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MINNESOTA DULUTH'S BLAIS, ST. CLOUD STATE'S NIXON, OHIO STATE'S LANGAN 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 February 24, 2010. They are forward **Emmanuelle Blais** of the University of Minnesota Duluth on offense, St. Cloud State University goaltender **Ashley Nixon** on defense, and Ohio State University forward **Hokey Langan** as rookie of the week.

WCHA OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK EMMANUELLE BLAIS SR., F, MINNESOTA DULUTH

Emmanuelle Blais, the University of Minnesota Duluth's leading scorer, extended her current points streak to eight games over the Feb. 19-20 weekend with six points – including four goals – to help the Bulldogs sweep Bemidji State and earn a share of the 2009-10 WCHA regular season title. Blais also won the weekly honor on Oct. 28.

The native of Lasalle, Quebec, picked up four points last Friday in UMD's 5-2 win over the host Beavers, scoring the first goal of the game just 3:30 into the first period. Blais then passed for an assist in the second period and one in the third before netting a power-play goal with 5:06 left to play.

Blais then scored recorded two more goals in Saturday's 3-0 win, including the first two goals of the game, including the game-winner, to give her six points (4g, 2a) on the weekend.

The two multiple-point contests give her 18 on the season and Blais ranks first in the WCHA overall and seventh in the NCAA with 49 points (22g, 27a) for a 1.44 points per game clip. The senior forward is No. 12 in the NCAA with 22 goals, eighth in assists, seventh in PPGs, and second in game-winning tallies (7). In her last eight games, she has 8-8=16.

Also nominated were: Erin Cody, F, BSU; Chelsey Jones, F, UM; Laura McIntosh, F, OSU; Felicia Nelson, F, SCSU; and Jasmine Giles, F, UW.

WCHA DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK ASHLEY NIXON JR., G, ST. CLOUD STATE

St. Cloud State University goaltender Ashley Nixon, a junior from Blaine, Minn., was sensational in nets against league rival Ohio State on Feb. 19-20, stopping 82-of-88 Buckeye shots to lead her team to three series points en route to securing home ice for the first round of WCHA Playoffs.

Nixon, who previously won the weekly award on Nov. 25 and Jan. 20, stopped 31 of 33 shots on goal last Friday, surrendering just one even-strength goal, as visiting St. Cloud State won 3-2 over OSU in Columbus.

Then last Saturday, Nixon made 51 more saves as St. Cloud State secured a point with a 4-4 (ot) tie with the Buckeyes despite being outshot 55-27. Five of the six goals she surrendered in the series came on the power-play.

The point on Feb. 20 enabled the Huskies to secure their first-ever third place finish in the WCHA regular season in addition to securing a home playoff berth.

After the weekend, Nixon has improved her season mark to 12-8-8 – the most wins in a season. Overall this season, she owns a 2.62 goals-against average and a .925 saves percentage over 1,762 minutes of action.

Also nominated were: Montana Vichorek, D, BSU; Kelly Seeler, D, UM; Stephanie Ney, G, UND; Kelly Wild, D, OSU; and Alannah McCready, G, UW.

WCHA ROOKIE OF THE WEEK HOKEY LANGAN FR., F, OHIO STATE

Ohio State University right winger Hokey Langan became the first Buckeye to win a Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) scoring title, finishing with 43 points against conference opponents.

The rookie from Chatham, Ontario, pulled away for the title with two points in a home WCHA series vs. St. Cloud State on Feb. 19-20. This marks the fourth time this season Langan has earned the league's weekly rookie honor (also on Nov. 4, Jan. 27 and Feb. 17).

She set up the second Ohio State goal last Friday in a 3-2 setback to SCSU, before starting the Buckeye rally on Saturday with a power-play goal with 1:58 left in regulation. OSU went on to tie the game against the Huskies 4-4 (ot) and then prevail in the following shootout.

Langan's 48 points (22g, 26a) overall this season tie for the third-most in Buckeye history. Both her goal (22) and assist (26) totals also rank in the top five in the OSU record books.

Also nominated for the award this week were: Erika Wheelhouse, D, BSU; Sam Downey, F, UM; Jennifer Harss, G, UMD; and Alex Nelson, F, SCSU.