

2006-07 Canada West Men's Hockey All-Stars Announced

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by Steve Knowles, Canada West Men's Hockey Office

Archive photo by Uwe Welz: A season after winning Rookie of the Year, Alberta goaltender Aaron Sorochan has been named the First Team All-Star goaltender

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" Schriener 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 10th 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.