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2017 Women's USCSA ECSC MacConnell Division Team Announced



February 13, 2017

Brown University's Ali Gunesch has been named ECSC MacConnell Division Skier of the Year, while Babson College's Elizabeth Baer was selected as Rookie of the Year. Brown head coach Alex Norden was named Coach of the Year, while the women's team from St. Anselm College earned the MacConnell Division Team Sportsmanship Award. In addition, nine women's alpine skiers were selected to the All-Sportsmanship Team.

Skiing to the podium in six of ten races this season, Ali Gunesch of Brown University finished the season with three victories and three runner-up performances. Gunesch earned 635 points throughout the season to claim the women's ECSC MacConnell Division crown in a close race between Alexandra Skovran of UConn. Skovran finished on the podium in all but one race throughout the season to earn 620 points. Skovran's nine podium results included two victories, three runner-ups, and four third place results. Gunesch's teammate and two-time ECSC MacConnell Division Skier of the Year, Natalie Pearl rounded out the top-three with 550 points. Pearl skied to five podium results, included the top spot in the season's final two slalom races. Castleton University's Linn Ljungemo finished behind Pearl in fourth place with 465 points. Ljungemo picked the season opening giant slalom victory and three other podiums throughout the season. Elizabeth Baer of Babson College earned Rookie of the Year Honors by placing fifth overall in the division's individual standings with 387 points. Baer earned her first two podium results of her collegiate career to go along with six other top-ten finishes. In addition to the individual victories by Gunesch, Skovran, Pearl, and Ljungemo, Castleton's Kirsten Kruk claimed the remaining two wins. Kruk won the first two slalom races of the season, which helped lead her to a sixth place overall standing with 372 points.

The women from Brown University will go into the USCSA Eastern Regional Championships as heavy favorites out of the ECSC MacConnell Division after leading the division by winning eight of ten regular season races. Defending regional champion, Castleton University and Babson battled throughout the season or the runner-up position with the Beavers narrowly claiming the spot over the Spartans. The UConn women finished fourth in the division, while Clarkson University placed fifth to earn a berth to the regional championships. St. Anselm's Jill Murray qualified for the regional championships as an individual based on her top-15 regular season ranking.

Women's USCSA ECSC All-MacConnell Division Team

- 1st place: Ali Gunesch, Brown University
2nd place: Alexandra Skovran, University of Connecticut
3rd place: Natalie Pearl, Brown University
4th place: Linn Ljungemo, Castleton University
5th place: Elizabeth Baer, Babson College
6th place: Kirsten Kruk, Castleton University
7th place: Casey Abraham, Clarkson University
8th place: Tatum Alkier, Babson College
9th place: Kara Van Herwarde, Clarkson University
10th place: Kylie Mackie, Castleton University
11th place: Lauren Stobierski, Brown University
12th place: Kelsie Carlette, University of Connecticut
13th place: Sylvie Bertrand, Brown University
14th place: Kristen Sweeney, Babson College
15th place: Jill Murray, St. Anselm College

ECSC MacConnell Division Skier of the Year: Ali Gunesch, Brown University

ECSC MacConnell Division Rookie of the Year: Elizabeth Baer, Babson College

ECSC MacConnell Division Coach of the Year: Alex Norden, Brown University

ECSC MacConnell Division Team Sportsmanship Award: St. Anselm College

ECSC MacConnell Division All-Sportsmanship Team:

- Casey Abraham, Clarkson University
Ashleigh Brede, New England College
Taylor Cudhea, St. Anselm College
Ali Gunesch, Brown University
Alexis Kane, Babson College
Elise Luce, Castleton University
Katie Marlowe, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Sabina Spofford, University of Connecticut
Gabby St. Pierre, University of Massachusetts-Amherst