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## **UW'S CLARK, MSU'S HINZE AND BSU'S HALLUSKA NAMED WCHA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK FOR GAMES OF DEC. 9-11, 2016**

EDINA, Minn. – Dec. 13, 2016 – The NCAA's leading scorer from this past weekend, an upset-leading scoring outburst from the blue line and a the league's top point-producing freshman highlight the women's Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) Players of the Week for games of Dec. 9-11, 2016. The honorees are: Wisconsin junior forward **Emily Clark** (Offensive Player of the Week), Minnesota State sophomore defenseman **Megan Hinze** (Defensive Player of the Week) and Bemidji State freshman forward **Abby Halluska** (Rookie of the Week).

### **WCHA Offensive Player of the Week**

#### **Emily Clark, Jr., F, Wisconsin (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)**

Clark enjoyed a NCAA-high seven-point weekend, helping No. 1 Wisconsin to a road sweep at Ohio State. The junior from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan opened the series with a career-best five points in the Badgers' 7-0, Friday night victory. In that contest, she assisted on UW's first three goals, scored the fourth and added another helper on the team's sixth marker. Saturday, Clark tallied a pair of assists to help the Badgers to the 5-0, sweep-clinching triumph. After a 19-point first half for Wisconsin (5g-14a), Clark will now compete for the Canadian National Women's Senior Team against the United States in a two-game December series; and, for Canada's National Women's Development Team at the 2017 Nations Cup in Germany and Austria, Jan. 4-7. This is Clark's first WCHA weekly award of the 2016-17 season and her fifth career honor (including one Rookie of the Week accolades).

**Honorable Mention: Emily Antony, So., F, Minnesota State** (tied for the team lead with two points on a pair of assists as the Mavericks split with then-No. 3 Minnesota Duluth); **Emily Bergland, So., F, Bemidji State** (had two power-play goals, one assist and a +2 rating as the Beavers swept a nonconference road series at RIT); **Amy Menke, Sr., F, North Dakota** (had a goal, two assists and a +2 rating as the No. 10 Fighting Hawks swept visiting St. Cloud State); **Kelly Pannek, Jr., F, Minnesota** (team-high six points on a goal and five assists as the No. 2 Gophers split a nonconference road series at Boston University).

### **WCHA Defensive Player of the Week**

#### **Megan Hinze, So., D, Minnesota State (Carver, Minn.)**

Hinze lifted Minnesota State to an upset victory over then-No. 3 Minnesota Duluth on Saturday afternoon, scoring the game-tying and game-winning power-play goals in the third period of the Mavericks' 2-1 triumph. The sophomore from Carver, Minn. brought the host Mavericks even at 1-1 at the 3:47 mark of the final stanza, before snapping the tie with 5:12 remaining in regulation. Hinze and the Minnesota State defense held on from there, giving the Mavericks their first win over a ranked opponent under second-year head coach **John Harrington** and the program's first since a 3-0 victory over No. 2 Wisconsin on March 1, 2014. Hinze, who scored on her only two shots of the weekend, also added five blocked shots in the series to earn her first career WCHA weekly award.

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**Honorable Mention: Ann-Renée Desbiens, Sr., G, Wisconsin** (posted consecutive shutouts, stopping all 25 shots she faced and lowering her NCAA-leading goals-against average to 0.75, as the top-ranked Badgers swept a road series at Ohio State); **Halli Krzyzaniak, Sr., D, North Dakota** (tied for WCHA defenseman lead with a +5 rating, while logging six shots on goal and an assist in the No. 10 Fighting Hawks' sweep of visiting St. Cloud State); **Lisa Laiti, So., D, Bemidji State** (tied for WCHA defenseman lead with four assists, including a career-best three Saturday, as the Beavers swept a nonconference road series at RIT); **Megan Wolfe, Jr., D, Minnesota** (led NCAA blue-liners with a career-high five-point weekend, tallying a goal and four assists as the No. 2 Gophers split a nonconference road series at Boston University).

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

##### **Abby Halluska, Fr., F, Bemidji State (Delano, Minn.)**

Halluska tied for the WCHA rookie lead with three points, tallying a goal and two assist in Bemidji State's sweep-clinching, 5-1 road win Saturday at RIT. The freshman from Delano, Minn. assisted on the Beavers' first goal of the game, helped set up their third strike, then put the game away with a power-play marker of her own in the third period. The two assists and three points marked a career high for Halluska, as the Beavers left New York with a pair of victories. This is Halluska's first career WCHA weekly award.

**Honorable Mention: Ryleigh Houston, Fr., F, North Dakota** (tallied an assist Saturday and the game-winning goal Sunday, helping the No. 10 Fighting Hawks sweep visiting St. Cloud State); **Sophia Poinar, Fr., F, Minnesota State** (lead all Maverick freshmen with three face-off wins and two blocked shots as Minnesota State earned a home split with then-No. 3 Minnesota Duluth).

#### **About the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA)**

The women's Western Collegiate Hockey Association has won a record 16 national championships in 17 years since its inception in 1999, while producing six Patty Kazmaier Award winners, 86 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). For more information, visit [www.wcha.com](http://www.wcha.com).

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