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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

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January 20, 2010/For Immediate Release

OSU'S SPOONER, BSU'S TOMCIKOVA, SCSU'S NIXON, UMD'S WONG NAMED WCHA WOMEN'S PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

MADISON, Wis. – The Western Collegiate Hockey Association today announced the women's players of the week for Jan. 20, 2010. They are Ohio State University forward **Natalie Spooner** on offense, goaltenders **Zuzana Tomcikova** of Bemidji State University and **Ashley Nixon** of St. Cloud State University on defense, and University of Minnesota Duluth forward **Jessica Wong** as rookie of the week.

WCHA OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK NATALIE SPOONER SO., F, OHIO STATE

After missing a week while playing with the gold medal-winning Canadian Under-22 Team at the MLP Cup in Germany, sophomore Natalie Spooner returned to the Ohio State University lineup last weekend and had three scoring points and 13 shots on goal to help the Buckeyes to a WCHA road sweep at Minnesota State.

The forward from Scarborough, Ontario, scored the third goal and assisted on the fifth in Ohio State's 6-0 shutout of the host Mavericks last Friday (Jan. 15).

Then last Saturday (Jan. 16), with her team trailing 2-1 heading into the third period, Spooner scored the game-tying goal 4:59 into the period as the visiting Buckeyes rallied for the 3-2 victory over Minnesota State.

The two goals scored by Spooner in the two-game series moved her into a tie for eighth place in the Buckeye career records with 34 goals just 52 games into her young career.

Spooner also continues to be a mainstay on the Buckeye penalty-kill that had a perfect 8-of-8 performance and upped its percentage to 90.2 overall for second in the WCHA and fourth in the NCAA.

Also nominated for the award this week were: Emily Erickson, F, BSU; Kelli Blankenship, F, UMD; and Felicia Nelson, F, SCSU.

WCHA DEFENSIVE PLAYERS OF THE WEEK ZUZANA TOMCIKOVA SO., G, BEMIDJI STATE ASHLEY NIXON JR., G, ST. CLOUD STATE

Bemidji State University's Zuzana Tomcikova, a sophomore goaltender from Bratislava, Slovakia, made 25 saves last Friday (Jan. 15) and 44 more last Saturday (Jan. 16) as the host Beavers posted consecutive 1-1 ties with defending WCHA champion Minnesota.

Tomcikova, who posted six shutout periods in the series (including two overtime periods), has now made 633 saves on 673 shots on goal this season for a .941 saves percentage while recording a 1.97 goals-against average. She is currently ranked fifth in the country for saves percentage (.941) and third in the country for saves (633).

St. Cloud State's Ashley Nixon was spectacular in net against North Dakota on Jan. 15-16, as the Blaine, Minn., native stopped 57-of-59 shots on goal to help the visiting Huskies to a 2-1 WCHA victory last Friday (Jan. 15) and a 1-1 (ot) tie last Saturday (Jan. 16).

The junior netminder also held UND scoreless in the shootout on Saturday in the Ralph Engelstad Arena and blanked the Sioux on all 10 of their power-play opportunities in the series.

Also nominated this week were: Alexandra Zebro, D, UMD; Jennifer Harss, G, UMD; and Rachel Davis, D, OSU.

WCHA ROOKIE OF THE WEEK JESSICA WONG FR., F, MINNESOTA DULUTH

University of Minnesota Duluth freshman right winger Jessica Wong scored two goals and added an assist this past weekend, helping the host Bulldogs take two WCHA victories from Wisconsin.

The product of Baddeck, Nova Scotia netted the Bulldogs' second goal of the game last Saturday (Jan. 16), just 1:35 into the second period. She then iced the Badgers chances of a late comeback when she skated the length of the ice and managed to sneak the puck past Wisconsin's goaltender with 1:30 remaining in the contest, giving Minnesota Duluth a 5-3 lead. Wong also had five shots and was +2 on the night, as well as helping the Bulldogs' power-play go 2-of-4.

Then last Sunday (Jan. 17), Wong dished a game-winning assist to teammate Katie Wilson, 3:13 into the second stanza. Wong was +1 in UMD's 2-1 victory over the defending national champion Badgers to make her +3 in the series.

On the 2009-10 season, Wong has 14 points (7g, 7a) for the Bulldogs.

Also nominated for the award this week were: Erika Wheelhouse, D, BSU; Megan Bozek, D, UMD; Chelsea Knapp, G, OSU; and Lisa Martinson, D, SCSU.