



## NEWS RELEASE

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### Seniors Trevor Lloyd, Nate Percy, and Antti Helanto Named Alternate Captains

*Trio of seniors join captain Mike Dopko as leadership team for 2014-15*

**September 15, 2014 – Ames, Iowa** – Cyclone Hockey is pleased to announce that senior forwards **Trevor Lloyd (Commerce, Mich. – Rochester Ice Hawks/MnJHL)**, **Nate Percy (Rosemount, Minn. – Twin Cities Northern Lights/MnJHL)**, and senior defenseman **Antti Helanto (Turku, Finland – Owatonna Express/NAHL)** as the alternate captains for the 2014-15, joining senior defenseman and team captain **Mike Dopko (Makwa, Saskatchewan – Nanaimo Clippers/BCHL)** as the Cyclones' leadership team for the upcoming season.

Cyclone Hockey Head Coach and General Manager Jason Fairman is expecting the captains to set the tone for the entire team and to help chart the course of Cyclone Hockey heading into the future.

"We're going to be a hard-working team and we'll have players who lead by example," said Fairman. "This is a very important year for Cyclone Hockey in a number of ways and while our captains' immediate impact will be on the rookies, they're setting the direction and course for future Cyclone Hockey players."

Lloyd becomes an alternate captain his senior year after methodically working his way up the depth chart and proving himself to be one of Cyclone Hockey's smartest and most skilled players. In 2013-14, Lloyd finished fourth in team scoring with 29 points and third in team goal-scoring with 13 lamp-lighters. The center proved himself to be a clutch player last season, having scored on all three of his shootout attempts in 2013-14 and having tied for second in game-winning goals with three, and Lloyd is one of the favorites to lead Iowa State in scoring in 2014-15 because of how he plays, practices, and prepares every day.

"Trevor leads by example," Fairman said of Lloyd. "He gives 100 percent every shift of every game and every practice and his teammates will do well by following his lead."

Cyclone Hockey Director of Communications Kevin Wey, who has witnessed nearly every Cyclone Hockey game the last three seasons, also offered high praise of Lloyd.

"Trevor persevered after a difficult first semester at Iowa State because of some extenuating circumstances," said Wey. "I've long been impressed by his skill on the ice, which has only improved, but what I've been more impressed by is how on the team bus if a guy has a question about something math or science, Trevor's always willing to offer his knowledge and help teammates understand difficult concepts."

In 117 games heading into his senior season, Lloyd has tallied 30 goals and 39 assists and is a threat to break the 50-goal mark and should easily cross the 100-point plateau in his fourth and final season with Iowa State.

Like Lloyd, Percy is expected to challenge for the team lead in scoring thanks to his playmaking prowess and is expected to lead by example, too, but he'll also be relied upon to provide a another type of leadership in 2014-15.

"Nate's very vocal in the locker room and is a good locker room guy," said Fairman of Percy. "He's a very positive influence on the bench and in the locker room and I think that's very important for any team to be successful."

"Percy leads by example, but he also brings the ability and willingness to speak up in the right situations."

Percy's progress on the depth chart at Iowa State was nearly meteoric, as he fought for a spot in the line-up early in the 2012-13 season after transferring in from NCAA DIII Bethel College in Minnesota but had proven himself as one of Iowa State's top playmakers by the end of that first season in Ames. In 2013-14, Percy finished second in

team scoring with 31 points in 46 games and tied for fourth in goal-scoring with 12 tallies. He's expected to set career marks in goals, assists, and points in 2014-15.

Wey can't help but think how that which will make Percy a leader in 2014-15 earned him a roster spot his first season at Iowa State.

"Percy's spot on the roster was actually in some jeopardy during the North Dakota trip we took late September 2012, but the fact he was proving to be a positive team guy saved his spot and in his first shift in the last game of that three-game swing, he made a great play to set up a goal, which proved to be a harbinger," said Wey. "By the end of his first season at Iowa State, senior winger David Kurbatsky was asking for Percy to be on his line because of the offensive awareness Nate displayed."

While Percy and Lloyd fought for ice time in their first semesters at Iowa State, Helanto has been a leader on the ice since his first game. As a freshman, Helanto established himself as a top-four defenseman and following the 2012-13 season was named Cyclone Hockey's Most Outstanding Defenseman and was selected to skate in the ACHA Men's Division I All-Star Game after leading the team in ice-time. Helanto did not take the Most Outstanding Defenseman Award at Iowa State last season, but he did set career marks in points (22) and assists (16) and finished second in Iowa State defenseman scoring and fourth in team plus/minus at +23.

While it's probable Helanto will be Iowa State's number one defenseman in 2014-15, his leadership will be more subtle than that of Dopko, Percy, and Lloyd.

"Antti is more of a quiet leader, but he does all the right things," said Fairman of Helanto. "That's not to suggest that the other guys don't, because they wouldn't be wearing letter on their jerseys if that wasn't the case, but Antti does all the right things on a daily basis.

"He epitomizes leading by example through his work ethic, his preparation, and his citizenship."

The soft-spoken and affable Helanto is a model citizen not only in how he presents himself as a student and to fans, but also in how he conducts himself on the ice. He was named Cyclone Hockey's Most Sportsmanlike Player his freshman and sophomore seasons and only narrowly lost out to senior forward Chris Cucullu last season after again picking up less than 10 minutes in penalties despite being one of the team's leaders in ice time. The opportunities for Helanto to pick up penalties are significant, and he's one of the team's players most willing to engage in 50/50 battles, but he consistently wins puck battles by relying upon his positioning, mobility, and strength on his skates rather than hooking, slashing, tripping, and the like.

"Helanto really embodies effective European defensemen," said Wey, who has previous experience scouting, amongst other leagues, the American Hockey League and United States Hockey League. "Back in the day, North American defense had this football mentality where effective defense was leveling your opponent and knocking his head off.

"Europeans typically rely upon more of a soccer mentality where effective defense is in body positioning, stick positioning, skating, and other subtleties. There's a reason why Swede Nicklas Lidstrom was the greatest defensemen of his generation and almost never missed a game. His skill, intelligence, and preparation created a new standard and Antti Helanto is our Nicklas Lidstrom."

Similar to how the NHL lost a legend when Lidstrom retired after the 2012-13, Cyclone Hockey lost its own legend last November when Head Coach and General Manager Dr. Alan Murdoch retired after 44 years behind the bench and the leadership of then captain Mark Huber and alternates Jon Feavel, Chris Cucullu, and Matt Bennett proved vital in ensuring Iowa State remained among the top teams in the American Collegiate Hockey Association. That crew of captains will forever hold a special place for Fairman and will be the leadership team upon which all others are judged during his tenure at Iowa State, and he fully expects Dopko, Lloyd, Percy, and Helanto to maintain those high standards.

"Since I've been here, we've been fortunate to have great leadership, and my expectations are that that will continue this year with the captains we have leading the team and that we'll build on our success last season," said Fairman.

Helanto, Percy, Lloyd, Dopko and the Cyclones take on ACHA D1 rival Oklahoma at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena this Friday and Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. The Sooners made it to the semifinals of the 2014 ACHA Men's Division 1 National Tournament by downing Iowa State in the quarterfinals and the Cyclones will be looking for revenge early this season and set the tone for one Iowa State travels to Oklahoma City to play the Sooners October 3 and 4. Fans who can't make it to the home games against the Sooners can watch them online live on America One. To register to watch, go to Cyclone Hockey's website at [www.cyclonehockey.com](http://www.cyclonehockey.com) and click on any America One logo and follow the instructions on America One's website accordingly.

The organization is also still busy selling season tickets, flex packs, and mini packs for the upcoming season. Fans can learn more about Cyclone Hockey's dramatically slashed ticket prices at the organization's website at [www.cyclonehockey.com](http://www.cyclonehockey.com) and can purchase tickets from any Cyclone Hockey player on campus and in the community or by calling 515.294.0410. Cyclone Hockey can also be followed on Facebook at /CycloneHockey and on Twitter at @Cyclone Hockey. Cyclone Hockey...Welcome to the New Age!

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