



# WCHA TOP 10 PLAYERS FIRST 10 YEARS

## THE WCHA HONORED A 'TOP 10 PLAYERS OF THE FIRST 10 YEARS' IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LEAGUE'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN OF 2008-09. THE HONOREES INCLUDED TWO PATTY KAZMAIER MEMORIAL AWARD WINNERS, WCHA PLAYERS OF THE YEAR, ALL-AMERICANS, AND OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALISTS

The University of Minnesota, the University of Minnesota Duluth and the University of Wisconsin, the teams which have won national championships and turned the Western Collegiate Hockey Association into the best league in women's hockey, each placed three players on the WCHA's Top 10 Players of the First 10 years, as announced by the league office on Feb. 26, 2009. The WCHA marked its 10th season of women's hockey in 2008-09, with the first season of league play coming in 1999-2000.

The top players of the decade included two Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award winners (Jessie Vetter went on to win the Kazmaier in 2009), WCHA Players of the Year, All-Americans and Olympic Gold medalists. It included one active player. In addition to players from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Minnesota Duluth, the team also included one player from Ohio State.

"In this our anniversary season of celebrating 10 years of women's WCHA hockey, we recognize 10 of the names that have helped make this Association such a success," said Sara Martin, WCHA Women's Commissioner. "In a decade that has seen such tremendous development and growth of our sport, we today salute our 10 best players.

"These outstanding young women have made a significant impact on the history of this league and also left a lasting impression on the game of ice hockey itself," added Martin. "We are most grateful that we had the opportunity to watch them play in the WCHA and cherish the idea that we will always have them as special members of our extended family."

The top ten players from the first ten years are: Sara Bauer, F, University of Wisconsin; Tessa Bonhomme, D, Ohio State University; Ronda Curtin, D, University of Minnesota; Natalie Darwitz, F, University of Minnesota; Molly Engstrom, D, University of Wisconsin; Caroline Ouellette, F, University of Minnesota Duluth; Jenny Schmidgall Potter, F, University of Minnesota Duluth, University of Minnesota; Maria Rooth, F, University of Minnesota Duluth; Jessie Vetter, G, University of Wisconsin; and Krissy Wendell, F, University of Minnesota. The players were honored at the 2009 WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF championship, which was held in Minneapolis March 7-8.

Nominations for the WCHA's Top 10 Players in 10 Years came from a list of All-Americans, Olympians and league award winners over the first decade that were reviewed by coaches and officials and then submitted to a selection committee appointed by the Commissioner's Office.

Note: highlights listed in player bios were as of date of initial announcement – Feb. 26, 2009.

### SARA BAUER FORWARD UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN 2003-07

Highlights: Played for Wisconsin between 2003-07 ... Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award winner (2006) ... All-American (2006, 2007) ... WCHA Player of the Year (2006, 2007) ... All-WCHA ... WCHA Rookie of the Year (2004) ... WCHA Scoring Champion (2007) ... All-WCHA Rookie Team (2004) ... WCHA tournament MOP (2006, 2007) ... Wisconsin all-time leading scorer (80 goals, 138 assists, 218 points) ... from St. Catharines, Ontario.



**SARA BAUER**

### TESSA BONHOMME DEFENSEMAN OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY 2003-08

Highlights: Played for Ohio State between 2003-08 ... WCHA Player of the Year (2008) ... WCHA Defensive Player of the Year (2008) ... Two-time All-American (2007, 2008) ... All-WCHA ... top scoring defenseman in league history (42 goals, 86 assists, 128 points) ... All-WCHA Rookie Team (2004) ... from Sudbury, Ontario.



**TESSA BONHOMME**



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**RONDA CURTIN**

**RONDA CURTIN**  
**DEFENSEMAN**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**  
**1999-2003**

Highlights: Played at Minnesota from 1999-2003 ... WCHA Player of the Year (2002) ... WCHA Defensive Player of the Year (2002, 2003) ... All-American (2002, 2003) ... All-WCHA ... career point totals: 60 goals, 107 assists, 167 points ... WCHA tournament MOP (2002) ... from Roseville, Minnesota.

**NATALIE DARWITZ**  
**FORWARD**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**  
**2002-05**

Highlights: Played at Minnesota from 2002-05 ... U.S. Olympian (2002, 2006) ... All-American (2003, 2004, 2005) ... All-WCHA ... WCHA Rookie of the Year (2003) ... All-WCHA Rookie Team (2003) ... WCHA Scoring Champion (2005) ... WCHA tournament MOP (2005) ... Minnesota's all-time leading scorer (102 goals, 144 assists, 246 points) ... currently an assistant coach at Minnesota ... from Eagan, Minnesota.



**NATALIE DARWITZ**



**MOLLY ENGSTROM**

**MOLLY ENGSTROM**  
**DEFENSEMAN**  
**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN**  
**2002-05**

Highlights: Played at Wisconsin from 2002-05 ... U.S. Olympian (2006) ... WCHA Defensive Player of the Year (2004, 2005) ... All-American (2005) ... All-WCHA ... career point totals for the Badgers were 28 goals, 57 assists and 85 points ... from Siren, Wisconsin.

**CAROLINE OUELLETTE**  
**FORWARD**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH**  
**2002-05**

Highlights: Played at Minnesota Duluth between 2002-05 ... Canadian gold medalist at Olympics (2006) ... Canadian Olympian (2002) ... All-American (2004 and 2005) ... WCHA Student-Athlete of the Year (2005) ... All-WCHA ... All-WCHA Rookie Team (2003) ... career point totals at UMD were 92 goals, 137 assists, 229 points ... WCHA tournament MOP (2003) ... from Montreal, Quebec.



**CAROLINE OUELLETTE**



# WCHA TOP 10 PLAYERS FIRST 10 YEARS



**JENNY SCHMIDGALL-POTTER**

**JENNY SCHMIDGALL-POTTER**  
**FORWARD**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH**  
**1999-2004**

Highlights: Played in the WCHA for Minnesota Duluth between 1999-2004 ... U.S. Olympic gold medalist (1998) ... U.S. Olympian (2002, 2006) ... WCHA Player of the Year (2000 and 2003) ... All-American (2003, 2004) ... All-WCHA ... WCHA Scoring Champion (2004) ... all-time leader in WCHA career points (108 goals, 148 assists, 266 points) ... from Egan, Minnesota.

**MARIA ROTH**  
**FORWARD**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH**  
**1999-2003**

Highlights: Played for Minnesota Duluth between 1999-2003 ... Swedish Olympian (2002, 2006) ... All-American (2001, 2002, 2003) ... All-WCHA ... WCHA Rookie of the Year (2000) ... Minnesota Duluth's all-time leading career scorer (119 goals, 113 assists, 232 points) ... WCHA tournament MOP (2001) ... from Angelholm, Sweden.



**MARIA ROTH**



**JESSIE VETTER**

**JESSIE VETTER**  
**GOALTENDER**  
**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN**  
**2005-09**

Highlights: Played for Wisconsin between 2005-09 ... All-American (2007, 2009) ... All-WCHA ... WCHA Goaltending Champion (2008) ... 91 career victories were an NCAA best as were 39 shutouts ... career record was 91-13-10, with a 1.19 GAA and .941 saves percentage ... played in national title game four straight years and was 11-1-0 in NCAA tourney games ... three-time national champion ... from Cottage Grove, Wisconsin.

**KRISSY WENDELL**  
**FORWARD**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**  
**2002-05**

Highlights: Played for Minnesota between 2002-05 ... Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award winner (2005) ... U.S. Olympian (2002, 2006) ... WCHA Player of the Year (2004, 2005) ... All-American (2003, 2004, 2005) ... All-WCHA ... All-WCHA Rookie Team (2003) ... WCHA tournament MOP (2004) ... UM's second all-time leading scorer with 237 points (106g, 121a) ... from Brooklyn Park, Minnesota.



**KRISSY WENDELL**