



www.panamhockey.org

NEWS RELEASE

November 1, 2015

PAHF announces 2015 Pan American Elite Teams

The Pan American Hockey Federation is pleased to announce the 2015 Pan American Elite Teams.

Since 2007, Pan American Elite Teams have been named every two years to recognize the top players in the Pan American competitions. Hockey specialists present at the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto, Canada, and at the 2015 Pan American Challenge in Chiclayo, Peru, were consulted for the selection of this year's Elite Teams.

The 2015 **Men's** Pan American Elite Team is led by Argentinian Lucas VILA and Canadian defender Scott TUPPER, who are both selected a record fourth time to the PAHF Elite Team, while eight players make their first appearance on the Elite roster, including Cuban veteran Yoandi BLANCO (36 years old) and Chilean youngster Nicolas RENZ (20 years old).

Pan American Games finalists Argentina and Canada have the strongest representation with four players each, including Canadian David CARTER with the nod for the goal-keeping position. The achievements of Brazil, semi-finalists in Toronto, winner of the Pan American Challenge and qualified for the Olympic Games in Rio, are rewarded with the nomination of two players (Stephane VEHRLE-SMITH and Matheus BORGES).

Altogether, with the inclusion of Venezuelan José OROPEZA, Player of the Tournament of the Pan American Challenge, the 2015 Men's Pan American Elite Team is made up of players from eight different countries: Argentina (4), Canada (4), Brazil (2), Chile (2), USA (2), Cuba, Trinidad & Tobago and Venezuela (1). The average age is 26.3 years old.

The 2015 **Women's** Pan American Elite Team is headed by USA Captain Lauren CRANDALL, who led her team to a second Pan American Games Gold Medal. She is closely followed in the voting by Argentinian stalwarts Florencia HABIF and Delfina MERINO, both selected for the first time, and by impressive Canadian striker Brienne STAIRS, making her second Elite appearance after 2011.



www.panamhockey.org

Pan American Games Champions USA dominated the voting, with four players selected (CRANDALL, Kelsey KOLOJEJCHICK, Katie O'DONNELL and Paige SELENSKI). Silver medalists Argentina also have four players on the roster (HABIF, MERINO, Agustina ALBERTARRIO and Pilar ROMANG), while Canada's return to the Pan American Games podium for the first time since 1999 was rewarded with the selection of three players (Karli JOHANSEN, Abigail RAYE and STAIRS).

Chilean Camilla CARAM, the only player selected three times, is joined on the 2015 Elite roster by her sister Daniela, while Mexican goal-keeper Jesus CASTILLO regained the position she already earned in 2011. Brazilian Tatiana NORONHA MACHADO, Player of the Tournament of the Pan American Challenge, also earned a spot on the Elite roster.

Altogether, seven countries are represented on the 2015 Women's Pan American Elite Team: USA (4), Argentina (4), Canada (3), Chile (2), Brazil, Mexico and Uruguay (1). The average age is just over 25.

2015 Pan American Elite Team	
Men	
Yoandy Blanco	CUB
Matheus Borges	BRA
David Carter (GK)	CAN
Adam Froese	CAN
Gabriel Ho-Garcia	CAN
Will Holt	USA
José Oropeza	VEN
Matias Paredes	ARG
Gonzalo Peillat	ARG
Nicolas Renz	CHI
Matias Rey	ARG
Sven Richter	CHI
Akim Toussaint	TTO
Scott Tupper	CAN
Stephane Vehrle-Smith	BRA
Lucas Vila	ARG

2015 Pan American Elite Team	
Women	
Agustina Albertarrio	ARG
Camila Caram	CHI
Daniela Caram	CHI
Jesus Castillo (GK)	MEX
Lauren Crandall	USA
Florencia Habif	ARG
Karli Johansen	CAN
Kelsey Kolojejchick	USA
Delfina Merino	ARG
Sofia Mora	URU
Tatiana Noronha Machado	BRA
Katie O'Donnell	USA
Abigail Raye	CAN
Pilar Romang	ARG
Paige Selenski	USA
Brienne Stairs	CAN

For more information on the PAHF competitions and programs, please visit the Pan American Hockey Federation web site at www.panamhockey.org

The Pan American Hockey Federation (PAHF) is recognized by the FIH as the governing continental federation for all field hockey in the Pan American region. There are 27 member Nations of the PAHF. For more information please contact info@panamhockey.org