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University of North Dakota
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UMD's Kenyon, UND's Hirschy and Tapani Named WCHA Women's Players of the Week

WCHA Offensive Player of the Week Jamie Kenyon, F Minnesota Duluth

MADISON, Wis. – University of Minnesota Duluth forward and team captain Jamie Kenyon, a senior from Sparta, Wis., has been named WCHA Women's Offensive Player of the Week for Dec. 18, 2013.

Kenyon netted three of the four goals Minnesota Duluth put in the books last weekend against league-rival St. Cloud State, leading the Bulldogs' two-game road sweep of the Huskies by identical scores of 2-1.

She scored two even-strength goals in the first period last Friday (Dec. 13), finding the twine on a rebound at the 12:12 mark and then finishing up a brilliant passing sequence 2:25 later with the game-winning goal at 14:37. Named the game's First Star, her two goals came on her only two shots, and Kenyon was a +2 on the plus/minus.

On Saturday (Dec. 14), Kenyon again struck in the first period, burying a shot from the slot 5:44 into the game. Kenyon had three shots on goal in game two and was again +2, bringing her total to a +4 on the weekend and on the ice for every UMD goal.

In 20 games this season, Kenyon is the Bulldogs' second leading scorer and top-goal getter with 10 goals and 10 assists for 20 points, already a career high. Kenyon also ranks fourth in the NCAA with three game-winning goals and eighth with four power-play tallies.

Also nominated: Meghan Dufault, F, UND.

WCHA Defensive Player of the Week Gracen Hirschy, D North Dakota

MADISON, Wis. – University of North Dakota defenseman Gracen Hirschy, a freshman from Fort Wayne, Ind., has been named the WCHA Women's Defensive Player of the Week for Dec. 18, 2013.

Hirschy tallied one goal and two assists for three points and helped key a strong defensive effort in No. 4-ranked North Dakota's 5-2, 2-1 weekend sweep of conference opponent Minnesota State Dec. 13-14 in Mankato. UND held the Mavericks to single digit shot totals in five of six periods (39 total shots in the series) and killed five of six power-play chances.

In the series opener last Friday, Hirschy scored the game's opening goal at 16:17 of the first period before assisting on the team's fourth goal in the 5-2 triumph. Then in the weekend finale last Saturday, a 2-1 UND victory, Hirschy assisted on teammate Susanna Tapani's game-winner in the third period. She finished the weekend with nine shots on goal and a +4 plus/minus rating.

In her first season at North Dakota, Hirschy has played in all 18 games and leads the team's defensemen in scoring with 12 points (5g, 7a). She also owns the highest plus/minus rating amongst the nation's freshmen at +19.

WCHA Rookie of the Week Susanna Tapani, F North Dakota

MADISON, Wis. – University of North Dakota forward Susanna Tapani, a freshman from Laitala, Finland, has been named the WCHA Women's Rookie of the Week for Dec. 18, 2013.

Tapani recorded the first multi-goal game of her collegiate career last Saturday (Dec. 14), scoring both of visiting North Dakota's goals in a 2-1 WCHA victory against Minnesota State.

She opened the scoring just :61 seconds into the contest to give UND the early 1-0 lead. Then after the Mavericks had tied the game with a power-play goal in the second period, Tapani notched her second goal of the afternoon, and the game-winner, at 1:43 of the third period. She was named the game's First Star.

In addition to her two goals, Tapani finished the series with eight shots on goal and had a +2 plus/minus rating.

Tapani already has 17 points (6g, 11a) in her first 16 games for No. 4-ranked North Dakota, which is second most among the nation's freshmen.