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WCHA PRESENTS FIRST MONTHLY AWARDS OF THE SEASON
Wisconsin’s Webster, Blair, Ohio State’s Jaques, and Minnesota’s Hemp Honored as October Players of the Month

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. – Nov. 2, 2021 – After an exciting start to the 2021-22 campaign, the Western Collegiate Hockey Association honors four student-athletes as WCHA Players of the Month for October, presented by Sterling Trophy.

WCHA Forward of the Month
Makenna Webster, So., Wisconsin (St. Louis, Mo.)
A two-time honoree as WCHA Forward of the Week, Wisconsin’s Makenna Webster upped her honor to WCHA Forward of the Month for October. In a span of 12 games, Webster registered 12 goals and 15 assists for an NCAA-leading 27 points. The sophomore eclipsed her point total from her freshman season in just eight games, before netting her first career hat trick in the Badgers’ 6-2 win at Minnesota State (Oct. 30). Through the start of the season, Webster appeared on the scoresheet in 10 of 12 games, in addition to posting eight multi-point performances. In addition to her nation-topping point total, Webster leads the country with a plus-23 rating on the ice and five power play goals.

Webster’s efforts helped lead Wisconsin to an undefeated 12-0-0 start for just the third time in school history, in a slate that included matchups against then-No. 7 Minnesota Duluth, No. 2 Ohio State, and RV Minnesota State. It is Webster’s second WCHA monthly award in her career, after being named Rookie of the Month for her efforts in March 2021.

Others Receiving Votes: Taylor Heise (Minnesota), Graysen Myers (Bemidji State), Jenn Gardiner (Ohio State), Gabbie Hughes (Minnesota Duluth).

WCHA Defender of the Month
Sophie Jaques, Sr., Ohio State (Toronto, Ontario)
After earning two WCHA Defender of the Week honors in the month of October, No. 2 Ohio State’s Sophie Jaques has been named WCHA Defender of the Month. The Toronto native registered six goals and seven assists for 13 points through the month’s 10 games, where she led the Buckeyes with four power play goals and second in the nation in power play scoring. Even playing from the blueline, Jaques is tied for second on the squad in assists and goals, and leads defenders nationally in scoring with her 13 points.
Tallying 50 shots on goal, 14 blocked shots, and registering a plus-13 rating on the ice, Jaques has helped Ohio State to an 8-2-0 start, against a slate including nationally ranked opponents in then-No. 4/5 Minnesota and No. 1 Wisconsin. It marks the first WCHA monthly honor for Jaques in her career.

Others Receiving Votes: Madeline Wethington (Minnesota), Grace Bowlby (Wisconsin), Ella Anick (Bemidji State).

WCHA Goaltender of the Month
Kennedy Blair, Sr., Wisconsin (Bismarck, N.D.)
For her efforts in helping Wisconsin to its outstanding 12-0-0 start, Kennedy Blair has been named WCHA Goaltender of the Month for October. A two-time WCHA Goaltender of the Week honoree, Blair appeared in 11 games for 641:01 of action, where she made 198 saves on 208 shots faced. Her 0.94 goals against average leads the league, while her .952 save percentage ranks second.

On her way to recording an NCAA-leading 11 wins, Blair posted four shutouts that included a 240:10 shutout streak, the 10th longest in school history. In her second season with the league, it is Blair’s first WCHA monthly award in her career.

Others Receiving Votes: Hannah Hogenson (Bemidji State), Andrea Braendli (Ohio State).

WCHA Rookie of the Month
Peyton Hemp, Forward, Minnesota (Anover, Minn.)
Through the first 10 games of her collegiate career, Peyton Hemp has registered three goals and eight assists for 11 points, earning her WCHA Rookie of the Month honors. Her 11 points rank second-best on the team to average over a point per game, while her plus-10 rating on the ice tops the squad. The numbers are that much more impressive as the Gophers have faced a challenging slate, including then-No. 3 Ohio State, then-No. 6/7 Minnesota Duluth, RV, Minnesota State, and then-No. 3 Colgate.

Effective on the ice, Hemp scored two game-winning goals for the Gophers and registered three multi-point games as she hasn’t taken a penalty all season. After scoring her first collegiate goal in her first career game against then-No. 3 Ohio State (Oct. 1), Hemp totaled 32 shots on goal in October. The honor marks the first WCHA award of Hemp’s career.

Others Receiving Votes: Sarah Wozniewicz (Wisconsin), Makenna Deering (Bemidji State), Saskia Maurer (St. Thomas).

About Sterling Trophy
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