



# PRESS RELEASE

**PETER SOURIS**  
**Director of Public Relations**  
**Hockey East Association**  
591 North Ave – #2  
Wakefield, MA 01880  
Office: (781) 245-2122  
Cell: (603) 512-1166  
psouris@HockeyEastOnline.com

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## **NINE WHEA PLAYERS NOMINATED FOR PATTY KAZMAIER AWARD**

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** - A total of 43 players have been nominated for the 2009 Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award, presented annually to the top player in NCAA Division I women's ice hockey. Nominations for the honor, which is presented by the USA Hockey Foundation, were made by Division I head coaches. The list is highlighted by nine current players from the Women's Hockey East Association, which was announced on Friday, February 13.

The WHEA list includes; BC's Kelli Stack (Brooklyn Heights, Ohio) and Molly Schaus (Natick, Mass.), BU's Melissa Anderson (Langley, B.C.), UConn's Cristin Allen (Pickering, Ont.) and Dominique Thibault (L'Original, Ont.), Maine's Genevieve Turgeon (Lac Beauport, Que.) and Vanessa Vani (Mississauga, Ont.). Kacey Bellamy (Westfield, Mass.) and Jenn Wakefield (Pickering, Ont.) will represent UNH among the 43 nominees.

Among the 43 nominated players are four women who have previously been top-10 finalists. A total of 24 schools are represented among this year's nominees, including players from each of the four NCAA Division I leagues in the country.

The NCAA Division I women's ice hockey coaches will next select the top-10 finalists from among the group of 43 with the announcement taking place March 2. Then a 13-member selection committee will select the three finalists (announced March 10), as well as the award recipient.

The 2009 Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award, which takes place in conjunction with the NCAA Women's Frozen Four, will be presented at a brunch ceremony on Sat., March 21, at the Royal Sonesta Hotel Boston at 10 a.m. EST.

Tickets to the 2009 Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award ceremony may be purchased at [PattyKaz.com](http://PattyKaz.com) or by calling 719-538-1184. Individual seats are \$85, while tables of 10 are available for \$800.

The Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award is named in honor of the late Patty Kazmaier, who was a four-year varsity letter-winner and All-Ivy League defenseman for Princeton University from 1981-86. An accomplished athlete who helped lead the Tigers to the Ivy League Championship in three consecutive seasons (1981-84), Patty Kazmaier-Sandt died on Feb. 15, 1990, at the age of 28, following a long struggle with a rare blood disease. To sign up for the Kaz Connection, a free monthly e-newsletter dedicated solely to the Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award, please visit [pattykaz.com](http://pattykaz.com).

The Women's Hockey East Association is an eight-team, Division-I college hockey conference which began play in 2002-2003, with offices based in Wakefield, Mass. The league also sponsors an 10 team men's league which began play in 1984-1985.

### **WHEA PLAYERS NOMINATED FOR THE 2009 PATTY KAZMAIER AWARD**

<b>Player</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Cl.</b>	<b>Pos.</b>
Cristin Allen	UConn	Jr.	D
Melissa Anderson	BU	Jr.	F
Kacey Bellamy	UNH	Sr.	D
Molly Schaus	BC	Jr.	D
Kelli Stack	BC	Jr.	F
Dominique Thibault	UConn	Jr.	F
Genevieve Turgeon	Maine	Sr.	G
Vanessa Vani	Maine	Sr.	F
Jenn Wakefield	UNH	So.	F

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