

USBWA NATIONAL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK (Dec. 22, 2017)

MEN: DARIEN McCLAIN, Azusa Pacific University (Pacific West Conference), 5-9, 160, Jr., G
Hometown: O'Fallon, Ill.

Darien McClain was selected the U.S. Basketball Writers Association Division II Men's Basketball Player of the Week after the 5-foot-9, 160-pound guard averaged 31.5 points and was nearly-perfect from three-point range to lead Azusa Pacific to a pair of Pacific West Conference road wins last week. Across both games, he shot 81 percent (17-for-21) from the field and was 93 percent (14-for-15) on three-pointers. He also sank 15-of-18 free throws (83 percent) while averaging 6.0 rebounds and 4.0 assists in the victories.

McClain scored 33 points while hitting 7-of-8 three-pointers in an 84-67 win at Holy Names, adding 8 rebounds and 3 assists. He followed that performance with a conference- and school-record for most three-pointers in a game (7) without a miss as he went 7-for-7 from beyond the arc in a 30-point performance to lead the Cougars to a 90-57 victory over Notre Dame de Namur, which was Azusa Pacific's largest margin of victory against a conference opponent in the past four seasons. With last week's road wins, Azusa Pacific improved to 8-5 overall and 4-1 in conference play, giving the Cougars sole possession of first place in the PacWest standings.

WOMEN: MARTHA BURSE, University of Indianapolis (Great Lakes Valley Conference), 5-3, Sr.,G
Hometown: Kankakee, Ill.

Martha Burse of the University of Indianapolis has been named the U.S. Basketball Writers Association Women's Division II National Player of the Week for the week ending December 19.

The senior guard was named the Great Lakes Valley Conference Player of the Week after racking up a career-high 34 points in last Thursday's 75-64 win over NAIA-No. 15 ranked Indiana Wesleyan. The Kankakee, Ill., native finished 14 for 26 from the floor while adding a team-high six rebounds and seven steals.

Burse then scored a game-high 27 points and joined the 1,000-point club in a loss to top-ranked Ashland on Monday, while also collecting four steals.

She leads NCAA DII with 46 steals and is averaging a GLVC-second-best 23.1 points per game.

2017-18 USBWA National Players of Week:

Nov. 21: Ethan Ridgeway, Kutztown (Men); Laney Lewis, Ursuline (Women)

Nov. 28: Drew Guebert, Sioux Falls (Men); Hailey Tucker, Southwestern Oklahoma State (Women)

Dec. 5: Trey Dreschel, Western Washington (Men); Alisha Breen, Montana State Billings (Women)

Dec. 12: Sam Daniel, Florida Tech (Men); Jodi Johnson, Ashland (Women)

Dec. 21: Darien McClain, Azusa Pacific (Men); Martha Burse, Indianapolis (Women)