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BSU'S BERGLAND, UW'S DESBIENS, UMN'S PETERS AND MSU'S CROSBY NAMED WCHA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK FOR GAMES OF FEB. 17-19, 2017

EDINA, Minn. – Feb. 21, 2017 – The league's top scorer last weekend, a pair of goaltenders who went head-to-head in a scintillating duel and a freshmen netminder who picked up her first collegiate victory highlight the women's Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) Players of the Week for games of Feb. 17-19, 2017. The honorees are: Bemidji State sophomore forward **Emily Bergland** (Offensive Player of the Week), Wisconsin senior goaltender **Ann-Renée Desbiens** and Minnesota redshirt-junior goaltender **Sidney Peters** (Co-Defensive Players of the Week) and Minnesota State freshman goaltender **Chloe Crosby** (Rookie of the Week).

WCHA Offensive Player of the Week

Emily Bergland, So., F, Bemidji State (Thief River Falls, Minn.)

Bergland was the WCHA's top scorer last weekend, compiling four points on three goals and an assist as Bemidji State split with visiting Minnesota State. The sophomore from Thief River Falls, Minn. tied for the league lead for goals scored, including two (along with an assist) in the Beavers' 6-1, series-opening win. She excelled on special teams in that contest, scoring a power-play goal that stood as the game-winner and a short-handed marker, while her helper also came on the power play. Bergland then scored BSU's lone goal in a 3-1 loss Saturday. She also finished the weekend tied for second in the league with 11 shots on goal, while she was 16-for-28 (.571) in the face-off circle. This is Bergland's first career WCHA weekly award.

Honorable Mention: **Charly Dahlquist, So., F, North Dakota** (recorded two points with an assist Friday and the game-winning goal Saturday, helping the Fighting Hawks split with visiting Ohio State); **Hannah Davidson, Jr., F, Minnesota State** (led the Mavericks with two points, a power-play goal Friday and an assist Saturday in MSU's 3-1 win at Bemidji State); **Maddy Field, So., F, Ohio State** (tied for the WCHA lead with three goals, including two during the Buckeyes' 4-2 win Friday in a split at North Dakota that gave OSU the fifth seed for the WCHA Playoffs); **Katherine McGovern, Sr., F, Minnesota Duluth** (tied for second in the WCHA with three points, stemming from two goals and one assist, as the No. 2 Bulldogs swept visiting St. Cloud State).

WCHA Co-Defensive Player of the Week

Ann-Renée Desbiens, Sr., G, Wisconsin (La Malbaie, Québec)

Desbiens logged a WCHA-leading .986 save percentage, helping top-ranked Wisconsin to a pair of ties and a shootout victory at No. 4 Minnesota. The senior from La Malbaie, Québec allowed only one goal on 70 shots during her official 130:00 in net, while also stopping six-of-eight Minnesota shootout attempts. She made 34 saves during Saturday's 1-1 tie, then turned aside four shots as UW won a five-round shootout. Sunday afternoon, Desbiens earned her NCAA-leading 13th shutout of the season (and 51st of her career) by turning aside all 38 Gopher shots through 65 minutes of a scoreless tie. Her 0.46 goals-against average matched the co-winner, Minnesota netminder Sidney Peters, for tops in the WCHA and second nationally. This is Desbiens' second-consecutive WCHA weekly award, fourth of the 2016-17 season and her 17th career accolade (including three Rookie of the Week honors).

WCHA Co-Defensive Player of the Week

Sidney Peters, RS-Jr., G, Minnesota (Geneva, Ill.)

Peters was brilliant in the Minnesota net last weekend, recording a career-high 68 saves on 69 shots as the fourth-ranked Gophers skated to consecutive ties with No. 1 Wisconsin. The redshirt-junior from Geneva, Ill. went toe-to-toe with UW's Desbiens, helping Minnesota hold the nation's top-ranked scoring offense (4.16 goals-per-game entering the series) to just one goal in 130 minutes. Peters made 30 stops in Saturday's 1-1 tie, before following up with a career-high 38-save shutout in Sunday's scoreless tie. She then turned aside all three Wisconsin shootout attempts, as the Gophers earned the extra point. Peters matched Desbiens for the WCHA lead with an 0.46 goals-against average, while her .986 save percentage was ever-so-slightly behind the mark of UW's goaltender. This is Peters' first career WCHA weekly award.

Honorable Mention: Jessica Dunne, RS-So., D, Ohio State (tallied a WCHA defenseman-high two assists, along with a league-best 10 blocked shots, helping the Buckeyes earn the fifth seed for the WCHA Playoffs with a split at North Dakota); **Madison Hutchinson, Sr., D, Bemidji State** (tied for the WCHA lead among defensemen with two assists, while posting a +2 rating as the Beavers split with visiting Minnesota State); **Anna Keys, Jr., D, Minnesota State** (tied for the team lead with five blocked shots, while adding a goal as the Mavericks split at Bemidji State); **Anna Kilponen, So., D, North Dakota** (tallied one assist, three blocked shots, five shots on goal and a +1 rating as the Fighting Hawks split with visiting Ohio State).

WCHA Rookie of the Week

Chloe Crosby, Fr., G, Minnesota State (Lakeville, Minn.)

Crosby made her first two career starts, backstopping Minnesota State to a split at Bemidji State and tying for the WCHA lead with 71 saves. The freshman from Lakeville, Minn. earned her first collegiate victory in Saturday's series finale, turning aside 41-of-42 shots in a 3-1 triumph. She made 12 saves in the first period, 18 stops in the second as the Mavericks scored twice for a 2-1 lead, and 11 more in the third period to close out the win. Crosby's save total was tied for fifth overall nationally, while it was tied for third-best among freshman goaltenders. This is Crosby's first career WCHA weekly award.

Honorable Mention: Sydney Brodt, Fr., F, Minnesota Duluth (had two goals, including Friday's game-winner, while tallying seven shots on goal and a +1 rating as the No. 2 Bulldogs swept visiting St. Cloud State); **Ryleigh Houston, Fr., F, North Dakota** (paced WCHA rookies with a +2 rating, while tying for tops with two points – including the assist on Saturday's game-winner – as the Fighting Hawks split with visiting Ohio State); **Haley Mack, Fr., F, Bemidji State** (scored a goal, while totaling five shots and a +1 rating, as the Beavers split with visiting Minnesota State).

About the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA)

The women's Western Collegiate Hockey Association has won a record 16 national championships in 17 years since its inception in 1999, while producing six Patty Kazmaier Award winners, 86 All-Americans and numerous Olympic and international team members. The eight-team Division 1 conference consists of: Bemidji State University (Beavers), the University of Minnesota (Golden Gophers), the University of Minnesota Duluth (Bulldogs), Minnesota State University (Mavericks), the University of North Dakota, Ohio State University (Buckeyes), St. Cloud State University (Huskies) and the University of Wisconsin (Badgers). For more information, visit www.wcha.com.

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