Big Rapids, Mich. – Ferris State University men’s ice hockey senior center Rob Collins (Kitchener, Ontario) was selected the team’s Most Valuable Player during the program’s awards banquet Saturday (April 13) evening at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center in Big Rapids, Mich. The annual event was sponsored by the FSU Blue Line Club.

Collins, who was a national finalist for the 2002 Hobey Baker Award as the top collegiate hockey player in the United States of America and a 2001-02 JOFA/American Hockey Coaches Association All-America Second-Team selection, was also presented the Lloyd Earl Award as the team’s top points leader. The 2001-02 All-Central Collegiate Hockey Association (CCHA) First-Team honoree earned the distinction of being the first Ferris State skater to lead the CCHA in scoring by registering 40 points on 12 goals and 28 assists in 28 league games only this season. The FSU assistant captain posted a team-best 48 points overall with 15 goals and 33 assists in 36 outings while compiling a +23 plus/minus efficiency rating and scoring a school single-season record-tying five short-handed goals this season. He paced the Bulldogs in multi-point games (15), multi-assist contests (nine) and game-winning assists (six). Nationally, Collins finished this campaign tied for second place nationally in short-handed goals (five), seventh in assists (0.92 avg.) and 10th in points (1.33 avg.). He concluded his four-year career tied for 17th place among the Bulldogs’ all-time top points leaders with 123 career points (44-79–123) and placed 15th in career assists (79). Collins totaled 31 multi-point game performances in his career.

A pair of freshmen – goaltender Mike Brown (Calgary, Alberta) and defenseman Matt York (Woodhaven) both received the Rookie-of-the-Year Award. Brown, a 2001-02 Bauer/CCHA All-Rookie Team pick, registered a 10-13-0 record in goal to go along with a 2.66 goals against average and a .911 save percentage in 25 outings this season. He placed second among FSU’s single-season leaders in save percentage (.911) and fourth in goals against average (2.66). York, who also was the recipient of the team’s Plus/Minus Award as a result of recording a team-leading +24 efficiency rating, placed third in team scoring with 26 points (4-22–26) and had seven multi-point game efforts in 34 games while attaining 2001-02 Bauer/CCHA All-Rookie Team kudos.

The Steve Banonis Most Improved Player Award was presented to sophomore right wing Trevor Large (Brampton, Ontario), who racked up 13 points with six goals and seven assists in 36 contests this season after notching three points on a goal and two assists in 27 outings during the 2000-01 campaign. Sophomore right wing Derrick McIver (Thunder Bay, Ontario) was honored with the Scholar-Athlete Award for his excellence both in the classroom and on the ice. McIver, who was chosen to the 2001-02 CCHA All-Academic Honorable Mention team, was fifth among the squad’s leading point getters with a personal career-best 23 points by tallying 10 goals with 13 assists in 36 appearances. A season ago, the FSU Dean’s and President’s Academic Award recipient garnered nine points with four goals and five assists in 28 contests.

The Blue Line Competitive Award was presented to both Derrick McIver and junior defenseman Troy Milam (Lake Orion). Milam, an assistant captain, compiled 17 points on four goals and 13 assists with a plus eight rating in 36 games this season. Michelle Veith was honored with the FSU Blue Line Club Recognition Award for her yearly contributions to the program during the last seven-plus seasons.

Ferris State concluded the 2001-02 season with a 15-20-1 overall record under 10th-year head coach Bob Daniels. The Bulldogs compiled a ninth-place 12-15-1 CCHA mark (25 league points) this campaign. Ferris State will graduate four seniors from this season’s squad – defenseman/right wing Jason Basile (West Bloomfield), Rob Collins, defenseman Chad McIver (Thunder Bay, Ontario), and defenseman Kristian Schroder (Malmo, Sweden).

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