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WCHA Women's League

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Minnesota State University
University of North Dakota
Ohio State University
St. Cloud State University
University of Wisconsin

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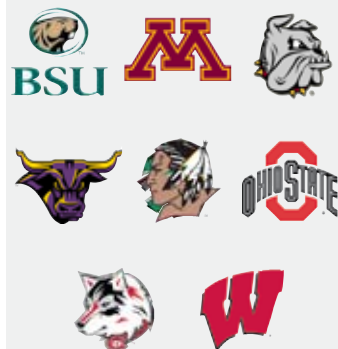
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January 12, 2011/For Immediate Release

UND's Lamoureux-Kolls, BSU's Johnson, UM's Rätty and Kessel Named WCHA Women's Players of the Week

WCHA co-Offensive Players of the Week

Monique Lamoureux-Kolls • Sophomore, Forward, University of North Dakota Erin Johnson • Senior, Forward, Bemidji State University

MADISON, Wis. – A pair of forwards who were both instrumental in their respective team's weekend success – Monique Lamoureux-Kolls of the University of North Dakota and Erin Johnson of Bemidji State University – have been named WCHA co-Offensive Players of the Week for Jan. 12, 2011.

Lamoureux-Kolls, a sophomore right winger from Grand Forks, N.D., led North Dakota with six scoring points as the visiting Sioux won and tied at Vermont in a non-conference series on Jan. 7-8. Last Friday, she factored in on all four UND goals in a 4-1 victory over the host Catamounts, notching a three-goal hat trick and an assist on the game-winning goal. The four points gave her 100 in her collegiate career. She then followed it up by scoring two of UND's three goals last Saturday in a 3-3 (ot) tie at Vermont. In addition to her six points, Lamoureux-Kolls was named the No. 1 star of the game on Friday and the No. 2 star on Saturday, fired 18 shots on goal in the series and earned a +4 plus/minus rating.

Erin Johnson, a senior center from Farmington, Minn., had both game-winning goals, four points and was named the No. 2 star of both games as visiting Bemidji State beat St. Cloud State twice in WCHA play by 3-1 scores. In last Friday's game, her power-play goal at 4:17 of period two broke a 1-1 tie and held up as the game-winner and she later assisted on an insurance goal in the third. On Saturday, Johnson assisted on BSU's game-opening goal at 11:33 of period two for a 1-0 lead, then put her club up 2-0 at the 13:48 mark with the eventual game-winner.

Also nominated this week were: Laura May, F, UM; Hilary Knight, F, UW.

WCHA Defensive Player of the Week

Noora Rätty • Sophomore, Goaltender, University of Minnesota

MADISON, Wis. – University of Minnesota goaltender Noora Rätty, who returned from break and allowed just one goal in two games to help the host Golden Gophers to a conference series sweep over Minnesota State last weekend, is the WCHA Defensive Player of the Week for Jan. 12, 2011. Rätty also earned the weekly honor on Oct. 27 (vs St. Cloud State) and on Nov. 24 (at Minnesota State).

A sophomore from Espoo, Finland, Rätty stopped 51 of 52 shots on goal in the 4-0 and 5-1 Minnesota victories for a .981 saves percentage, posted five shutout periods and helped blank the Mavericks on all 10 of their series power-play opportunities. She earned her seventh shutout of the season last Friday (Jan. 7) as she tossed aside 18 MSU shots on goal, tying her shutout record from her rookie campaign. Last Saturday, Rätty made 33 more saves, with the only goal she allowed on the weekend coming when a Maverick shot on goal deflected off a Gopher skate.

On the season, Rätty ranks second in the WCHA with a 1.43 overall goals-against average, first with a .949 overall save percentage and is second with a 14-4-0 record.

Also nominated this week were: Zuzana Tomcikova, G, BSU; Stephanie Ney, G, UND; Alex Riggsby, G, UW.

WCHA Rookie of the Week

Amanda Kessel • Freshman, Forward, University of Minnesota

MADISON, Wis. – University of Minnesota forward Amanda Kessel, who scored two goals and assisted on another to help the Golden Gophers to a conference series sweep over visiting Minnesota State last weekend, is the WCHA Rookie of the Week for Jan. 12, 2011. Kessel was previously honored with the award on Oct. 6 (vs Clarkson) and Dec. 15 (vs Ohio State).

A freshman from Madison, Wis., Kessel scored once in UM's 4-0 victory over the Mavericks last Friday (Jan. 7) and fired nine shots on goal to earn No. 1 star of the game honors. Then in Saturday's (Jan. 8) game, Kessel scored her team's first goal of the game at 9:51 in the first period and set up the eventual game-winning goal at 14:28 in the first to earn No. 2 star accolades.

On the season, Kessel leads her team in assists (15) and is tied for the lead in points (23).

Also nominated this week were: Tess Dusik, F, BSU; Madison Packer, F, UW.