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UW's Packer and Desbiens, OSU's Steffes Named WCHA Women's Players of the Week

WCHA Offensive Player of the Week Madison Packer, F Wisconsin

MADISON, Wis. – University of Wisconsin forward Madison Packer, a senior from Birmingham, Mich., has been named the WCHA Women's Offensive Player of the Week for Dec. 4, 2013.

Packer had a part in all three of Wisconsin's goals last weekend as the No. 2-ranked Badgers took four points on the road against league-rival Minnesota Duluth and extended their unbeaten streak to a nation's best 12 games at 10-0-2.

In last Friday's (Nov. 29) 2-2 tie, Packer tallied an assist on UW's first period goal, firing a shot that UMD goalie Kayla Black saved before Courtney Burke tapped in the rebound to tie the game at 1-1. Packer then found the net for the fifth time this season in the third to tie the game at 2-2. Then in Saturday's (Nov. 30) 1-0 win, Packer fed Karley Sylvester on a rush and Sylvester fired a shot into the top right corner for the game's only goal. Packer also earned +3 plus/minus series rating and had six shots on goal.

With 91 career points, Packer ranks 20th on the UW all-time list, and needs nine more to become the 18th player in school history to score 100 points.

Also nominated this week: Hannah Brandt, F, UM.

WCHA Defensive Player of the Week Lisa Steffes, G Ohio State

MADISON, Wis. – Ohio State University senior goaltender Lisa Steffes, from Amherstburg, Ontario, is the WCHA Women's Defensive Player of the Week for Dec. 4, 2013.

Steffes led Ohio State to its first two-game series sweep of the season this past weekend on the road against New Hampshire, posting the Buckeyes' first shutout of the season in the series finale Sunday. She had four shutout periods in the series and a .957 save percentage.

Steffes made 23 saves in a 3-2 Ohio State victory last Saturday (Nov. 30) and followed that performance up with a 21-save shutout on Sunday (Dec. 1) afternoon to secure a 2-0 win over the Wildcats. Steffes also helped hold UNH scoreless on all six of its power-play chances in the series.

In eight games played so far this season, Steffes is posting career bests in both goals-against average (1.61) and save percentage (.942).

Also nominated this week: Milica McMillan, D, UM; Kayla Black, G, UMD; Courtney Burke, D, UW.

WCHA Rookie of the Week Ann-Renée Desbiens, G Wisconsin

MADISON, Wis. – University of Wisconsin goaltender Ann-Renée Desbiens, a freshman from La Malbaie, Quebec, has been named the WCHA Women's Rookie of the Week for Dec. 4, 2013.

Desbiens came off the bench last Saturday (Nov. 30) in the No. 2-ranked Badgers' 1-0 conference road victory at Minnesota Duluth and helped Wisconsin earn its fifth shutout of the year and extend its unbeaten streak to a nation's best 12 games. She earned 13 saves in relief of senior Alex Rigsby, who left the game with an injury midway through the second period. Desbiens made critical saves down the stretch, including 10 in the third period and two key stops after UMD pulled its goaltender with less than two minutes to go.

Over four games and 207:07 minutes played as a rookie this season, Desbiens owns a 4-0-0 record, a 0.87 goals-against average, and a .962 save percentage.

Also nominated this week: Kate Schipper, F, UM.