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NCAA DIVISION II NATIONAL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK – Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Jakob Braaten of Southwest Minnesota State University and Kiley Dyrlund of Walsh University have been selected as this week's national players of the week by the NCAA Division II Conference Information Directors of America for the week of Dec. 8-14.

MEN: Jakob Braaten, 6-0, Senior, Southwest Minnesota State Hometown: Byron, Minnesota

Braaten averaged a double-double with 16.3 points and 10 assists per game to help lead Southwest Minnesota State to three wins last week, including a pair of road victories in Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference play. After recording nine points and a school record 17 assists in a win over North Central to begin the week, Braaten came up big in the scoring column with a career-high 27 points to go along with eight rebounds and six assists in an 80-71 win at Concordia-St. Paul. He followed that up with a 13-point, seven-assist outing with four rebounds and three steals as the Mustangs routed Winona State 76-56 on Saturday.

In the three victories, Braaten made 68 percent of his field goal attempts (19-of-28) and all nine free throws, while averaging 5.7 rebounds and two steals per game to go along with the 30 assists during the week. In the two NSIC wins, he went 15-of-20 from the field and had his fourth game with at least 20 points this season in the win over Concordia-St. Paul. Braaten, named as the NSIC's South Division Player of the Week, has helped lead the 6-4 Mustangs to four consecutive wins.

WOMEN: Kiley Dyrlund, 6-0, Senior, Walsh Hometown: Canton, Ohio

Dyrlund had a spectacular offensive showing last week to lead the Cavaliers to two conference wins, shooting 88 percent from the field (21-of-24) and averaging 12.5 rebounds per game in victories over Findlay and Ursuline. She also had four assists, two blocked shots and four steals in the two contests as Walsh is off to an 8-2 start, its best since joining the NCAA Division II ranks and a 4-0 record in the Great Midwest Athletic Conference.

Dyrlund opened the week by going eight-of-nine from the floor for 18 points and pulling down 17 rebounds to match her career high in that department in a 49-42 win over Findlay. On Saturday, she poured in 26 points – scoring at least 20 for the fifth time this season – with eight rebounds, three assists and two steals in the 71-53 victory over Ursuline. Her efforts helped her earn G-MAC Player of the Week honors as she leads the conference in field goal percentage at 61.5 percent on the season.