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WCHA Women's League

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

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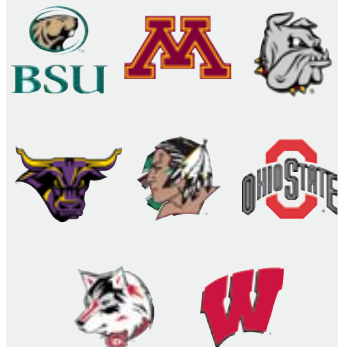
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February 2, 2011/For Immediate Release

Ohio State's Spooner, Minnesota Duluth's Fridfinnson, Wisconsin's Rigsby Named WCHA Women's Players of the Week

WCHA Offensive Player of the Week

Natalie Spooner • Junior, Forward, Ohio State University

MADISON, Wis. – Ohio State University center Natalie Spooner, who scored four goals and contributed six points to help the Buckeyes to a two-game conference road sweep at St. Cloud State last weekend, has been named the WCHA Offensive Player of the Week for Feb. 2, 2011.

A junior from Scarborough, Ontario, Spooner topped all league players with her six points, fired 11 shots on goal and earned a +2 plus/minus rating in the series. In Ohio State's 6-1 victory over the host Huskies last Friday (Jan. 28), she recorded her third-career three-goal hat trick as well as an assist. One of her goals, at 9:58 of the second period, came shorthanded and proved to be the game-winner. In the second game of the series, Spooner continued her offensive momentum, tallying another goal and an assist as OSU claimed the sweep with a 3-2 victory on Jan. 29 at the National Hockey Center in St. Cloud, Minn.

Spooner leads the Buckeyes with 14 multi-point games this season and owns a team-high 24 goals to go with 35 total points. She is two goals away from second place on the Ohio State career goals category. Spooner also owns the Buckeye record for career game-winning goals with 12 and stands sixth in career points with 109 (67g, 42a) in 86 games.

Also nominated this week were: Erin Cody, F, BSU; and Brianna Decker, F, UW.

WCHA Defensive Player of the Week

Laura Fridfinnson • Senior, Defenseman, University of Minnesota Duluth

MADISON, Wis. – University of Minnesota Duluth defenseman Laura Fridfinnson, who made a significant contribution at both ends of the ice as the host Bulldogs won back-to-back league games against visiting Bemidji State last weekend, is the WCHA Defensive Player of the Week for Feb. 2, 2011.

A senior from Arborg, Manitoba and a converted forward, Fridfinnson recorded three goals in the series, earned a +3 plus/minus rating, and helped UMD hold the Beavers to just two power-play goals in 11 opportunities. In the host Bulldogs' 4-3 victory last Friday (Jan. 28) at new AMSOIL Arena, she scored back-to-back tallies 1:14 and 4:32 of the second period to help her club build a 3-1 advantage. Then last Saturday (Jan. 29) night, Fridfinnson netted a shorthanded goal at 18:35 of the second period that gave the Bulldogs a 3-1 lead en route to a 5-3 triumph. In addition to her three goals on the weekend, she also fired seven shots on goal.

A veteran of 141 collegiate games at UMD, Fridfinnson has 144 career points on 70 goals and 74 assists. Her current four-game scoring streak (3g, 2a) is the longest of the season for the newly minted backliner.

Also nominated this week were: Montana Vichorek, D, BSU; Noora Rätty, G, UM; and Kelly Wild, D, OSU.

WCHA Rookie of the Week

Alex Rigsby • Freshman, Goaltender, University of Wisconsin

MADISON, Wis. – University of Wisconsin goaltender Alex Rigsby, who made a combined 50 saves while yielding just three goals as the top-ranked Badgers earned a tie and victory against No. 4 Minnesota last weekend at the Kohl Center, has been named the WCHA Rookie of the Week for Feb. 2, 2011. This marks the second rookie of the week award for Rigsby, with the other coming on Dec. 15 for her efforts at St. Cloud State.

A freshman from Delafield, Wis., Rigsby made 23 saves in last Friday's (Jan. 28) 2-2 overtime tie before stopping one Minnesota attempt to help give UW a 3-1 shootout win. She then made 27 saves en route to her 17th victory of the season in last Saturday's (Jan. 29) 3-1 Wisconsin decision, played before a women's college hockey record crowd of 10,668. On the weekend, Rigsby owned a .943 saves percentage and had four shutout periods, including the one 5:00 overtime segment.

Rigsby is now unbeaten in her last 11 games and her .900 winning percentage (17-1-2 record) leads the WCHA and ranks fourth in the nation. She is the league's top-ranked freshman goaltender with a 1.95 goals-against average overall and is fifth among the nation's rookie netminders. She also leads WCHA rookies with a .917 saves percentage overall.

Also nominated this week were: Sarah Davis, F, UM; Kelsie Scott, F, MSU; and Ally Tarr, F, OSU.