



PRESS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WISCONSIN'S WATTS AND BOWLBY, MINNESOTA DULUTH'S SÖDERBERG AND ST. CLOUD STATE'S GENTRY EARN WCHA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK HONORS PRESENTED BY STERLING TROPHY

Quartet garners league recognition for games of Jan. 15-16

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. – January 19, 2021 – The Women's League of the Western Collegiate Hockey Association is proud to honor four student-athletes as the WCHA Players of the Week presented by Sterling Trophy after their outstanding on-ice performances for the games of Jan. 15-16. A pair of Badgers in Wisconsin seniors **Daryl Watts** (Forward) and **Grace Bowlby** (Defenseman) take home this week's awards alongside Minnesota Duluth junior **Emma Söderberg** (Goaltender) and St. Cloud State freshman forward **Emma Gentry** (Rookie).

WCHA Forward of the Week

Daryl Watts, Sr., Wisconsin (Toronto, Ont.)

Wisconsin's **Daryl Watts** posted a league-best six points off three goals and three assists to lead the then-No. 2/2 Badgers to an impressive sweep of then-No. 1/1 Minnesota. Watts scored and added an assist in UW's 5-0 shutout of UM on Friday before posting a four-point effort in UW's 6-3 win on Saturday to complete UW's first sweep of a top-ranked team since the 2001-02 season. In addition to leading the league in goals and points last weekend, the senior forward was tied for the league-best mark in plus/minus with a +5 rating. Watts is the only player on the Badgers to post a point in each game this year and now leads the WCHA in scoring, averaging 1.62 points per game.

Honorable Mention: **Brooke Bink, So., Ohio State:** Tallied the game-winning goal in a 1-0 shutout of Minnesota Duluth on Saturday. **Taylor Lind, So, St. Cloud State:** Scored a team-best three points on two goals and an assist in SCSU's weekend series with Bemidji State, finding the back of the net in each game and helping the Huskies surpass their 2019-20 WCHA win total in Friday's contest.

WCHA Defenseman of the Week

Grace Bowlby, Sr., Wisconsin (Edina, Minn.)

Wisconsin's **Grace Bowlby** was tied for the league lead in points by a defenseman with fellow UW blueliner **Nicole LaMantia** during the then-No. 2/2 Badgers sweep of then-No. 1/1 Minnesota, Wisconsin's first sweep of a No. 1 team since the 2001-02 season. Bowlby went on to add an assist in UW's 5-0 win on Friday before providing the game-winning assist in UW's 6-3 win on Saturday. Her +5 plus/minus rating was the best mark by a WCHA defenseman and was tied for the best mark by a WCHA skater during the weekend.

Honorable Mention: **Tina Kampa, Sr., Bemidji State:** Assisted on the Beavers' lone goal in Friday's 3-1 loss to St. Cloud State. **Teghan Inglis, So., Ohio State:** Recorded an assist on the game-winning goal vs. Minnesota Duluth on Saturday.

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WCHA Goaltender of the Week

Emma Söderberg, Jr., Minnesota Duluth [Järved, Sweden]

Minnesota Duluth's **Emma Söderberg** led the league in saves and save percentage and tied in a goals against over the weekend. Her 78 saves on 79 shots led the country, and, among goaltenders that played in two games, she again posted the highest save percentage and tied for the lowest GAA. Söderberg now leads the WCHA in overall save percentage, goals against average and shutouts and ranks second in the NCAA in GAA and saves percentage among goaltenders that have played more than 50 percent of their team's games. The junior netminder is tied for the most shutouts in the nation with three.

Honorable Mention: **Andrea Braendli, Jr., Ohio State:** Registered a .981 save percentage and made 52 saves against Minnesota Duluth last weekend. **Kennedy Blair, Sr., Wisconsin:** Was the only WCHA netminder to earn a pair of wins over the weekend as she backstopped the Badgers to a sweep of then-No. 1/1 Minnesota.

WCHA Rookie of the Week

Emma Gentry, Fr., F, St. Cloud State [Alpena, Mich.]

St. Cloud State's **Emma Gentry** scored a goal in each game during the Huskies' weekend series with Bemidji State, helping the Huskies surpass their 2019-20 WCHA win total in Friday's contest. Gentry has now scored a goal in each of the four games she has played against BSU during her debut season. The freshman forward accounted for Friday's game-clinching goal by swatting in a rebound just outside the crease and has now tallied each of the Huskies' game-winners against BSU. The Alpena, Mich., native scored another goal on a rocketing slapshot in Saturday's contest. She finished with a plus-2 rating in the series, having helped lead the Huskies' outstanding second line.

Honorable Mention: **Taylor Nelson, Fr., F, Bemidji State:** Scored her first career goal Saturday, which was the game-tying goal in a 2-2 tie with St. Cloud State. **Makenna Webster, Fr., F, Wisconsin:** Enjoyed her first career multi-point game during the Badgers' 5-0 win over Minnesota on Friday night as she tacked on the final UW goal.

About Sterling Trophy

Sterling Trophy has grown into a leader in the award and recognition industry in the Twin Cities since its founding in 1999. A family business that started in the basement of the home of founders David Steinbring and Patty Steinbring, Sterling Trophy's has built a proud tradition of quality service and unique products. For more information, visit sterlingtrophy.net

About the Western Collegiate Hockey Association Women's League

The Women's League of the Western Collegiate Hockey Association is marking its 22nd season in 2020-21. The nation's premier women's hockey conference, WCHA member institutions have won a record 17 national championships since the league's inception in 1999 (including 16 of a possible 19 NCAA titles), while producing seven Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award winners, 105 All-Americans and numerous Olympic and national team members. The seven-team, NCAA Division I conference consists of: Bemidji State University (Beavers), the University of Minnesota (Golden Gophers), the University of Minnesota Duluth (Bulldogs), Minnesota State University (Mavericks), The Ohio State University (Buckeyes), St. Cloud State University (Huskies) and the University of Wisconsin (Badgers). The WCHA will grow to eight members with the addition of the University of St. Thomas (Tommies) beginning with the 2021-22 season. For more information, visit wcha.com.

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