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PRESS RELEASE



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KAREN THATCHER WINS PRESTIGIOUS SARAH DEVENS AWARD ***Providence College captain was consistent leader in scoring, sportsmanship***

Providence College senior forward Karen Thatcher has been chosen as the recipient of the 2005-06 Sarah Devens Award, which is presented annually to that player that best demonstrates leadership and commitment both on and off the ice, and now carries with it a \$10,000 educational grant for the winner. The award is named in honor of former Dartmouth tri-sport captain Sarah Devens, who died tragically in 1995 just prior to her senior year. All female student-athletes in Hockey East and the ECACHL are eligible.

Thatcher transferred to Providence following a solid all-rookie season at nearby Brown University in 2002-03. She tied for fourth on the Friar team in scoring as a sophomore, contributing 10 goals and 27 points in 33 games, while being whistled for just two minor penalties. She was subsequently chosen as Hockey East's sportsmanship award winner, an honor that she has repeated twice as one of the most respectful and respected players.

As a junior at Providence, she exploded for 25 goals and 58 points, and shared the crown of Hockey East Player of the Year with UNH's Stephanie Jones. As a senior, Thatcher led the Friars in scoring again and was one of 10 finalists for the Patty Kazmaier Award, presented annually to the top player in women's college ice hockey. She was one of only three seniors and five upperclassmen on a team dominated by younger players, and provided the perfect role model as captain, playing in all situations, even while injured, and mentoring the development of her teammates.

She finishes her stellar career with 167 points in 132 games played, having helped steer Providence College to Hockey East tournament championships in both 2004 and 2005.

Thatcher has also exemplified excellence in the classroom, as demonstrated by her 3.85 cumulative GPA as a Biology major.

Thatcher will be presented with the Sarah Devens Award at the New England Hockey Writers' Banquet this Thursday, April 13, at the Prince Restaurant in Saugus, Mass.

SARAH DEVENS AWARD WINNERS

1996-97
Kathryn Waldo, Northeastern

1997-98
Sarah Hood, Dartmouth

1998-99
Jaime Totten, Northeastern

1999-2000
Carrie Jokiel, New Hampshire

2000-01
Christina Sorbara, Brown

2001-02
Dianna Bell, Cornell

2002-03
Rachel Barrie, St. Lawrence

2003-04
Lindsay Charlebois, St. Lawrence

2004-05
Nicole Corriero, Harvard

2005-06
Karen Thatcher, Providence

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