

# Western Collegiate Hockey Association

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## Home of a Record 36 Men's National Championship Teams Since 1951

1952, 1953, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958,  
1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964,  
1965, 1966, 1968, 1969, 1973, 1974,  
1975, 1976, 1977, 1979, 1980, 1981,  
1982, 1983, 1987, 1990, 1991, 1997,  
2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006

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Bemidji State University

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Michigan Tech University

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University of North Dakota

St. Cloud State University

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January 11, 2011/For Immediate Release

## Wisconsin's Smith, North Dakota's Dell, St. Cloud State's Dowd Named Red Baron® WCHA Players of the Week

### Red Baron® WCHA Offensive Player of the Week

#### Craig Smith • Sophomore, Forward, University of Wisconsin

MADISON, Wis. – University of Wisconsin center iceman Craig Smith, who led all league players with three goals and six points while helping the host Badgers to a two-game sweep over Canisius last weekend, has been named the Red Baron® WCHA Offensive Player of the Week for Jan. 11, 2011.

A 6-0, 196-pound sophomore from Madison, Wis., Smith posted six points, six shots on goal and was a +3 in the two wins vs Canisius, including a team season-high four points in last Saturday's (Jan. 8) 6-5 (ot) victory. In the series opener Friday (Jan. 7), Smith scored UW's second goal in a 3-0 victory at 9:43 of the third period. He then assisted on UW's final goal late in the third to seal the victory and finished with two shots and a +2 rating. Last Saturday, Smith tallied two goals and added two assists for four points to pace the Badgers to their seventh straight win. He scored his 12th of the season in highlight-reel fashion, stick-handling down the slot around three Canisius players to put UW up 3-0 just shy of the midpoint of the second. Then with his team trailing 5-4 with less than 4:00 remaining in the third, Smith scored to tie the game at 16:26 to force overtime and then assisted on the game-winner in the extra session.

A draftee of the NHL's Nashville Predators, Smith's six-point weekend elevated him into the Wisconsin scoring lead with 31 points. His 13 goals are tied for the team lead.

Also nominated this week: Matt Read, F, BSU; Corban Knight, F, UND; Drew LeBlanc, F, SCSU.

### Red Baron® WCHA Defensive Player of the Week

#### Aaron Dell • Sophomore, Goaltender, University of North Dakota

MADISON, Wis. – University of North Dakota goaltender Aaron Dell, who came within :20 seconds of posting back-to-back shutouts in two victories over visiting Robert Morris and also extended his shutout streak to 224:31 – the second longest mark in school history – has been named the Red Baron® WCHA Defensive Player of the Week for Jan. 11, 2011. He also earned the award on Nov. 16 for his performance at Wisconsin.

A 6-0, 190-pound sophomore from Airdrie, Alberta, Dell stopped 63 of 64 shots on goal in the series for a .984 saves percentage, recorded five shutout periods, blanked the Colonials on all nine of their power-play opportunities, and earned the No. 2 star of the game in each contest. He stopped all 32 shots in North Dakota's 8-0 win last Friday (Jan. 7) for his second straight shutout. He then lost his bid for a third straight shutout with just :20 seconds left in the third period on Saturday (Jan. 8) when Robert Morris scored an extra-attacker goal. Dell finished the game with 30 saves as the Sioux prevailed 2-1 to run their unbeaten streak to nine games at 8-0-1. Robert Morris' late goal last Saturday ended Dell's shutout streak at 224 :31 seconds, the second longest in school history and just 25 minutes shy of a 57-year old school record.

On the season, Dell ranks first in the WCHA in winning percentage at .775 (15-4-1), is second in goals-against average at 1.92, is fourth in saves percentage at .922, and first in minutes played at 1154:30.

Also nominated this week were: Dan Bakala, G, BSU; Mike Lee, G, SCSU; Justin Schultz, D, UW.

### Red Baron® WCHA Rookie of the Week

#### Nic Dowd • Freshman, Forward, St. Cloud State University

MADISON, Wis. – St. Cloud State University right winger Nic Dowd, who contributed four scoring points and earned a +5 plus/minus rating in the host Huskies' two-game conference sweep over visiting Michigan Tech last weekend, is the Red Baron WCHA Rookie of the Week for Jan. 11, 2011. Dowd also earned the weekly honor on Jan. 5 for his efforts against Cornell and Miami.

A 6-2, 196-pound freshman from Huntsville, Alabama Dowd extended his point streak to five games with his one goal, three assist weekend. Last Friday (Jan. 7), he scored the number one assist on Jared Festler's game-winner in the first period and then added an assist in the second period as SCSU won 3-0. Then on Saturday (Jan. 8), Dowd jump started the Huskies' offense in the second period with his team's first goal to tie the score at 1-1 en route to a 5-1 win over MTU. In addition to his four points in the series, Dowd earned the No. 2 star of the game honor both nights, fired 10 shots on goal and was +5.

A draftee of the NHL's Los Angeles Kings, Dowd has 14 points (3g, 11a) this season playing in all 22 games.

Also nominated this week were: Kyle Brodie, D, BSU; Brock Nelson, F, UND.