

WCHA Administrative Office

Bruce M. McLeod
Commissioner
Carol LaBelle-Ehrhardt
Assistant Commissioner of Operations
Greg Shepherd
Supervisor of Officials
Mailing Address
Western Collegiate Hockey Association
2211 S. Josephine Street, Room 302,
Denver, CO 80210
p: 303 871-4223. f: 303 871-4770.
clabelle@wcha.com

WCHA Women's Administrative, WCHA Public Relations Office

Sara R. Martin
Associate Commissioner
p: 608 829-0104. f: 608 829-0105.
smartin@wcha.com

Doug Spencer
Associate Commissioner for Public
Relations
p: 608 829-0100. f: 608 829-0200.
dspencer@mailbag.com

Bill Brophy
Women's Public Relations Director
p: 608 277-0282. bbrophy@wcha.com
Mailing Address
Western Collegiate Hockey Association
559 D'Onofrio Drive, Suite 103
Madison, WI 53719-2096

WCHA Women's League

Bemidji State University
University of Minnesota
University of Minnesota Duluth
Minnesota State University
University of North Dakota
Ohio State University
St. Cloud State University
University of Wisconsin

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October 12, 2011/For Immediate Release

Minnesota's Kessel and Lorence, Bemidji State's Wheelhouse, Ohio State's Spooner Named WCHA Women's Players of the Week

WCHA co-Offensive Players of the Week

Amanda Kessel, Forward, University of Minnesota

Natalie Spooner, Forward, Ohio State University

MADISON, Wis. – University of Minnesota forward Amanda Kessel, a sophomore from Verona, Wis., and Ohio State University forward Natalie Spooner, a senior from Scarborough, Ont., have been named WCHA Women's co-Offensive Players of the Week for October 12.

Kessel had six points last weekend, including five goals and an assist, to lead the host Golden Gophers to a conference sweep over St. Cloud State. In last Friday's (Oct. 7) 6-0 win over the Huskies, she scored two goals, including the game-winner, and added an assist. In last Saturday's (Oct. 8) 8-0 victory over SCSU, Kessel had three goals within eight minutes in the second period, marking the first natural hat trick (a hat trick in which three goals are scored in succession by one player in one game) by a Gopher player since Sarah Erickson accomplished the feat on Oct. 10, 2009. Kessel, who was also +5 on the weekend and tallied 13 shots, marked her second collegiate hat trick.

Spooner, meanwhile, produced five scoring points in Ohio State's season-opening series with WCHA opponent Bemidji State last weekend in Columbus. She kicked off her final season with the Buckeyes last Friday, scoring all four Ohio State goals in a 4-4 (ot) tie with the Beavers and then scored the only goal in the shootout to give OSU the extra point in the conference standings. The hat trick was the fourth of her collegiate career, while the four-goal performance tied an OSU record first set by Spooner in 2008 and tied by junior Hokey Langan in 2010. She concluded the weekend scoring an empty-net goal on Saturday, the fifth of the game for the Buckeyes in a 5-3 triumph. With her five goals over the weekend, Spooner inched closer to becoming the Buckeyes' all-time leading goal scorer, needing 13 more to break Jeni Creary's career record of 86.

Also nominated: Nicole Germaine, F, MSU; Jocelyne Lamoureux, F, UND; Carolyne Prévost, F, UW.

WCHA Defensive Player of the Week

Erika Wheelhouse, Defenseman, Bemidji State University

MADISON, Wis. – Bemidji State University defenseman Erika Wheelhouse, who had six assists in two conference road games at Ohio State last weekend, has been named the WCHA Women's Defensive Player of the Week for October 12.

A junior from Crookston, Minn., Wheelhouse set up three goals in each game of the series. She assisted on two of the three goals Bemidji State scored within five minutes in the second period last Friday (Oct. 7), elevating them into a 3-3 tie after being down 3-0 early in the second. The two teams eventually tied 4-4 in overtime before OSU won a 1-0 shootout. Then last Saturday (Oct. 8), Wheelhouse assisted on the Beavers' two third period goals from Sadie Lundquist and Tess Dusik to pull her club within one at 4-3 in a 5-3 setback. Wheelhouse's six assists in one week come up one shy of her season mark of seven from the 2010-11 campaign.

In addition to her six points, Wheelhouse was credited with six blocks on the weekend.

Also nominated: Meghan Bozek, D, UM; Jessica Wong, D, UMD; Alex Rigsby, G, UW.

WCHA Rookie of the Week

Meghan Lorence, Forward, University of Minnesota

MADISON, Wis. – University of Minnesota freshman forward Meghan Lorence, who scored a goal in each game of a league series sweep of visiting St. Cloud State last weekend, has been honored as the WCHA Women's Rookie of the Week for October 12.

From Mounds View, Minn., Lorence scored a goal in each game of the weekend series from her left wing slot against SCSU, helping Minnesota to 6-0 and 8-0 victories. Last Friday (Oct. 7), Lorence scored with :09 seconds remaining in the second period, putting Minnesota up 5-0 at the intermission. On Saturday (Oct. 8), Lorence got her second collegiate goal, also in the second period, to give Minnesota a 7-0 lead. In addition to her two goals, she also fired 11 shots on goal in the series and earned a +3 plus/minus rating.

Also nominated: Kristi King, F, BSU; Michelle Karvinen, F, UND; Katy Josephs, F, UW.