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WCHA WOMEN'S LEAGUE

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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 10, 2012/For Immediate Release

MINNESOTA STATE'S SMITH, OHIO STATE'S KNAPP, MINNESOTA'S MENEFFEE NAMED WCHA WOMEN'S PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

WCHA OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

LAUREN SMITH • SENIOR, FORWARD, MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

MADISON, Wis. – Minnesota State University forward Lauren Smith, who scored twice in the final seven minutes to lift the visiting Mavericks to a conference road victory over then No. 5-ranked North Dakota last Friday night, has been named the WCHA Offensive Player of the Week for Oct. 10.

A senior center from Burnsville, Minn., Smith was named the First Star of the Game on Oct. 5 and also contributed an assist in the weekend series for three points, fired seven shots on goal and earned a +1 plus/minus rating. Last Friday, with her team trailing UND 2-1 in the third period, Smith scored on the power-play at 13:41 to even the score and then tallied the game-winning goal with just :38 seconds remaining (at 19:22) as Minnesota State prevailed 3-2. The Mavericks scored the final three goals of the contest. Smith then added an assist in Saturday's series finale, a 4-1 loss to UND, to finish the weekend with three scoring points.

In her team's first four games of the 2012-13 season, Smith has three goals, one assist and four points while her career totals for MSU show 23 goals, 38 assists and 61 points in 108 games played.

Also nominated: Amanda Kessel, F, UM; Jocelyne Lamoureux, F, UND; Minttu Tuominen, F, OSU; Brianna Decker, F, UW.

WCHA DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

CHELSEA KNAPP • JUNIOR, GOALTENDER, OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

MADISON, Wis. – Ohio State University goaltender Chelsea Knapp, who backstopped the visiting Buckeyes to their first-ever two-game sweep of league rival Minnesota Duluth last weekend, has been named the WCHA Defensive Player of the Week for Oct. 10.

A junior from York, N.Y., Knapp stopped 39 of 42 shots on goal in the two victories for a .929 saves percentage, posted three shutout periods and blanked the host and No. 7-ranked Bulldogs on all four of their power-play opportunities. She stopped 16 of 17 shots in the Buckeyes' 3-1 win in Duluth last Friday (Oct. 5) and then stopped 23 of 25 last Saturday (Oct. 6) as OSU completed the sweep with a 3-2 triumph.

The two wins improved Knapp's record in 2012-13 to 4-0-0 to go along with a 1.25 goals-against average and a .937 saves percentage over 239:52 of action.

Also nominated: Alex Ehlert, D, BSU; Noora Rätty, G, UM; Shelby Amsley-Benzie, G, UND; Alev Kelter, D, UW.

WCHA ROOKIE OF THE WEEK

MARYANNE MENEFFEE • FRESHMAN, FORWARD, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

MADISON, Wis. – University of Minnesota forward Maryanne Menefee, who produced three goals and four scoring points to help the top-ranked Gophers to a conference sweep over visiting St. Cloud State last weekend, is the WCHA Rookie of the Week for Oct. 10.

A freshman left winger from Lansing, Mich., Menefee scored the game's first goal and set up another in defending national champion Minnesota's 7-1 victory over the Huskies last Friday (Oct. 5) before coming back with two more goals, including the game-winner, last Saturday (Oct. 6) in UM's 4-0 shutout win. Along with her four points, Menefee put seven shots on goal in the series and earned a +3 plus/minus rating. In her first four collegiate games, Menefee already has nine points (5g, 4a).

Also nominated: Kaitlyn Tougas, F, BSU; Leah Jensen, F, UND; and Courtney Burke, D, UW.