



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**UMN'S CAMERANESI, UND'S AMSLEY-BENZIE AND SCSU'S FRIEND,
AND UMD'S HEALEY
NAMED WCHA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK FOR GAMES OF FEB. 20-22, 2015**

EDINA, Minn. – Feb. 24, 2015 – Clutch scorers and brick wall goaltenders highlight the women's Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) Players of the Week for the final weekend of the 2014-15 regular season. The honorees for games of Feb. 20-22, 2015 are: Minnesota sophomore forward **Dani Cameranesi** (Offensive Player of the Week), North Dakota junior goaltender **Shelby Amsley-Benzie** and St. Cloud State senior goaltender **Julie Friend** (Co-Defensive Players of the Week) and Minnesota Duluth defenseman **Jessica Healey** (Rookie of the Week).

WCHA Offensive Player of the Week

Dani Cameranesi, So., F, Minnesota (Plymouth, Minn.)

Cameranesi earned her second straight honor after leading Minnesota with four points (tied for most in the WCHA) in a road sweep at Bemidji State. The sophomore from Plymouth, Minn. was on the ice for five of the Gophers' seven goals, while recording two goals, two assists, nine shots on goal, one blocked shot and a +1 rating. In Friday's 3-2 win, Cameranesi scored the game-tying goal in the second period, and assisted on the go-ahead score just 3:17 later. Saturday, she set up Maryanne Menefee's game-winning goal at 1:24 of the third period before sealing the victory with an empty-netter. Cameranesi ranks fourth in the nation with 55 points and is third with 34 assists.

Also nominated: Josefine Jakobsen, Sr., F, North Dakota

WCHA Co-Defensive Player of the Week

Shelby Amsley-Benzie, Jr., G, North Dakota (Warroad, Minn.)

Amsley-Benzie remained perfect between the pipes for North Dakota last weekend against Minnesota State, recording her third- and fourth-consecutive shutouts as UND clinched third place and home ice for the first round of the WCHA playoffs. The junior from Warroad, Minn. turned away all 24 shots she faced, helping UND go a perfect six-for-six on the penalty kill. Amsley-Benzie ends the regular season as the WCHA's leading goaltender with a save percentage of .955 and goals against average of 1.17 in league play. She enters the playoffs riding a program-record shutout streak of 267 minutes and 11 seconds.

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WCHA Co-Defensive Player of the Week

Julie Friend, Sr., G, St. Cloud State (Minnetonka, Minn.)

Friend, a senior from Minnetonka, Minn. was the backbone to St. Cloud State's 2-1, upset road victory at No. 3 Wisconsin last Friday. She stopped 52 of the 53 shots Wisconsin attempted to lead the Huskies to their first win against the Badgers since 2010. Friend's season-high 52 saves included 18 in the first period, 22 in the second and 12 more in the third. She blanked the Badgers, who entered the game with the nation's fifth-ranked offense, for the first 59:44 of the contest.

Also nominated: Ann-Renée Desbiens, So., G, Wisconsin; Brigette Lacquette, Sr., D, Minnesota Duluth

WCHA Rookie of the Week

Jessica Healey, D, Minnesota Duluth (Edmonton, Alberta)

Healey picked a great time to score the first and second goals of her young Bulldog career, including the game-winner Friday night in Minnesota Duluth's 3-1 victory over Ohio State. The freshman from Edmonton, Alberta put the Bulldogs ahead 2-1 at the 17:26 mark of the second period, scoring on her lone shot of the game. Healey again had a clutch goal Sunday, drawing UMD even 2-2 at the 8:59 mark of the third. That score was the first of a four-goal, third period outburst that gave the Bulldogs a 5-2, comeback victory.

Also nominated: Annie Pankowski, F, Wisconsin; 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.

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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