

# GREAT NORTHWEST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

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## Women's Basketball: Dunbar, Dolfo Win Top GNAC Awards

SPOKANE, Wash. – Western Washington guard Amanda Dunbar, who is the fourth all-time leading scorer in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference history, was an overwhelming choice as the *2010-11 Great Northwest Athletic Conference Women's Basketball Player-of-the-Year*.

Dunbar, who has scored 1,620 points and is also the GNAC's all-time leader in three-pointers made with 252, received seven of 10 first-place votes and one second from the panel of 10 coaches. This season she ranked fourth in the conference in scoring averaging 13.8 points per game and was the leader in three-pointers made with 57. She also ranked second in assists (4.1) and is 10<sup>th</sup> in free throw percentage (74.5).

Viking head coach Carmen Dolfo, who led WWU to a 24-2 record and the GNAC regular-season title, was selected the *GNAC Coach of the Year* for the third time. She also won the award in 2002 and 2006. Dolfo, a 1986 graduate of Western Washington, is the school's all-time leader in victories. In her 19<sup>th</sup> season, she has a mark of 422-159.

Dunbar also heads up a six-woman first team all-star team which featured two other Vikings – guard Megan Pinske and center Lauren Hefflin.

Completing the first team were forwards Hanna Johansson of Alaska Anchorage, Dara Zack of Saint Martin's and Nayo Raincock-Ekunwe of Simon Fraser. Dunbar is the lone first team repeater from a year ago on the squad which didn't feature a unanimous selection. Zack earned second team honors last year.

Another second team selection last season was Kayla Ryan of Montana State Billings who is one of six players to earn second team accolades this season. Joining Ryan on the second team were Kaitlin McBride and Alysa Horn, both of Alaska Anchorage; Sara Zahler of Western Oregon and Maddie Maloney and Caitlyn Rohrbach, both from Seattle Pacific.

Rylee Peterson of Western Oregon was voted the *GNAC Newcomer of the Year*. Megan Hingston of Northwest Nazarene and Katie Benson of Seattle Pacific tied in the balloting for the *GNAC Freshman-of-the-Year* award.

Peterson, in her first season after previously playing at Clackamas Community College, led the conference in blocked shots with 59 and ranked ninth in scoring (12.1) and 12<sup>th</sup> in rebounding (6.4). Hingston averaged 7.8 points and 5.6 rebounds and had 37 steals. Benson averaged 9.1 points and 3.8 rebounds for the Falcons.

Peterson was one of seven players to receive honorable mention all-star honors along with Heather Adams and Beth Johnson, both from Northwest Nazarene; Mandy Jacobs and Beata Bak of MSU Billings, Nicole Bozek of Alaska Fairbanks and Gabby Wade of Western Washington.

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**add 2011 GNAC women's basketball all-conference (2-2-2)**

## **2010-11 GREAT NORTHWEST ATHLETIC ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM**

**FIRST TEAM:** Amanda Dunbar, Western Washington (G, 5-9, Sr., Marysville, WA); Hanna Johansson, Alaska Anchorage (F, 6-2, Jr., Gothenberg, Sweden); Dara Zack, Saint Martin's (F, 5-10, Sr., Spokane, WA); Megan Pinske, Western Washington (G, 5-9, Sr., Coquitlam, BC); Nayo Raincock-Ekunwe (F, 6-2, So., Vernon, BC); Lauren Hefflin, Western Washington (C, 6-2, Sr., Ridgefield, WA).

**SECOND TEAM:** Sara Zahler, Western Oregon (G, 5-10, Sr., Newberg, OR); Kayla Ryan, MSU Billings (C, 6-1, Sr., Big Timber, MT); Kaitlin McBride, Alaska Anchorage (G, 5-8, Sr., Bothell, WA); Alysa Horn, Alaska Anchorage (F, 6-0, So., Kodiak, AK); Maddie Maloney, Seattle Pacific (G, 5-10, Sr., Issaquah, WA); Caitlyn Rohrbach, Seattle Pacific (F, 6-0, Sr., Edmonds, WA).

**HONORABLE MENTION:** Heather Adams, Northwest Nazarene (PG, 5-7, So., Boise, ID); Beth Johnson, Northwest Nazarene (P, 6-2, Sr., Kent, WA); Rylee Peterson, Western Oregon (F, 5-11, Jr., Newport, OR); Mandy Jacobs, MSU Billings (W, 5-10, Sr., Shepherd, MT); Beata Bak, MSU Billings (P, 6-2, Sr., Stalowa Wola, Poland); Nicole Bozek, Alaska Fairbanks (F, 6-1, Sr., Mukilteo, WA); Gabby Wade, Western Washington (D, 5-9, Sr., Lacey, WA).

**SPECIAL AWARDS:** **Player-of-the-Year** – Amanda Dunbar, Western Washington. **Newcomer-of-the-Year** – Rylee Peterson, Western Oregon (F, 5-11, Jr., Newport, OR). **Freshman-of-the-Year** – Megan Hingston, Northwest Nazarene (G, 5-9, Fr., Keizer, OR – McNary) and Katie Benson, Seattle Pacific (F, 6-1, Fr., Snohomish, WA). **Coach-of-the-Year** – Carmen Dolfo, Western Washington.