



CENTRAL COLLEGIATE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

23995 Freeway Park Drive, Suite 201

Farmington Hills, MI 48335

Phone: (248) 888-0600 • Fax: (248) 888-0664

ccha@ccha.com • www.ccha.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 10, 2003

CONTACT: Fred Pletsch  
(248) 888-0600

## MICHIGAN LEADS THE BAUER/CCHA ALL-ROOKIE TEAM WITH THREE PICKS

**FARMINGTON HILLS, MI** – Three Michigan players are among the seven freshmen from five schools named to the 2002-03 Bauer/Central Collegiate Hockey Association All-Rookie Team by vote of the conference head coaches. It marks the fifth time in 15 years that at least three Wolverines have been honored. The team, which includes seven members for the fourth time because of a tie in balloting at the forward position, will be honored at the 2003 CCHA Awards, Wednesday, March 19, at the Fox Theatre in Detroit.

### 2002-03 Bauer/CCHA All-Rookie Team

Vince Bellissimo	Forward	Western Michigan	Toronto, ON
David Booth	Forward	Michigan State	Washington, MI
Dirk Southern	Forward	Northern Michigan	Winnipeg, MB
Jeff Tambellini	Forward	Michigan	Port Moody, BC
Andy Greene	Defenseman	Miami	Trenton, MI
Danny Richmond	Defenseman	Michigan	Buffalo Grove, IL
Al Montoya	Goaltender	Michigan	Glenview, IL

**Vince Bellissimo**, a 20-year old forward from Toronto, Ont., and Western Michigan University was the CCHA's second-leading freshman goal scorer this season with 15 goals in conference play. The 2002 Florida Panthers draft pick, placed second on his team in scoring with 26 points, and was the league's third-highest freshman point producer.

**David Booth**, an 18-year old forward from Washington, Mich., and Michigan State University emerged as the second-highest scoring rookie in conference play with 10 goals and 27 points in 28 games. Booth, who is ranked 71st in the MidTerm Rankings by NHL Central Scouting, finished fourth in the Spartans' team scoring and notched the lone hat trick recorded by a CCHA freshman this season.

**Dirk Southern**, a 19-year old forward from Winnipeg, Man., and Northern Michigan University led all league freshmen with 19 assists and added seven goals in 28 games. His 26 points on the season tied him with Bellissimo for third place in the rookie scoring race.

**Jeff Tambellini**, an 18-year old forward from Port Moody, B.C., and the University of Michigan tied for second in the conference with 18 goals, including five game winners which were fourth-best in the conference. Tambellini, who is ranked 37th in the MidTerm Rankings by NHL Central Scouting, is the first rookie to lead the Wolverines in goal scoring since the 1988-89 season.

**Andy Greene**, a 20-year old defenseman from Trenton, Mich., is the first RedHawk to be named to the All-Rookie Team since defenseman Josh Mizerek in 1997. Greene scored two goals and added 10 assists while his plus/minus ranking of +8 tied him for the Miami team lead in that department.

**Danny Richmond**, an 18-year old defenseman from Buffalo Grove, Ill., and the University of Michigan led all CCHA freshmen rearguards with 14 assists and also scored one goal. Richmond, whose plus/minus rating of +9 is tied for the best mark in the league for rookie defensemen, is rated 48th in the MidTerm Rankings by NHL Central Scouting.

**Al Montoya**, an 18-year old goalie from Glenview, Ill., and the University of Michigan rounds out the Wolverines' contingent. Montoya, the youngest player in Division 1 college hockey, finished second in the league with 18 victories and sported the conference's fifth-best goals-against average at 2.47. NHL Central Scouting rates Montoya the second-best goaltender available among North American prospects.

### Honorable mentions

Forward — Ryan Kesler, Ohio State. Defense — Jeremy Scherlinck, FSU; Matt Davis, Miami; Juha Alen, Jamie Milam, Nathan Oystreich, Northern Michigan; Nate Guenin, Ohio State.

— CCHA —