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## UW'S ANN-RENÉE DESBIENS NAMED WOMEN'S HOCKEY COMMISSIONERS' ASSOCIATION NATIONAL DIVISION I PLAYER OF THE MONTH

EDINA, Minn. – March 3, 2017 – Wisconsin senior goaltender **Ann-Renée Desbiens** (La Malbaie, Québec) was named the Women's Hockey Commissioners' Association National Division I Player of the Month for February 2017, earning the honor after leading the country with a 0.61 goals-against average, a .973 save percentage and four shutouts. A top-three finalist for the 2017 Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award, she backstopped the top-ranked Badgers to a 5-0-3 record last month.

A two-time WCHA Defensive Player of the Week in February, Desbiens was at her best when the stakes were highest. She came up with 36 saves in a tie and victory against No. 2 Minnesota Duluth on Feb. 11-12, including a shutout in the series finale to clinch the Badgers' second-straight WCHA regular season title. The 5-9 netminder then put together back-to-back, 30-plus save performances in a pair of ties at No. 4 Minnesota, stopping 69-of-70 shots on the weekend. Finally, she logged consecutive shutouts in UW's sweep of Minnesota State in the quarterfinal round of the 2017 WCHA Playoffs.

Desbiens enters this weekend's WCHA Final Face-Off championships pacing the NCAA in five categories: wins (25), winning percentage (.900), goals-against average (0.69), save percentage (.963) and shutouts (15). She continues to fashion a truly remarkable career, with an NCAA-record 53 clean sheets in her 117 starts, along with 95 wins, a 0.90 GAA and .954 save percentage in a Wisconsin uniform.

Rookie forward **Jaycee Gebhard** (Plenty, Sask.) of Robert Morris led all freshman in points per game in February, registering 10 points, on six goals and four assists, in six games to earn Women's Hockey Commissioners' Association National Division I Rookie of the Month honors.

### ***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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