

USBWA NATIONAL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK (Nov. 29, 2016)

MEN: MICHAEL SMITH, California Baptist University (Pacific West Conference), 6-4, Sr., G, South San Francisco, Calif.

Michael Smith has been selected the U.S. Basketball Writers Association Division II Men's Basketball Player of the Week after the 6-foot-4 guard led California Baptist University to three victories last week. Smith scored a career-high 42 points in a 76-63 win over No. 22 UC San Diego, and he followed a 27-point performance with another 26-point effort in a weekend sweep of Simon Fraser and Arkansas-Fort Smith.

On the week, Smith averaged 31.7 points while shooting 52 percent (27-for-52) from the floor, including 8-of-14 on three-pointers, and he was a near-perfect 33-for-35 (.943) on free throws as the Lancers improved to 6-0 on the season. His eight assists against Arkansas-Fort Smith also represented a career-high. His 42-point effort in the UC San Diego win was just four points shy of California Baptist's single-game scoring record, and it was the most points scored by a Lancer in over a decade. Smith is the PacWest Conference scoring leader and ranks in the top-10 nationally in scoring at 26.8 points per game.

WOMEN: LANEY LEWIS, Ursuline College (Great Midwest Athletic Conference), 6-1, Jr., Lynchburg, Ohio

Laney Lewis of Ursuline College was named the U.S. Basketball Writers Association Women's Division II National Player of the Week for the week ending November 27.

Lewis, a 6-1 junior forward, repeated as Great Midwest Athletic Conference (G-MAC) Player of the Week after averaging a staggering 26.0 points, 16.5 rebounds, 7.0 assists and 3.5 blocks per game, all while shooting 66.7 percent from the field.

In last Tuesday's 89-71 win at incoming G-MAC school Lake Erie, the Lynchburg, Ohio, native scored 24 points on 11-of-16 shooting, while also pulling down 21 rebounds. She made both three-point attempts and dished out eight assists to go with eight blocks.

Then in an 82-73 loss to then No. 5 ranked California (PA) on Sunday, Lewis tallied her sixth straight double-double with 28 points and 12 rebounds. She shot 11-of-17 from the field, made all six free throw attempts and added six assists, three steals and a block.

The reigning G-MAC Player of the Year is averaging 17.7 points and 15.5 rebounds per game for the Arrows, which are 4-2 overall.

2016-17 USBWA National Players of Week:

Nov. 15: C.J. Carr, Missouri Southern (Men); Hailey Tucker, Southwestern Oklahoma State (Women)

Nov. 22: Michael Mallory, Southern Connecticut State (Men); McKayla Roberts, Le Moyne (Women)

Nov. 29: Michael Smith, California Baptist (Men); Laney Lewis, Ursuline (Women)