

USBWA NATIONAL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK (Dec. 13, 2016)

MEN: PETAR KUTLESIC, Azusa Pacific University (Pacific West Conference), 6-9, Jr., F, Uzise, Serbia

Petar Kutlesic has been selected the U.S. Basketball Writers Association Division II Men's Basketball Player of the Week after the 6-foot-9 forward from Azusa Pacific University notched career-highs in both points and rebounds with a 31-point, 18-rebound effort to lead the Cougars to a 104-103 overtime win over Dixie State. Kutlesic added five assists, one block, and three steals in the victory.

Azusa Pacific rallied from a nine-point deficit with less than two minutes left in regulation to force overtime, and Kutlesic scored five of the Cougars' 11 points in the extra period to lead the victory over Dixie State, which had beaten No. 3 California Baptist two days earlier. Kutlesic currently ranks third in the PacWest in rebounding (8.6 rpg), eighth in field goal percentage (.488), and 15th in scoring (15.3 ppg).

WOMEN: DANA WATTS, American International College (Northeast-10 Conference), 6-1, So., F, Rochester, N.Y.

Dana Watts of American International College was named the U.S. Basketball Writers Association Women's Division II National Player of the Week for the week ending December 11.

Watts, a 6-1 sophomore forward/center, was named the Northeast-10 Conference Player of the Week after averaging 24.7 points and 10.7 rebounds per game in three wins for the Yellow Jackets last week. She also shot 50 percent from the field and was 83.9 percent (26-of-31) at the free throw line, while adding 2.3 assists and 1.7 steals before game.

Watts began the week with 18 points and 11 rebounds, including six on the offensive end, in a 73-69 conference win over Le Moyne on December 6. Two nights later in a 76-70 non-conference win at Post, she totaled 28 points, 13 rebounds, four assists and two steals, recording her fourth straight double-double and ninth of the year.

Watts closed out the week with 28 points on 10-of-15 shooting in a 65-59 NE-10 victory at New Haven on December 10, while adding eight rebounds, three assists, two blocks and two steals.

Watts is averaging 22.8 points and 12.2 rebounds per game to help AIC to an overall record of 8-3, which includes a 5-1 mark in the NE-10.

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)

Dec. 6: Phil Taylor, Shorter (Men); Madison Rowland, Queens, N.Y. (Women)

Dec. 13: Petar Kutlesic, Azusa Pacific (Men); Dana Watts, American International (Women)