

GNAC SCHOLAR ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

Years	Male	Female
2001-02	Erik Totten, Western Washington (Football)	Nichole Sauvageau, Seattle (Soccer)
2002-03	Tobias Schwoerer, Alaska Anchorage (Cross Country)	Nichole Sauvageau, Seattle (Soccer)
2003-04	Rob White, Western Washington (Football)	Liz Bishop, Western Washington (Volleyball)
2004-05	Nathan Carlson, Saint Martin's (Cross Country & Track)	Martina Kartikova, Saint Martin's (Basketball)
2005-06	*Tony Binetti, Seattle Pacific (Basketball)	Lindy Mullen, Central Washington (Track & Field)
2006-07	*Adam Jensen, Seattle (Soccer)	*Ana Gutierrez, Seattle (Soccer)
2007-08	*Keith Lemay, Western Washington (Cross Country & Track) Jarred Rensvold, Montana State Billings (Cross Country & Track)	Amanda Peters, Northwest Nazarene (Soccer & Track and Field)
2008-09	Sam Charles, Montana State Billings (Soccer)	*Ashley Puga, Northwest Nazarene (Cross Country & Track)
2009-10	*Sam Charles, Montana State Billings (Soccer)	*Jessica Pixler (Cross Country & Track)
2010-11	Adam Bighill, Central Washington (Football)	Dara Zack, Saint Martin's (Basketball)

*Won Regional award +National Award Winner

2001-02

Sauvageau, Totten Win Academic Awards

SPOKANE, Wash. - Nichole Sauvageau of Seattle University and Erik Totten of Western Washington have been named the GNAC Female and Male Scholar Athlete-of-the-Year award winners, respectively.

Sauvageau, a junior from Liberty High School in Renton, led the Redhawks to a share of the inaugural GNAC women's soccer title last fall and was selected the league's Player-of-the-Year. A three-time NAIA All-American, she tied for the league lead in goals with 10 and ranked second in game-winning goals with four.

She also posted the top grade point average (3.92) on the GNAC Academic women's soccer all-conference team. Sauvageau, who is an accounting major, has been named to the Dean's List every quarter during her three years at the university.

Totten, a senior from Maple Valley (Tahoma), earned Verizon Academic All-American football honors each of the past two seasons and was a three-time conference academic all-star for the Vikings. Totten, who is a business and economics major, was named to the Dean's List five times during his academic career.

He also earned All-American honors on the football field. He was named to the Associated Press and d2football.com second team All-American squad and was a third team Football Gazette All-American last fall when he had a team-leading 53 tackles at strong safety. Totten, who has signed a free agent contract with the Pittsburgh Steelers, finished his career as the school career leader in punt returns (104), punt return yards (1,242), kickoff returns (60) and kickoff return yards (1,347).

Erik Totten, Western Washington (Football, Business/Economics, Sr., 3.66 GPA): Earned Verizon Academic All-American honors each of past two seasons (first team in junior season, second team senior season). Twice named Verizon District VIII Academic all-star. Three-time conference academic all-star (CFA in sophomore and junior seasons; GNAC senior season). Five different times named to WWU Dean's List. . .Played strong safety in football. Finished career as school career record holder in punt returns (104), punt return yards (1,242), kickoff returns (60) and kickoff return yards (1,347). Led team in tackles senior season with 53. Also credited with seven passes defensed and three interceptions. Completed career by participating in Cactus Bowl Senior All-Star game and signing free agent contract with Pittsburgh Steelers. . .Named to numerous conference, regional and All-American all-star teams. All-American honors senior season included Associated Press Small-College (2nd team), d2football.com (2nd team) and Football Gazette (3rd team). All-American honors junior season included AFCA (1st team),

d2football.com (1st team), Associated Press Small-College (2nd team), Daktronics (2nd team) and Football Gazette (3rd team). Also was named to CFA all-conference team in junior season and GNAC all-conference team senior year, Little All-Northwest team (junior and senior seasons) and to d2football.com regional team senior season and Daktronics West Regional team junior season.

Nichole Sauvageau, Seattle University (Women's Soccer, Jr., Accounting, 3.92 GPA): Has been on Dean's List every quarter during three years at university. . . Anderson Award Winner (Most Outstanding Student in Accounting Department). . . NAEF Scholarship recipient (scholarship award to a Seattle University junior for academic excellence). . . Member of Beta Alpha Psi (service fraternity in accounting department). . . NAIA Academic All-American. . . GNAC Academic All-Star (had top GPA on team). . . Was 2000-01 Seattle University Student/Athletic of the Year. . . Alber's School of Business Outstanding Sophomore award winner. . . Campus Ministry Mexico Mission Trek team leader. . . Has played midfield and forward positions for Redhawk soccer team . . Three-time first team all-conference. PacWest Player-of-the-Year in sophomore year and GNAC Player-of-the-Year junior season. . . Two-time team captain. . . Seattle University Female Athlete-of-the-Year. . . Three-time NAIA All-American. . . Three-time NAIA All-Region first team. . . GNAC Player-of-the-Week (10/23/01). . . Tied for sixth in points (22), tied for first in goals (10) and tied for second in game-winning goals (4) during 2001 season. Led team to second straight conference title and to NAIA regional final.

2002-03

Sauvageau Repeats; Schwoerer Win's Men's Award

SPOKANE, Wash. – Nichole Sauvageau of Seattle University has been selected the **Great Northwest Athletic Conference Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year** award winner for the second consecutive year. Tobias Schwoerer of Alaska Anchorage won the men's award.

Sauvageau, who was a four-time conference and region all-star selection, scored five goals and had six assists in leading the Redhawks' women's soccer team to a 11-7-1 record last fall, including 7-4-1 in the conference. She finished her four-year career with a GNAC record 110 points, including 45 goals and 20 assists.

Sauvageau was also a three-time academic all-conference selection during her career and earned Verizon Academic All-American honors this past fall.

An accounting major, she has compiled a cumulative 3.9 grade point average and has won numerous academic honors during her collegiate career. A member of the Dean's List during every quarter, she graduated from Seattle University this spring *summa cum laude* (highest honors).

Schwoerer, who is a junior from Lenzkirch, Germany, helped lead the Seawolves to the GNAC cross country team championship last fall, earning all-conference honors by finishing seventh in the conference meet. He also earned all-region honors with a 13th place finish.

He also competed in skiing, earning the fourth and fifth All-American honors of his career, finishing third in both the 20K freestyle and 10K classical at the NCAA championships.

Schwoerer, who is the only athlete to win back-to-back UAA Athlete of the Year awards in the 19-year history of the award, is an economics major and has compiled a 3.90 cumulative GPA.

He was the winner of UAA's Dean's Cup which is given to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative GPA. He was also a 2003 Verizon Academic All-District at-large selection.

Schwoerer outpointed Seattle Pacific track and cross country runner Nathanael Castle (Sr., Gooding, ID) for the men's award. Western Oregon track-and-field athlete Holly Conrad (Sr., Lyons, OR) finished second behind Sauvageau in the women's balloting.

2003-04

WWU's Bishop, White Win Top Academic Awards

SPOKANE, Wash. – Western Washington University student-athletes Liz Bishop (Sr., Seattle, WA – Mount Rainier) and Rob White (Jr., Woodinville, WA) have been selected the **Great Northwest Athletic Conference Female and Male Scholar-Athletes of the Year** for the 2003-04 season.

Bishop, who was selected a first team American Volleyball Coaches Association All-American during her junior season and was a second team selection this past season, led the Vikings to a perfect 54-0 conference record over the past three years, while maintaining a superb 3.89 grade point average.

She led the GNAC in assists all three seasons, finishing her career with a GNAC record 4,176. Her total ranks second in Western Washington school history. She also ranks ninth on the school career chart in digs with 850.

The earth science/secondary education major also earned second team CoSIDA Academic All-American honors this past season. She was also a three-time CoSIDA District VIII and GNAC Academic all-conference selection.

“The honor of the GNAC Scholar-Athlete of the Year sums up Liz’s entire career here,” WWU volleyball coach Diane Flick said. “She maximized every opportunity she had, whether on the court, in the classroom or with her family and friends. She has a bright future ahead of her and all of it is due to her incredible sense of responsibility and pride.”

White has played strong safety for the Viking football team for each of the past three seasons, starting 10 games each in 2002 and 2003. This past season he led the team in tackles for the second consecutive season with 90. He also ranked 14th nationally in solo tackles and 69th in total tackles, leading the Vikings to the GNAC title.

Academically, White, who is a biology/anthropology major, has a 3.76 cumulative grade point average. He was named to both the GNAC and the CoSIDA District VIII Academic all-star teams this past season.

“Rob is very deserving of this honor and a tremendous honor it is,” WWU head football coach Rob Smith said. “He is the consummate student-athlete. He’s going to be extremely successful when his playing days are over and we’re hoping for a big senior year from him (this coming fall).”

White is the second WWU football player to win the award. Erik Totten won the inaugural award in 2001-02. Cross country runner Tobias Schwoerer of Alaska Anchorage won the award last season. Soccer player Nichole Sauvageau of Seattle University won the women’s award each of the previous two years.

LIZ BISHOP, WESTERN WASHINGTON

Academics: Years at WWU: 4. GPA – 3.89. Second team CoSIDA Academic All-American. Named to CoSIDA All-America District VIII College Division Academic all-star team for third time. .GNAC Academic all-star for third year in a row. .Selected WWU Female Scholar Athlete-of-the-Year for third consecutive year. **Athletics:** Second team American Volleyball Coaches Association All-American. .First team AVCA and Daktronics Pacific Region all-star. .Great Northwest Athletic Conference Player-of-the-Year for second straight season. .Ranked ninth nationally in assists (13.54), helping Vikings to a 24-2 record, their best in school history. Reached semifinals of NCAA Division II Pacific Regionals. .Led team to third straight 18-0 conference record, running league winning streak to 54, fourth longest in NCAA Division II history. .Finished second among school leaders in assists (4,176) and ninth in digs (850). .Four-year letter winner.

ROB WHITE, WESTERN WASHINGTON

Academics: Years at WWU: 3. GPA – 3.76. CoSIDA All-America District VIII College Division all-star. . Also named to GNAC Academic all-conference team. Selected WWU Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year. **Athletics:** First team GNAC all-star. . Lead team in tackles (90) for second straight year. . Ranked 14th nationally in solo stops (6.1 per contest) and 69th in total tackles (9.0 per contest). . Three-year letter winner. . Helped Vikings win GNAC title with 3-0 record.

2004-05

Saints' Carlson, Kartikova Sweep Scholar-Athlete Awards

SPOKANE, Wash. – Saint Martin's College student-athletes Nathan Carlson (Sr., Pateros, WA) and Martina Kartikova (Sr., Kosice, Slovakia) have been selected the *2004-05 Great Northwest Athletic Conference Male and Female Scholar-Athletes of the Year*.

Carlson was a near unanimous choice for the men's award receiving eight of the 10 first-place votes. He capped off his athletic career by finishing eighth in the 1500 meters at last month's NCAA Division II national meet to earn All-American honors. His time of 3:50.18 was a GNAC record.

Carlson, a three-time national qualifier, won three conference titles this year, including the indoor mile, the outdoor 1500 meters and the indoor distance medley relay, setting GNAC records in all three events. He also holds school records in six events, including the 1500, mile, 3000, 5000, distance medley and 4x400 relay.

As outstanding as his athletic career was, his performance in the classroom was even better. A recipient of a NCAA Post-Graduate scholarship to attend Baylor University's doctorate program in physical therapy, Carlson posted a 3.88 GPA in his undergraduate work and has a perfect 4.00 GPA in graduate classes.

He won seven GNAC Academic all-conference awards (three in cross country and four in track) and six U.S. Track and Cross Country Coaches Association Academic All-American awards during his career. In addition, he twice was selected to the CoSIDA Academic All-District team and is a finalist for the CoSIDA Academic All-American team, which will be announced next week.

"Nathan is one of the most special people that I have been around as a coach," Saint Martin's track-and-field head coach Brad Hooper said. "He has left a huge mark on our school, both athletically and academically. We're going to miss him a lot."

Kartikova earned first team all-conference honors in basketball leading the Saints to a 22-7 record and their first-ever NCAA team post-season berth in any sport. She ranked among the conference leaders in seven different categories including scoring (3rd, 18.0), rebounding (2nd, 9.3), field goal percentage (10th, 46.4), blocks (12th, 0.52), steals (13th, 1.62), free throw percentage (13th, 77.0), three-point percentage (13th, 32.4) and three-pointers made (13th, 1.24).

A business major, Kartikova compiled a 3.93 grade point average and made the Dean's List during all six of her terms at the college. Twice she was selected to the GNAC Academic all-conference team and she earned CoSIDA Academic first-team All-American honors this past winter.

A transfer from the University of Prague, all of her academic achievements came despite English not being her native language. In addition to English, she speaks Slovakian, German and Czech.

“It has been a tremendous pleasure and honor to have Martina in our program the past three years,” Saint coach Tim Healy said. “She has clearly established herself as an outstanding player, but what sets her apart is her leadership, work ethic and academic performance. She is, in my mind, the quintessential definition of the term ‘student-athlete’.”

Carlson and Kartikova are the first Saint Martin’s student-athletes to win the yearly award. Previous male winners have included football players Erik Totten (2001-02) and Rob White (2003-04), both from Western Washington and cross country runner Tobias Schwoerer (2002-03) of Alaska Anchorage.

Previous female winners have included Seattle University soccer standout Nichole Sauvageau (in both 2001-02 and 2002-03) and volleyball player Liz Bishop (2003-04) from Western Washington.

2005-06

Binetti, Mullen Win GNAC Scholar-Athlete Awards

SPOKANE, Wash. – Basketball player Tony Binetti of Seattle Pacific University and distance runner Lindy Mullen of Central Washington have been selected the *2005-06 Great Northwest Athletic Conference Male and Female Scholar-Athletes of the Year*.

Both are the first student-athletes from their respective schools to win the award in the five-year history of the conference. Binetti is also the first male basketball player and Mullen is the first female track-and-field athlete to be honored with the Scholar-Athlete prize.

Binetti, who has received a NCAA post-graduate scholarship, earned All-American honors this past winter leading the Falcons to the Great Northwest Athletic Conference and NCAA Division II West Regional titles and to a semifinal berth in the NCAA Division II Elite Eight.

He led the Falcons in scoring, averaging 18.2 points, assists (5.1) and three-point percentage (.474) and was ranked in the Top 10 in the conference in five different categories (fourth in three-point percentage, fifth in assists and steals, seventh in free throw percentage and eighth in scoring) in earning *GNAC Player-of-the-Year* honors.

In the classroom, Binetti, who was SPU’s team co-captain and Team MVP, carved out a 3.54 grade point average in business administration, earning GNAC academic and CoSIDA Academic all-region honors. During his academic career at SPU, he was named to the Dean’s list six different times.

“Tony represents the true student-athlete, someone who is just as committed to academics as he is to basketball, and it showed both on and off the court,” Seattle Pacific coach Jeff Hironaka said.

Mullen, who competed in the NCAA Division II National Track-and-Field meet in the 1500 meters this spring, compiled a perfect 4.00 GPA during her academic career, earning GNAC academic all-conference honors seven times – four times in track and field and three in cross country.

Mullen, who is a biology major, placed 15th in the NCAA national meet in the 1500 after finishing second in the conference meet. She also finished seventh in the 800 meters.

During the indoor season, she finished second in the 800, bettering the provisional national qualifying mark with a season-best time of 2:17.18. She was also a member of CWU's distance medley squad which won the conference title in a meet record time of 12:24.60.

Mullen also had second place finishes in the conference meet in the outdoor 800 in 2003 and 2005 and in the indoor 800 in 2005. She represented CWU in four different conference and regional cross country championships posting best finishes of 21st in the conference meet in 2003 and 39th in the regional meet in 2004.

"Lindy is definitely what you would call a primary example of a true scholar-athlete," CWU head coach Kevin Adkisson said. "She has a great combination of athletic ability and academic ability, but in addition she was truly motivated throughout her career.

"She went above and beyond what was required in her degree program and was involved in a lot of undergraduate research. Two summers ago she went to China to present some of her research. In my mind, she is very deserving of this award."

2006-07

Seattle University Sweeps Scholar-Athlete Awards

SPOKANE, Wash. – Seattle University soccer players Adam Jensen and Ana Gutierrez have been selected the *2006-07 Great Northwest Athletic Conference Male and Female Scholar-Athletes of the Year*.

Jensen is the first Seattle University athlete and the first soccer player to win the men's award. Gutierrez is the second SU athlete and the second soccer player to win the women's award. The Redhawks' Nicole Sauvageau won the women's award in both 2001-02 and 2002-03.

Jensen and Gutierrez, who are both defenders, each earned all-star honors on the field and in the classroom this past fall in leading their squads to GNAC titles and berths in the NCAA Far West Regional playoffs.

Jensen, who had a 3.9 GPA during his four years at SU, earned second team CoSIDA Academic All-American honors, was a three-time GNAC Academic all-conference selection and twice was named to the CoSIDA all-district academic team. He also won Seattle University's Mission Award for Outstanding Leadership in Academic Excellence.

Last Sunday at Seattle University's Commencement ceremonies, he received the John S. Ju Award from the College of Science and Engineering.

Jensen, who graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in biochemistry, earned the award for being "a graduating science student who exudes wonder at new ideas, curiosity to pursue the unknown, and the ability to integrate and apply knowledge."

On the pitch, Jensen earned first team all-conference honors and second team Daktronics Far West Region honors helping lead the Redhawks to the Far West Regional title and to a berth in the NCAA quarterfinals. In four seasons, his teams posted a .738 winning percentage, compiling a won-loss record of 58-20-2.

Gutierrez earned first team GNAC all-conference honors in each of her four seasons leading the Redhawks to a combined won-loss record of 58-17-8 (.747) and becoming only the third woman in conference history to

accomplish that feat. She also was a three-time NSCAA Far West Region first team all-star capping off her career this past fall by earning third team All-American honors.

In the classroom, Gutierrez compiled a cumulative GPA of 3.897, earning first team CoSIDA Academic All-American honors this past fall. She was also a three-time GNAC Academic All-Conference selection and twice earned CoSIDA first team all-district honors.

2007-08

Three Earn GNAC Scholar-Athlete Awards

SPOKANE, Wash. – Track and Field athletes Keith Lemay of Western Washington University, Jarred Rensvold of Montana State University Billings and Amanda (Merrell) Peters of Northwest Nazarene University have been selected the *2007-08 Great Northwest Athletic Conference Male and Female Scholar-Athletes of the Year*.

Lemay (Lynden, WA – Lynden Christian) and Rensvold (Wolf Point, MT) tied in the balloting for the men's award, while Peters (Spokane, WA – Mead) was the overwhelming choice in the women's balloting.

Lemay, who is the third Western Washington athlete to win the men's award joining football players Erik Totten (2001-02) and Rob White (2003-04), earned All-American honors this spring by finishing sixth in the 800 meters in the NCAA Division II national track-and-field championships.

He had the best times this spring in the GNAC in both the 800 meters (1:51.33) and 1,500 meters (3:52.35). Those times rank third and fifth, respectively, in WWU school history and rank third and sixth in GNAC history.

He also won the 800 in the GNAC Indoor championships last February in a time of 1:57.86 after earlier setting a school record (1:54.94). In cross country he placed 20th in the GNAC meet, 32nd in the NCAA West Regional and 158th at nationals.

Lemay, who is a physical education (pre-physical therapy) major and has a 3.69 GPA, is a candidate for Academic All-American honors as well. A six-time GNAC academic all-star (three in cross country and three in track and field), he twice has earned CoSIDA Academic District 8 honors. On three different occasions he has been selected as a U.S. Cross Country and Track & Field Coaches Association National Scholar-Athlete for both sports.

Rensvold, a biology major and chemistry minor, has hardly a blemish on his academic record during his four years at MSU Billings, compiling a 3.98 grade point average. Eight times he was on the honor roll despite carrying an average load of 17.38 credits per semester.

Rensvold recently was awarded a \$7,500 NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarship. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from MSUB on May 3.

During his career at MSUB, he captained both the Yellowjacket cross country (2006 and 2007) and track and field teams (2008). He was MSUB's Most Valuable Cross Country Athlete in 2006 and 2007 and twice earned Heartland Conference all-conference honors prior to MSUB joining the GNAC this past fall.

Peters graduated from Northwest Nazarene with a 3.99 GPA, earning Summa Cum Laude and Dean's List honors. The biology/chemistry major received an academic scholarship from the Science department and also received the President's Scholarship.

She earned six GNAC academic all-conference awards, three in soccer and three in track-and-field and was a CoSIDA Academic District 8 selection for soccer.

Twice she was selected as a second team all-star in soccer. She started 78 consecutive games playing a total of 7,119 minutes in goal over the past four seasons. In track, she was a two-time GNAC Indoor triple jump champion (2005 & 2006) and holds three school track and field records.

2008-09

Puga, Charles GNAC Scholar-Athlete Award Winners

SPOKANE, Wash. – Ashley Puga of Northwest Nazarene and Sam Charles of Montana State Billings have been selected the 2008-09 *Great Northwest Athletic Conference Male and Female Scholar-Athletes of the Year*.

Puga (Sr., Meridian, ID – Nampa Christian) is a nine-time NCAA Division II All-American and a two-time national champion and is the most decorated track and field athlete in Northwest Nazarene history.

She won NCAA Indoor and Outdoor national titles in the 800 meters this past season, setting a GNAC outdoor record with a season best time of 2:05.23. That time is the sixth fastest in NCAA Division II history.

Puga, who placed eighth in the 1500 meters in addition to winning the 800 at the outdoor national meet, was also selected the GNAC and the USTFCCCA Outdoor National Track Athlete of the Year. She set school records this spring in the 400, 800 and 1500 and now holds nine individual or relay NNU track records.

In indoor track and field, she won conference titles in the 800 and mile and led her team to a win in the 4x400 relay in earning GNAC Outstanding Performer honors at the conference meet. In cross country, she placed sixth in the conference meet and 16th in the NCAA West Region meet.

In the classroom, she posted a 3.95 grade point average graduating with a bachelor's degree in business administration and finance. A member of the Dean's List for all eight semesters of her collegiate career, she was a three-time GNAC Cross Country and Track & Field all-academic selection. She was also a three-time selection to the USTFCCCA All-Academic team.

Charles (Jr., Chiswell, England - Budmouth Tech) is on pace to become the most prolific scorer in GNAC men's soccer history. In two seasons since MSUB joined the GNAC, Charles has scored 38 goals and 85 points and has career totals of 45 goals and 101 points.

He has led the GNAC in scoring the past two seasons, including last fall when he scored 19 goals and had six assists in earning Daktronics honorable mention All-American honors.

In the classroom, the health and human performance major has compiled a 3.60 grade point average and was a second team CoSIDA/ESPN The Magazine Academic All-American selection this past fall.

"Sam's quality on the soccer field is only matched by his dedication and hard work in the classroom," MSUB coach Dan McNally said. "This is a very prestigious award for Sam and I'm proud of all the success he has achieved over the last three years."

2009-10

SPU's Pixler, MSUB's Charles GNAC Scholar-Athlete Award Winners

SPOKANE, Wash. – Seattle Pacific's Jessica Pixler, who won four national titles in three sports while earning a 3.93 GPA in English, has been selected the *Great Northwest Athletic Conference Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year*.

All-American soccer player Sam Charles of Montana State Billings have been selected the *GNAC Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year*, respectively. Charles won the award for the second year in a row. He is the first male athlete to win the academic award twice.

The two athletes will now be candidates for the 2010 Conference Commissioners Scholar-Athlete of the Year, which will be selected later this summer.

Pixler, who also was voted the *Great Northwest Athletic Conference Female Athlete of the Year*, joined volleyball player Liz Bishop of Western Washington as the only athlete to sweep the two major season-ending conference awards. Bishop won both during the 2003-04 season.

Last fall Pixler won her fourth straight GNAC cross country title, her fourth straight regional title and her third straight national title becoming the first female in Division II history to win three individual titles and only the third in any division to accomplish that feat.

She won the conference title in a time of 21:03, then added regional and national titles in times of 20:08.9 and 20:22.6. Both her conference and regional times established course records.

Last winter, she won her fourth straight NCAA Indoor national title in the mile in a time of 4:46.42 and also led the Falcons to a national title in the distance medley relay. She ran the anchor leg as the Falcons posted a winning time of 11:29.88.

In the indoor conference meet, she won the 800 meters and mile in meet-record times of 2:08.28 and 4:40.39, respectively, and also led SPU to a conference title in the distance medley relay in a time of 11:36.32.

This spring she won the 1500 meters at the NCAA national meet – her 12th career national title - with a time of 4:15.43 after earlier sweeping the 800 and 1500 meters at the conference meet with meet-record times of 2:06.38 and 4:24.01 and anchoring SPU to a win the 4x400 relay in a time of 3:53.78.

In addition to winning 12 national titles including three in cross country, six in indoor track and three in outdoor track, she won 10 career GNAC Athlete-of-the-Year awards, including four in cross country (2006-09), four in Indoor Track and Field (2007-10) and two in Outdoor Track and Field (2007, 2010).

Pixler, who is an English major, had a cumulative GPA of 3.93 and three different times was selected the USTFCCCA Cross Country Scholar-Athlete of the Year and twice earned the award for Indoor Track and Field.

Charles (Chiswell, England - Budmouth Tech) had a brilliant career on the field and in the classroom. He led the GNAC in scoring each of the past three seasons, capping his career by scoring a GNAC single-season record 24 goals and 55 points last season. He led the nation in goals scored and was selected the Ron Lenz Daktronics Division II National Player of the Year.

Charles, who was the runner-up to Spevak in the Athlete-of-the-Year balloting, finished his career with 69 goals, 18 assists and 156 points, including 62 goals, 16 assists and 140 points over the past three seasons. Twice (2007 and 2009) he was voted the GNAC Player of the Year.

In the classroom, the Health and Human Performance major earned a 3.58 GPA and was voted to the second team CoSIDA/ESPN The Magazine Academic All-American team.

2011-12

Bighill, Zack Voted GNAC Scholar-Athletes of the Year

SPOKANE, Wash. – Central Washington football standout Adam Bighill and Saint Martin's basketball star Dara Zack have been voted the *2010-11 Great Northwest Athletic Conference Male and Female Scholar-Athletes of the Year*.

The two will now be candidates for the *2011 Conference Commissioners Scholar-Athlete of the Year* award, which will be selected this summer.

Bighill (Montesano, WA) was a American Football Coaches Association first team All-American linebacker last fall when he ranked second in the GNAC in tackles (96) and led the conference in tackles for losses (16 ½) and forced fumbles (4). He also scored three touchdowns, including two on blocked punts and one on a fake punt.

Bighill, who recently signed a contract with the British Columbia Lions of the Canadian Football League, finished his career ranked fourth in school history with 314 tackles. He also set a school-record with 46 career tackles for losses in earning *GNAC Defensive Player-of-the-Year* honors.

Academically, the senior exercise science major earned a 3.674 grade point average and was a three-time GNAC Academic all-conference selection. He also earned CoSIDA Academic All-District honors in both his junior and senior seasons.

Zack (Spokane, WA – University), who majored in English, compiled a 3.90 grade point average in earning her third GNAC Academic all-conference award. She also was a recipient of a NCAA Degree Completion scholarship and was a member of the Saint Martin's University Society of Fellows.

On the court, she was the second leading scorer in the GNAC this past winter, averaging 15.3 points per game. She also finished eighth in the conference in rebounding, averaging 6.7 per contest.

She ended her career as the leading scorer (1,503) and rebounder (831) in Saint Martin's history. She ranks sixth all-time in the GNAC in both categories.