



Monday, April 21, 2003

Lepley Senior Scholar Athletes named

Seniors Ryan Bissell (Vassar, Mich.) and Danielle Ward (Brighton, Mich.) were name the 2002 recipients of the Hollie Lepley Senior Scholar Athlete Awards. The award, named in honor of the founder of Oakland University athletics, Hollie Lepley, recognizes the top senior scholar athletes for overall excellence in academic achievement, athletic achievement and service activities.

The award exemplifies Lepley's commitment to education, human service and his quality of leadership and personal character.

Ryan Bissell

A four-year member and three-year captain of the cross country team, Bissell capped off his career in the fall by helping to lead Oakland to its first-ever Mid-Continent Conference cross country championship with a ninth place finish, earning himself second team All-Mid-Con honors. A four-year letter winner, he was a three-time academic all-conference selection.

Bissell, a finance major, is a Top Scholars recipient at OU as well as a Student Life Scholarship recipient. He has been a member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Council for three and a half years as well as a member of Alpha Kappa Psi (co-ed business fraternity), Beta Gamma Sigma (honorary business fraternity) and the International Honor Society.

Danielle Ward

A four-year letter winner for the women's swimming and diving team, Ward is the school record holder in the 100, 200, 500, 1,000 and 1,650 freestyle events. She also has been a member of the 200 medley, 200, 400 and 800 freestyle relay teams that established new school records. A four-time All-Mid-Con selection, she was the conference's Newcomer of the Year in 2000 and holds conference records in the 200, 500 and 1,650 freestyle events. Ward, who is an eight-time Mid-Con swimmer of the week, capped off her career this season by qualifying for the NCAA Championships in the 100 freestyle.

She is a Dean's List student in elementary education and has received academic commendation for four semesters at Oakland. Active in the community, she has worked with Special Olympics, the Bookfield Academy and Pontiac Food Bank.

SUMMARY

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