

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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THIRTY-FOUR STUDENT ATHLETES SELECTED TO THE VERIZON ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA®

WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD/CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS POSTED

PERFECT GRADE POINT AVERAGES -- OR BETTER

STAMFORD, Conn., June 19, 2003 – Thirty-four student athletes who were selected to the 2003 Verizon Academic All-America® Women's Track & Field/Cross Country teams posted a perfect grade point average or better, as announced today by Verizon and the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). The first team, college division, had a team grade point average of 3.94 with the total average of all team members named to the track & field national teams tallying just over 3.91.

"The achievements of these women, on the track and especially in the classroom, is truly remarkable" said Bentley College's Dick Lipe, chair of the CoSIDA Academic All-America committee. "A standout group like this is a great way to complete an outstanding year of Academic All-America selections!"

Minnesota senior Shani Marks has been selected as the University Division Women's Track & Field Team Member of the Year. Earning a personal best, Marks placed second in the triple jump at the NCAA Track & Field Championships this past weekend. She recently ended her career at Minnesota as a three-time triple jump All-American and holds not only the indoor triple jump record for Minnesota but also for the Big Ten conference.

"Shani is certainly deserving of such a magnificent award. Shani brings the term 'student-athlete' to life," said her coach, Gary Wilson. "She's a wonderful representative for the University of Minnesota, we are extremely proud of her."

Sisters Katie and Laura O'Neill of Yale University were both were selected as first team members. Katie O'Neill holds the school record for the 5000-meter run outdoors while Laura holds the school record for the 5000-meter run indoors.

Kathy Darling of Johns Hopkins University was selected as Team Member of the Year for the college division. Darling, who was also a first team selection for basketball, recently became a four-time All-American in



track & field after winning the discus and placing second in the javelin at the 2003 NCAA Division III Women's Track & Field Championships.

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Women's T&F/CC Team

The complete list of student-athletes named to the Verizon Academic All-America Women's Track & Field/Cross Country 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.

The Verizon Academic All-America Teams program recognizes student-athletes in 12 programs: football, women's volleyball, men's soccer, women's soccer, men's basketball, women's basketball, baseball, softball, men's track & field/cross country, women's track & field/cross country, men's at-large and women's at-large. A first team, second team and third team are selected in both the University (Division I and I-AA) and College (Division II, III and NAIA) Divisions for each program.

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 on 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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