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WCHA Women's League

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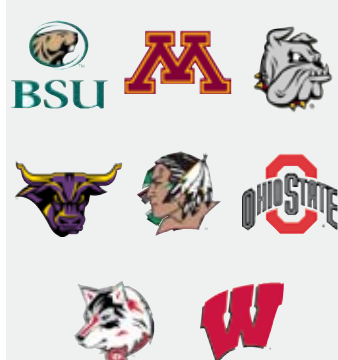
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January 5, 2011/For Immediate Release

Wisconsin's Knight, Dronen and Packer Named WCHA Women's Players of the Week

WCHA Offensive Player of the Week

Hilary Knight • Junior, Forward, University of Wisconsin

MADISON, Wis. – University of Wisconsin left winger Hilary Knight, who produced eight scoring points and earned a pair of No. 1 star of the game awards in victories over ranked opponents Northeastern and Mercyhurst last weekend, has been named the WCHA Offensive Player of the Week for Jan. 5, 2011. This marks the second time this season Knight has earned the honor, with the first coming on Oct. 6 (vs Rensselaer).

A junior from Sun Valley, Idaho, Knight led UW with eight points (4g, 4a) as the Badgers defeated No. 10 Northeastern, 7-2, on Jan. 1 and No. 4 Mercyhurst, 7-4, on Jan. 2 at the Easton Holiday Showcase tournament in St. Cloud, Minn., while extending their winning streak to six games. Against Northeastern, she scored Wisconsin's the first goal of the game and assisted on a second tally just :44 seconds into the second period. She then broke open a 4-2 game with a power-play goal at 8:52 of the third period and also assisted on the Badgers' final score. Against Mercyhurst, Knight scored the game-tying goal with :31 seconds remaining in the first period after the Lakers took an early 1-0 lead. Her fourth goal of the weekend gave the UW a 4-3 lead at 10:49 of the third. Knight also picked up two assists in the game.

In addition to her eight points, Knight also led the Badgers with 22 shots on goal in the two games and earned a +6 plus/minus rating. She has moved into second all-time in UW history with 88 career goals and is one shy of tying the program record. She also moved into the top 10 in career assists at Wisconsin, ranking 10th with 71, and climbed to fifth all-time with 159 career points.

Also nominated for the award this week was: Paige Semenza, F, OSU.

WCHA Defensive Player of the Week

Anne Dronen • Senior, Defenseman University of Wisconsin

MADISON, Wis. – Veteran defenseman Anne Dronen, who tallied a career-high three points in two University of Wisconsin victories last weekend at the Easton Holiday Showcase tournament in St. Cloud, Minn., has been named the WCHA Defensive Player of the Week for Jan. 5, 2011.

A senior from Chaska, Minn., Dronen produced a goal and two assists, fired five shots on goal and earned a +7 plus/minus rating as the Badgers defeated No. 10-ranked Northeastern, 7-2, on Jan. 1 and No. 4-ranked Mercyhurst, 7-4, on Jan. 2. Against Northeastern, Dronen gave Wisconsin a 2-0 lead with her first goal of the season just :44 seconds into the second period. She then assisted on the game-winning goal 4:50 later, setting up Brianna Decker's tally at 5:34 of the period. Dronen capped her three-point weekend late in Sunday's game against Mercyhurst, helping seal the 7-4 victory with an assist at 18:27 of the third period. In addition to her offensive output, Dronen led the Badgers with a +7 rating on the weekend, including a +6 mark against Northeastern.

Dronen is tied for eighth in the league for scoring among defensemen with eight points (1g, 7a).

WCHA Rookie of the Week

Madison Packer • Freshman, Forward, University of Wisconsin

MADISON, Wis. – University of Wisconsin forward Madison Packer, who extended her point-scoring streak to five games with three points as the Badgers won 7-2 over No. 10 Northeastern and 7-4 over No. 4 Mercyhurst last weekend at the Easton Holiday Showcase in St. Cloud, Minn., is the WCHA Rookie of the Week for Jan. 5, 2011.

A freshman right winger from Birmingham, Mich., Packer scored one goal and drew two assists in the back-to-back Wisconsin victories. Her two-point effort in last Saturday's 7-2 win over the NU Huskies marked her second career multi-point game. She gave Wisconsin a 4-0 lead with 10:07 left in the second period and then assisted on Breann Frykas' tally with 9:17 remaining in the game to help seal with 7-2 victory. In last Sunday's 7-4 win over Mercyhurst, Packer picked up her fifth assist of the season when she helped set up the game-winning goal with 11:21 remaining in the third period to give Wisconsin the 5-3 lead.

Packer also finished the New Year's weekend with a +2 plus/minus rating and now has eight points on three goals and five assists in 17 games this season.