



Hockey Commissioners Association

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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 first-year forward also has yet to take a penalty through his first six games in a New Hampshire Wildcat uniform.



HCA Commissioners' Choice Awards October 2016

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

**Bob DeGregorio, Atlantic Hockey • Jim Delany, Big Ten
Steve Hagwell, ECAC Hockey • Joe Bertagna, Hockey East
Josh Fenton, NCHC • Bill Robertson, WCHA**