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WCHA Women's League

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

Home of a Record 11 Consecutive National Championship Teams

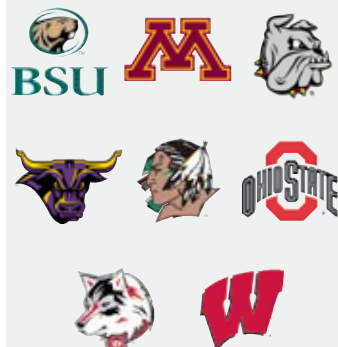
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2011 WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF

March 4-5 • Ridder Arena
Minneapolis, MN

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March 3, 2011/For Release at 7:30 pm CT

Wisconsin's Meghan Duggan Named Player of the Year, Highlights 2010-11 WCHA Women's Awards Minnesota Duluth's Jocelyne Larocque is WCHA Outstanding Student-Athlete of the Year; Wisconsin Places Trio and Minnesota Pair on All-WCHA First Team; Coaches Vote UMD's Larocque WCHA Defensive Player of the Year; Minnesota's Amanda Kessel Named WCHA Rookie of the Year; Wisconsin's Mark Johnson is WCHA Coach of the Year; Duggan is WCHA Scoring Champion; UMD's Kim Martin is WCHA Goaltending Champion; League Announces All-WCHA Academic Team

MADISON, Wis. – The University of Wisconsin convincingly won the regular season championship and the Badgers' success was reflected in the 2010-11 post-season women's honors announced by the Western Collegiate Hockey Association today (March 3) at a league awards ceremony held at TCF Stadium in Minneapolis in conjunction with the WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF tournament championship. The WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF is Friday and Saturday, March 4-5, at Ridder Arena on the University of Minnesota campus.

Three members of the Badgers' high-scoring line and a pair of players from the University of Minnesota lead the All-WCHA First Team selected by coaches. Wisconsin's Meghan Duggan, who was the league's scoring champion with 61 points (27 goals, 34 assists) in 28 games, was named the WCHA's Player of the Year. The senior from Danvers, Massachusetts, also leads the first team All-WCHA squad which includes Duggan's teammates, Hilary Knight, a junior from Sun Valley, Idaho who had 29 goals and 50 points in league play, and Brianna Decker, a sophomore from Dousman, Wisconsin, who had 23 goals and 51 points.

The All-WCHA First team also includes Minnesota junior defenseman Anne Schleper, a junior from St. Cloud, Minnesota and the lone repeater on the team, and teammate and goaltender Noora Rätty, a sophomore from Espoo, Finland who had nine shutouts this season, a 1.70 goals-against average in league play and a .943 conference saves percentage.

Minnesota Duluth's Jocelyne Larocque, a senior defender from Ste Anne, Manitoba, completes the first team, one of a trio of honors she received. Larocque also was voted the WCHA Defensive Player of the Year in a vote of the league's head coaches, was the top-scoring defenseman in the league with six goals, 18 assists and 24 points in 26 league contests, and also was named the WCHA Outstanding Student-Athlete of the Year.

The WCHA Coach of the Year Award for 2010-11 went to Wisconsin's Mark Johnson. It is the fourth time Johnson has either won or shared the award. The former 'Miracle on Ice' hero and gold medalist in the 1980 Olympics is a three-time national Division 1 coach of the year and his team won over 30 games. In his seven years at Wisconsin, Johnson has an .815 winning percentage. He took a sabbatical to coach the United States team to a silver medal at the Winter Olympics in Vancouver 2010. That U.S. team included Knight, Duggan and All-WCHA Second Team members Jocelyne Lamoureux (Grand Forks, ND), a forward from the University of North Dakota, and her twin sister Monique Lamoureux-Kolls (Grand Forks, ND), a defenseman. Other All-WCHA Second Team members include Haley Irwin (Thunder Bay, ON), a forward from Minnesota Duluth, Natalie Spooner (Scarborough, ON), Ohio State University's all-league forward last season, Minnesota Duluth defenseman Jessica Wong (Baddeck, NS) and Bemidji State University goaltender Zuzana Tomcikova (Bratislava, Slovakia), who shared WCHA Player of the Year honors last season. It is the third straight season Tomcikova has been the second team all-league goalie.

Minnesota's Amanda Kessel, a freshman from Madison, Wisconsin, was named WCHA Rookie

of the Year and leads the All-WCHA Rookie Team and the All-WCHA Third Team. Kessel's brother, Phil, is a former Minnesota athlete who currently is a National Hockey League all-star with the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Also named to the All-WCHA Third Team was Minnesota Duluth senior goaltender Kim Martin (Stockholm, Sweden), who was the league's goaltending champion with a 1.51 goals-against average in league play, sophomore defenseman Megan Bozek (Buffalo Grove, IL) of Minnesota, junior defenseman Brittany Haverstock (Hammonds Plains, NS) of Wisconsin, and forwards Elin Holmlov (Knivsta, Sweden), a senior from Minnesota Duluth, and Erin Cody (Roseville, MN), a senior from Bemidji State.

Joining Kessel on the All-WCHA Rookie Team were Minnesota forward Kelly Terry (Whitby, ON), Wisconsin forward Brittany Ammerman (River Vale, NJ), Minnesota defenseman Baylee Gillanders (Kyle, SK), North Dakota defenseman Kayla Berg (Fargo, ND), and goaltender Alex Rigsby of Wisconsin (Delafield, WI).

The conference also today released the 2010-11 All-WCHA Academic Team, comprised of 97 student-athletes representing all eight WCHA women's member institutions. See page three for the complete list.

Earlier today, USA Hockey, Inc., announced that four WCHA players – Wisconsin forwards Duggan and Knight, Minnesota Duluth forward Irwin and Minnesota goaltender Rätty – were among the 10 finalists for the 2011 Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award, given each year to the top player in women's Div. 1 collegiate hockey.

Conference member-team head coaches and assistant coaches vote for the WCHA individual award winners. The WCHA Defensive Player of the Year Award is chosen by the head coaches, while the WCHA Outstanding Student-Athlete of the Year is selected by the institutional faculty representatives.

2010-11 WCHA Award Winners

WCHA Player of the Year: Meghan Duggan, Sr., F, University of Wisconsin (Danvers, MA)

WCHA Outstanding Student-Athlete of the Year: Jocelyne Larocque, Sr., D, University of Minnesota Duluth (Ste Anne, MB)

WCHA Defensive Player of the Year: Jocelyne Larocque, Sr., D, University of Minnesota Duluth (Ste Anne, MB)

WCHA Rookie of the Year: Amanda Kessel, Fr., F, University of Minnesota (Madison, WI)

WCHA Coach of the Year: Mark Johnson, Head Coach, University of Wisconsin

WCHA Scoring Champion: Meghan Duggan, Sr., F, University of Wisconsin (Danvers, MA)

WCHA Goaltending Champion: Kim Martin, Sr., G, University of Minnesota Duluth (Stockholm, Sweden)

All-WCHA First Team

Forward: Hilary Knight, Jr., F, University of Wisconsin (Sun Valley, ID)
 Meghan Duggan, Sr., F, University of Wisconsin (Danvers, MA)
 Brianna Decker, So., F, University of Wisconsin (Dousman, WI)

Defense: Anne Schleper, Jr., D, University of Minnesota (St. Cloud, MN)
 Jocelyne Larocque, Sr., D, University of Minnesota Duluth (Ste Anne, MB)

Goaltender: Noora Rätty, So., G, University of Minnesota (Espoo, Finland)

All-WCHA Second Team

Forward: Natalie Spooner, Jr., F, Ohio State University (Scarborough, ON)
 Jocelyne Lamoureux, So., F, University of North Dakota (Grand Forks, ND)
 Haley Irwin, Jr., F, University of Minnesota Duluth (Thunder Bay, ON)

Defense: Monique Lamoureux-Kolls, So., D, University of North Dakota (Grand Forks, ND)
 Jessica Wong, So., D, University of Minnesota Duluth (Baddeck, NS)

Goaltender: Zuzana Tomcikova, Jr., G, Bemidji State University (Bratislava, Slovakia)

All-WCHA Third Team

Forward: Elin Holmlov, Sr., F, University of Minnesota Duluth (Knivsta, Sweden)
 Erin Cody, Sr., F, Bemidji State University (Roseville, MN)
 Amanda Kessel, Fr., F, University of Minnesota (Madison, WI)

Defense: Megan Bozek, So., D, University of Minnesota (Buffalo Grove, IL)
 Brittany Haverstock, Jr., D, University of Wisconsin (Hammonds Plain, NS)

Goaltender: Kim Martin, Sr., G, University of Minnesota Duluth (Stockholm, Sweden)

All-WCHA Rookie Team

Forwards: Amanda Kessel, Fr., F, University of Minnesota (Madison, WI)
 Kelly Terry, Fr., F, University of Minnesota (Whitby, ON)
 Brittany Ammerman, Fr., F, University of Wisconsin (River Vale, NJ)

Defense: Baylee Gillanders, Fr., University of Minnesota (Kyle, SK)
 Kayla Berg, Fr., D, University of North Dakota (Fargo, ND)

Goaltender: Alex Rigsby, Fr., G, University of Wisconsin (Delafield, WI)

2010-11 All-WCHA Academic Team

To qualify for the All-WCHA Academic Team, student-athletes must have completed one year of eligibility at present institution, prior to the current academic year, and have a grade point average of at least 3.0 for the previous two semesters or three quarters. Members of the 2010-11 All-WCHA Academic Team, by member institution and in alphabetical order, are:

Bemidji State University: Molly Arola (So., Walker, MN), Annie Bauerfeld (Sr., Woodbury, MN), Erin Cody (Sr., Roseville, MN), Emily Erickson (So., Coleraine, MN), Jamie Hatheway (So., Trenton, ON), Kimberly Lieder (Jr., Eagan, MN), Sadie Lundquist (So., Cloquet, MN), Alana McElhinney (Jr., Calgary, AB), Mackenzie Thurston (So., Ottawa, ON), Zuzana Tomcikova (Jr., Bratislava, Slovakia), Montana Vichorek (Jr., Moose Lake, MN), Erika Wheelhouse (So., Crookston, MN), Marlee Wheelhouse (Jr., Crookston, MN), Abby Williams (So., Alexandria, MN), Lauren Williams (Jr., Eagan, MN).

University of Minnesota: Megan Bozek (So., Buffalo Grove, IL), Samantha Downey (So., Hermantown, MN), Sarah Erickson (Jr., Roseau, MN), Alyssa Grogan (Jr., Eagan, MN), Mira Jalosuo (So., Lieksa, Finland), Becky Kortum (So., Minnetonka, MN), Nikki Ludwigson (Jr., Bloomington, MN), Jenny Lura (Sr., North Vancouver, BC), Noora Rätty (So., Espoo, Finland), Anne Schleper (Jr., St. Cloud, MN).

University of Minnesota Duluth: Kacy Ambroz (Jr., New Prague, MN), Audrey Cournoyer (So., Montreal, QC), Gina Dodge (So., Duluth, MN), Laura Fridfinnson (Sr., Arborg, MB), Jennifer Harss (So., Rieden, Germany), Haley Irwin (Jr., Thunder Bay, ON), Jocelyne Larocque (Sr., Ste Anne, MB), Mariia Posa (So., Helsinki, Finland), Lana Steck (Jr., Winnipeg, MB), Vanessa Thibault (So., Lachine, QC), Katie Wilson (So., Winnipeg, MB), Pernilla Winberg (So., Malmo, Sweden).

Minnesota State University, Mankato: Alli Altmann (Jr., Eagan, MN), Emilia Andersson (So., Stockholm, Sweden), Emmi Leinonen (Jr., Valkeakoski, Finland), Ariel Mackley (Jr., Burnsville, MN), Erika Magnusson (So., Fergus Falls, MN), Moira O'Connor (Jr., Chicago, IL), Jackie Otto (Jr., Lake Zurich, IL), Sarah Schneekloth (So., Worthington, MN), Lauren Smith (So., Burnsville, MN), Nina Tikkinen (Sr., Salo, Finland), Amy Udvig (Sr., New Brighton, MN).

University of North Dakota: Kayla Berg (Fr., Fargo, ND), Sara Dagenais (Jr., Montreal, QC), Jorid Dagfinrud (So., Sarpsborg, Norway), Ashley Furia (So., Sedalia, CO), Megan Gilbert (So., Andover, MN), Jocelyne Lamoureux (So., Grand Forks, ND), Monique Lamoureux-Kolls (So., Grand Forks, ND), Mary Loken (So., Roseau, MN), Margot Miller (Jr., West Bloomfield, MI), Allison Parizek (So., Minot, ND), Stephanie Roy (Sr., Grand Digue, NB), Ashley Holmes (Jr., Miltona, MN), Jordan Slavin (So., Erie, CO), Alyssa Wiebe (Jr., Saskatoon, SK).

Ohio State University: Barbara Bilko (Jr., Coldwater, MI), Teal Bishop (Sr., Fairbanks, AK), Amanda Boskovich (So., LaGrange, IL), Brittany Carlson (Jr., Hudson, WI), Melissa Feste (Jr., Bloomington, MN), Jenna Kilpatrick (Sr., New Prague, MN), Sandy Nelson (Sr., Blaine, MN), Liz Rizzo (So., Glens Falls, NY), Paige Semenza (So., Pittston, PA), Natalie Spooner (Jr., Scarborough, ON), Minttu Tuominen (So., Espoo, Finland), Kelly Wild (Jr., Mendota Heights, MN).

St. Cloud State University: Katie Allen (So., Red Deer, AB), Callie Dahl (So., Stillwater, MN), Anna Donlan (So., Hillsboro, WI), Courtney Josefson (Sr., Bemidji, MN), Diana Karouzos (Sr., Chicago, IL), Kylie Lane (So., Roseau, MN), Lisa Martinson (So., St. Louis Park, MN), Alex Nelson (So., Andover, MN), Haylea Schmid (So., Oak Grove, MN), Ellie Sitek (So., Edina, MN), Brittany Toor (Jr., Hartland, MI), Tayler VanDenakker (Jr., Winnipeg, MB).

University of Wisconsin: Brianna Decker (So., Dousman, WI), Mallory Deluce (Sr., London, ON), Breann Frykas (So., East St. Paul, MN), Alev Kelter (So., Eagle River, AK), Stefanie McKeough (So., Carlsbad Springs, ON), Kelly Nash (Sr., Bonita, CA), Saige Pacholok (So., Edmonton, AB), Carla Pentimone (Sr., Chicago, IL), Carolyne Prevost (Jr., Sarnia, ON), Geena Prough (Sr., Farmington, MI), Becca Ruegsegger (So., Lakewood, CO).