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November 10, 2010/For Immediate Release

MSU's Tikkinen, UND's Slavin, UMD's Gillanders Named WCHA Women's Players of the Week

WCHA Offensive Player of the Week Nina Tikkinen • Sr., F, Minnesota State University

MADISON, Wis. – Minnesota State University left winger Nina Tikkinen, who racked up five scoring points last weekend as the Mavericks won back-to-back conference games against visiting St. Cloud State, has been named the WCHA Offensive Player of the Week for Nov. 10, 2010.

A senior from Salo, Finland, Tikkinen had three points in last Friday (Nov. 5) night's 4-1 victory over St. Cloud State, and two more in last Saturday's (Nov. 6) 4-2 win over the Huskies. In Friday's contest, Tikkinen recorded helpers on Minnesota State's first three scores, including teammate Kathleen Rogan's game-winning goal in the first period, and earned the game's No. 1 star honor. Then on Saturday, Tikkinen gave the Mavericks a 2-0 lead midway through the second period after a highlight-reel score. She also assisted on MSU's fourth score late in the third period, netted by forward Emmi Leinonen. In addition to her five points (1g, 4a), Tikkinen had four shots on goal in the series. She is MSU's second leading scorer on the season with six points in 10 games.

The two victories gave the Mavericks their first home ice series sweep since Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 2008 when they beat Bemidji State.

Also nominated this week were: Emily Erickson, F, BSU; Emily West, F, UM; and Meghan Duggan, F, UW.

WCHA Defensive Player of the Week Jordan Slavin • So., D, University of North Dakota

MADISON, Wis. – University of North Dakota defenseman Jordan Slavin, who led her team with a +3 plus/minus rating and also contributed a goal and an assist as the host Sioux won and tied in a series against league rival Ohio State last weekend, is the WCHA Defensive Player of the Week for Nov. 10, 2010. Slavin also shared the weekly defensive honor on Oct. 20 with Bemidji State goaltender Alana McElhinney.

A sophomore from Erie, Colo., Slavin helped key a UND defensive effort that limited the visiting Buckeyes to 17 shots on goal in a 3-2 (ot) victory last Saturday (Nov. 6) and 19 shots on goal in a 2-2 (ot) tie last Sunday (Nov. 7) (OSU won a shootout). In addition, Slavin and her Sioux teammates blanked their opponents on all five of their series power-play opportunities.

In last Sunday's game, Slavin assisted on teammate Allison Parizek's game-opening goal in the first period and then netted the game-tying goal with an extra attacker on the ice at 18:42 of the third. In six games played this season, Slavin is tied for third in scoring for North Dakota with seven points (2g, 5a).

Also nominated for the award were: Zuzanna Tomcikova, G, BSU; and Alex Rigsby, G, UW.

WCHA Rookie of the Week Brienna Gillanders • Fr., F, University of Minnesota Duluth

MADISON, Wis. – University of Minnesota Duluth forward Brienna Gillanders, who scored the game-winning goal and added an assist as the Bulldogs posted a 3-1 conference road victory over Bemidji State last Saturday, has been named the WCHA Rookie of the Week for Nov. 10, 2010.

A freshman from Kyle, Sask., Gillanders drew an assist on teammate Audrey Cournoyer's first goal of the game on a power-play at 0:23 of the second period and then came back with the eventual game-winning goal at 10:07 of the second on another UMD power-play opportunity. In addition to her two points, Gillanders also fired eight shots on goal, including five in the victory on Nov. 6

Gillanders has played in all 10 games this season for the defending WCHA and national champion Bulldogs with three points (1g, 2a).

Also nominated this week were: Kelly Terry, F, UM; and Tracy McCann, F, MSU.