



NEWS RELEASE

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Cyclone Hockey Names Matt Bennett Player of the Week

Defenseman's consistent puck movement helps line put up big numbers

Nov. 28, 2011 – Ames, Iowa – Cyclone Hockey is pleased to announce defenseman **Matt Bennett (Anchorage, Alaska – Kenai River Brown Bears/NAHL)** as its Player of the Week.

Bennett enjoyed a good deal of personal success by tallying points in all three games at the University of Michigan-Dearborn Holiday Classic and by leading all Iowa State defensemen in scoring over Thanksgiving weekend (on the strength of a goal and three assists), but he was also vital in the overwhelming success his line achieved Saturday and Sunday. The “Red Line,” the name given to Iowa State’s first scoring line and the line on which Bennett has skated on all season, scored five of the Cyclones’ 10 goals in a 10-0 dismantling of the University of Michigan-Dearborn Saturday night and four of the Cyclones 10 goals in the team’s 10-2 shellacking of Eastern Michigan University Sunday morning, and Bennett’s consistent puck movement was a significant factor.

“He’s the quarterback on the power play for that unit, he’s the guy that starts behind the net in our defensive zone and he’s the guy at the top of the strong pyramid in the offensive zone and he does it very well,” said Cyclone Hockey General Manager and Head Coach Dr. Alan Murdoch of Bennett. “He has a good crisp, accurate pass, and it’s those kind passes that lead to goals and assists for the rest of the team.”

Bennett’s performance at the University of Michigan-Dearborn Holiday Classic wasn’t only laudable because it was achieved, but also how it was achieved.

“Bennett came out of the Ohio series, like a lot of other players on the team, a little banged up,” said Murdoch. “I could see he was struggling through some of the practices earlier in the week, but he never really complained and just went through the paces and got stronger as the week went on, and then he played through some significant bruising to be one of our stronger defensemen and the most consistent defenseman over the weekend.”

Bennett and the Cyclones return to the friendly confines of the Ames/ISU Ice Arena for a home series Friday, December 2, and Saturday, December 3, against Lindenwood University, currently ranked third in the ACHA Men’s Division 1 Rankings. The opening face-off for the game Friday, December 2, is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. The puck will drop around 8:05 p.m. Saturday, December 3, following the Iowa State women’s hockey team’s game against Rainy River Community College. Friday night’s game against Lindenwood will be marked by the “Jerseys Off Our Back” auction, with proceeds going to support the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Fans can order tickets now by calling the Cyclone Hockey office at 515.294.6164 or by going to the Cyclone Hockey website. Group-rate discounts and benefits start for groups with as few as 15 people.