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Longstreth/NFHCA Division III Regional Players of the Year Announced

CHANDLER, Ariz. – Six student-athletes were selected as the Longstreth/National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA) Division III Regional Players of the Year, it was announced on Wednesday.

The Regional Player of the Year honors went to Kenyon junior goalkeeper Sarah Speroff (Great Lakes), Babson sophomore midfielder Ashley Tango (New England East), Trinity (Conn.) junior forward Kelcie Finn (New England West), Rochester senior midfielder Sayaka Abe (North Atlantic), The College of New Jersey senior defender Lexi Smith (South Atlantic) and Muhlenberg senior forward Rachel Strow (South).

Smith repeated as the South Atlantic Region Player of the Year, while Tango and Abe were each the second straight honorees from their institution.

More information on each of the Longstreth/NFHCA Division III Regional Player of the Year winners is included below.

Great Lakes Region Player of the Year: Sarah Speroff, Kenyon (Jr., GK)

Speroff has served as the starting goalkeeper throughout her three seasons at Kenyon, compiling a 48-13 record with a school-record tying 25 career shutouts. She posted a 15-7 record with a 1.24 goals against average and .845 save percentage in 2016, with the latter mark leading the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) and ranking fifth in the nation. Speroff made 153 saves while playing all but 14 minutes on the season for the Ladies. She was a first-team All-Great Lakes Region pick for the third time in as many seasons, and was also named the NCAC Defensive Player of the Year while leading her squad to the conference tournament title and to the second round of the NCAA Division III Field Hockey Championship.

New England East Region Player of the Year: Ashley Tango, Babson (So., M)

Tango scored 19 goals and added 13 assists to lead the Beavers with 51 points, and was named the Offensive Player of the year in the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC). She led the team with five game-winning goals, tied for 10th in the nation in assists and scored at least one point in 18 of 22 contests for the Beavers. She became just the third player in school history to surpass 50 points for a season. Tango was selected to the NFHCA All-New England East Region squad for the second year in a row and helped her team reach the national semifinals.

New England West Region Player of the Year: Kelcie Finn, Trinity (Jr., F)

The Player of the Year in the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC), Finn led the nation with 27 goals and a school-record 68 points, with her 14 assists standing fifth in the country. Finn also set school records with 138 shots and nine game-winning goals as she helped Trinity to a 13-5 record that included a trip to the second round of the NCAA Division III Field Hockey Championship. Finn also made the New England West All-Region team for the third time in as many seasons at Trinity.

North Atlantic Region Player of the Year: Sayaka Abe, Rochester (Sr., M)

Abe was selected as the Defensive Player of the Year in the Liberty League and also received first-team All-North Atlantic Region recognition for the second straight year in 2016. She finished the year with 22 points on two goals and a school-record 18 assists and ends her career ranked third in school history in games played (84) and assists (27). Rochester advanced to the second round of the NCAA Division III Field Hockey Championship.

South Atlantic Region Player of the Year: Lexi Smith, The College of New Jersey (Sr., D)

Smith is named South Atlantic Region Player of the Year for the second season in a row after another outstanding campaign where she finished second on her team with 18 goals and led the squad with 14 assists and 50 points. She also earned the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) Defensive Player of the Year honor for the second straight season by helping her team allow only 1.10 goals per game and registering nine defensive saves on the season. TCNJ made it to the second round of the NCAA Division III Field Hockey Championship.

South Region Player of the Year: Rachel Strow, Muhlenberg (Sr., F)

Strow put together a spectacular senior season as she set school records with 21 goals and 49 points for Muhlenberg. She ranked in the top 15 nationally in goals scored and broke a 54-year school record by scoring a goal in 11 consecutive games. Strow was selected as the Player of the Year in the Centennial Conference, and Muhlenberg set a school record with 18 wins on the season.

