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## Athletes named academic all-conference

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

Student athletes don't have it easy. Challenging academic work, combined with hours of practice, team meetings, road games and the physical demands of sport, create pressures not faced by the typical student.

Oakland University's student athletes show they're successful at managing academics and athletics. The **Mid-Continent Conference** named 57 OU student athletes to its winter and spring Academic All-Conference team. To be selected for the team, a student athlete must achieve a 3.0 or better cumulative grade point average, be at least a sophomore and compete in the sport for which he/she was nominated. Oakland's total is second highest in the league.

"These numbers show that our student athletes are very strong academically," said Athletic Academic Adviser Keith Merritt, who provides academic guidance to OU athletes. "Our student athletes have a higher GPA and graduation rate than the general student population. This is a credit to the coaches who recruit them, along with Oakland's high academic expectations."

OU's student athletes become aware of those standards from the moment they enter freshmen orientation, Merritt said.

"When student athletes enter OU, I and the coaches tell them that their academic expectations are higher than the other students on campus," Merritt said. "Student athletes can be successful by balancing their time, and we help them from freshmen orientation through graduation. They're provided tutoring through the Academic Skills Center like all other students. They also frequently study together as teams – this helps show the younger student athletes what they should be doing with their spare time. Naturally, they emulate what they see in their peers.

"Being a student athlete is very difficult. It affects both mind and body. Most students have jobs and need to manage their time effectively. But they don't face body punishment through sport like our student athletes. They show they have the extra incentive to be successful."

Oakland's women's swimming and diving team contributed the most student athletes to the team, with 12 members gaining recognition. Six of Oakland's teams – women's basketball, men's and women's swimming and diving, men's and women's golf, and softball – had the most honorees of any of their counterparts in the conference.

Visit the **OU Athletics** Web site for more information on OU's men's and women's varsity teams. For more information on tutoring services available to all OU students, visit the **Academic Skills Center** Web site.

### **GOLDEN GRIZZLIES WINTER/SPRING ACADEMIC ALL-CONFERENCE RECIPIENTS:**

#### **Baseball**

- Kyle Boehm
- Ryan Freiburger
- Jeff Hall
- Spencer Hynes
- Steve Kniebbe
- Brad Morenko
- Josh Patton

#### **Men's Basketball**

- Jordan Sabourin
- Cortney Scott

#### **Women's Basketball**

- Amanda Batcha
- Ashley Holenka

- Connie Longer
- Jasmin MacAlpine
- Leigh Tully
- Katie Wolfe
- Sarah Yaksich

#### **Men's Golf**

- Chris King
- Matt Pullen
- Brian Stuard
- Ryan Yelen

#### **Women's Golf**

- Kathy Goodvich
- Sarah Laird
- Mara Mazzoni
- Emily Minnich
- Jennifer Quinn
- Sarah Stark

#### **Softball**

- Ericka Burns
- Nina Catranzar
- Tiffany Evans
- Jennifer Grange
- Bozenna Johnson
- Nicole Marzano
- Donna McCoy
- Megan Piar
- Lauren Seffen
- Linnea Utecht

#### **Men's Swimming and Diving**

- Eric Allshouse
- Sean Broadbent
- Blaine Dolcetti
- Jim Kanak
- Martin Moen

#### **Women's Swimming and Diving**

- Shelley Aurit
- Tara Berringer
- Kelly Carlin
- Karoline Freytag
- Renie Green
- Tanya Korniyenk
- Jessica Lau
- Jordan Longhurst
- Holly Miller
- Angela Simetkosky
- Oksana Strelet
- Danielle Ward

#### **Women's Tennis**

- Kelly Cole
- Jennifer Herrer
- Brittany Maxey

Mariana Perin

**SUMMARY**

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