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Longstreth/NFHCA Division I Regional Players of the Year Announced

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

The Regional Player of the Year honors went to Delaware sophomore midfielder Greta Nauck (Mid-Atlantic), Connecticut junior forward Charlotte Veitner (Mideast), Albany senior midfielder Paula Heuser (Northeast), Virginia junior midfielder Tara Vittese (South) and Iowa senior forward Natalie Cafone (West).

Heuser claimed the Longstreth/NFHCA Northeast Region Player of the Year award for the third season in a row, while Vittese won the honor in the South Region for the second straight year. Veitner's honor marked the fourth straight season that a Connecticut student-athlete won the Mideast Region Player of the Year award.

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

Mid-Atlantic Region Player of the Year: Greta Nauck, Delaware (So., M)

Nauck led the Blue Hens to their first national championship as she captured the Player of the Year award in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA). Nauck placed first nationally in both goals per game (1.32) and points per game (3.04) and set school records with overall totals of 33 goals and 76 points. She scored the game-winning goal in 10 of Delaware's 23 victories, and came through in the clutch in two huge circumstances with the overtime game-winner in a 3-2 victory at Duke in the second round of the NCAA Division I Field Hockey Championship on Nov. 13 and the national championship-winning goal with under six minutes to play for a 3-2 victory in the title game against North Carolina on Nov. 20.

Mideast Region Player of the Year: Charlotte Veitner, Connecticut (Jr., F)

Veitner is already the all-time points leader for the Huskies, and ranked third in per game average for goals (1.13) and second in points (2.96) this season. She led the Huskies in scoring with 27 goals and 17 assists to reach 71 points on the season. Veitner scored the game-winning goal against Syracuse in double overtime in the second round of the NCAA Division I Field Hockey Championship on Nov. 13 to send the Huskies to the national semifinals. She was named to the All-Mideast Region squad for the third year in a row and repeated as the Big East Offensive Player of the Year.

Northeast Region Player of the Year: Paula Heuser, Albany (Sr., M)

Heuser claims the Northeast Region Player of the Year award for the third straight season as she capped her career at Albany with another outstanding year. She was named America East Midfielder of the Year in 2016 as she led the Great Danes in both goals (17) and assists (13) to total 47 points on the season. Heuser finished in the top 20 nationally in goals, assists and points per game. She earned All-Northeast Region status in each of her four seasons at Albany.

South Region Player of the Year: Tara Vittese, Virginia (Jr., M)

Vittese repeats as the South Region Player of the Year after also being named the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Offensive Player of the Year. She finished the season with 15 goals and 11 assists for 41 points, and ranked fourth in the conference with 1.71 points per game. Vittese makes the first-team All-South Region list for the third year in a row and has career totals of 47 goals and 37 assists through her first three seasons. She helped the Cavaliers advance to the second round of the NCAA Division I Field Hockey Championship and claim their first-ever ACC Championship.

West Region Player of the Year: Natalie Cafone, Iowa (Sr., F)

Cafone led the Big Ten with 20 goals and also added eight assists for a team-high 48 points, which ranked second in the conference. She earned her third first-team All-West Region honor and second Big Ten Offensive Player of the Year award in 2016. Cafone concludes an outstanding career as she finishes her time at Iowa with 68 goals and 23 assists for 159 points.

