



Thursday, February 5, 2004

OU student-athletes score academically

Oakland University student-athletes continue to excel academically and athletically. A total of 40 OU student-athletes were named to the fall 2003 **Mid-Continent Conference Academic All-Conference Teams**. OU also recognized the hard work of its student-athletes by honoring 148 with the **Golden Grizzlies Excellence in Academics** award for the fall 2003 semester.

To be selected for the Mid-Con All-Conference Team a student-athlete must achieve a 3.0 or better cumulative grade point average, have a sophomore or higher academic standing, and compete in the sport for which he or she is nominated. Oakland's 40 selections to the team were the second most in the nine-team league, following Valparaiso by only four.

Oakland's men's soccer team, the regular-season Mid-Con champion and NCAA Tournament participant, contributed the most student-athletes to the list with 14 members gaining recognition, the most of any team in the conference. The Golden Grizzlies women's cross country and volleyball teams each had eight honorees, while the women's soccer team had seven and the men's cross country team had three.

Student-athletes who receive the Golden Grizzlies Excellence in Academics award must have a minimum 3.0 GPA with a minimum of 12 credit hours for the semester. The 148 awardees for fall 2003 represent all 14 varsity teams. Top academic honors among female student-athletes went to junior Ashley Holenka (elementary education/basketball) and freshman Natalie Webb (business/softball), both of whom attained a perfect 4.0 GPA. The top men's honors went to senior Jason Bruscha (history/ cross country) and freshman Chris Fecek (biology/cross country), who each recorded a 3.96 GPA.

In addition, senior Shelly Aurit (psychology/swimming and diving), senior Donna McCoy (general studies/softball), junior Ryan Rzepka (finance/soccer), sophomore James Fox (electrical engineering/soccer) and freshman Nicole Piggott (undecided/basketball) all attained GPAs over 3.9.

Oakland University has 14 varsity sports at the Division I level, including baseball, softball, women's tennis and volleyball, and men's and women's basketball, cross country, golf, soccer, and swimming and diving. For team rosters, schedules, statistics, game stories and more, visit the **OU Athletics** Web site.

SUMMARY

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