

VERIZON 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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ONE IN FOUR ATHLETES NAMED TO VERIZON ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA® WOMEN'S

AT-LARGE TEAMS OWN PERFECT 4.0 GRADE POINT AVERAGES

Theresa Kulikowski of Utah has perfect 4.0 and was selected as Team Member of the Year, University Division.

STAMFORD, Conn., June 12, 2003 – Better than one in four student-athletes selected to the Verizon Academic All-America® Women's At-Large team, announced today by Verizon and the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA), own perfect 4.0 grade point averages for their collegiate careers. From the three Women's At-Large national teams, this included twenty-six student-athletes in total. Additionally, first team members in the college division averaged a 3.95 grade point average, while the university division's first team averaged a 3.918.

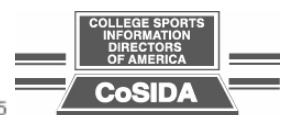
Among the twenty-six with a perfect grade point average was gymnast Theresa Kulikowski of the University of Utah, who was selected as the Women's At-Large Team Member of the Year in the university division for the second consecutive year. Kulikowski is a 14-time All-American and three-time NCAA champion. She was voted the AAI Senior Gymnast of the Year by the nation's gymnastics coaches and holds school records for most career 10.0 scores (14) and most career victories (111).

The university division first team also included University of Alabama swimmers Stephanie Kite and Kristin Sterner. Both helped to lead the Crimson Tide to regional and SEC championships this year along with a second place finish at the 2003 NCAA Division I Championships. Additionally, Sterner was selected as the 2003 SEC Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

Kenyon College swimmer Ashley Rowatt was selected as the Women's At-Large Team Member of the Year in college Division. Rowatt has won three individual national titles and 13 All-American awards and was recently named Kenyon's Senior Athlete of the Year. She has helped Kenyon to win three national championships and four NCAC championships. Teammate Katie Holland was selected to the third team.

Sarah Dance, Kelli Dudley and Liz Hug of Truman State's swimming team were all selected to national teams. The Truman State Bulldogs recently captured their third straight NCAA Division II Championship where Dudley, a first team honoree, set a new school record in the 200 backstroke.

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“The quality, both athletically and academically, of the 90 women selected for this Academic All-America team is truly amazing,” said Bentley College’s Dick Lipe, chair of the CoSIDA Academic All-America Committee.

The Women’s At-Large category for Academic All-America honors contains the sports of crew, gymnastics, skiing, fencing, ice hockey, swimming, water polo, field hockey, lacrosse, tennis, golf, and rifle.

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

The Verizon Academic All-America Teams program recognizes student-athletes who have succeeded on the field and in the classroom. Individuals are selected by votes from CoSIDA, the 1,800-member College Sports Information Directors of America. To be eligible, an athlete must be a varsity starter or key reserve and maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.20 on a scale of 4.00. Since the program’s inception in 1952, over 12,000 student-athletes have been honored with the award.

Under an agreement with CoSIDA, Verizon has been the exclusive sponsor of the Academic All-America program since 1985. A Fortune 10 company, Verizon Communications (NYSE:VZ) is one of the world's leading providers of communications services. Verizon companies are the largest providers of wireline and wireless communications in the United States, with 136.6 million access line equivalents and 33.3 million Verizon Wireless customers. Verizon is the third-largest long-distance carrier for U.S. consumers, with 13.2 million long-distance lines, and the company is also the largest directory publisher in the world, as measured by directory titles and circulation. With approximately \$67 billion in annual revenues and 227,000 employees, Verizon's global presence extends to the Americas, Europe, Asia and the Pacific. For more information about Verizon, visit www.verizon.com.

For more information about the Academic All-America programs, visit www.cosida.com or email academicallamerica@millsport.com.

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