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## UW'S TURNBULL AND DESBIENS, AND OSU'S SPRING NAMED WCHA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK FOR GAMES OF FEB. 6-7, 2015

EDINA, Minn. – Feb. 10, 2015 – A pair of Badgers teammates and a clutch freshman scorer highlight the women's Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) Players of the Week for games of Feb. 6-7. The honorees are: Wisconsin senior forward **Blayre Turnbull** (Offensive Player of the Week), Wisconsin sophomore goaltender **Ann-Renée Desbiens** (Defensive Player of the Week) and Ohio State freshman forward **Lauren Spring** (Rookie of the Week).

### WCHA Offensive Player of the Week

#### **Blayre Turnbull, Sr., F, Wisconsin (Stellarton, Nova Scotia)**

Turnbull stole the show on Senior Night in Madison, netting her first career hat trick while also tallying an assist in No. 3 Wisconsin's 5-0 blanking of No. 7 Minnesota Duluth in a top-10 showdown. In the process, Turnbull became the first player in school history to collect three power-play goals in a single game. The senior from Stellarton, Nova Scotia not only has the school single-game power-play record, she also shares the UW standard for the most shorthanded goals in a game (2). On Sunday, Turnbull was also instrumental in helping the Badgers kill all four of UMD's power-plays, as UW leads the nation in penalty killing with a .968 conversion rate.

*Also nominated:* Katie Matheny, So., F, Ohio State; Amy Menke, So., F, North Dakota; Kaitlyn Tougas, Jr., F, Bemidji State

### WCHA Defensive Player of the Week

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

Desbiens had a pair of shutouts and was stellar in net for No. 3 Wisconsin against No. 7 Minnesota Duluth, stopping all 43 shots she faced to help the Badgers take five of six points in the pivotal WCHA clash between top-10 teams. The sophomore from La Malbaie, Québec stopped 23 shots in a scoreless tie Friday and turned back three of UMD's four skaters in the shootout to propel UW to the extra league point. Desbiens earned her 11<sup>th</sup> shutout of the year Saturday night, making 20 saves in a 5-0 win. Her 11 shutouts this season are not only the second-most in the country, but also in program history, as only former Patty Kazmaier Award winner Jessie Vetter had more (14) in a single season. Desbiens leads the WCHA and ranks third nationally with a 1.13 goals against average, while ranking fourth nationally with a .942 save percentage and fifth with a .778 winning percentage.

*Also nominated:* Shelby Amsley-Benzie, Jr., G, North Dakota; Brittini Mowat, So., G, Bemidji State; Alexa Ranahan, So., D, Ohio State

### **WCHA Rookie of the Week**

#### **Lauren Spring, F, Ohio State (Kelowna, British Columbia)**

Spring continued her solid freshman campaign, lifting Ohio State to a huge WCHA victory by netting a third-period game-winner Friday. One of only six WCHA rookies to tally multiple game-winning goals this season, Spring netted her second of the year at the 16:32 mark of the third period Friday – a goal that gave the Buckeyes a 3-2 victory over Minnesota State and allowed OSU to stay in the hunt for home-ice advantage in the league playoffs. The freshman from Kelowna, British Columbia leads all Buckeye rookies and ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the WCHA with eight points (four goals, four assists) this season.

*Also nominated:* Annie Pankowski, F, Wisconsin; Nicole Schammel, F, Minnesota State; Summer Thibodeau, F, Bemidji State

### **2015 WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF**

Tickets for the premiere league championship in women's college hockey - the WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF - are on sale now. The 2015 WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF, which will determine the league's playoff champion and recipient of its automatic berth to the NCAA Tournament, will be held March 7 and 8 at Ralph Engelstad Arena in Grand Forks, N.D. All-tournament packages or single-session tickets can be purchased at the Ralph Engelstad Arena box office, Ticketmaster Ticket Centers, by calling 800-745-3000 or online at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com).

### ***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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