

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
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February 8, 2012/For Immediate Release

Minnesota's Kessel, North Dakota's Lamoureux-Kolls and Karvinen Named WCHA Women's Players of the Week

WCHA Offensive Player of the Week

Amanda Kessel • Sophomore, Forward, University of Minnesota

MADISON, Wis. – University of Minnesota right winger Amanda Kessel, who produced eight scoring points to lead the Golden Gophers to a two-game conference road sweep at St. Cloud State last weekend, has been named the WCHA Women's Offensive Player of the Week for February 8. This marks the second time this season she has been so honored (also on Oct. 12).

A sophomore from Madison, Wis., Kessel collected a career-best six points and was named the No. 1 Star of the Game in last Friday's (Feb. 3) 8-1 victory over the host Huskies with two goals and four assists. She became one of nine players in Minnesota women's hockey history to score six points in a single game, a mark that ranks second in the program record book. Kessel then added two more points with a goal and an assist as the Gophers completed the sweep over SCSU with a 7-0 triumph. In addition to her eight points in the series, she also earned a +4 plus/minus rating and put five shots on goal.

Kessel, the sister of National Hockey League all-star Phil Kessel, a former Gopher who plays for the Toronto Maple Leafs, is Minnesota's top scorer (fourth in WCHA) with 58 points (24g, 34a) in 30 games played.

Also nominated: Haley Irwin, F, UMD; Natalie Spooner, F, OSU; Jocelyne Lamoureux, F, UND; Brittany Ammerman, F, UW.

WCHA Defensive Player of the Week

Monique Lamoureux-Kolls • Junior, Defenseman, University of North Dakota

MADISON, Wis. – Defenseman Monique Lamoureux-Kolls, who made strong contributions at both ends of the ice as the University of North Dakota fashioned a two-game league sweep over visiting Bemidji State last weekend, has been named the WCHA Women's Defensive Player of the Week for February 8. This is the second time this season she has received a weekly honor after earning the offensive award on Oct. 25.

A junior from Grand Forks, N.D., Lamoureux-Kolls helped keyed a UND defensive effort that limited the Beavers to 47 shots on goal in the series and held them scoreless on 18 power-play chances (0-of-9 in each game) while also adding four scoring points and factoring in on both game-winning goals. She provided two assists last Friday (Feb. 3), including one on the game-winning goal, and was the No. 3 Star of the Game as North Dakota took a 5-2 win. Then last Saturday (Feb. 4), Lamoureux-Kolls scored a pair of goals, including the game-winner at 4:13 of the first period, and was the No. 2 Star of the Game as UND completed the sweep with a 3-1 victory. In addition to her four points, she also had eight shots on goal and blocked three shots.

In 29 games played, Lamoureux-Kolls' 63 points (24g, 39a) rank her third overall in scoring in the WCHA.

Also nominated: Noora Rätty, G, UM.

WCHA Rookie of the Week

Michelle Karvinen • Sophomore, Forward, University of North Dakota

MADISON, Wis. – University of North Dakota left winger Michelle Karvinen, who produced a natural hat trick and six scoring points as her team won back-to-back conference games over visiting Bemidji State last weekend, is the WCHA Women's Rookie of the Week for February 8. She also earned the weekly honor on Oct. 19, Oct. 25 and Nov. 9.

A first-year player from Rodovoe, Denmark, Karvinen had three goals and one assist for four points and was the No. 1 Star of the Game in last Friday's (Feb. 3) 5-2 North Dakota win over the Beavers, recording a natural hat trick (three straight goals) in the second period with consecutive goals at 8:15 (power-play), 12:48 (game-winner) and 13:10. She then came back in game two last Saturday (Feb. 4) with a pair of assists and earned the No. 3 Star of the Game honor. Along with her six points in the series, she had eight shots on goal and was tied for the team lead with a +4 plus/minus rating.

In 28 games played, Karvinen is sixth in scoring overall among WCHA players with 50 points (21g, 29a).

Also nominated: Rachael Bona, F, UM; Jenna McParland, F, UMD; Blayne Turnbull, F, UW.