

**\*\*\*July 5, 2006 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\***

### **MWEHL Girls Announce Fifth Straight Record Number to College Hockey Programs**

The Midwest Elite Hockey League Girls Division announced today that a record 83 seniors from its 2005-06 teams have committed to Division I and Division III college hockey programs throughout the U.S. With an additional 5 Seniors headed to play at schools with ACHA Division I club programs, and several players committing to other college sports, over 90 MWEHL Girls Division Seniors will be continuing their academic and athletic careers at the collegiate level.

After a highly successful fifth season, in which the league's 19U teams once again made up half of the field at the 2005-06 USA Hockey National Tournament, the league's announcement brings to nearly 350 the number of players sent by its Girls Division to the nation's best colleges and women's college hockey programs. Players who have announced their college choices for the 2006-07 NCAA season are:

#### **COLORADO SELECT**

The USA Hockey Rocky Mountain District Champion Colorado Select will see four Seniors move east to continue their hockey and academic careers. Two Select will play Division I, with Jackie Koetteritz heading to Union College of the East Coast Athletic Conference, and her team mate Evan Minnick, who will pack her bags for ECAC rival Colgate University. At the Division III level two Select will attend "Little Ivy" schools, with Kate Dennett becoming one of several new MWEHL Girls Division student-athletes at Amherst College of the New England Small College Athletic Conference, and Shana Natelson moves to Maine to enroll and play at NESCAC rival Bowdoin College.

In other Select news, Senior Abby Rehberger has also committed for softball to the University of North Dakota.

#### **HONEYBAKED**

HoneyBaked, the USA Hockey Michigan District Champion, will see six of its 2005-06 seniors continue their college and hockey careers at the Division I level. Heading east to the ECAC are Laura Danforth, who will enroll and play at Cornell University, and Brenna Malnar who will attend and skate for Union College. Ohio State University of the Western Collegiate Hockey Conference will welcome Rachel Davis to its program, while College Hockey America's Mercyhurst College will open its doors to Lexie Hoffmyer. Heading further east will be Kelli Stack, who will enroll at the Hockey East Conference's Boston College, and Justine Cigna, who will skate for Hockey East rival the University of Connecticut.

#### **LANSING CAPITAL CENTRE PRIDE**

The Midwest Elite Hockey League's Lansing Capital Centre Pride, host of the league's very successful post-season playoffs, bid farewell to four 2005-06 seniors as they continue their hockey and academic careers at the collegiate level. At Division I, Alison Maly will pack her bags for a move to Niagara University of the College Hockey America conference. At Division III, three of her team mates will move to schools in the Northern Collegiate Hockey Conference. Ashley Rumsey will head west to suit up for the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Katelyn McLean will head north to enroll and play at Northern Michigan's Finlandia University, and Megan Patrick will head to Chicago to attend the academically rigorous Lake Forest College and play for the Forrester program coached by former MWEHL coach Carisa Zaban.

#### **LITTLE CAESARS**

Little Caesars bids farewell to four seniors moving to the Division I, Division III or college club levels. Christina Jablonski will head east to play both hockey and lacrosse for Niagara University in College Hockey America. Two of her team mates will head west to join schools in the Northern Collegiate Hockey Conference, with Jacklyn Widmaier heading west to become another Forrester at Lake Forest College, and D'Andra Phillips heading to Wisconsin to enroll and tend net for the Pointers program at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Finally, Michelle Crechiolo will stay a bit closer to home, as she joins the Spartans' ACHA Division I club program at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan.

#### **MADISON CAPITOLS**

The Madison Capitols will see five of its 2005-06 Seniors continue their careers at the collegiate level. Senior Danie Vaness will head east to Maine to attend one of the Little Ivy schools, Bowdoin College of the New England Small College Athletic Conference. Three of her team mates will also continue their hockey and academic careers in Wisconsin, as Colleen Crowley, Hannah Kinney and Krista Milliken head north to skate and study at another Northern Collegiate Hockey Association entry, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Moving a bit further north and west will also be Jackie Cameron, who will study and play for the ACHA Division I club program at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

#### **MINNESOTA THOROUGHBREDS**

The Minnesota Thoroughbreds once again have announced an outstanding college line-up for its nine graduating 2005-06 Seniors, who will head in all directions from the Twin Cities to eight Division I and III schools. One of its Seniors will see Ivy this fall as Kelly McGinty heads to New York to play for the ECAC's Cornell University. Another ECAC Division I entry, Union College, will open its doors to Lauren Muske. The Western Collegiate Hockey Conference will welcome three Thoroughbreds, as Sam Turner and Alex Williams move west to join the University of North Dakota and team mate Jessica Ptachick stays in Minnesota to attend and play for Bemidji State University. Two additional Thoroughbreds will head east to the CHA, with Mallory Yorkson packing her bags for Niagara University and Brandi Frankie heading to Detroit to suit up and play at Wayne State University. The ECAC East's Division III St. Anselm College program will be the

destination for Brittney Gould, while Gustavus Adolphus College of the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference will welcome Alisha Java.

#### NORTH AMERICAN HOCKEY ACADEMY

The North American Hockey Academy announced the college hockey destinations of eleven seniors, starting with Sydney Arbelbide, Katy Applin and Ginny Berg, all of whom are headed to Northeastern University of the Hockey East Conference. Another Hockey East school, the University of Connecticut, is the destination of Tiffany Good, and team mate Amy Uber will see ivy as she prepares to attend and play at the ECAC's Harvard University. The Western Collegiate Hockey Conference will welcome five additional NAHA Seniors, as Kelli Blankenship moves west to the Twin Cities to attend and play at the University of Minnesota, Katie Kemmerer moves to St. Cloud State University, Jessie Knight will play at Minnesota State University, Kyla Sanders will move to Wisconsin to attend and play for the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Jade Schirado moves to the University of North Dakota. At the Division III level, Liezl McLean-Shinaman will pack her bags for New Hampshire and St. Anselm College of the ECAC East Conference.

#### OHIO FLAMES

The Ohio Flames were the youngest team in the 2005-06 MWEHL 19U Division. Despite their young line-up, they once again were USA Hockey Mid-American District Champions and National Tournament participants, and at season's end bid farewell to their four Seniors who will continue their hockey and academic careers at the collegiate level. Staying close to home is Michele Tonnessen, who will enroll and play at Ohio State University of the Western Collegiate Hockey Conference. In the College Hockey America conference, Robert Morris University's Colonials program will welcome Lisa Bac. At the Division III level, Carolyn Thiess will become another new Forrester as she enrolls and plays at the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association's Lake Forest College. In addition, Lindsey Holton will move to Marist College in New York.

#### SHATTUCK ST. MARY'S

Shattuck-St. Mary's, which captured the 2005-06 National Tournament at 19U, will send eight seniors to Division I and III schools for the 2006-07 season. Going to the East Coast Athletic Conference are Amanda Rucinski who will attend and play at Union College, Allysen Weidner who is headed east to Rhone Polytechnic Institute for its first year at Division I, and Gabby Mazade, who will head to upstate New York to attend and play for Cornell University. Staying closer to home are Danielle Hirsch, who heads to the WCHA's St. Cloud State University, Emily Kranz, scheduled to enroll and play at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Sarah Murray, who goes a bit further north to study and play at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, and Jennifer Porter, who will go west to play for the University of North Dakota. At the Division III level, Senior Jessica Edward will become one of the newest Pointers at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

In other news, Natalia Mendoza will be one of two 2005-06 MWEHL Seniors to attend a service academy, as she prepares for a move to West Point to become a cadet at the U.S. Military Academy.

#### TEAM ILLINOIS

Team Illinois will say goodbye to eight Seniors heading to collegiate hockey programs. Going east to the ECAC East conference are Amy Snickenberger and Andrea Fuwa, who will enroll and play at Little Ivy school Colby College. Staying closer to home are netminder Ryann McCarthy and defender Courtney Bean, who will head to Lake Forest College of the NCHA. Cassie Stoner and Jillian Korbas will become new members of the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, with Stoner moving to attend and play at St. Mary's University, and Korbas packing her bags for Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN. At the ACHA club level, Ilyse Zack heads to the far west to attend and play at the University of Colorado, while Phoebe Amberg goes north to attend and play at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

In other news, Team Illinois announced the second MWEHL 2005-06 senior to attend a service academy, as Tori Wiedmeier shoves off to Annapolis, MD to become a new midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy. In addition, Senior Emily Sherman is headed south to Duke University to study and play on the school's women's lacrosse team. Finally, Seniors Katie Osikowicz and Nicole Sassorossi will both head west to attend Kansas University.

#### VICTORY HONDA

The Victory Honda club of Detroit will send five of its 2005-06 seniors to continue their hockey and academic careers at Division I and III, and ACHA collegiate programs for 2006-07. The first is net minder Dana Timm, who will head east for school and hockey at the CHA's Robert Morris University in Pittsburgh. Three additional Honda Seniors, Carly Akers, Jen Kelly and Kendra Benson, will prepare for a move to the Michigan Upper Peninsula, as they move to the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association's Finlandia University in Hancock, Michigan. Staying a bit closer to home will be Sara Bennett, who will move to Kalamazoo to attend Western Michigan University and play on the school's ACHA club team.

#### WASHINGTON PRIDE

The USA Hockey Southeast District Champion Washington Pride will send eight 2005-06 seniors to the next level, to pursue their hockey and academic careers at Division I and III schools. Senior Emily Tiernan will see Ivy in 2006-07 as she heads to Princeton University in New Jersey. In addition, headed to the ECAC is goaltender Maxie Weisz, who will enroll and play at St. Lawrence University. Two other Pride Seniors will be headed to the ECAC, as Lindsay Berman prepares for a move to Northeastern University, and Megan Keever heads to cross-town rival Boston College. The CHA's Niagara University will open its doors to the Pride's Jill Zelonis, and Marjie Jones will head to independent Sacred Heart University in Connecticut. At Division III, the Pride's Kate Pokrass and Marjorie Billings will both head to Little Ivy schools, with Pokrass suiting up for Bowdoin College and Billings headed to D-III National Champion Middlebury College.

#### WISCONSIN WILD

The USA Hockey Central District Champion Wisconsin Wild will send twelve 2005-06 Seniors to Division I and III schools. The Wild list begins with Cori Bassett and Sue Schmitz, who will both attend Ivy schools as Bassett joins the ECAC's Harvard University and Schmitz heads to New Hampshire's Dartmouth College. Heading west to enroll and play for the WCHA's University of North Dakota are Ashley Paulson and Jody Karnik, and Lexy Parenteau, who will move to northern Minnesota to play for Bemidji State University. In the CHA, Robert Morris University will welcome Heather Rossi to its Pittsburgh campus. At Division III, two of the Wild graduates will head to Little Ivy schools, as Michelle McGann and Kirsten Dier prepare to study and play at the NESCAC's Amherst College. In addition, two of the Wild will head to the ECAC East, as Kelley Prom moves to New York and the Rochester Institute of Technology, and Amanda Alioto packs her bags for New Hampshire's New England College. Headed to the ECAC West is Jamie Kivi, who will attend and play for Elmira College, while Leah Shapiro will stay in Wisconsin to attend and play at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Commenting on this year's Senior college commitments, Girls Division Chair Greg Thiess said, "we are very proud of the academic and hockey accomplishments of this year's MWEHL graduates, who are once again headed to top schools and college hockey programs throughout the U.S. As we close our fifth season of MWEHL Girls Division hockey, we have seen nearly 350 of our Senior players exhibit outstanding skills and a tireless work ethic as they excel both in the classroom and on the ice. These players demonstrate the best of what it means to be an NCAA student-athlete, and we are confident they will continue their successes at the collegiate level".

The MWEHL wishes all of its student athletes success both in the classroom and on the ice for the upcoming 2006-2007 season.