rookie of the Month**

Craig Pefley, Ferris State, WCHA Henrik Borgstrom, Denver, NCHC Tanner Laczynski, Ohio State, Big Ten Kris Spriggs, Niagara, AHA Devin Brosseau, Clarkson, ECAC Hockey













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