



PAC-10 NEWS

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WASHINGTON STATE JUNIOR FORWARD KATE BENZ NAMED U.S. BANK PAC-10 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE WEEK

WALNUT CREEK, Calif.-- WASHINGTON STATE junior forward **Kate Benz** has been named the U.S. Bank Pac-10 Women's Basketball Player of the Week for Feb. 13-19, Commissioner Tom Hansen announced today.

Benz, a native of Portland, Ore., averaged 15 points, 11 rebounds, one assist, 1.5 blocks and 0.5 steals in two games as the Cougars split their home weekend series with Oregon and Oregon State. On the week, she shot 52.1 percent from the field (12-of-23) and 75 percent (6-of-8) from the foul line.

In the 68-53 win over Oregon on Sat., Feb. 18, Benz produced game-highs in points (17) and rebounds (12) in leading WSU to its eighth win of the season and its first over Oregon since the 2001 season. She shot 54.5 percent from the floor (6-of-11) and was a perfect 5-of-5 from the charity stripe.

In Thursday's game, Benz recorded a double-double of 13 points and 10 rebounds versus Oregon State. With 22 total rebounds on the week, Benz increased her career rebound total to 670, which ranks fifth all-time in school history. She needs just 18 more boards to tie for fourth place on the WSU career charts (Jonni Gray, 1986-89).

Washington State (8-17 overall, 2-14 Pac-10) will hit the road for the final weekend of regular season Conference play, taking on California on Thurs., Feb. 23 and Stanford on Sat., Feb. 25.

The Player of the Week honor is the first for Benz and the 10th all-time selection for Washington State.

ALSO NOMINATED: Alexis Gray-Lawson, CAL; Noelle Quinn, UCLA; Chloé Kerr, USC; Jill Bell, WASH.

2005-06 PAC-10 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK: Nov. 28- Lisa Willis, UCLA; Dec. 5- Noelle Quinn, UCLA; Dec. 12- Sarah Pool, CAL; Dec. 19- Carolyn Ganes, ORE; Dec. 26- Cameo Hicks, WASH; Jan. 2- Devane Hampton, CAL; Jan. 9- Candice Wiggins, STAN; Jan. 16- Shay Murphy, USC; Jan. 23- Camille LeNoir, USC; Jan. 30- Noelle Quinn, UCLA; Feb. 6- Emily Westerberg, ASU; Feb. 13- Noelle Quinn, UCLA; Feb. 20- Kate Benz, WSU.

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