

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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TENNESSEE'S KARA LAWSON NAMED TO THE 2002-2003 VERIZON

ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA® WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

VCU'S Austgulen named Academic All-America Team Member of the Year, University Division.

Four Academic All-Americans named from Top 25 Teams.

STAMFORD, Conn., March 7, 2003 – Top-ranked Tennessee guard, Kara Lawson, was named to the 2002-2003 Verizon Academic All-America Women's Basketball First Team, announced today in voting by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). Verizon and CoSIDA released the 2002-2003 Verizon Academic All-America® Women's Basketball Team including four players from Associated Press' Top 25 teams – Tennessee (#3), Minnesota (#13), Penn State (#15) and Wisconsin-Green Bay (#22).

Kristine Austgulen, a forward for Virginia Commonwealth, was named Academic All-America Team Member of the Year for the women's basketball university division. A perfect 4.00 student, Austgulen is a three-time Academic All-America. She also is VCU's all-time leader in free throws (364), second in career double-doubles (28), second in career rebounds (799), third in career points (1,572), and third for career field goals (584). Austgulen is the first Verizon Academic All-America Team Member of the Year for women's sports at VCU.

"Everyone at Virginia Commonwealth University is extremely proud of Kristine for her accomplishments in the classroom and on the basketball court. Her passion, commitment, dedication and work ethic have all contributed to helping her become the epitome of what a college student-athlete should strive to become," said David Glass, head coach for the VCU Rams. "Certainly, being recognized as the Verizon Academic All-America Team Member of the Year is a tremendous honor for Kristine and the entire VCU community."

In the college division, Megan Woodruff of Wilmington College (OH) also added Academic All-America Team Member of the Year to her list of accomplishments. Woodruff, a guard for the Lady Quakers, is currently second in the Ohio Athletic Conference in scoring, averaging 17.6 points while dishing out a conference leading 185 assists, and first in school history in career assists and season assists. Including Woodruff, the college division named eight student-athletes with a perfect 4.0 grade point average, a combined average of 3.93.

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The complete list of student-athletes named to the Verizon Academic All-America Women's Basketball 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. Verizon, America's literacy champion, strongly believes that literacy is a key ingredient to success and outstanding achievements in life. The Academic All-America program is part of Verizon Reads, the company's national campaign to promote literacy through corporate philanthropy, partner collaboration, community outreach, and customer and employee participation.

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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