

Western Collegiate Hockey Association

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Men's Member Teams

University of Alabama in Huntsville
University of Alaska Anchorage
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Bemidji State University
Bowling Green State University
Ferris State University
Lake Superior State University
Michigan Technological University
Minnesota State University
Northern Michigan University

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December 17, 2013/For Immediate Release

MSU's Lafontaine, FSU's Motte, UAF's Jones Named WCHA Men's Players of the Week

WCHA Offensive Player of the Week Jean-Paul Lafontaine F, Minnesota State

Minnesota State University forward Jean-Paul Lafontaine, who led all league players with four scoring points while helping his team to a two-game WCHA road sweep at Alabama Huntsville last weekend, is the WCHA Men's Offensive Player of the Week for Dec. 17, 2013.

A 5-10, 172-pound junior from Oxford, Mich., Lafontaine tallied four points on two goals and two assists and was named the First Star of both contests as Minnesota State extended its winning streak to seven games with back-to-back 4-1 league wins at Alabama Huntsville on Dec. 13-14.

He had a goal and an assist each night along with six shots on goal. Lafontaine scored the game-winner in the series opener last Friday when he tallied on the power-play at the 4:33 mark of the third period and also assisted on Johnny McInnis' power-play goal at 14:16 of the third to seal the victory. He then scored MSU's first goal last Saturday, which came on the power-play at 1:53 of the second period before drawing an assist on Chase Grant's PPG goal at 15:36 of the third for the last goal of the game.

Lafontaine, who has 12 points (7g, 5a) in the last eight games, has 8-8=16 on the year to stand atop the MSU team scoring chart. He has played in 97 consecutive games for the Mavericks and is tied for 23rd on the school's D1 career scoring list with 79 points (30g, 49a).

Also nominated: Kenny Babinski, F, FSU; Tanner Kero, F, MTU.

WCHA Defensive Player of the Week C.J. Motte, G Ferris State

Goaltender C.J. Motte of red-hot Ferris State University is the WCHA Men's Defensive Player of the Week for Dec. 17, 2013 after backstopping the Bulldogs to an unbeaten mark in two road games against Big 10 Conference opponents last week.

A 6-0, 190-pound junior from St. Clair, Mich., Motte had another impressive week of play, compiling a 0.96 goals-against average, a .957 save percentage and five shutout periods in a 2-2 overtime tie at Michigan on Dec. 11 and a 2-0 victory at Michigan State on Dec. 14. WCHA-leading Ferris State also pushed it's nation-leading and school record-tying unbeaten streak to 15 games (13-0-2) last week.

Motte stopped 44 of 46 shots on goal in the two games and all eight opponent power-play chances as the Bulldogs tied the No. 3-ranked Wolverines 2-2 last Wednesday in Ann Arbor and then shutout the Spartans 2-0 on Saturday in East Lansing in the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame Game. The shutout was his second of the season and seventh of his collegiate career.

In 17 games this season, Motte sports a 14-0-3 record, 2.15 goals-against average, and .927 save percentage. The Bulldogs, who are the first team to reach 14 victories this season, have moved up to a No. 2 national ranking this week.

Also nominated: Michael Quinn, D, UAF; Matt Prapavassis, D, BSU; Tommy Burke, G, BGSU; Kevin Czuczman, D, LSSU.

WCHA Rookie of the Week Davis Jones, G Alaska

University of Alaska goaltender Davis Jones, who led the Nanooks to a key 5-1 conference road victory at Bemidji State last weekend, has been named the WCHA Men's Rookie of the Week for Dec. 17, 2013.

A 6-2, 183-pound freshman from St. Albert, Alberta, Jones made the start between the pipes last Saturday (Dec. 14) night after Alaska and Bemidji State had played to a 3-3 overtime tie in the series opener last Friday (Dec. 13). Jones stopped 25 of the 26 shots on goal he faced and blanked the Beavers on all eight of their power-play chances. The penalty-kill's 8-for-8 success is tied for the second-most successful penalty-kills without allowing a score since Dallas Ferguson has been the Alaska head coach (six years).

In his first season at Alaska, Jones has been the starting goaltender in seven games. He owns a 3-3-1 overall record over a team-leading 428:00 of on-ice action, has a 2.80 goals-against average, and owns a .901 save percentage with 183 stops on 203 shots.

Also nominated: Kevin Dufour, F, BGSU; Mike Neville, F, MTU.