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PRESS RELEASE

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THREE WHEA TEAMS TAKE HOME MAJOR HARDWARE

~Thibault named Player of the Year; Wakefield earns ROY; Durocher named Top Coach~

STORRS, Conn. -- Sophomore forward Dominique Thibault (L'Orignal, Ont.) of the University of Connecticut Huskies was named TPS Hockey/WHEA Player of the Year on Friday night at the WHEA Championship banquet in Storrs, Conn., as announced by Hockey East Commissioner Joe Bertagna. New Hampshire freshman forward Jenn Wakefield (Pickering, Ont.) earned the 2008 Mission Rookie of the Year Award, while Terriers' head coach Brian Durocher took home Coach of the Year honors for the first time in his coaching career.

Thibault, who finished second in the league in scoring with 30 points (15g,15a) in league play, edged out UNH junior forward Sam Faber (Mt. Sinai, N.Y.) for top player honors. Thibault led UConn Huskies to a new program high of 22 wins this season, as they began the season with a nine-game unbeaten streak and were ranked as high as No. 8 in the national polls. Thibault started off the season strong, accruing 21 points (11g,10a) in the first 10 games. She also recorded a Huskies' single-season school record with 47 points (23g,24a) in her sophomore campaign. She was named TPS Hockey Player of the Week four times during the season, including three consecutive weeks in October.

Wakefield, who was voted unanimously by the league coaches for the top rookie award, finished the season as the WHEA Scoring Champion with 33 points in league play. She was named Mission Rookie of the Week four times this season and she was named Mission Rookie of the Month in October and February. She was one of two members of the Mission All-Rookie Team that were unanimous selections. She ranked third on the Wildcats' roster with 41 total points. She is second on the team with a +33 plus/minus rating. She enters the WHEA Championships on a six-game point-streak. Wakefield has recorded a point in 21 of 29 games, while recording 11 multiple point performances. UNH's top rookie has a point in nine of the last 10 games with 19 points (11g,8a) during that time.

Coach Durocher led the Terriers to their first ever WHEA playoff berth in just their third season as a conference member. He helped guide BU to 15 wins on the season while coaching First-Team All-Star goaltender Allyse Wilcox (Grand Blanc, Mich.) and Second-Team All-Star forward Melissa Anderson (Langley, B.C.). BU won the season series with BC and also played UNH and Harvard, the top-two ranked teams in the nation tough in those games.

UNH freshman netminder Kayley Herman (Weyburn, Sask.) was crowned the ITECH Goaltending Champion, sporting a league-record 0.83 GAA in league play. She also compiled a 17-0-1 record with a .944 save percentage in conference contests. Northeastern rookie goalie Leah Sulyma (Inuvik, N.W.T.) earned the "Humboldt Storage and Moving" Three Stars Award, given annually to the WHEA player that accumulates the most points during the regular-season schedule. She earned a Star of the Game in 13 of the 21 league contests and was named the First Star of the Game on five occasions. Sulyma and Herman were named to the Mission All-Rookie Team for their efforts this season. Sulyma notched seven wins, a .913 save percentage and a Huskies' freshman record with 939 saves in her first year with NU.

Senior forward Jaclyn Hawkins (Manotick, Ont.) of UConn earned the WHEA Sportsmanship Award given annually to the league player who has consistently played at a high level, while maintaining high standard of conduct both on and off the ice. She amassed only six penalty minutes in league play this season. Hawkins was a Second-Team All-Star, as she totaled 28 points (11g,17a) in league play in her final season at UConn.

Providence senior forward Cherie Hendrickson (Boxford, Mass.) earned the 2008 Turfer Athletic Award, presented annually to an individual, coach or team who best represents the core values of Turfer Athletics; tenacity, commitment and innovation. Hendrickson has continued to make self sacrifices for the betterment of her teammates, while remaining a tireless worker, making positive contributions to and for her team.

TPS Hockey Player of the Year
Dominique Thibault, Connecticut
(So., F, L'Orignal, Ont.)

Runner-up: Sam Faber, New Hampshire
(Jr., F, Mt. Sinai, N.Y.)



Mission Rookie of the Year
Jenn Wakefield, New Hampshire
(Fr., F, Pickering, Ont.)

Runner-up: Leah Sulyma, Northeastern
(Fr., G, Inuvik, N.W.T.)



Coach of the Year
Brian Durocher, Boston University
Runner-up: Brian McCloskey, New Hampshire
Heather Linstad, Connecticut



Turfer Athletic Award
Cherie Hendrickson, Providence
(Sr., F, Boxford, Mass.)

Hockey East Scoring Champion
Jenn Wakefield, New Hampshire (33 points)
(Fr., F; Pickering, Ont.)

Runner-up: Sam Faber, New Hampshire (32 points)
(Jr., F, Mt. Sinai, N.Y.)



ITECH Goaltending Champion
Kayley Herman, New Hampshire (0.83 GAA)
(Fr., G, Weyburn, Sask.)

Runner-up: Allyse Wilcox, Boston U. (1.76 GAA)
(Jr., G, Grand Blanc, Mich.)



Humboldt Storage and Moving
"Three Stars" Award
Leah Sulyma, Northeastern
(Fr., G, Inuvik, N.W.T.)

Runners-up:
Sam Faber, New Hampshire (Jr., F, Mt. Sinai, N.Y.)
Kelli Stack, Boston College (So., F, Brooklyn Heights, Ohio)

Sportsmanship Award
Jadyn Hawkins, Connecticut
(Sr., F, Manotick, Ont.)
Runner-up: Deb Spillane, Boston College
(Sr., F, Franklin, Mass.)