

ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA® TEAM

S E L E C T E D B Y C O S I D A

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PENN STATE’S KELLY MAZZANTE NAMED ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA®
OF THE YEAR FOR WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

College Division Team GPA Average of 3.95 Marks Highest Ever

STAMFORD, Conn., March 4, 2004 – Penn State guard Kelly Mazzante (Montoursville, PA) has been named the 2004 Academic All-America of the Year for the University Division in Women’s Basketball as released today by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

Mazzante, a two-time Academic All-America and Big Ten Player of the Year, has led the Lady Lions to their second straight Big Ten title. She finished the regular season as the Big Ten all-time leading scorer with 2,795 career points, while averaging 20.6 ppg, 4.0 rpg and 1.9 steals per game.

“It’s an honor to receive this award,” said Kelly Mazzante. “I’ve really learned how to balance my academics and athletics. I study on the road and always make sure that academics come first. I know that people view me as a role model, and I’m glad I can show people that it’s possible to do both.”

Joining Mazzante on the University Division is two-time Academic All-America selection, Hana Peljto (Brooklyn Park, MN) of Harvard University. The 22-year-old senior carries a 3.58 grade point average and is ranked second in the nation with an average of 23.8 points per game. Kate Endress of Ball State, Wildcats’ Laurie Koehn, and Stefanie Wenzel of Bowling Green complete the University Division first team.

In the College Division, five of the 15 student-athletes selected have a perfect 4.00 grade point average, while the overall national team GPA average is 3.95. “This is possibly the highest team GPA average in the program’s history for women’s basketball,” according to AAA Chairperson, Dick Lipe of Bentley College. “Every one of these student-athletes are excellent role models for today’s youth.”

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Mandy Koupal of South Dakota was named Women's Basketball Academic All-America® of the Year for the College Division. Koupal, a 6-foot-1 senior from Wagner, SD, carries a 3.82 GPA in elementary education and is averaging 24.4 points and 11.6 rebounds for the No. 15 South Dakota Coyotes (25-6). She holds 18 school records, including career points (2,046), points in a season (755, 2003-04) and rebounds in a season (380, 2002-03).

“Mandy is one of those players that comes along once in a lifetime,” said University of South Dakota's head coach, Chad Lavin. “She combines everything in a student-athlete, excelling in academics as well as athletically. Very simply, Mandy does it all – shoot, rebound, and defend. She is the best player ever to play at South Dakota.”

Also named to the College Division first team were two-time Academic All-America Jacqui Martin of Indiana (PA), Lucy DeMartin of Ferris State, Ashlea Bland of West Liberty State, and Haley Smith of Maryville (TN).

The complete list of student-athletes named to the Academic All-America Women's Basketball Team is attached (see Attachment A).

The Academic All-America® Teams program honors male and female student-athletes who have succeeded at the highest level on the playing field and in the classroom. Individuals are selected through voting by CoSIDA, the College Sports Information Directors of America; a 2,000-member organization consisted of sports public relations professionals for colleges and universities in the United States and Canada.

To be eligible, a student-athlete must be a varsity starter or key reserve, maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.20 on a scale of 4.00, have reached sophomore athletic and academic standing at his/her current institution and be nominated by his/her 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 Division I, II, III and NAIA covering all NCAA championship sports. For more information about the Academic All-America Teams program, please visit www.cosida.com or email academicallamerica@millsport.com.

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2004 Academic All-America® Women's Basketball Team (University Division)

First Team

Name	School	Year	Hometown	GPA	Major
Kate Endress	Ball State	Jr.	Evansville, IN	3.93	Entrepreneurship
Laurie Koehn	Kansas State	Jr.	Hesston, KS	3.96	Elementary Education
Kelly Mazzante*	Penn State	Sr.	Montoursville, PA	3.49	Advertising
Hana Peljto	Harvard	Sr.	Brooklyn Park, MN	3.58	Psychology
Stefanie Wenzel	Bowling Green	Sr.	Sussex, WI	3.97	Integrated Lang. Arts

Second Team

Name	School	Year	Hometown	GPA	Major
Courtney Davidson	Navy	Sr.	New Oxford, PA	3.71	Political Science
Colleen Day	Miami, OH	Sr.	Independence, OH	3.84	Secondary Education
Kathleen Nygaard	Eastern Washington	Sr.	Adna, WA	3.70	Marketing
Nicole Ohlde	Kansas State	Sr.	Clay Center, KS	3.63	Elementary Education
Beth Swink	St. Francis, PA	Jr.	Connellsville, PA	3.72	Biology

Third Team

Name	School	Year	Hometown	GPA	Major
Yoneko Allen	Western Carolina	Sr.	Gray Court, SC	3.98	Business Administration
Jamie Carey	Texas	Jr.	Thornton, CO	3.56	Sociology/Social Work
Caton Hill	Oklahoma	Sr.	Ada, OK	3.63	Zoology/Pre-Med
Lindsay Shearer	Kent State	So.	Minerva, OH	4.00	Integrated Mathematics
Lindsay Thomas	Colorado State	So.	Sioux Falls, SD	4.00	English & Spanish

***Academic All-America® of the Year (University Division)**

Kelly Mazzante, Penn State University

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2004 Academic All-America® Women's Basketball Team (College Division)

First Team

Name	School	Year	Hometown	GPA	Major
Ashlea Bland	West Liberty State	Sr.	New Martinsville, WV	3.97	Elementary Education
Lucy DeMartin	Ferris State	Sr.	Mason, MI	3.97	Elementary Education
Mandy Koupal*	South Dakota	Sr.	Wagner, SD	3.83	Elementary Education
Jacqui Martin	Indiana (PA)	Sr.	New Holland, PA	4.00	Math Education
Haley Smith	Maryville (TN)	Sr.	Knoxville, TN	3.99	Math/Business

Second Team

Name	School	Year	Hometown	GPA	Major
Mel Bongiorno	Chapman	Sr.	Stowe, VT	3.82	Psychology/Journalism
Lindsey Dietz	Minnesota-Duluth	So.	Elk River, MN	4.00	Mathematics
Jennifer Howard	Francis Marion	Jr.	Raleigh, NC	4.00	Biology/Chemistry/Business
Kay Mikolajczak	Wisconsin-Oshkosh	Sr.	Franklin, WI	3.93	Biology
Jena Shackelford	Central Missouri	Sr.	Lenexa, KS	4.00	Biology

Third Team

Name	School	Year	Hometown	GPA	Major
Julia Bachman	Notre Dame (MD)	Sr.	St. James, NY	3.98	Biology
Amy Brinkerhoff	Greenville	Sr.	Paris, IL	3.94	Elementary Education
Lauren Harris	Hardin-Simmons	Sr.	Stephenville, TX	3.92	Computer Science
Sarah Kendrick	South Carolina-Aiken	Sr.	San Antonio, TX	4.00	Exercise & Sport Science
Becca Spaeth	Wisconsin-Eau Claire	Sr.	Chippewa Falls, WI	3.92	Biology

***Academic All-America® of the Year (College Division)**

Mandy Koupal, University of South Dakota

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