

GREAT NORTHWEST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

Contact: Bob Guptill (509-535-5291/Fax 535-5293/e-mail – bguptill@gnacsports.com)

2008-09 Report 36B (June 3, 2009)

Reilly, Pixler GNAC Athletes of the Year

SPOKANE, Wash. – Mike Reilly who helped rewrite Central Washington University’s football record last fall and Seattle Pacific’s Jessica Pixler, who won four national titles in three sports, have been voted the *Great Northwest Athletic Conference Male and Female Athletes of the Year*, respectively, for the 2008-09 season.

The awards are voted upon by the athletic directors at the GNAC’s nine member institutions. The award is the second one for Pixler who also won the award as a freshman during the 2006-07 school year. She joins SPU’s Chris Randolph as the only athlete to win two GNAC Athlete of the Year awards. Reilly is the first CWU male athlete and only the second football player to receive the award.

Reilly was the national runner-up for the Harlon Hill Trophy, the Division II equivalent of the Heisman Trophy, after leading the Wildcats to a 10-2 record and their second straight NCAA post-season playoff berth. Reilly threw for 3,706 yards and 37 touchdowns in earning GNAC Offensive Player of the Year honors.

He broke virtually every passing record in the CWU record book, including most career passing yards (12,448 yards) and most touchdown passes (118) leading the Wildcats a record of 34-12 over the past four seasons.

Reilly was also an academic standout, posting a 3.59 GPA and graduating in December with a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering technology. Reilly, who signed a free-agent contract with the defending Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers in April, was a two-time CoSIDA/ESPN The Magazine Academic District VIII selection.

After redshirting last spring due to an injury, Pixler bounced back this year to win national titles in cross country, indoor track and field and outdoor track and field and lead Seattle Pacific to a pair of Top 10 team national finishes.

In cross country, she won her second straight individual national title in leading SPU to a fourth-place team finish. She also won her third straight GNAC and West Region title. In indoor track & field, she won national titles in the mile (her third in three seasons) and the 5,000 meters leading SPU to a sixth-place team national finish.

In outdoor track & field, she won the 1,500 meter title for the second time in two outdoor seasons in a GNAC record-time of 4:16.78 leading SPU to an 11th place team national finish. Academically, the English major finished her junior season with a cumulative GPA of 3.92.

GNAC Athletes-of-the-Year

Years

Male

2001-02 Mike Hinshaw, Western Oregon (Football and Track & Field)
2002-03 Fred Hooks, Humboldt State (Basketball)
2003-04 Austin Nichols, Humboldt State (Basketball)
2004-05 Chris Randolph, Seattle Pacific (Track & Field)
Bobby McAlister, Seattle (Soccer)
2005-06 Chris Randolph, Seattle Pacific (Track & Field)
Grant Dykstra, Western Washington (Basketball)
2006-07 Dustin Bremerman, Seattle Pacific (Basketball)
2007-08 David Registe, Alaska Anchorage (Track and Field)
2008-09 Mike Reilly, Central Washington (Football)

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)
Courtney Schneider, Western Washington (Volleyball)
Jessica Pixler, Seattle Pacific (Track & Filed and Cross Country)