

More to Hanson than hockey

MSU senior named WCHA student-athlete of the year

By Shane Frederick
Free Press Staff Writer

ST. PAUL — Minnesota State men's hockey captain Joel Hanson knows he's not going to play hockey forever.

"Sometimes you don't think academics are as important as hockey," Hanson said with a laugh. "But somewhere down the line, I'll probably be glad I went to class."

Hanson not only went to class, he excelled. A finance major set to graduate with a 3.81 GPA in May, Hanson was named Western Collegiate Hockey Association student-athlete of the year at Thursday's conference awards banquet.

He is the second MSU player to win the award in the last four years. Steven

Johns won it in 2005.

Hanson said he was told to have a short speech prepared but he didn't get a chance to give it as the emcee moved ahead with the program while Hanson was getting his picture taken with league commissioner Bruce McLeod.

Hanson said he was relieved he didn't have to talk.

"It's an honor," he said of the award. "I'm proud to represent the WCHA's student-athletes."

The award is voted upon by the conference's faculty representatives.

"I'm extremely proud," Mavericks coach Troy Jutting said. "Not only does it speak of Joel academically,

it also speaks of someone who excels in hockey as well. ... That's what Steven



Joel Hanson

AII-WCHA

First team

Forwards: Chad Rau, Colorado College; T.J. Oshie, North Dakota; Ryan Lasch, St. Cloud State. Defensemen: Jack Hillen, Colorado College; Taylor Chorney, North Dakota; Goalie: Richard Bachman, Colorado College.

Second team

Forwards: Andreas Nodl, St. Cloud State; Garrett Roe, St. Cloud State; Ryan Duncan, North Dakota. Defensemen: Chris Butler, Denver; Chay Genoway, North Dakota. Goaltender: Jean-Philippe Lamoreux, North Dakota.

Third team

Forwards: Tyler Bozak, Denver; Blake Wheeler, Minnesota; Kyle Turris, Wisconsin; Defensemen: Robbie Bina, North Dakota; Jamie McBain, Wisconsin. Goaltender: Peter Mannino, Denver.

All-rookie team

Forwards: Turris, Bozak, Roe. Defensemen: Ryan McDonagh, Wisconsin; Cade Fairchild, Minnesota. Goalie: Bachman.

Johns was and what Joel the-year and rookie-of-the- Hanson is. That's what we're year honors.

supposed to be all about." Bachman's teammate, No Maverick players defenseman Jack Hillen, was earned all-conference honors during the banquet. named defensive player of the year.

Hanson, Nick Canzanello Surprisingly, one honor and Jason Wiley were Bachman did not get was a spot among the 10 finalists for the Hobey Baker Memorial Award, which goes to college hockey's top player.

Those three, along with R.J. Linder, Dan Tormey and Matt Tyree were named to the WCHA's all-academic team. Three WCHA players Of the other WCHA were on the list: North awards given out before the Dakota goalie Jean-Philippe Final Five began Thursday, Lamoreux, North Dakota Colorado College freshman forward T.J. Oshie and St. goalie Richard Bachman Cloud State forward Ryan cleaned up, taking player-of- Lasch.