

**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY - SPORTS INFORMATION OFFICE**

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**Audrey Coon in top 30 for 2010 NCAA Woman of the Year award**

**All-American Viking rower among 10 finalists from Division II**

BELLINGHAM, Wash. --- Former Western Washington University rower Audrey Coon is among 30 finalists for the 2010 NCAA Woman of the Year award.

The award, established in 1991, honors senior student-athletes who have distinguished themselves throughout their collegiate careers in the areas of academic achievement, athletics excellence, service and leadership.

“Audrey is the epitome of what we’re trying to do here at Western,” said Western rowing coach John Fuchs. “She’s a great student, successful athlete, and a leader. We are very proud to see her get among the top 30. It’s also nice to see a rower in that group, too.”

Coon originally was among 117 student-athletes representing multiple sports in all three divisions selected from a record 452 nominees for the 20th annual NCAA Woman of the Year award.

The nominations came from conferences and independent institutions. Western is considered an independent in women’s rowing.

As one of the 30 finalists, 10 from each of the NCAA’s three divisions, Coon receives an all-expenses paid trip to Indianapolis, Ind., to attend the awards dinner on October 17 where the 2010 NCAA Woman of the Year will be announced. Prior to that event, the list will be paired to nine, three each from Divisions I, II and III.

The NCAA Woman of the Year selection committee determines the top 10 and top three honorees in each division. The association-wide Committee on Women’s Athletics (CWA) then selects the overall winner, regardless of division.

“The Woman of the Year award uniquely gives us the opportunity to honor a group of outstanding female student-athletes who perform at high levels in collegiate athletics while also making significant contributions to their communities and

achieving remarkable academic success,” said Karen Morrison, NCAA director of gender initiatives.

Coon, who attended Kenai Central High School in Kenai, Alaska, led Western to three consecutive NCAA Division II National Championships between 2007 and 2009 and was a Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association All-American in 2009. During her three years seated in the varsity eight shell, the Vikings did not lose to a non-Division I school.

Academically, Coon maintained a 3.96 (4.0 scale) grade point average, earning a degree in Spanish and Elementary Education and graduating Magna Cum Laude last December. Among her numerous academic awards, Coon twice earned CoSIDA Academic All-American honors and was a three-time CoSIDA District 8 Academic All-District selection.

Throughout her rowing career, Coon was active in numerous community service and campus projects, including serving on the WWU Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and on the WWU Women’s Rowing Annual Food Drive.

Coon was recently named the Novice Rowing Coach at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Ore. She also is working part-time at the Park and Recreation Department’s Adaptive and Inclusive Recreation program working one-on-one with special needs children.

This is the furthest that a Western athlete has gone in the NCAA Woman of the Year selection process since the school became a member of that national organization in 1998. Two other Vikings reached the first round. They were track and field athlete Jessica Telleria in 2005-06 and volleyball player Courtney Schneider in 2007-08.

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### **NCAA selects top 30 honorees for the 2010 Woman of the Year**

The top 30 honorees for the 2010 NCAA Woman of the Year award have been named by a committee of representatives from various NCAA schools and conferences. This year a record 452 nominations were submitted for the award.

The Woman of the Year award honors female student-athletes who have distinguished themselves throughout their collegiate career in the areas of academic achievement, athletics excellence, community service and leadership.

“The Woman of the Year award uniquely gives us the opportunity to honor a group of outstanding female student-athletes who perform at high levels in collegiate athletics while also making significant contributions to their communities and achieving remarkable academic success,” said Karen Morrison, NCAA director of gender initiatives.

The top 30 honorees were nominated by conference and independent members and are representative of multiple sports. Ten honorees were selected from each of the three NCAA divisions.

Three finalists will be chosen from each division to form the nine finalists for the Woman of the Year award. The national winner will be chosen by the NCAA Committee on Women’s Athletics. The recipient of the 20th annual award will be announced during the 2010 NCAA Woman of the Year awards event Oct. 17 in Indianapolis.

The 2009 NCAA Woman of the Year was University of Arizona women’s swimming student-athlete Lacey Nymeyer.

The top 30 honorees by conference and division (I, II or III) are:

<b>Student-Athlete</b>	<b>Major</b>	<b>Sport</b>	<b>Conference</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Division</b>
Kimberly Abbott	Mathematics/Education	Soccer	Heartland Conference	St. Edward's University	II
Hannah Baker	Biology	Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field	Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference	Wartburg College	III
Lauren Bonds	Political Science/ International Studies and History	Cross Country, Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field	Big 12 Conference	University of Kansas	I
Cassandra Boston	Accounting	Basketball	Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association	Emporia State University	II
Mei Christensen	Psychology	Swimming	Atlantic Coast Conference	University of Virginia	I
Audrey Coon	Spanish/ Elementary Education	Rowing	Independent	Western Washington University	II
Kelsey Cutchins	Psychology	Field Hockey	Colonial Athletic Association	James Madison University	I
Anjuli Demers	Sociology and Psychology	Soccer, Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field	New England Small College Athletic Conference	Middlebury College	III
Vantiel Elizabeth Duncan	Politics	Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field	New England Small College Athletic Conference	Bates College	III
Alicia Freese	International Relations	Cross Country, and Outdoor Track and Field	Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference	Pomona- Pitzer Colleges	III