

ESPN THE MAGAZINE ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA® TEAM
SELECTED BY CoSIDA

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November 23, 2009

**MEGAN HODGE OF #1 PENN STATE AND MARIA OMONDI OF COLUMBIA LEAD
ESPN THE MAGAZINE'S ACADEMIC ALL AMERICA® VOLLEYBALL TEAMS**

TOWSON, Md. -- Senior outside hitter **Megan Hodge** of top-ranked Penn State University and senior middle hitter **Maria Omondi** of Columbia (Mo.) College headline the 2009 *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-America® Volleyball Teams, as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

Hodge and Omondi have been named as the Academic All-America® of the Year in the University and College Divisions, respectively.

The second consecutive Nittany Lion volleyball player to be named as the Academic All-America® of the Year in the University Division, Hodge is a Business major with a 3.45 G.P.A. In 2008, former teammate **Christa Harmotto** was selected for the honor. Hodge and Harmotto teamed up to lead Penn State to its second consecutive national championship.

A native of Durham, N.C., Hodge has led the top-ranked Nittany Lions to a 30-0 record and their third straight Big Ten Conference championship. A three-time first team All-American as chosen by AVCA, she leads the Nittany Lions with 436 kills, a 4.69 kill per set average and a .400 hitting percentage. She is ninth in the nation in kills and tenth in hitting percentage.

She has been honored as the Most Outstanding Player at the NCAA Championship twice after leading Penn State to back-to-back national championships in 2007 and 2008. A three-time All-Big Ten first team selection, she was also a unanimous first team All-Big Ten Pre-Season choice prior to this season.

Hodge has led Penn State to an amazing 134-5 record during her four-year career. The Nittany Lions have won 94 consecutive matches, dating back to September 15, 2007 when they lost to Stanford at the Yale Classic. In 2008, Hodge led Penn State to a perfect 38-0 record and its second straight national title.

As a freshman, Hodge became the first volleyball player in the history of the Big Ten to earn Freshman of the Year and Player of the Year honors in the same season. She was the first Big Ten freshman to earn AVCA first team All-America honors and was selected as the AVCA National Freshman of the Year.

She was a second team member of the 2008 *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-America® Volleyball University Division team. She is also a two-time Academic All-Big Ten honoree.

Senior **Kori Cooper** of Nebraska is the only repeat selection on the *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-America® Volleyball University Division team.

Senior **Rachael Moss** of Duke was named to the first team after earning second team notice in 2008 while **Molly Davis** of Southeast Missouri State, a third team selection last year, also earned first team honors.

Seniors **Meagan Dooley** of Pittsburgh and **Jessica Boulavsky** of Rice round out the 2009 *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-America® Volleyball University Division first team.

A native of Amarillo, Texas, Cooper is a four-year starter for the Cornhuskers and served as the team captain as a senior. An AVCA All-American and first team All-Big 12 Conference selection in 2008, she started for two NCAA Semi-Finalist squads, including Nebraska's national championship team in 2006.

A Speech-Language Pathology with a 3.81 G.P.A., she has led the ninth-ranked Cornhuskers to a 21-6 record this season. The Big 12 leader with a .369 hitting percentage, she is averaging 2.44 kills per set. A two-time Academic All-Big 12 first team honoree, she is a volunteer for the Husker Connect Program and Gramercy Hill Retirement Home and is a School is Cool speaker.

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A three-time honorable mention AVCA All-American selection, Moss is a Political Science major with a 3.94 G.P.A. and a minor in Theatre Studies. A first team All-Atlantic Coast Conference selection as a junior, she has been named All-ACC three times. In 2006, she was the ACC Freshman of the Year. A native of Cypress, Cal., she led Duke to a share of the 2008 ACC championship. As a senior, she has helped Duke post a 26-5 record and a 16-3 mark in the ACC, good for second place. Averaging 3.3 kills per set with a .255 hitting percentage, she is fifth in the ACC in kills. She is also among the ACC leaders with 0.32 service aces per set. A three-time member of the ACC All-Academic team, she ranks among Duke's top five in digs and service aces.

A Sports Management major with a minor in Business, Davis has a perfect 4.00 G.P.A. at Southeast Missouri State. The senior libero is the only player in school history with more than 2,000 career digs. The owner of the school record with 39 digs in one match, she was honored as the Ohio Valley Conference Defensive Player of the Week three times. She ranks among the NCAA Division I leaders with 5.30 digs per set. A native of Muncie, Ind., Davis is the President of the Red Hawks' Student Athlete Advisory Council.

Honored as the 2009 Big East Conference Player of the Year, Dooley has led Pittsburgh to a 20-9 record and a 12-2 Big East mark. A three-time All-Big East selection, Dooley has a double major of Liberal Studies and Special Education with a perfect 4.00 G.P.A. The West Chester, Ohio native also has a minor in Children's Literature. A middle hitter, she leads the Big East with 1.51 blocks per set. While averaging 3.85 kills per set, she has a .364 hitting percentage. A first team All-Big East pick, she was the Big East Player of the Week twice.

A Psychology and Pre-Med major with a perfect 4.00 G.P.A., Boulavsky has led Rice to a 22-8 record and the Conference USA championship. A solid all-around performer, the Houston, Texas native is averaging 2.26 kills per set with a .278 hitting percentage.

With three first team selections owning a 4.00 G.P.A., the average G.P.A. for the first team is 3.86.

A native of Nairobi, Kenya, Omondi was named as the American Midwest Conference Player of the Year after leading the Cougars to the conference championship and a 16th consecutive berth in the NAIA national tournament. Her performance in the AMC Tournament earned her MVP honors. Omondi leads the team in kills (348) and blocks (147) while hitting a team best .420 as the seventh-seeded Cougars enter the NAIA Tournament with an overall record of 40-2.

A Biology and Pre-Med major with a 3.94 G.P.A., Omondi is a two-time NAIA Scholar-Athlete. She has been an active member of the Columbia Church of Christ since her freshman year where they are involved in the adopt-a-family program during the Christmas season. She volunteers as a reader at the local elementary school and currently she is volunteering her time with refugee services, offering her time as a tutor and translation.

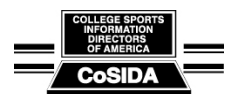
Seniors **Alex May** of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and **Mary Slinger** of Concordia-St. Paul were named as first team selections on the *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-America® Volleyball College Division first team after earning third team honors in 2008.

Senior **Liz Schnelle** of Ohio Northern, junior **Jennifer Hefner** of Wayne State and sophomore **Rebecca Kamp** of Calvin round out the first team.

May, a Brain and Cognitive Sciences major with a 3.80 G.P.A., was recently honored as an AVCA Honorable Mention All-American for the third time. She led MIT to a 27-8 record while recording 409 kills and 300 digs. A native of Des Moines, Iowa, May was selected to the All-NEWMAC first team in 2009. A three-time NEWMAC Academic All-Conference selection, she is a member of the National Honor Society of Collegiate Scholars. She is doing research on genes that affect the plasticity of the brain and plans to attend medical school next fall.

The starting libero for the Golden Bears, who are 34-0 and ranked number one in NCAA Division II, Slinger is a Biology major with minors in Chemistry and Spanish and a 3.95 G.P.A. One of eight regional champions, Concordia-St. Paul will be the host for the NCAA Division II national finals early in December, hosting all eight finalists. A native of Faribault, Minn., she was a second team AVCA All-American in 2008 and was named to the NCAA Division II All-Tournament Team after leading her team to its second straight NCAA title. Named as the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Libero of the Year twice, she is averaging 4.83 digs per set.

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Selected as the Ohio Athletic Conference Player of the Year for the second straight year, Schnelle led Ohio Northern to a 30-4 record as a senior. An Accounting major with a 3.65 G.P.A., she was also named as an AVCA All-American first team selection for the second time. A native of New Bremen, Ohio, she finished her career with a school record 2,222 kills while leading the Polar Bears to their fourth straight OAC championship. A two-time All-OAC first team selection, she was honored as the AVCA National Player of the Week five times.

A junior middle blocker, Hefner is an Applied Human and Sport Physiology major with a 3.96 G.P.A. at Wayne State College. A first team All-Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference selection the last two years, she led the 17th-ranked Wildcats to a 29-8 record and an NCAA Division II Tournament appearance this season. A native of Archer, Nebraska, she was named to the All-Tournament team at the Central Regional Tournament. The NSIC leader, she averaged 1.22 blocks per match. She also ranked among the NSIC leaders with a .326 hitting percentage and ranked third with 3.72 kills per match.

Only a sophomore, Kamp was recently named as an AVCA first team All-American for the second time. A Secondary Mathematics major with a 3.83 G.P.A., the Orland Park, Ill. native led Calvin to a 28-7 record and an NCAA Division III Tournament berth. Honored as the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) Player of the Year twice, she averaged 4.14 kills per set with 50 aces and a .337 hitting percentage. She also led the Knights with 1.22 blocks per set. In 2007, she became the first freshman in league volleyball history to be named as the MIAA Player of the Year.

The six players on the *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-America® Volleyball College Division team have a 3.85 average G.P.A.

To be eligible for the national team, a student athlete had to have been selected to its District's first team. Initial nomination criteria at the District level includes being a varsity starter or key reserve, maintaining a cumulative grade point average of 3.30 on a scale of 4.00, reaching sophomore athletic and academic standing at his current institution and be nominated by their sports information director.

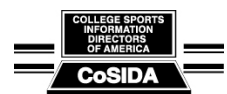
Since the program's inception in 1952, COSIDA has bestowed Academic All America honors on more than 14,000 student athletes in Divisions I, II, III and NAIA covering all NCAA championship sports.

ESPN The Magazine - winner of the 2006 and 2003 National Magazine Award for General Excellence - is a provocative and innovative sports publication. Full of insight, analysis, impact and wit, the oversized biweekly with a circulation of 1.9 million looks ahead to give fans a unique perspective on the world of sports.

For more information about the Academic All-America® Teams program, please visit www.cosida.com or e-mail rlipe@bentley.edu.

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**2009 ESPN THE MAGAZINE Academic All-America®
Volleyball Team (University Division) as selected by CoSIDA**

FIRST TEAM						
Name	School	Dist.	Yr.	Hometown	GPA	Major
Jessica Boulavsky	Rice	VI	Sr.	Houston, Tex.	4.00	Psychology, Pre-Med
Kori Cooper *	Nebraska	VII	Sr.	Amarillo, Tex.	3.81	Speech & Language Path.
Molly Davis ***	SE Missouri State	VII	Sr.	Muncie, Ind.	4.00	Sports Management
Meagan Dooley	Pittsburgh	II	Sr.	West Chester, Pa.	4.00	Liberal Studies/Spec. Educ.
Megan Hodge **	Penn State	II	Sr.	Durham, N.C.	3.45	Business Management
Rachael Moss **	Duke	III	Sr.	Cypress, Cal.	3.94	Political Science

SECOND TEAM						
Name	School	Dist.	Yr.	Hometown	GPA	Major
Sarah Cline	South Carolina	III	Sr.	Rock Hill, S.C.	4.00	Exercise science
Jill Collymore ***	Washington	VIII	Sr.	Bellevue, Wash.	3.77	Honors Psych./Honors Digital Arts
Elizabeth Fleming	Marshall	II	Jr.	Sound Bend, Ind.	4.00	International Affairs
Alix Klineman	Stanford	VIII	Jr.	Manhattan Beach, Cal.	3.53	Art
Jill Nyhof	Coastal Carolina	III	Sr.	Alpharetta, Ga.	4.00	Political Science
Chloe Smith	Central Arkansas	VI	Jr.	San Diego, Calif.	3.93	Digital Filmmaking

THIRD TEAM						
Name	School	Dist.	Yr.	Hometown	GPA	Major
Sabrina Baby	N.J. Institute of Tech.	II	Sr.	Florianopolis, Brazil	3.91	Business
JuliAnne Chisholm	Kansas State	VII	Jr.	Hillsboro, Kan.	4.00	Athletic Training/Pre-Medicine
Lauren Felsing **	Wisconsin-Milwaukee	V	Sr.	Hartland, Wis.	3.97	Marketing
Angie Porché	Valparaiso	V	Sr.	Lynwood, Ill.	3.76	Psychology
Sarah Rumely	Kentucky	IV	Sr.	New Palestine, Ind.	3.63	Kinesiology/Exercise Science
Caitlin Saxton	Rutgers	II	Jr.	Encinitas, Cal.	4.00	Sociology

Academic All-America of the Year: Megan Hodge, Penn State

* ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America® 1st team in 2008

** ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America® 2nd team in 2008

*** ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America® 3rd team in 2008

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Volleyball Team (College Division) as selected by CoSIDA**

FIRST TEAM						
Name	School	Dist.	Yr.	Hometown	GPA	Major
Jennifer Hefner	Wayne State	VII	Jr.	Archer, Neb.	3.96	Applied Human & Sport Physiology
Rebecca Kamp	Calvin	IV	So.	Orland Park, Ill.	3.83	Secondary Education
Alex May ***	Mass. Inst. of Tech.	I	Sr.	Des Moines, Iowa	3.80	Brain & Cognitive Sciences
Maria Omondi	Columbia (Mo.)	VII	Sr.	Nairobi, Kenya	3.94	Biology/Pre-Med
Liz Schnelle	Ohio Northern	IV	Sr.	New Bremen, Ohio	3.65	Accounting
Mary Slinger ***	Concordia-St. Paul	V	Sr.	Faribault, Minn.	3.95	Chemistry & Biology

SECOND TEAM						
Name	School	Dist.	Yr.	Hometown	GPA	Major
Renata da Silva	California (PA)	II	Sr.	Sao Paulo, Brazil	3.75	International Studies
Sara Graf	SW Minnesota State	V	Sr.	Mount Pleasant, Iowa	3.93	Accounting
Jamie Lancaster	Anderson (S.C.)	III	Jr.	Fountain Inn, S.C.	4.00	Parks & Recreation/sport mgmt.
Tricia McCutchan	Case Western	IV	So.	Hamilton, Ohio	4.00	Biomedical Engineering
Maggie McNamara	Concordia-St. Paul	V	Sr.	Zumbrota, Minn.	3.78	Mathematics
Devon Woolard	Lynn	III	Jr.	Delray Beach, Fla.	4.00	Business Administration

THIRD TEAM						
Name	School	Dist.	Yr.	Hometown	GPA	Major
Courtney Ambrosch	St. Francis (Ill)	V	Sr.	Joliet, Ill.	4.00	Accounting
Lauren Brown	Winona State	V	Sr.	Madison, Wis.	4.00	Biology
Kelsey Christoferson	Biola	VIII	Sr.	Carlsbad, Calif.	3.98	Mathematics
Emma Jaynes	Saint Benedict	V	Sr.	Hibbing, Minn.	3.85	Accounting
Morgan Magers	Heidelberg	IV	Sr.	Green Springs, Ohio	3.97	Education Intervention Specialist
Kaela Parnell	Hardin-Simmons	VI	Sr.	Carrollton, Texas	4.00	Pre-Med/Biology

Academic All-America of the Year: Maria Omondi, Columbia (Mo.)

*** ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America® 3rd team in 2008

