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November 22, 2011/For Immediate Release

UM's Bjugstad, CC's Thorimbert, UMD's Herbert Named Red Baron® WCHA Men's Players of the Week for November 22

Red Baron® WCHA Offensive Player of the Week

Nick Bjugstad • Sophomore, Forward, University of Minnesota

MADISON, Wis. – University of Minnesota center iceman Nick Bjugstad, who produced a three-goal hat trick and factored in on five of his team's eight goals in a weekend split against league rival St. Cloud State last weekend, has been named Red Baron® WCHA Offensive Player of the Week for November 22.

A 6-5, 204-pound sophomore from Blaine, Minn., Bjugstad scored four goals and set up another for five points and fired eight shots on goal in the home-and-home series. Last Friday (Nov. 18) in a one-goal setback at the National Hockey Center in St. Cloud, Bjugstad scored Minnesota's first goal to tie the game 1-1 and then assisted on Kyle Rau's goal that pulled the Gophers to within 4-3 late in the third period. Then on Saturday, he notched the first three-goal hat trick of his collegiate career, scoring on all three of his shots in the Golden Gophers' 5-0 victory against the visiting Huskies. Bjugstad scored UM's first (game-winning goal), third and fifth goals of the game. It was the first hat trick by a Minnesota player since Jay Barriball scored three times in a win against Massachusetts on Oct. 9, 2010.

A draftee of the NHL's Florida Panthers, Bjugstad is tied for first in the nation with 21 points and is second in the nation with 13 goals.

Also nominated: Nick Dineen, F, CC; Shawn Ostrow, F, DU; Ryan Furne, F, MTU; J.T. Brown, F, UMD.

Red Baron® WCHA Defensive Player of the Week

Josh Thorimbert • Sophomore, Goaltender, Colorado College

MADISON, Wis. – Colorado College goaltender Josh Thorimbert, who posted back-to-back league victories over visiting Wisconsin last weekend while starting both games of a series for the first time in his collegiate career, has been named Red Baron® WCHA Defensive Player of the Week for November 22.

From Saskatoon, Sask., the 5-11, 195-pound sophomore stopped 55 of 58 shots on goal for a .948 saves percentage and allowed just two even-strength goals in the two wins over the Badgers. In CC's 4-2 victory last Friday (Nov. 18) at the Colorado Springs World Arena, he made 31 saves while yielding just one even-strength goal, earned an assist on teammate Nick Dineen's game-winning goal in the second period and earned No. 1 star of the game honors. Then last Saturday (Nov. 19), Thorimbert came back with 24 stops in a 4-1 Colorado College triumph, blanking Wisconsin on all four power-play chances.

In four games between the pipes this season, Thorimbert sports a 3-1-0 record, a 2.42 goals-against average and a .923 saves percentage. He ranks third in the WCHA overall in saves percentage and fifth in goals-against average.

Also nominated: Dan Bakala, G, BSU; Josh Robinson, G, MTU; Kent Patterson, G, UM.

Red Baron® WCHA Rookie of the Week

Caleb Herbert • Freshman, Forward, University of Minnesota Duluth

MADISON, Wis. – University of Minnesota Duluth left winger Caleb Herbert, who collected four scoring points while helping the host Bulldogs to a pair of league victories over Minnesota State last weekend, has been named Red Baron® WCHA Rookie of the Week for November 22.

A 5-11, 195-pound freshman from Bloomington, Minn., Herbert scored three goals and drew one assist as defending national champion UMD extended its nation's-best unbeaten streak to 10 games (8-0-2). Herbert enjoyed his most productive night to date by striking for two goals, including the game-winner, and one assist in last Friday's (Nov. 18) 5-2 triumph over the Mavericks and then helped set up one tally the following evening as the Bulldogs completed the sweep with a 7-3 win. He was a +4 in the opener, which is a 2011-12 Bulldog single-game high.

A Washington Capitals (NHL) draftee, Herbert currently holds down the No. 2 spot in the WCHA rookie scoring race with 14 points (6g, 8a) and has picked up at least one point in five straight outings.

Also nominated: Charlie Taft, F, CC; Joey LaLeggia, D, DU.