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### 2006-07 CANADA WEST HOCKEY ALL-STAR TEAMS ANNOUNCED

Three teams dominate the 2006-07 Canada West Hockey all-star teams that were announced by the conference on Wednesday February 21, 2007.

Leading the way is the University of Alberta Golden Bears with seven players selected to the conference's three post-season teams, while the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns and University of Saskatchewan Huskies each had four players selected. The University of British Columbia Thunderbirds followed with two selections and the University of Regina Cougars had one selection.

The Canada West Hockey first and second all-star teams and all-freshman team were selected by a vote of the seven Canada West Hockey coaches.

Four of the seven Alberta players selected were named to the Canada West Hockey first all-star team, while three Golden Bears earned a position on the conference's all-freshman team. Lethbridge accounted for the other two positions on the first all-star team and the Pronghorns had two players selected to the all-freshman squad.

Alberta's four first team selections marks the sixth time since 1984-85 that one team has had four-or-more players named to the first team. It is the fifth time that the Golden Bears have accomplished the feat as they had four first team selections in 1987-88, 1999-00, 2000-01, when they had five first team selections and 2005-06. The University of Calgary Dinos had four first team selections in 1996-97.

Aaron Sorochan of the Alberta Golden Bears was named the first team goaltender and was joined by teammates Harlan Anderson on defence and forwards Ben Kilgour and Dylan Stanley. Lethbridge team captain Jay Langager was the second defenceman named to the first team and freshman Mark Shefchyk rounded out the forward line.

Sorochan led Canada West Hockey in both goals-against average and save percentage with a 2.03 GAA and .913 save percentage in 23 games. He also led the conference in wins (16), games (23), minutes played (1398:20), shots against (700) and saves (639).

The defensive tandem of Langager and Anderson were the top two scoring defencemen in Canada West Hockey. Langager topped all blueliners with 3-26-29 in 27 games and Anderson was a point behind in second place with 8-20-28 in 28 games.

The forward line was composed of three of the conference's top six scorers. Ben Kilgour of Alberta, who was the top vote getter among forwards, finished third in the conference scoring race with 15-20-35 in 27 games. He was joined by Lethbridge's Shefchyk, who won the conference scoring title with 45 points and teammate Stanley, who ended the season in sixth place with 12-22-34.

Shefchyk concluded his first collegiate season with 14 goals and a conference-leading 31 assists for 45 points in 28 games to win the Dave "Sweeney" Schriner Trophy. He is the second Lethbridge player to win the conference scoring title and only the third freshman since 1993-94.

Saskatchewan's Jeff Harvey, who tied for the goaltending position on the 2005-06 first all-star team with Sorochan, earned the second team goaltending position, while Brad Zanon of the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds and Stephen Mann of Saskatchewan were the two defencemen selected. The forward line is composed of Mason Wallin and Brent Twordik of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina Cougars Jason Weitzel.

Zanon led conference defencemen with 12 goals and finished third in scoring among blueliners with 24 points, while Weitzel topped Canada West Hockey with a season-high 21 goals and tied for third place in the scoring race with 21-14-35 in 27 games.

Sorochan is the only player to make a repeat appearance on the conference's first all-star team, having been selected to the team in 2005-06. Seven other players join Sorochan as repeat selections, including Saskatchewan's Twordik, who is making his third appearance on the conference's post-season all-star teams. Twordik was previously selected to the Canada West Hockey first all-star team in 2006 and the second team in 2005.

Lethbridge's Shefchyk earned his second post-season all-star team berth by being selected to the conference's all-freshman team. The first-year forward was the only freshman to earn a position on either the first or second all-star team. He is joined by UBC goaltender Francois Thuot and defencemen Kyle Fecho of Alberta and Devin Featherstone of Lethbridge. Joining Lukin on the forward line are Alberta's Ian McDonald and Dale Mahovksy.

Shefchyk becomes the 10<sup>th</sup> player in conference history to be named to both the Canada West Hockey first all-star team and all-freshman team in the same season.

To be eligible for freshman status, a player must be 21-years-old or younger as of December 31, 2006 and must not have played intercollegiate or professional hockey at any level prior to participating at his CIS school.

#### 2006-07 CANADA WEST HOCKEY ALL-STAR TEAMS

<u>FIRST TEAM</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>CLASS</u>	<u>HOMETOWN</u>	<u>GP</u>	<u>GAA.</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>SVS</u>		<u>SO</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>
							<u>PCT.</u>	<u>PT</u>		
Aaron Sorochan, Alberta	Goaltender	Sophomore	Edmonton, AB	23	2.62		.913	0		16-7-0
Jay Langager, Lethbridge	Defence	5 YR Senior	Loreburn, SK	27	3	26	29			19-38
Harlan Anderson, Alberta	Defence	4 YR Senior	Vernon, BC	28	8	20	28			22-44
Ben Kilgour, Alberta	Forward	Junior	Leduc, AB	27	15	20	35			9-26
Mark Shefchyk, Lethbridge	Forward	Freshman	Winnipeg, MB	28	14	31	45			1-2
Dylan Stanley, Alberta	Forward	Sophomore	Edmonton, AB	28	12	22	34			18-36

<u>SECOND TEAM</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>CLASS</u>	<u>HOMETOWN</u>	<u>GP</u>	<u>GAA.</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>SVS</u>		<u>SO</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>
							<u>PCT.</u>	<u>PT</u>		
Jeff Harvey, Saskatchewan	Goaltender	Sophomore	St. Albert, AB	22	2.74		.907	3		14-8-0
Brad Zanon, British Columbia	Defence	Junior	Port Moody, BC	28	12	12	24			27-54
Stephen Mann, Saskatchewan	Defence	Junior	Lac Vert, SK	18	4	13	17			8-16
Mason Wallin, Saskatchewan	Forward	4 YR Senior	Prince Albert, SK	23	13	17	30			15-49
Jason Weitzel, Regina	Forward	5 YR Senior	Balgonie, SK	27	21	14	35			37-90
Brent Twordik, Saskatchewan	Forward	4 YR Senior	Saskatoon, SK	28	5	19	24			15-46

<u>ALL-FRESHMAN TEAM</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>CLASS</u>	<u>HOMETOWN</u>	<u>GP</u>	<u>GAA.</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>SVS</u>		<u>SO</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>
							<u>PCT.</u>	<u>PT</u>		
Francois Thuot, British Columbia	Goaltender	Freshman	Montreal, QC	18	3.13		.901	1		9-8-0
Kyle Fecho, Alberta	Defence	Freshman	Hanna, AB	28	2	17	19			14-36
Devin Featherstone, Lethbridge	Defence	Freshman	Calgary, AB	28	6	12	18			36-96
Mark Shefchyk, Lethbridge	Forward	Freshman	Winnipeg, MB	28	14	31	45			1-2
Ian McDonald, Alberta	Forward	Freshman	Edmonton, AB	28	10	17	27			8-16
Dale Mahovsky, Alberta	Forward	Freshman	Fort Saskatchewan, AB	26	11	10	21			8-16

#### CANADA WEST HOCKEY MULTIPLE ALL-STAR SELECTIONS

<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>2006-07 SELECTION</u>	<u>PREVIOUS SELECTION(S)</u>
Aaron Sorochan (G)	Alberta	1 <sup>st</sup> Team	1 <sup>st</sup> Team: 2006; AF Team: 2006
Jay Langager (D)	Lethbridge	1 <sup>st</sup> Team	2 <sup>nd</sup> Team: 2006
Harlan Anderson (D)	Alberta	1 <sup>st</sup> Team	AF Team: 2004
Dylan Stanley (F)	Alberta	1 <sup>st</sup> Team	AF Team: 2006
Jeff Harvey (G)	Saskatchewan	2 <sup>nd</sup> Team	1 <sup>st</sup> Team: 2006
Stephen Mann (D)	Saskatchewan	2 <sup>nd</sup> Team	AF Team: 2005
Mason Wallin (F)	Saskatchewan	2 <sup>nd</sup> Team	AF Team: 2004
Brent Twordik (F)	Saskatchewan	2 <sup>nd</sup> Team	1 <sup>st</sup> Team: 2006; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Team: 2005

NOTE: Players are listed by number of votes received.

#### PLAYERS WHO WERE SELECTED TO BOTH THE CANADA WEST HOCKEY 1<sup>ST</sup> ALL-STAR & ALL-FRESHMAN TEAMS IN THE SAME SEASON

<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>SEASON</u>	<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>SEASON</u>
Kerry Biette (F), Manitoba	1994-95	Jeff Neufeld (F), Lethbridge	2001-02
Jason Becker (D), Saskatchewan	1995-96	Ken McKay (F), Calgary	2001-02
Eric Schneider (F), Calgary	1998-99	Dean Beuker (F), Saskatchewan	2002-03
Clayton Pool (G), Alberta	1999-00	Aaron Sorochan (G), Alberta	2005-06
Marc Gaudet (F), Manitoba	2000-01	Mark Shefchyk (F), Lethbridge	2006-07

## GREG GATTO NAMED CANADA WEST HOCKEY COACH-OF-THE-YEAR

Greg Gatto, head coach of the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns, has been named the Canada West Hockey Coach-of-the-Year for 2006-07.

In his second season behind the Lethbridge bench, Gatto has turned the Pronghorns' program around. In 2004-05, his first season with the team, the Pronghorns finished the season fourth in the Canada West Hockey Mountain Division standings with a 4-20-4 record, ten points out of a playoff position. This season, Lethbridge returned to the post-season for the first time since 2003-04 and the Pronghorns will host their first playoff series since 1993-94 when they host the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds in the Canada West Hockey Mountain Division semi-final at Nicholas Sheran Arena on Friday-Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>.

Gatto led the Pronghorns to a second place finish in the Mountain Division with a 14-9-5 record this season. Entering the Canada West Hockey playoffs, Lethbridge has an overall record of 15-19-0 (.441).

With 33 points in Canada West Hockey play this season, the Pronghorns posted a 21-point improvement and increased their win total by 10. The 21-point improvement is the second largest in conference history, one shy of the 22-point improvement that the University of Calgary Dinosaurs enjoyed between 1984-85 (8-16-0 = 16 PTS) and 1985-86 (19-9-0 = 28 PTS).

Most of the Pronghorns' improvement has come in the season's second half. Lethbridge was 5-6-3 (.464) at the Christmas break and was two points out of a playoff position after the seasons' first 14 games. In the season's second half, Gatto has the Pronghorns playing at a .714 clip with a 9-3-2 record. Lethbridge began the second half winning only one of their first four games and seeing its record slide to 6-8-4. Since January 19<sup>th</sup>, the Pronghorns have been red hot, winning eight of their last 10 games with an 8-1-1 mark. Three of the Pronghorns' second half wins have come against the second ranked Alberta Golden Bears, including a two-game sweep at Clare Drake Arena in Edmonton. Eight of the Pronghorns wins came at home as they posted the third best record on home ice this season with an 8-4-2 record.

Since being named the Pronghorns' eighth coach on July 15, 2005, Gatto has compiled an overall record of 22-46-4 (.333) and a Canada West Hockey conference record of 18-34-4 (.357) in two seasons. The first Pronghorns' alumnus to be named head coach, he is the second Lethbridge coach to win the Canada West Hockey Coach-of-the-Year Award. Gatto joins Detroit Red Wings head coach Mike Babcock, who won the award in 1993-94 when he guided the Pronghorns to the CIS University Cup national championship.

A former captain of the Pronghorns, Gatto played five seasons at Lethbridge between 1992-93 and 1996-97. In his first season as a Pronghorn he was named to the CIAU All-Freshman team and was named the Canada West Hockey Freshman-of-the-Year. After helping Lethbridge win its only University Cup title in 1993-94, he was named to both the CIS All-Canadian and CIS Academic All-Canadian teams in 1995-96. The fourth leading scorer in Lethbridge history, Gatto scored 177 points in 135 conference games with 83 goals and 94 assists.

After graduating from Lethbridge, Gatto played six seasons of professional hockey with stops in England, Colorado and Texas before beginning his coaching career in the Central Hockey League. He has been behind the bench of the San Antonio Iguanas, Odessa Jackalopes (2003-04) and Austin Ice Bats (2004-05).

Gatto finished first in the voting conducted by the seven Canada West Hockey coaches. He earned seven points from three first place votes and one second place vote, finishing three points ahead of both Eric Thurston of the University of Alberta Golden Bears and Dave Adolph of the University of Saskatchewan Huskies.

### CANADA WEST HOCKEY COACH OF THE YEAR

1979-80	Dave King, Saskatchewan	1993-94	Mike Babcock, Lethbridge
1980-81	George Kingston, Calgary	1994-95	Mike Coflin, UBC
1981-82	No Selection	1995-96	Mike Sirant, Manitoba
1982-83	No Selection	1996-97	Tim Bothwell, Calgary
1983-84	Bill Moores, Alberta	1997-98	Dave Adolph, Saskatchewan
1984-85	Clare Drake, Alberta	1998-99	Rob Daum, Alberta
1985-86	George Kingston, Calgary	1999-00	Dave Adolph, Saskatchewan
1986-87	Clare Drake, Alberta	2000-01	Rob Daum, Alberta
1987-88	Clare Drake, Alberta	2001-02	Rob Daum, Alberta
1988-89	Clare Drake, Alberta	2002-03	Rob Daum, Alberta
1989-90	Bill Moores, Alberta	2003-04	Rob Daum, Alberta
1990-91	Bill Moores, Alberta	2004-05	Mike Sirant, Manitoba
1991-92	Bill Liskowich, Regina	2005-06	Eric Thurston, Alberta
1992-93	Bill Moores, Alberta	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>Greg Gatto, Lethbridge</b>