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WCHA WOMEN'S LEAGUE

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University of Minnesota Duluth

Minnesota State University

University of North Dakota

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University of Wisconsin

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January 23, 2013/For Immediate Release

UM'S KESSEL, UMD'S LACQUETTE, UND'S AMSLEY-BENZIE 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 seven scoring points in a two-game conference road sweep at Minnesota State last weekend while becoming the 24th player in NCAA history to surpass the 200 career-point milestone, has been named the WCHA Women's Offensive Player of the Week for January 22. This marks the fourth time this season she has been honored (Oct. 3, Nov. 7 and Jan. 16).

A junior right winger from Madison, Wis., Kessel helped the unbeaten and top-ranked Gophers sweep Minnesota State on the road with a three-goal, four-assist series that included eight shots on goal and a +6 plus/minus rating. She notched a natural hat trick (three straight goals), including a shorthander, and had one assist in the Gophers' 8-1 victory over the Mavericks last Friday (Jan. 18). She then came back with a three-assist game last Saturday (Jan. 19), including one on teammate Milica McMillen's first period game-winner, as UM forged a 6-0 triumph. Her second assist of the night was her 200th career point, as she became only the ninth player to ever achieve 200 points in three seasons. Her hat trick in game one of the series was her fourth of the season and ninth of her career.

The top scorer for Minnesota this season, as well as in the WCHA and in the nation, Kessel has 71 points (34g, 37a) in 23 games played while her 99-game career stats show her with 85 goals, 116 points and 201 points.

Also nominated: Jocelyne Lamoureux, F, UND; Ally Tarr, F, OSU; Molli Mott, F, SCSU.

WCHA DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

BRIGETTE LACQUETTE • SOPHOMORE, DEFENSEMAN, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH

MADISON, Wis. – University of Minnesota Duluth defenseman Brigette Lacquette, who keyed a stellar defensive effort that propelled the Bulldogs to a two-game sweep over league rival Bemidji State last weekend, has been named the WCHA Women's Defensive Player of the Week for January 22.

A sophomore from Mallard, Manitoba, Lacquette was strong at both ends of the ice, producing three points, including assists on both game-winning goals, earning a +5 plus/minus rating and helping blank the Beavers on all 12 of their series power-play chances as Minnesota Duluth stretched their unbeaten streak to eight games (6-0-2) and their winning streak to four. She set up teammate Brienna Gillanders' game-winner last Friday (Jan. 18) in UMD's 3-0 victory and then assisted on Pernilla Winberg's winner last Saturday (Jan. 19) in the Bulldogs' 4-2 triumph. Also on Saturday, Lacquette one-timed the puck in the slot to deliver the game-equalizer 14:31 into the first period.

Seeing action all 22 of her team's games this season, Laquette has 12 points (3g, 9a).

Also nominated: Megan Bozek, D, UM; Chelsea Knapp, G, OSU.

WCHA ROOKIE OF THE WEEK

SHELBY AMSLEY-BENZIE • FRESHMAN, GOALTENDER, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

MADISON, Wis. – University of North Dakota goaltender Shelby Amsley-Benzie, who collected her first collegiate shutout in a two-game split with nationally-ranked Wisconsin last weekend, has been named the WCHA Women's Rookie of the Week for January 22.

A freshman from Warroad, Minn., Amsley-Benzie made both starts for UND on the Jan. 18-19 weekend, stopping 48 of 50 shots on goal for a .960 save percentage, posting four shutout periods, and blanking the Badgers on all 11 of their series power-play opportunities. She notched her first career shutout last Friday with a 19-save, 3-0, victory, and then surrendered just one goal while making 29 stops in a 2-1 setback last Saturday. She was the No. 2 Star of the Game Friday and the No. 3 Star of the Game on Saturday.

In 14 games played for North Dakota this season, Amsley-Benzie owns a 7-6-0 record with a 2.79 goals-against average and .892 save percentage.

Also nominated: Hannah Brandt, F, UM; Kayla Black, G, UMD.