

GREAT NORTHWEST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

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2006-07 Report 39A (June 13, 2007)

SPU's Pixler, Bremerman Voted Top GNAC Athletes

SPOKANE, Wash. – Four-sport athlete Jessica Pixler of Seattle Pacific University has been voted the *2006-07 Great Northwest Athletic Conference Female Athlete-of-the-Year*. She was a near unanimous selection in the voting by the conference's athletic directors.

Seattle Pacific swept the Athlete-of-the-Year awards as basketball player Dustin Bremerman was selected the *GNAC Male Athlete-of-the-Year*.

It is the third consecutive year a SPU male athlete has at least shared that award. SPU decathlete Chris Randolph shared the award each of the previous two seasons with Bobby McAlister of Seattle University and Grant Dykstra of Western Washington, respectively.

Pixler is the fourth SPU athlete and the first freshman to win the women's award. Track athlete Stephanie Huffman won the inaugural award in 2001-02 and basketball player Kerie Hughes was the 2002-03 winner. Track standout Danielle Ayers-Stamper was the 2004-05 recipient.

Pixler, a graduate of Eastlake High School in Sammamish, competed in soccer, cross country, indoor track-and-field and outdoor track-and-field for the Falcons, winning two national titles, seven GNAC titles, setting five conference records and five meet records and leading SPU to three conference team championships.

In the fall while splitting her time between soccer and cross country, she won individual titles in both the GNAC (21:11) and NCAA West Regional (20:46.10) cross country championships and finished 10th in the NCAA national meet (20:40.0), earning the first of her five All-American awards.

In indoor track, she won the NCAA title in the mile (4:51.79) and also earned All-American honors running the anchor leg on SPU's distance medley relay team that finished eighth in the national meet in a time of 12:04.77.

She also set a conference record in the mile (4:42.42) and in the distance medley relay (11:45.92). In the conference meet, she swept the 800 and mile titles in meet record times of 2:11.52 and 4:54.53 and also led the Falcons to the conference title in the distance medley relay in a meet record time of 11:58.41.

In outdoor track and field, she won two more All-American awards, winning the 1500 (4:22.23) and finishing second in the 800 (2:07.90) after sweeping the 800 (2:10.93), 1500 (4:32.80) and 3000 (9:53.80) in the conference meet, setting meet records in the 800 and 3000.

Over the course of the season, she set conference records in all three events, running bests of 2:07.44 in the 800, 4:19.81 in the 1500 and 9:37.41 in the 3000.

"It (winning the Athlete-of-the-Year award) couldn't happen to a nicer person," said Pixler's running coach, Doris Heritage. "Jessica not only has the ability, but she also works hard and works smart for what she's accomplished.

"She loves to run, always gives it her best effort and does that in class as well. She definitely did make an impact on her teams, not only directly through her efforts but also helping teammates to rise up and meet their goals."

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add 2-2-2 GNAC Player-of-the-Year

Bremerman, a senior from Eisenhower High School in Yakima, led the Falcon basketball team to its second consecutive Great Northwest Athletic Conference title, leading SPU and ranking fourth in the conference in scoring (18.9). He also finished seventh in the conference in free throw percentage (88.3), 14th in field goal percentage (49.4), 15th in three-point percentage (38.3) and 16th in assists (2.3).

He finished his career as the No. 2 all-time scorer in school history and seventh in GNAC history with 1,797 points.

"This is quite an honor, and obviously we feel Dustin is very deserving," said SPU head men's basketball coach Jeff Hironaka. "He is the epitome of the true student-athlete, a good athlete, good student and good person.

"People recognize those qualities in him, both on and off the court. He was always respectful, an even-keel presence and everything he accomplished came within the frame work of a successful team."

In addition to his accomplishments on the court, Bremerman has had an outstanding career at SPU academically, earning GNAC Academic all-conference honors each of the past three seasons. The business administration major earned CoSIDA Academic all-region honors this past winter and three times has been named to the Dean's List at SPU.

He capped off his playing career by being selected to compete in the NCAA Division II All-Star basketball game following his senior season.

GNAC Athletes-of-the-Year

Years

2001-02
2002-03
2003-04
2004-05
2005-06
2006-07

Male

Mike Hinshaw, Western Oregon (Football and Track & Field)
Fred Hooks, Humboldt State (Basketball)
Austin Nichols, Humboldt State (Basketball)
Chris Randolph, Seattle Pacific (Track & Field)
Bobby McAlister, Seattle (Soccer)
Chris Randolph, Seattle Pacific (Track & Field)
Grant Dykstra, Western Washington (Basketball)
Dustin Bremerman, Seattle Pacific (Basketball)

Female

Stephanie Huffman, Seattle Pacific (Track & Field)
Kerie Hughes, Seattle Pacific (Basketball)
Liz Bishop, Western Washington (Volleyball)
Danielle Ayers-Stamper, Seattle Pacific (Track & Field)
LeAnne McGahuey, Central Washington (Volleyball)
Jessica Pixler, Seattle Pacific (Track & Field and Cross Country)