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WCHA Women's League

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University of North Dakota
Ohio State University
St. Cloud State University
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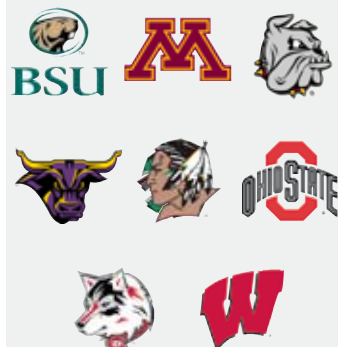
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December 7, 2010/For Immediate Release

Minnesota Duluth's Irwin, St. Cloud State's Nixon, Minnesota's Terry Named WCHA Women's Players of the Week

WCHA Offensive Player of the Week

Haley Irwin • Junior, Forward, University of Minnesota Duluth

MADISON, Wis. – University of Minnesota Duluth forward Haley Irwin, who had a hand in every one of her teams' seven goals last weekend at St. Cloud State, has been named the WCHA Offensive Player of the Week for Dec. 7, 2010. This marks the second time this season Irwin has been so honored, having also earned the award on Nov. 24 (vs Ohio State).

A junior from Thunder Bay, Ontario, Irwin registered seven points, three goals to go with four assists, to help visiting UMD tie 2-2 and then defeat St. Cloud State 5-0 the following night. Last Friday (Dec. 3), Irwin had two assists, 12 shots on net, and was +2 as the Bulldogs came from behind to equalize the game at 2-2. The following night (Dec. 4), Irwin posted an assist on the first goal – and game-winning goal – of the contest before scoring three straight tallies for a natural hat-trick. The hat trick, Irwin's third of the season, was followed up by an assist on UMD's fifth goal. Irwin recorded 10 shots and was again +2 to go +4 on the weekend.

Irwin leads the WCHA in scoring and ranks No. 2 in the NCAA this season with a point per game average of 2.29, on 32 points (17g, 15a) in 14 games. With a goals per game average of 1.21, Irwin ranks third in the nation, and she is tied for fifth for assists with a 1.07 average a skate. Irwin's two power-play tallies against the Huskies last weekend raised her to five on the season, the second most in the NCAA.

Also nominated for the award this week were: Erin Cody, F, BSU; Brianna Decker, F, UW.

WCHA Defensive Player of the Week

Ashley Nixon • Senior, Goaltender, St. Cloud State University

MADISON, Wis. – St. Cloud State University goaltender Ashley Nixon, who amassed 86 saves and posted a .925 save percentage in the Huskies' weekend series against defending national and WCHA champion Minnesota Duluth, has been named the WCHA Defensive Player of the Week for Dec. 7, 2010.

A senior from Blaine, Minn., Nixon made 39 saves – including 19 in the second period – against the No. 3/4-ranked Bulldogs on Friday, Dec. 3 at the National Hockey Center and lifted St. Cloud State to a 1-0 shootout victory following a 2-2 overtime tie. She also helped blank UMD on all five of their power-play chances and stopped all three UMD shots in the shootout to secure the extra league point for the Huskies.

Nixon then also got the starting call against Minnesota Duluth last Saturday, coming up with 47 saves – including 24 in the second period – in a 5-0 setback. Three of the goals she surrendered in that game came on the power-play.

Also nominated this week were: Zuzana Tomcikova, G, BSU; Noora Raty, G, UM; Alex Rigsby, G, UW.

WCHA Rookie of the Week

Kelly Terry • Freshman, Forward, University of Minnesota

MADISON, Wis. – University of Minnesota forward Kelly Terry, who contributed a career-high four scoring points to help the visiting Golden Gophers to a 6-2 conference victory at Bemidji State last Saturday, is the WCHA Rookie of the Week for Dec. 7, 2010.

A freshman right winger from Whitby, Ontario, Terry led the Gophers on Dec. 4 with a goal and three assists for a four-point performance and earned a +2 plus/minus rating. She started her scoring performance when she set up teammate Sarah Davis for the first goal of the game at 13:34. After Amanda Kessel tallied at 14:34, Terry scored the eventual game-winning goal just :05 seconds later at 14:39, giving Minnesota a 3-0 lead and three goals in just 1:05. Terry also set up Megan Bozek's goal at 5:34 in the second period and held a power-play assist on Anne Schleper's third period marker.

In 17 games played this season, Terry has scored seven goals and has a team-high 12 assists to lead the Gophers in scoring with 19 points. Of those 19 points, 17 have come in conference action.

Also nominated this week were: Molli Mott, F, SCSU; Brittany Ammerman, F, UW.