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## Men's soccer players earn All-American honors

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

In a season in which **Oakland University's men's soccer team** reached the NCAA Tournament for a second consecutive year, three of its players also received All-American honors.

Sophomore goalkeeper Jeff Wiese and junior defender and team co-captain Ryan Rzepka each were selected to the 2003 National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA)/adidas Men's Scholar All-America Team. Wiese received first-team honors while Rzepka was selected for the third team. Rzepka also received second-team honors for the 2003-04 College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Academic All-America Men's Soccer Team. In addition, senior defender and team co-captain Jason Perry received third-team honors for his selection to the 2003 NSCAA/adidas Men's NCAA Division I All-American Team.

Wiese, a financial information systems major, carried a 3.68 grade point average while starting in 21 games for the Golden Grizzlies. He had five shutouts and finished first in the Mid-Con and 29th in the nation with a 0.79 goals against average. He also earned first-team all-conference honors, was a three-time conference defensive player of the week and was named Soccer America's Goalkeeper of the Week on Sept. 1.

"Jeff's an outstanding goalkeeper and played real solid for us all season long," said men's soccer coach Gary Parsons. "If you talk to any of our players, they'll tell you that Jeff makes the saves and keeps us in games. His high GPA indicates that he's outstanding on all counts."

Rzepka, a finance major with a 3.9 GPA, led on OU defense that allowed less than a goal per game this season. He started in all 22 games for Oakland this season and led all defenders with four goals and 13 points. He also was co-captain of the Oakland defense, which finished first in the conference in goals allowed per game (0.86) and 25th in the nation with a 0.80 team goals against average.

"Ryan is very good defensively and a good attacking player," Parsons said. "He also has strong leadership skills and is an outstanding student. The Mid-Con Scholar-Athlete of the Year award that he received (for 2002-03) is another testament to his academic achievements."

To qualify for the NSCAA Scholar All-America award, a player must be at least a junior in academic standing (in the second year of attendance at the school if a transfer student), have a minimum 3.30 cumulative GPA, start more than 50 percent of the time and be a significant contributor to the team's success. The honorees will be recognized at a luncheon to be held Saturday, Jan. 17, during the NSCAA All-America Convention in Charlotte, N.C. Eligible CoSIDA Academic All-America awardees must be a varsity starter or key reserve, maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.20, have reached sophomore athletic and academic status and be nominated by their sports information director.

Perry, a communications major who graduated in December, led all Golden Grizzlies defenders with six assists this season. He also was named Mid-Con Defensive Player of the Year and was a first-team all-conference selection. Perry also was one of 53 players invited to participate in the 2004 Adidas Major League Soccer Player Combine Jan. 11-13 at The Home Depot Center in Carson, Calif. The combine is a precursor to the MLS SuperDraft, which is Friday, Jan. 16, in Charlotte, N.C.

"Jason has very good athleticism and reads the game very well," Parsons said. "The very best of the graduating seniors are those who will participate in the combine. It's the first step toward possibly turning professional. I know scouts have watched Perry play, and I think his chances at becoming a pro are decent."

"All three of these players were an integral part of our team last season, and we're very proud of them. Their success also shows the strength of our recruiting and OU's athletics program as a whole. We get excellent student-athletes."

The Golden Grizzlies earned their highest-ever national ranking this season (No. 12) in the NSCAA/Adidas poll. Oakland completed its 2003 regular season with a 12-4-5 overall record and tied for first in the Mid-Continent Conference with a 5-1-0 record. OU lost to Tulsa 3-2 in double overtime in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

For rosters, archived stories and more information on OU's men's soccer team, visit the [OU Athletics](#) Web site.

**SUMMARY**

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