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December 6, 2011/For Immediate Release

North Dakota's Nelson and O'Donnell, Bemidji State's Hunt Named Red Baron® WCHA Men's Players of the Week for Dec. 6

Red Baron® WCHA Offensive Player of the Week

Brock Nelson • Sophomore, Forward, University of North Dakota

MADISON, Wis. – University of North Dakota left winger Brock Nelson, who led all conference players with four goals and five scoring points last weekend in a two-game conference road sweep at Alaska Anchorage, has been named the Red Baron® WCHA Offensive Player of the Week for Dec. 6. Nelson was the league's co-offensive player of the week on Nov. 29.

A 6-4, 192-pound sophomore from Warroad, Minn., Nelson scored two goals and set up another for three points in UND's 5-2 win last Friday (Dec. 2) at Sullivan Arena. He then came back with two more goals last Saturday (Dec. 3), including the first goal of the contest, as the Sioux completed the sweep with a 4-1 victory and extended their winning streak to four games. In addition to his five points, Nelson also put 10 shots on goal in the series and earned a +2 plus/minus rating.

A New York Islanders' (NHL) draftee, Nelson leads North Dakota in scoring this season with 22 points (14g, 8a) in 16 games, including nine power-play goals and two game-winners. His 14 goals are second among all WCHA players overall.

Also nominated: Jordan George, F, BSU; Jason Zucker, F, DU; Taylor Matson, F, UM; Jack Connolly, F, UMD.

Red Baron® WCHA Defensive Player of the Week

Brad Hunt • Senior, Defenseman, Bemidji State University

MADISON, Wis. – Defenseman Brad Hunt of Bemidji State University has been named the Red Baron® WCHA Defensive Player of the Week for Dec. 6 as a result of his outstanding two-way efforts in a conference tie and victory at St. Cloud State last weekend.

A 5-9, 175-pound senior from Ridge Meadows, B.C., Hunt had a hand in three goals, including two deciding markers, as the Beavers earned three of four points after a 6-6 (ot) tie and 3-1 victory in their league series at SCSU on Dec. 2-3. He contributed a pair of assists, including one on teammate Aaron McLeod's game-tying goal at 13:23 of the third period in the 6-6 draw last Friday as Bemidji State came back from a 3-1 deficit in the third period and a 6-4 deficit in the third. Hunt's second assist in that game move him into a tie with BSU great Matt Read atop the Beavers' Div. 1-era assists list with 87. Then last Saturday, Hunt helped the Beavers to the 3-1 win, while achieving a personal milestone. He scored his third goal of the season, and the eventual game-winner, at 11:55 of the first period to register the 100th point of his collegiate career (22g, 78a). He becomes just the six defender in the 56-year history of the BSU hockey program to score 100 points. In addition to his three points, Hunt tied for the team lead with four blocked shots on the weekend and finished the series with a +1 plus/minus rating.

Through 16 games played this season, Hunt is Bemidji State's top scorer with 14 points (3g, 11a).

Also nominated: Kent Patterson, G, UM; Ben Blood, D, UND.

Red Baron® WCHA Rookie of the Week

Brendan O'Donnell • Freshman, Forward, University of North Dakota

MADISON, Wis. – University of North Dakota left winger Brendan O'Donnell, who scored a pair of goals to help his club to a conference road victory at Alaska Anchorage last Friday, has been named Red Baron® WCHA Rookie of the Week for Dec. 6.

A 6-0, 200-pound freshman from Winnipeg, Manitoba, O'Donnell's two-goal performance sparked a 5-2 North Dakota victory over the host Seawolves on Dec. 2 and on to an eventual series sweep (4-1 win on Dec. 3), a pair of league victories that enabled UND to climb from ninth to a tie for fourth in the WCHA standings. O'Donnell scored twice in the opening 10 minutes of the first period last Friday, including the first goal of the contest and the eventual game-winner. O'Donnell, who was also a +2, now has three goals in six games since returning from a six-game injury absence. He is a draftee of the NHL's Tampa Bay Lightning.

Also nominated: Matt Prapavessis, D, BSU.