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WCHA Women's League

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January 11, 2012/For Immediate Release

Ohio State's Spooner, Minnesota's Rätty, Bemidji State's Kelly Named WCHA Women's Players of the Week

WCHA Offensive Player of the Week

Natalie Spooner • Senior, Forward, Ohio State University

MADISON, Wis. – Veteran Ohio State University forward Natalie Spooner, who had a record-breaking weekend in the Buckeyes' conference series road split at St. Cloud State last weekend, has been honored as the WCHA Women's Offensive Player of the Week for Jan. 11. This marks Spooner's third offensive award of the 2011-12 season, with the others coming on Oct. 12 (vs BSU) and Nov. 30 (vs UMD).

A senior center and assistant captain from Scarborough, Ont., Spooner scored three goals and added one assist and fired 18 shots on goal in the two-game set on Jan. 6-7 en route to becoming Ohio State's all-time leading goal scorer. Only three goals away from breaking the school record of 86 set by forward Jeni Creary (2002-05), Spooner tied the mark last Friday as she scored both goals including the game-winner, and was named the First Star of the Game in Ohio State's 2-0 win over the host Huskies at the National Hockey Center. Then after the Buckeyes found themselves down 3-0 early in game two last Saturday, the team fought back and tied the game at 3-3 on Spooner's record-breaking goal at 5:27 of the third period, before falling 4-3. She was named Third Star of the Game.

Spooner now leads all current and former Buckeyes with 87 career goals and also has 140 career points (87g, 53a) to rank fourth in that category – six points shy of tying Creary career point total of 146 for third. Through 20 games played this season, she leads the Buckeyes with 27 points (18g, 9a).

Also nominated: Danielle Williams, F, BSU; Amanda Kessel, F, UM; Monique Lamoureux-Kolls, F, UND.

WCHA Defensive Player of the Week

Noora Rätty • Junior, Goaltender, University of Minnesota

MADISON, Wis. – University of Minnesota goaltender Noora Rätty, who stopped 66 of 69 shots on goal, logged her 20th career shutout and surrendered just two even-strength goals as the Golden Gophers posted a tie and win against No. 1-ranked and defending national champion Wisconsin last weekend at Ridder Arena, has been named the WCHA Women's Defensive Player of the Week for Jan. 11. For Rätty, this is her second defensive award of the season, having previously been honored on Nov. 9 (vs UMD).

A junior from Espoo, Finland, Rätty collected 34 saves in last Friday's (Jan. 6) 3-3 tie against Wisconsin to equal her season high, then stopped all 32 shots on goal last Saturday (Jan. 7) as Minnesota blanked the Badgers, 1-0 and handed them their first shutout loss since Feb. 2010. Saturday's 1-0 victory, which earned her First Star of the Game honors, marked Rätty's fourth shutout of the season and 20th of her career, leaving her one away from tying the UM career record. Her series saves percentage was .956 and she registered five shutout periods, including the one overtime.

Over 82 career games between the pipes at UM, Rätty sports a 60-15-7 record with a 1.50 goals-against average, .944 saves percentage and 20 shutouts.

Also nominated: Zuzana Tomcikova, G, BSU; and Margot Miller, D, UND.

WCHA Rookie of the Week

Rachael Kelly • Freshman, Forward, Bemidji State University

MADISON, Wis. – Bemidji State University forward Rachael Kelly, who contributed two assists, including one on the game-winner, and earned a +3 plus/minus rating to help the Beavers to a 4-0 conference victory over visiting Minnesota State last Saturday at Sanford Center, has been honored as the WCHA Women's Rookie of the Week for Jan. 11. Kelly also earned the weekly honor back on Nov. 2 (vs Minnesota).

A freshman winger from Rosemount, Minn., Kelly played left wing on Jan. 7 on a line that accounted for seven points and included center Abby Williams (2a) and right winger Danielle Williams (2g, 1a). Kelly's assist early in the second period set up the game-winning goal for Danielle Williams while she also assisted on Marlee Wheelhouse's goal later that period after winning the face-off that set up the score.

In 17 games this season, Kelly is the top-scoring rookie for the Beavers with nine points (5g, 4a).

Also nominated: Rachael Bona, F, UM; Josefine Jakobsen, F, UND; Julie Friend, G, SCSU.