

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

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

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December 14, 2011/For Immediate Release

Wisconsin's Knight, Minnesota State's Altmann, St. Cloud State's Friend Named WCHA Women's Players of the Week

WCHA Offensive Player of the Week

Hilary Knight • Senior, Forward, University of Wisconsin

MADISON, Wis. – University of Wisconsin center Hilary Knight, who produced a three-goal hat trick and six points to boost the top-ranked Badgers to a two-game conference road sweep at Bemidji State last weekend, has been named WCHA Women's Offensive Player of the Week for December 14.

A senior from Sun Valley, Idaho, Knight's six points moved her into the top spot as the Wisconsin program's all-time leading scorer with 239 career points, surpassing the 238 total set by Meghan Duggan a season ago. She had one goal and one assist in last Friday's (Dec. 9) 3-1 UW victory at Sanford Center, scoring the eventual game-winner on a power-play at 18:54 of the second period. Knight then came back last Saturday to notch a hat trick, including a shorthanded tally, and contribute another assist for four points as the Badgers completed the sweep of the Beavers with a 6-1 triumph. Named the No. 1 star of both games, Knight also fired 18 shots on goal in the series, including 12 in the series opener, and earned a +5 plus/minus rating as Wisconsin extended its winning streak to a nation's best 14 games.

Through 20 games played this season, Knight is tied for fifth in scoring overall among WCHA players with 37 points on 23 goals and 14 assists. Her 239 career points also cracked the top five for career points in NCAA Div. 1 women's hockey.

Also nominated: Jen Schoullis, F, UM; Alyssa Wiebe, F, UND.

WCHA Defensive Player of the Week

Alli Altmann • Senior, Goaltender, Minnesota State University

MADISON, Wis. – Minnesota State University goaltender Alli Altmann, who earned her first shutout of the season and yielded just two goals in a conference road series split at St. Cloud State last weekend, has been honored as the WCHA Women's Defensive Player of the Week for December 14.

A senior from Eagan, Minn., Altmann stopped 42 of 44 shots on goal on the weekend for a .955 saves percentage, posted five shutout periods and helped blank the host Huskies on all seven of their series power-play opportunities. She earned her first shutout of the season last Friday (Dec. 9) by a 6-0 count when she turned back all 26 St. Cloud State shots on goal at SCSU's National Hockey Center, earning her No. 1 Star of the Game honors. Altmann then stopped 16 of 18 opponent shots on goal last Saturday (Dec. 10) as the visiting Mavericks dropped a one-goal decision to SCSU, 2-1.

Through 13 games and 732:34 minutes in nets this season, Altmann owns a 5-7-0 record with a 2.78 goals-against average and a .903 saves percentage.

Also nominated: Noora Rätty, G, UM; Jennifer Harss, G, UMD; Stefanie McKeough, D, UW.

WCHA Rookie of the Week

Julie Friend • Freshman, Goaltender, St. Cloud State University

MADISON, Wis. – St. Cloud State University goaltender Julie Friend, who allowed just two goals in 91:07 of playing time and backstopped the Huskies to their first league victory of the season against conference rival Minnesota State last weekend, has been named WCHA Women's Rookie of the Week for December 14.

A freshman from Minnetonka, Minn., Friend stopped 29 of 31 shots on goal last Saturday (Dec. 10), had two shutout periods and blanked her opponents on three power-play chances as the host Huskies skated to a 2-1 victory over the Mavericks at the National Hockey Center – SCSU's first WCHA win of the campaign. She was also named the No. 2 Star of the Game. Friend, who came on in relief last Friday (Dec. 9) to yield just one goal in 31:07 of action, stopped 40 of 42 shots on goal in the series for a .952 saves percentage.

Also nominated: Rachael Bona, F, UM; Josefine Jakobsen, F, UND; Katarina Zgraja, D, UW.