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WCHA WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Bemidji State University
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University of Minnesota Duluth
Minnesota State University
University of North Dakota
Ohio State University
St. Cloud State University
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OSU'S SEMENZA, UMD'S BLACK, SCSU'S FITZGERALD NAMED WCHA WOMEN'S PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

WCHA OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

PAIGE SEMENZA • SENIOR, FORWARD, OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

MADISON, Wis. – Ohio State University forward Paige Semenza, who notched her first collegiate three-goal hat trick to lift the Buckeyes to a 5-3 victory over visiting North Dakota last weekend, has been named the WCHA Offensive Player of the Week for Oct. 17.

A senior right winger from Pittston, Pa., Semenza led the Buckeyes to a 5-3 upset of No. 6-ranked North Dakota on Friday, Oct. 12, scoring a goal in each period to complete a hat trick and give Ohio State its first ever 5-0 start to a season. Her first tally came at 9:13 of the first to give the Buckeyes a 2-0 lead, her second came at 17:28 of the middle period for a 3-0 advantage, and her third came at 19:40 of the third via an unassisted empty-net goal to seal the victory. In addition to her three goals, Semenza also had seven shots on goal in the series and was a +2 on the plus/minus. UND came back to win 2-0 on Saturday.

Through the first six games of the 2012-13 season, Semenza leads Ohio State with 11 points and seven goals, and is +7. Over her 108-game career, she has produced 23 goals, 28 assists and 51 points.

Also nominated: Kelly Terry, F, UM; Kathleen Rogan, F, MSU; Jocelyne Lamoureux, F, UND.

WCHA DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

KAYLA BLACK • FRESHMAN, GOALTENDER, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH

MADISON, Wis. – University of Minnesota Duluth rookie goaltender Kayla Black, who produced two consecutive shutouts while stopping all 56 shots on goal as the host Bulldogs swept defending league champion and No. 4-ranked Wisconsin last weekend, has been named the WCHA Defensive Player of the Week for Oct. 17.

From Blyth, Ont., Black fashioned six straight shutout periods and a perfect 1.000 saves percentage in UMD's 2-0 and 1-0 victories over the Badgers Oct. 13-14 at AMSOIL Arena while becoming the first freshman goaltender at UMD to post back-to-back shutouts in a series (Kim Martin had back-to-back shutouts as a rookie on Oct. 15 & 21, 2006). She kept Wisconsin off the board in Saturday's series opener despite faced with 23:00 worth of penalties that resulted in five UW power-plays and 11 shots on goal. UMD was outshot 31-17, but Black was stoic in earning her first collegiate shutout. Then it was more of the same for Black Sunday, as she turned away all 25 shots and stifled the UW power-play three times.

Black currently ranks fifth in the nation with a saves percentage of .941, is second with two shutouts and sixth with a goals-against average of 1.52.

Also nominated: Noora Rätty, G, UM; Danielle Butters, G, MSU; Jorid Dagfinrud, G, UND; Chelsea Knapp, G, OSU; Julie Friend, G, SCSU.

WCHA ROOKIE OF THE WEEK

KATIE FITZGERALD • FRESHMAN, GOALTENDER, ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY

MADISON, Wis. – St. Cloud State University goaltender Katie Fitzgerald has been named the WCHA Rookie of the Week for Oct. 17 after she backstopped the Huskies to a conference road victory at Bemidji State last Friday.

A freshman from Des Plaines, Ill., Fitzgerald made 34 saves while only allowing only a third period power-play goal to help the Huskies to their first victory of the season on Oct. 12, a 3-1 decision over the Beavers. Earning First Star of the Game honors, she amassed double-digit save totals in all three periods, with 10 in the first, 10 in the second and 14 in the third. St. Cloud State also won game two of the series on Oct. 13 by a 1-0 margin.

Through SCSU's first four games of the 2012-13 campaign, Fitzgerald has earned the start in two of those contests, and sports a 1-1-0 record with a 2.50 goals-against average and a .930 saves percentage.

Also nominated: Hannah Brandt, F, UM; Tanja Eisenschmid, F, UND.