



PHOTO COURTESY OF NORTHEASTERN  
COYNE: NU senior wins fine 'consolation prize' in Kazmaier Award.

## NU's Coyne cops Kazmaier Award

By KAT HASENAUER CORNETTA

NEW CASTLE, N.H. — What a difference a week makes.

Last Saturday, Kendall Coyne sat disappointed after her Northeastern women's hockey team lost to Boston College in the Huskies' first NCAA tournament quarterfinal appearance. Just making it to the postseason was the goal for the Huskies, but ever the competitor, Coyne wanted more.

Yesterday morning, the senior forward got the caper her stellar season deserved. Coyne was named the winner of the Patty Kazmaier Award, considered the Heisman Trophy of women's hockey.

"It's a surreal moment," said a shocked Coyne.

Coyne topped her Eagles foe and 2014 U.S. Olympic teammate Alex Carpenter, who won the honor last year, and Wisconsin goaltender Ann-Renee Desbiens for the 19th annual award. She is the second Husky to win the Kazmaier, following in the footsteps of 2002

recipient Brooke Whitney.

Her candidacy was nothing short of impressive. The national leader in goal-scoring, Coyne finished the season with 50 goals and 34 assists. Also leading the nation in shorthanded goals (five), hat tricks (five) and points per game (2.27), she set NU career records in points (249) and goals (141). Adding to her trophy case, Coyne earned the Hockey East Player of the Year award two weeks ago, and was named a first-team All-American for the first time in her career on Thursday.

While Northeastern coach Dave Flint raved about Coyne all season, he worried the team's post-season performance might hamper her cause. Still, he was confident in what she had done.

"Sometimes you wonder if your team is not in the Frozen Four if your player is going to win or not," said Flint. "She set a goal this year on what she wanted to accomplish. She wanted to get to NAAs. Along the way she was breaking records and I've

never seen a performance like she put in this year."

What made yesterday's award brunch even sweeter for Coyne was a surprise from her captains. She thought her teammates would be watching from afar. Then she stepped out of the car at the ceremony and heard a shuttle beeping at her. It was her assistant captains Tori Hickel, Melissa Haganey and Sarah Foss.

"It embodies what this team was this year," said Coyne.

The Palos Heights, Ill., native has a lot of options post-graduation, but she has one other to-do before she dons her cap and gown in a few weeks: Competing for the U.S. in the Women's World Championships in Kamloops, British Columbia.

"It makes this transition a lot easier," said Coyne, who will be making her fifth World Championships appearance. "I get to enter in a whole group of players who I obviously look up to and admire."

Meanwhile, a generation of hockey players will now admire her.

# BC's perfect ending looms

## Eagles eye final win vs. Gophers

By KAT HASENAUER CORNETTA

DURHAM, N.H. — If there were anymore similarities between Boston College and Minnesota, it would be safe to say cloning had been invented.

The last two teams standing heading into today's women's college hockey Frozen Four championship advanced with the exact same scores: 3-2 overtime wins in Friday's semifinals.

The Eagles and Gophers last met in a 2013 Frozen Four semifinal, won 3-2 in overtime by Minnesota. Those Gophers were the first women's hockey team to finish a season with a perfect record, a mark the Eagles hope to match this year.

Both teams are led by senior Olympians considered among the best in the game — BC's Alex Carpenter, daughter of former NHL player Bobby Carpenter, and Minnesota's Amanda Kessel, sister of current NHL player Phil Kessel.

So it is quite fitting the Eagles (40-0-0) and Gophers (34-4-1) are meeting at UNH's Whittemore Center today (2 p.m.) with the national championship on the line.

When it comes to titles, however, the renowned Gophers have the upper hand. Minnesota has won five since women's hockey was recognized by the NCAA in 2001. BC is seeking its first. In fact, today marks the first time the Eagles will play for the championship. The Eagles were stymied in the semifinals in their last four attempts, making the championship game unfamiliar territory.



STAFF PHOTO BY MATT WEST/AP PHOTO (INSET)  
COLLIDING STARS: Today's title game may hinge on BC's Alex Carpenter and Minnesota's Amanda Kessel, inset.

### SCHEDULE AND RESULTS

At Durham, N.H.  
NATIONAL SEMIFINALS — Friday  
No. 1 BC 3, Clarkson 2 (ot)  
No. 3 Minnesota 3, No. 2 Wisconsin 2 (ot)  
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP — Sunday  
BC (40-0-0) vs. Minnesota (34-4-1), 2

"We're obviously really excited to be here," said BC coach Katie Crowley yesterday. "We haven't been to this one yet."

Despite the Eagles' lack of experience, they come into the big game with a lot riding on their shoulders. A win would not just be the first women's national title for Hockey East, but the first for BC's athletic program. The win would also complete a perfect season, but that's something Carpenter swears is no longer on their minds.

"We aren't concerned with what our record is anymore," said Carpenter. "It doesn't matter anymore."

Minnesota had that same 40-0-0 record heading into its 2013 NCAA title game, and it was not something

the Gophers would recommend.

"I think it puts more pressure on you, honestly," said Kessel, who recently returned to the ice after sitting out the last season and a half due to a concussion. "You try not to worry about it, but that adds more pressure."

The Gophers come into today's game as a bit of an underdog for one of the first times in recent memory. But, they were also not favored in their semifinal against Wisconsin, which arrived with the nation's best goaltender. The Gophers called upon their offense full of playmakers to squeak out the win. Their defensive physicality is often a difference maker against the Eastern teams they play.

But this season's BC team possesses grit in the corners and tenacity in pressuring opponents, making this the best-equipped Eagles squad in years to do battle for a national title.

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