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Front Rush/NFHCA Collegiate National Coaches of the Year Announced

NAPLES, Fla. – The three national championship winners were honored when the Front Rush/NFHCA Collegiate National Coaches of the Year were announced on Thursday as part of the 2017 NFHCA Annual Convention Awards Dinner at the Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club.

Delaware’s Rolf van de Kerkhof won the honor in Division I, while Shippensburg’s Bertie Landes was selected in Division II and Messiah’s Brooke Good claimed the award in Division III.

Van de Kerkhof led Delaware to its first-ever national championship as the Blue Hens defeated North Carolina 3-2 in the title game on Nov. 20. Delaware finished with a 23-2 record and won its final 19 games capped by the national championship run. Van de Kerkhof was named the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Coach of the Year after leading the Blue Hens to regular-season and tournament titles.

Landes led the Raiders to their second national championship in the past four years as Shippensburg finished with a 20-3 overall record. The Raiders won their three games in the NCAA Division I Field Hockey Championship by a goal apiece, topping fellow Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) members East Stroudsburg and Millersville before defeating LIU Post by a 2-1 final in the title game on Nov. 20. Shippensburg also finished the regular season as the No. 1-ranked team in the Penn Monto/NFHCA Division II Coaches Poll.

Messiah won its first-ever national championship in dramatic fashion, beating Tufts in a shootout in the title game on Nov. 20 after the teams had played to a scoreless draw. The national championship was the culmination of an outstanding season for the Falcons, who finished 22-1 and won all of their contests against Division III competition with the only loss coming in the season opener against Division II national champion Shippensburg. Messiah won the regular-season and tournament title in the Middle Atlantic Conferences (MAC) Commonwealth and defeated Keene State, Middlebury and Babson in their

NCAA Tournament run before the title-game victory over Tufts. Good was named the MAC Commonwealth Coach of the Year for the second straight season and Messiah was ranked No. 1 in the Penn Monto/NFHCA Division III Coaches Poll for the final seven weeks of the regular season.

