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February 6, 2013/For Immediate Release

UND'S JAKOBSEN, UM'S KESSEL, RÄTY AND BRANDT NAMED WCHA WOMEN'S PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

WCHA CO-OFFENSIVE PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

JOSEFINE JAKOBSEN • SOPHOMORE, FORWARD, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

AMANDA KESSEL • JUNIOR, FORWARD, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

MADISON, Wis. – A pair of high-scoring forwards, Josefine Jakobsen of the University of North Dakota and Amanda Kessel of the University of Minnesota, have been named WCHA Women's co-Offensive Players of the Week for February 6.

Jakobsen, a sophomore from Aalborg, Denmark, put together a nine-point weekend with two three-goal hat tricks to power visiting North Dakota to a two-game conference road sweep at Minnesota State. In a 4-2 victory last Friday (Feb. 1), Jakobsen scored three goals, including a shorthanded game-winner, and was the No. 1 Star of the Game. Then last Saturday (Feb. 2), she came back with six more points, including another hat trick and an assist on the game-winner, to again earn No. 1 Star of the Game honors as UND prevailed by an 8-2 count. In addition to her nine points, she had 13 shots on goal and earned a +6 plus/minus rating. In 28 games this season, Jakobsen has 36 points (14g, 22a).

Kessel, a junior from Madison, Wis., helped the unbeaten and No. 1-ranked Golden Gophers to a season sweep of Minnesota Duluth by notching eight points (3g, 5a) last weekend, earning No. 2 Star of the Game honors in both contests. Kessel began the series with a four-point Friday night (2g, 2a) in Minnesota's 5-0 victory which clinched their seventh WCHA regular season title. Then last Saturday, she followed with another four-point night (1g, 3a), including scoring the game-winning goal in the third period. Kessel, who also earned the weekly honor on Oct. 3, Nov. 7, Jan. 16 and Jan. 23, led the team with 11 shots on goal in the series and a plus/minus ratio of +6. The nation's leading scorer this season, Kessel has 83 points (37g, 46a) in 27 games.

Also nominated: Natasha Kostenko, F, BSU; Lauren Smith, F, MSU.

WCHA DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

NOORA RÄTY • SENIOR, GOALTENDER, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

MADISON, Wis. – University of Minnesota goaltender Noora Rätty, who won back-to-back league games over visiting Minnesota Duluth last weekend while surrendering just two goals and setting the NCAA record for career victories, has been named the WCHA Women's Defensive Player of the Week for February 6. This is her fourth such honor this season (also on Oct. 24, Dec. 5 and Jan. 29).

A senior from Espoo, Finland, Rätty stopped all 24 shots on goal last Friday (Feb. 1) night to post her 37th career shutout in a 5-0 home-ice win over the Bulldogs. Named the No. 1 Star of the Game, that victory was the 101st of Rätty's collegiate career, which makes her the NCAA career wins record holder. Then on Saturday (Feb. 2), she turned aside 16 of 18 shots in the Gophers' 6-2 win. In addition to yielding just two goals in the series, Rätty also blanked UMD on all seven of their power-play opportunities. Owing the nation's best record this season at 26-0-0, Rätty is also No. 2 in goals-against average (0.91) and No. 1 in save percentage (.958).

Also nominated: Abby Ryplanski, G, BSU; Tanja Eisenschmid, F, UND.

WCHA ROOKIE OF THE WEEK

HANNAH BRANDT • FRESHMAN, FORWARD, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

MADISON, Wis. – University of Minnesota forward Hannah Brandt, who produced five scoring points and earned a +5 plus/minus rating as the host Golden Gophers won both games against league-rival Minnesota Duluth last weekend, is the WCHA Women's Rookie of the Week for February 6. A freshman from Vadnais Heights, Minn., Brandt previously earned the weekly honor on Oct. 3, Oct. 24, Nov. 7, Nov. 20, Dec. 12 and Jan. 30.

In a 5-0 triumph for No. 1-ranked Minnesota last Friday (Feb 1) night, Brandt earned two assists, put two shots on goal and was a +2. Then in last Saturday's (Feb. 2) 6-2 victory over UMD, she scored one goal and set up two others for three points, drew an assist on the game-winning tally, had three shots on goal and earned a +3 plus/minus rating while being named the No. 2 Star of the Game. The nation's top scoring rookie, Brandt has 67 points (26g, 41a) in 28 games played.

Also nominated: Tanja Eisenschmid, F, UND.