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UW'S WELLHAUSEN, DESBIENS AND ROQUE NAMED WCHA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK FOR GAMES OF FEB. 10-12, 2017

EDINA, Minn. – Feb. 14, 2017 – After clinching its second-consecutive league title with a five-point weekend against the country's second-ranked team, a trio of Wisconsin players – all of whom ranked among the national statistical leaders for their position or class last week – have swept the women's Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) Players of the Week for games of Feb. 10-12, 2017. The honorees are: junior forward **Baylee Wellhausen** (Offensive Player of the Week), senior goaltender **Ann-Renée Desbiens** (Defensive Player of the Week) and freshman forward **Abby Roque** (Rookie of the Week).

WCHA Offensive Player of the Week

Baylee Wellhausen, Jr., F, Wisconsin (Williams Bay, Wis.)

Wellhausen helped Wisconsin clinch its second-consecutive WCHA regular season championship, recording her first career hat trick as the top-ranked Badgers rolled to an 8-0 win Sunday over No. 2 Minnesota Duluth. The junior from Williams Bay, Wis. scored in the first period to give UW a 2-0 lead after 20 minutes, before scoring twice in a four-minute span in the second period. The victory secured the league title for the Badgers, who needed two points from the contest to repeat as WCHA champions. One of two players in the country to record a hat trick last week, Wellhausen's three goals tied for the NCAA lead. This is Wellhausen's first WCHA weekly award of the 2016-17 season and her career honor (including one Rookie of the Week accolade).

Honorable Mention: **Hannah Davidson, Jr., F, Minnesota State** (tied for the team lead with one goal as the Mavericks earned two points at Ohio State); **Maddy Field, So., F, Ohio State** (posted three points on a goal and two assists, along with a +4 rating, as the Buckeyes earned four key points against visiting Minnesota State); **Lauren Miller, Sr., F, Bemidji State** (tied for the team lead with three points on a goal and two assists, while posting 17 face-off wins to help the Beavers split at St. Cloud State); **Caitlin Reilly, Jr., F, Minnesota** (led the Gophers with three goals, one in the first game and two in the second, as No. 4 UMN swept visiting North Dakota).

WCHA Defensive Player of the Week

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

Desbiens was stellar once again in the Wisconsin net, holding No. 2 Minnesota Duluth to a single goal as the top-ranked Badgers earned five points and clinched the WCHA regular season championship. She finished the series with an NCAA-best 0.48 goals-against average, while her .973 save percentage over the two games led the WCHA and ranked third nationally. The senior from La Malbaie, Québec opened the series by making 21 saves in a 1-1 tie Saturday, before coming up with an additional eight stops as the Badgers won an epic, 12-round shootout – the second-longest in WCHA history. Sunday, in front of friends and family on Senior Day, Desbiens earned her NCAA leading 12th shutout of the season – and her record 50th career clean sheet – in UW' 8-0, title-clinching triumph. This is Desbiens' third WCHA weekly award of the 2016-17 season and her 16th career accolade (including three Rookie of the Week honors).

Honorable Mention: Alexis Joyce, Jr., D, Bemidji State (tied for the team lead – and tops among WCHA defensemen – with three points, including the game-winning goal Saturday, as the Beavers split at Ohio State); **Anna Keys, Jr., D, Minnesota State** (led the Mavericks with two assists, tying for the team lead in points as MSU earned two points at Ohio State); **Lee Stecklein, Sr., D, Minnesota** (recorded three assists, six shots on goal, four blocked shots and a +4 rating to help the No. 4 Gophers to a sweep of visiting North Dakota); **Kassidy Sauve, RS-So., G, Ohio State** (backstopped the Buckeyes to a four-point home weekend against Minnesota State, posting 48 saves, a .941 save percentage and a 1.44 goals-against average).

WCHA Rookie of the Week

Abby Roque, Fr., F, Wisconsin (Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.)

Roque repeated as the Rookie of the Week after once again leading all WCHA freshmen in scoring, this time posting four to also tie for the high-water mark among all league skaters. After recording an assist in UW's 1-1 tie Saturday with No. 2 Minnesota Duluth, Roque added three points off a goal and two assists as the top-ranked Badgers clinched the WCHA title with an 8-0 victory Sunday afternoon. The freshman from Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. tallied the game-winning goal on a first-period power play, kick-starting the UW offense. She also recorded a .655 face-off percentage during the series (19-for-29), ranking fourth in the WCHA among players that took at least 15 draws on the weekend. Her three assists paced all NCAA rookies, while her four points tied for second. This is Roque's second-consecutive WCHA weekly award and the fourth overall of her rookie season.

Honorable Mention: Demi Gardner, Fr., F, Minnesota State (tied for the team lead and second among WCHA freshmen with two points, scoring a goal and handing out her first collegiate assist as the Mavericks earned two points at Ohio State); **Patti Marshall, Fr., D, Minnesota** (recorded two assists, three shots on goal, five blocked shots and a +2 rating as the No. 4 Gophers swept visiting North Dakota); **Kiki Radke, Fr., F, Bemidji State** (tied for the WCHA rookie lead with 11 shots on goal and a +2 rating, while adding a goal as the Beavers split at St. Cloud State).

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.

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