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BSU'S MILLER, OSU'S SAUVE AND MINNESOTA'S BONA AND PANNEK NAMED WCHA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK FOR GAMES OF JAN. 2-6, 2015

EDINA, Minn. – Jan. 7, 2015 – A flurry of hat tricks and stout goaltending highlight the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) women's Players of the Week for games of Jan. 2-6, 2015. The honorees are: Minnesota senior forward **Rachael Bona** and Bemidji State sophomore forward **Lauren Miller** (Co-Offensive Players of the Week), Ohio State freshman goaltender **Kassidy Sauve** (Defensive Player of the Week), and Minnesota freshman forward **Kelly Pannek** (Rookie of the Week).

WCHA Co-Offensive Player of the Week

Rachael Bona, Sr., F, Minnesota (Coon Rapids, Minn.)

Bona had five goals and an assist in Minnesota's two victories over St. Lawrence on Sunday and Tuesday. The senior from Coon Rapids, Minn. recorded her second career hat trick in Sunday's 10-0 win, netting three goals – including the game-winner just 1:20 into the game – on six shots. Bona then scored a pair of late third-period goals Tuesday to break open a close game in an eventual 5-1 Gophers win. With her consecutive three-point games, Bona now is third in the WCHA and sixth nationally with 29 points (11g, 18a) on the season.

WCHA Co-Offensive Player of the Week

Lauren Miller, So., F, Bemidji State (Brockville, Ontario)

Miller, a sophomore from Brockville, Ontario, enjoyed her first career three-goal game – the first hat trick by a Bemidji State player since Jan. 2011 – to lead the Beavers to a 6-0 victory at Lindenwood this past Saturday. Miller scored at the 10:20 mark of the first period for the game-winner, before adding a pair of third-period tallies. She is now tied for the BSU lead with six goals on the season.

Also nominated: Taylor Kuehl, Sr., F, Ohio State

WCHA Defensive Player of the Week

Kassidy Sauve, Fr., G, Ohio State (Whitby, Ontario)

Sauve logged her fourth shutout in just 14 career starts when she backstopped Ohio State to a 6-0 victory at Penn State on Sunday. The freshman from Whitby, Ontario made 23 stops against the Nittany Lions, lifting the Buckeyes to their fourth-straight win. Sauve's four shutouts rank tied for fourth in the WCHA and tied for sixth nationally.

Also nominated: Amanda Leveille, Jr., G, Minnesota; Brittini Mowat, So., G, Bemidji State

WCHA Rookie of the Week

Kelly Pannek, F, Minnesota (Plymouth, Minn.)

Pannek, a freshman from Plymouth, Minn., recorded six points in Minnesota's two wins over St. Lawrence. She logged a career-best five points in the Gophers' 10-0 win on Sunday, including her second career hat trick and a pair of assists. Pannek set up the game-winning goal just 1:20 into the game, scored back-to-back goals just 20 seconds apart in the final minute of the second period and won 10 faceoffs. She also added a goal in Tuesday night's 5-1 victory and now has a career-best seven-game point streak (7g, 11a, 18pts). Pannek leads all NCAA rookies with 26 points, while her 1.25 points per game average is second-best.

Also nominated: Emma Terres, So., D, Bemidji State

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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