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UND'S KOHLER, UMD'S BLACK, UW'S DESBIENS AND BSU'S JOYCE NAMED WCHA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK FOR GAMES OF NOV. 28-30, 2014

EDINA, Minn. – Dec. 2, 2014 – A prolific scorer, two goaltenders on shutout streaks and a stalwart freshman defender highlight the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) women's Players of the Week for games of Nov. 28-30, 2014. The honorees are: North Dakota junior forward **Becca Kohler** (Offensive Player of the Week), Minnesota Duluth junior goaltender **Kayla Black** and Wisconsin sophomore goaltender **Ann-Renée Desbiens** (Co-Defensive Players of the Week), and Bemidji State freshman defenseman **Alexis Joyce** (Rookie of the Week).

WCHA Offensive Player of the Week

Becca Kohler, Jr., F, North Dakota (St. Thomas, Ontario)

Kohler recorded a five-point weekend, scoring two goals and handing out three assists, as North Dakota swept a league series against visiting St. Cloud State. The junior from St. Thomas, Ontario paced a 6-1 Friday night victory with a goal and two assists, before her game-winning strike helped UND to a 3-1 triumph on Sunday. She finished the weekend with eight shots and a +3 rating. Kohler, who is 17th in the nation with 1.19 points per game, is on a three-game point streak that includes three goals (two game-winners) and four assists.

Also nominated: Hannah Brandt; Jr., F, Minnesota; Kristine Grenier, Sr., F, Bemidji State; Sydney McKibbin, So., F, Wisconsin; Kayla Sullivan, Sr., F, Ohio State

WCHA Co-Defensive Player of the Week

Kayla Black, Jr., G, Minnesota Duluth (Blyth, Ontario)

Black posted a shutout for the fourth consecutive weekend, making 32 saves in a 2-0 victory over then-No. 10/9 Bemidji State last Saturday that gave Minnesota Duluth a split in the series between two top-10 teams. The junior from Blyth, Ontario was particularly impressive in the second period, when the Beavers outshot the Bulldogs, 19-4. Black is only the second netminder in UMD history with more than five blankings in a season, as her six shutouts this year trail only the seven recorded by All-American Riitta Schaublin in 2004-05. She also now has 15 career shutouts, one behind All-American Kim Martin (16) and two behind UMD's all-time leader, Schaublin (17).

WCHA Co-Defensive Player of the Week

Ann-Renée Desbiens, So., G, Wisconsin (La Malbaie, Québec)

Desbiens rank her shutout streak to four consecutive games with back-to-back blankings in Wisconsin's two 5-0 road victories at New Hampshire. Behind Desbiens' stellar play between the pipes, the Badgers have held their opponents scoreless for 330 minutes and 56 seconds. The sophomore from La Malbaie, Québec, is now 12-2-1 on the season and ranks among national leaders for shutouts (t-3rd, 6), wins (t-4th), winning percentage (t-4th, .833) and goals against average (6th, 1.32). Her nine career shutouts rank sixth on the Badgers' all-time list.

Also nominated: Halli Krzyzaniak, So., D, North Dakota; Milica McMillen, Jr., D, Minnesota; Brittni Mowat, So., G, Bemidji State; Sara Schmitt, Sr., D, Ohio State

WCHA Rookie of the Week

Alexis Joyce, D, Bemidji State (Lakeville, Minn.)

Joyce logged a team-best five blocked shots to enhance a Bemidji State defense that allowed just three goals during a top-10 showdown series against then-No. 9/8 Minnesota Duluth. The freshman from Lakeville, Minn. also contributed in a big way offensively, assisting on the game-winning goal in the Beavers' 4-1 victory last Friday. Joyce leads all BSU freshmen with five points this season (1g, 4a), while she ranks fourth nationally with 39 blocked shots.

Also nominated: Annie Pankowski, F, Wisconsin; Kelly Pannek, F, Minnesota

About Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA)

The women's Western Collegiate Hockey Association has won a record 14 national championships in 15 years since its inception in 1999, while producing six Patty Kazmaier Award winners, 70 All-Americans and numerous Olympic and international team members. The eight-team Division 1 conference consists of: Bemidji State University (Beavers), the University of Minnesota (Golden Gophers), the University of Minnesota Duluth (Bulldogs), Minnesota State University (Mavericks), the University of North Dakota, Ohio State University (Buckeyes), St. Cloud State University (Huskies) and the University of Wisconsin (Badgers).

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