

WCHA 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

WOMEN'S ADMINISTRATIVE & 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

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October 3, 2012/For Immediate Release

MINNESOTA'S KESSEL & BRANDT, MINNESOTA STATE'S BUTTERS NAMED WCHA WOMEN'S PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

WCHA OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

AMANDA KESSEL • JUNIOR, FORWARD, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

MADISON, Wis. – University of Minnesota forward Amanda Kessel, who produced six scoring points while helping the top-ranked and defending national champion Gophers to a season-opening non-conference sweep over visiting Colgate last weekend, is the WCHA Offensive Player of the Week for Oct. 3.

A junior from Madison, Wis., and All-WCHA Second Team honoree last season, Kessel played at left wing in both of her team's shutout victories over Colgate at Ridder Arena, scoring three goals, adding three assists and producing six points in the series. After tallying an unassisted goal in the third period in Minnesota's 7-0 win last Friday (Sept. 28), she came back to contribute five more points, including two goals and the game-winner, last Saturday (Sept. 29) as the Gophers completed the sweep with an 11-0 triumph. In addition to her six points, Kessel recorded 10 shots on goal in the series and earned a +3 plus/minus rating. Two of her three scores in the series were garnered on power plays.

Also nominated: Tracy McCann, F, MSU; Paige Semenza, F, OSU; Brianna Decker, F, UW.

WCHA DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

DANIELLE BUTTERS • JUNIOR, GOALTENDER, MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

MADISON, Wis. – Minnesota State University goaltender Danielle Butters, who turned in strong back-to-back performances in a two-game season-opening conference series against defending league champion Wisconsin last weekend, is the WCHA Defensive Player of the Week for Oct. 3.

Butters, a junior from London, Ont., amassed a career-high 41 saves, including 18 in the third period, and was named the First Star of the Game in leading the host Mavericks to a 2-2 overtime tie last Friday (Sept. 28) against No. 2-ranked Wisconsin in their 2012-13 season opener.

Then last Saturday (Sept. 29), Butters came back with an additional 36 saves, with 22 of those coming in a scoreless second period, in a one-goal, 3-2 loss to the Badgers, giving her a total of 77 saves on 82 shots for a .939 saves percentage in the two-game series. Butters was also instrumental in holding Wisconsin to just one goal in five power-play attempts in the two games, making 10 saves to help kill a five-minute power-play in the series finale and keep the Mavericks within a goal.

Also nominated: Megan Bozek, D, UM; Annie Svedin, D, OSU; Alex Riggsby, G, UW.

WCHA ROOKIE OF THE WEEK

HANNAH BRANDT • FRESHMAN, FORWARD, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

MADISON, Wis. – University of Minnesota forward Hannah Brandt, who made a dramatic debut with nine scoring points as the No. 1-ranked Gophers opened their 2012-13 season visiting Colgate by 7-0 and 11-0 scores last weekend, is the WCHA Rookie of the Week for Oct. 3.

A freshman from Vadnais Heights, Minn., Brandt was selected by the league's head coaches as the preseason WCHA Rookie of the Year and made a splash in her first collegiate game as a Golden Gopher by notching a three-goal hat trick and the game-winning goal in a 7-0 victory over Colgate last Friday (Sept. 28) at Ridder Arena. The freshman center then came back last Saturday (Sept. 29) and tallied two more goals, set up four others and garnered six points in an 11-0 win as UM completed the non-conference series sweep. Named the First Star of the Game both days while producing nine points, Brandt also fired nine shots on goal and earned a +7 plus/minus rating.

Also nominated: Haley Northcote, D, MSU; Julia McKinnon, F, OSU; Kim Drake, F, UW.