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WCHA WOMEN'S LEAGUE

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University of Minnesota

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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January 9, 2013/For Immediate Release

MSU'S SMITH, BSU'S HAVEL, UND'S DUFAULT 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 produced seven scoring points in a two-game non-conference sweep at Lindenwood University last week, has been named the WCHA Women's Offensive Player of the Week for January 9.

A senior center and assistant captain from Burnsville, Minn., Smith scored four goals and set up three others, extended her point-scoring streak to five games, put 13 shots on goal and earned a +7 plus/minus rating in the two wins. She had a game-high four points off two goals and two assists in a New Year's Day 6-1 victory, including an assist on teammate Nicole Germaine's game-winning tally, and became the third-highest scorer in Minnesota State women's hockey history. She has 83 points (36g, 47a) in 127 games played. She followed that up with a two-goal, one-assist performance in last Wednesday's (January 2) series finale that saw the Mavericks come away with a 6-0 win.

Smith, who has 10-8=18 in her last 10 games, leads the Mavericks this season with 16 goals and 26 points while playing in all 22 games. She is two goals shy of the single-season school record and five assists away from the program's career record.

Also nominated: Kristin Huber, F, BSU; Jocelyne Lamoureux, F, UND; Molli Mott, F, SCSU.

WCHA DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

JESSICA HAVEL • SENIOR, GOALTENDER, BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY

MADISON, Wis. – Bemidji State University goaltender Jessica Havel, who registered her first collegiate shutout last Saturday in a conference road victory at St. Cloud State, has been named the WCHA Women's Defensive Player of the Week for January 9.

A senior from Grand Rapids, Minn., Havel stopped all 21 shots on goal, including 10 in the third period, in the visiting Beavers' 2-0 triumph over the host Huskies on January 5 and helped kill all three opponent power-play opportunities. It was her first game action since she set a career-high with 35 saves against top-ranked Minnesota on December 8. Entering the weekend series finale against SCSU, the Beavers had not held onto any of its previous three multiple-goal leads in 2012-13 and had not won a game by more than a goal, but Havel's effort allowed BSU to accomplish both feats.

In four starts away from home on the season, Havel has a 3-1-0 record with a 2.18 goals-against average and a .921 save percentage.

Also nominated: Danielle Butters, G, MSU; Jordan Slavin, D, UND.

WCHA ROOKIE OF THE WEEK

MEGHAN DUFAULT • FRESHMAN, FORWARD, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

MADISON, Wis. – Forward Meghan Dufault, whose seven scoring points helped boost visiting University of North Dakota to back-to-back road victories at Lindenwood University last weekend, has been named the WCHA Women's Rookie of the Week for January 9.

A freshman right winger from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Dufault had a historic night for UND with a six-point game in last Friday's (January 4) 7-3 victory at Lindenwood, including tying the program record with four goals. She notched three of her four scores in the second period alone, one of which was the eventual game-winning tally at the 4:10 mark. Then in North Dakota's 8-4 triumph over the host Lady Lions last Saturday (January 5), Dufault followed up with an assist on the game's first goal. Along with her seven points in the series, she fired 12 shots on goal and earned a +5 plus/minus rating.

In 19 games played for UND this season, Dufault ranks third in scoring overall among WCHA freshmen with 15 points on nine goals and six assists.

Also nominated: Julianna Pallotta, D, MSU.