



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FIFTH ANNUAL PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM ANNOUNCED Michigan State's Lerg and Notre Dame's Condra Top the Balloting

FARMINGTON HILLS, Mich. – The Central Collegiate Hockey Association today announced the 2008-09 Preseason All-Conference Team, as selected by the 12 head coaches.

Michigan State senior goaltender Jeff Lerg and Notre Dame senior forward Erik Condra each garnered nine first-place votes to tie for the lead in balloting with 51 points apiece. Lerg, who this year becomes just the second goalie in team history to captain the Spartans, is a member of the Preseason All-Conference First Team for a third consecutive season. Condra led the Fighting Irish in scoring with 38 points last season after being named a member of the Preseason All-Conference Second Team.

Condra is joined on the First Team by Notre Dame teammate and defenseman Kyle Lawson, who is making his second straight appearance on the squad. Michigan also sports a pair of players on the First Team in forward Aaron Palushaj, who led all rookies in overall scoring last season, and defenseman Mark Mitera, the Wolverine captain and NHL first-round draft pick of Anaheim. Miami senior forward Justin Mercier, the RedHawks top returning goal scorer, completes the First Team, which for a second straight year has representation from four CCHA teams.

Three members of the 2008 CCHA All-Rookie Team graduated to the Preseason All-Conference Second Team; Michigan State defenseman Jeff Petry, Miami forward Carter Camper and Northern Michigan forward Mark Olver. Notre Dame junior Ryan Thang, who wound up tied in voting with Olver to place four forwards on the Second Team for a second consecutive year, is making a return appearance on the team. Irish sophomore Ian Cole landed the other defenseman's position on the Second Team which is rounded out by a pair of seniors, Michigan goalie Billy Sauer and Michigan State forward Tim Crowder.

Three defensemen received Honorable Mention including Northern Michigan's Erik Gustafsson, Nebraska-Omaha's Eddie Del Grosso and Ferris State's Zach Redmond. Jacob Cepis of Bowling Green and Nick Sirota of Northern Michigan earned Honorable Mentions at the forward position while Notre Dame senior goaltender Jordan Pearce also earned the distinction.

Five schools are represented on the first and second teams while three others are represented with honorable mentions.

Voting was conducted among the 12 head coaches in the CCHA. Coaches could not vote for their own players.

2008-09 CCHA Preseason All-Conference Teams

PRESEASON FIRST TEAM

Position	Name, Year, School	First	Totals
Forward	Erik Condra, SR, Notre Dame	9	51
Forward	Aaron Palushaj, SO, Michigan	8	49
Forward	Justin Mercier, SR, Miami	6	40
Defense	Mark Mitera, SR, Michigan	7	45
Defense	Kyle Lawson, JR, Notre Dame	5	38
Goaltender	Jeff Lerg, SR, Michigan State	9	51

PRESEASON SECOND TEAM

Position	Name, Year, School	First	Totals
Forward	Carter Camper, SO, Miami	3	34
Forward	Tim Crowder, SR, Michigan State	5	27
Forward	Mark Olver, SO, Northern Michigan	2	25
Forward	Ryan Thang, JR, Notre Dame	2	25
Defense	Jeff Petry, SO, Michigan State	3	31
Defense	Ian Cole, SO, Notre Dame	2	24
Goaltender	Billy Sauer, SR, Michigan	2	26

Vote Values: 1st place = 5, 2nd place = 3, 3rd place = 1

Honorable Mention (next six point totals, regardless of position with first-team votes in parentheses): Erik Gustafsson, SO, Northern Michigan, D, (1) 22; Eddie Del Grosso, JR, Nebraska-Omaha, D, (3) 20; Jordan Pearce, SR, Notre Dame, G, (1) 20; Jacob Cepis, SO, Bowling Green, F, 18; Nick Sirota, SR, Northern Michigan, F, (1) 17; Zach Redmond, SO, Ferris State, D, 12.

— CCHA —

Statistical Breakdown of Selections

2007-08 FINAL CONFERENCE SCORING

Rk.	Name-School	Pos.	CL	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	PP	SH	GW	+/-	NHL
9.	Nick Sirota-NMU	F	JR	28	15	12	27	10-20	5	4	2	+6	
	Tim Crowder-MSU	F	JR	28	12	15	27	12-24	3	0	3	+2	PIT
	Aaron Palushaj-UM	F	FR	28	6	21	27	7-14	1	0	1	+7	STL
13.	Justin Mercier-MIA	F	JR	28	17	9	26	13-26	8	2	5	+13	COL
17.	Erik Condra-ND	F	JR	28	11	13	24	8-16	5	2	2	-1	OTT
	Carter Camper-MIA	F	FR	20	10	14	24	5-10	4	1	1	+11	
	Jacob Cepis-NMU	F	FR	27	10	14	24	4-8	2	0	1	-7	
22.	Mark Olver-NMU	F	FR	24	13	10	23	14-39	6	0	2	+4	COL
27.	Eddie Del Grosso-UNO	D	SO	28	7	14	21	12-24	3	1	2	+1	
41.	Erik Gustafsson-NMU	D	FR	28	0	17	17	6-12	0	0	0	+17	
48.	Ryan Thang-ND	F	SO	28	10	6	16	15-30	5	1	2	+2	NSH
	Jeff Petry-MSU	D	FR	28	2	14	16	10-20	0	0	0	+9	EDM
55.	Zach Redmond-FSU	D	FR	28	4	11	15	7-25	0	1	1	+9	ATL
74.	Kyle Lawson-ND	D	SO	26	2	11	13	11-22	1	0	2	+2	CAR
	Mark Mitera-UM	D	JR	28	1	12	13	18-44	1	0	0	+17	ANA
102.	Ian Cole-ND	D	FR	26	3	7	10	9-18	2	0	1	-5	STL

FINAL CONFERENCE GOALTENDING (minimum 30% team min.)

	CL	GP	GA	Minutes	GAA	W	L	T	SO	SV	SPct	NHL	
1.	Jordan Pearce-ND	JR	26	46	1533:43	1.80	13	8	4	1	546	.922	
3.	Jeff Lerg-MSU	JR	28	55	1666:59	1.98	19	6	3	4	786	.935	
4.	Billy Sauer-UM	JR	23	49	1390:32	2.11	17	3	3	1	547	.918	COL

2007-08 OVERALL SCORING

Rk.	Name-School	Pos.	CL	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	PP	SH	GW	+/-	NHL
4.	Aaron Palushaj-UM	F	FR	43	10	34	44	11-22	2	0	2	+11	STL
7.	Carter Camper-MIA	F	FR	33	15	26	41	10-20	5	2	1	+19	
8.	Justin Mercier-MIA	F	JR	42	25	15	40	21-42	10	3	7	+24	COL
13.	Mark Olver-NMU	F	FR	39	21	17	38	24-59	8	1	4	+9	COL
	Erik Condra-ND	F	JR	41	15	23	38	13-26	6	3	4	+6	OTT
	Tim Crowder-MSU	F	JR	42	15	23	38	18-36	5	0	3	+1	PIT
19.	Nick Sirota-NMU	F	JR	43	18	18	36	15-30	5	4	2	+5	
25.	Ryan Thang-ND	F	SO	47	18	14	32	24-48	7	2	5	+7	NSH
27.	Jacob Cepis-BGSU	F	FR	38	15	16	31	9-18	4	0	3	-9	
35.	Erik Gustafsson-NMU	D	FR	44	0	27	27	6-12	0	0	0	+16	
40.	Kyle Lawson-ND	D	SO	45	5	21	26	18-36	2	0	2	+13	CAR
52.	Eddie Del Grosso-UNO	D	SO	40	7	17	24	21-53	3	1	2	-11	
	Jeff Petry-MSU	D	FR	42	3	21	24	14-28	1	0	0	+3	EDM
58.	Mark Mitera-UM	D	JR	43	2	21	23	26-60	1	0	0	+30	ANA
72.	Ian Cole-ND	D	FR	43	8	12	20	20-40	4	0	2	-7	STL
77.	Zach Redmond-FSU	D	FR	37	6	13	19	11-33	1	1	1	+15	ATL

OVERALL GOALTENDING (minimum 30% team min.)

	CL	GP	GA	Minutes	GAA	W	L	T	SO	SV	SPct	NHL	
2.	Billy Sauer-UM	JR	38	74	2271:35	1.95	30	4	3	4	905	.924	COL
3.	Jordan Pearce-ND	JR	43	87	2558:00	2.04	23	15	4	2	925	.914	
4.	Jeff Lerg-MSU	JR	41	91	2464:14	2.22	24	12	5	4	1136	.926	