



PRESS RELEASE

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UNH'S BUTLER AND MAINE'S NYQUIST NAMED HOBEY HAT TRICK FINALISTS **~Hockey East has boasted five of the last six Hat Trick Finalists~**

Wakefield, Mass. - The Hobey Baker Memorial Award Foundation on Wednesday announced the three Hobey Hat Trick finalists for the 2010 Hobey Baker Memorial Award, honoring college hockey's top player, which included two student-athletes from the Hockey East Association in senior forward Bobby Butler (Marlboro, Mass.) from the University of New Hampshire and sophomore forward Gustav Nyquist (Malmo, Sweden) from the University of Maine. Blake Geoffrion, a senior forward from University of Wisconsin was named the third finalist.

Hockey East has claimed five of the last six Hobey Hat Trick finalists in the last two years with Boston University's Matt Gilroy and Colin Wilson, along with Northeastern's Brad Thiessen making up the Hobey Hat Trick in 2009.

The three finalists were selected from the initial list of Top Ten candidates by the 24-member Selection Committee and an additional round of online fan balloting to determine this year's Hobey Baker winner. Criteria for the award includes: strength of character on and off the ice, displaying outstanding skills in all phases of the game, sportsmanship and scholastic achievements.

Butler has already been named the Walter Brown recipient as the best American-born college player in New England. He has evolved into a prolific goal scorer leading the nation with 29 goals in 39 games this past season. He chipped in with 24 assists to total 53 points, tied for second best in the country. The Wildcat captain tied for the conference scoring lead in Hockey East tallying 41 total points and led the circuit in goals, helping UNH to the regular season title. His efforts earned him Player of the Year honors in Hockey East and a berth as a First Team Hockey East All-Star. Butler is a Health Management Major and recently signed contract with the Ottawa Senators. His outreach into the community is extensive, as Butler volunteers for every assignment involving the hockey program, has attended a local middle school every week for the past three years working with special needs students, has mentored two children (one who lost his father to cancer and another child battling leukemia) and volunteers with his teammates in the Reading Across America program at area schools.

Nyquist was a dynamic force in Hockey East this season as he still leads the nation in scoring by a comfortable eight-point margin. Completing the season with 61 points in 39 games on 19 goals and 42 assists, Nyquist topped the country in both points and assists. In conference games, Maine ended the season tied for third place while Nyquist tied fellow Hobey Hat Trick finalist Bobby Butler for first in Hockey East scoring and topped the circuit in assists in league play. A fourth round draft pick of Detroit, Nyquist was runner-up for Hockey East Player of the Year and was selected as a unanimous First Team Hockey East All-Star. The Finance Major is on the Dean's List at Maine. He volunteers off-ice time coaching at youth hockey clinics.

This year's Hobey Baker Award winner will be announced Friday, April 9, 2010 from Ford Field in Detroit, Mich. during the NCAA Frozen Four. The 30th annual announcement will be aired live on ESPNU at 7:00 p.m., ET.

Seven former Hockey East student-athletes have been named the recipient of the award, most recently in 2009 with defenseman Matt Gilroy from Boston University. The other winners include: David Emma, Boston College (1991), Scott Pellerin, Maine (1992), Paul Kariya, Maine (1993), Chris Drury, Boston University (1998), Jason Krog, New Hampshire (1999) and Mike Mottau, Boston College (2000).

The Hockey East Association is a 10-team Division I college men's hockey conference and an eight-team Division I women's league which began play in 2002-03. Founded in 1983, the men's league has won six NCAA championships in the past 17 years.

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