

# GREAT NORTHWEST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

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## Binetti, Mullen Win GNAC Scholar-Athlete Awards

SPOKANE, Wash. – Basketball player Tony Binetti of Seattle Pacific University and distance runner Lindy Mullen of Central Washington have been selected the 2005-06 *Great Northwest Athletic Conference Male and Female Scholar-Athletes of the Year*. The awards are voted on by the athletic directors at the 10 Great Northwest Athletic Conference schools.

Both are the first student-athletes from their respective schools to win the award in the five-year history of the conference. Binetti is also the first male basketball player and Mullen is the first female track-and-field athlete to be honored with the Scholar-Athlete prize.

Binetti, who has received a NCAA post-graduate scholarship, earned All-American honors this past winter leading the Falcons to the Great Northwest Athletic Conference and NCAA Division II West Regional titles and to a semifinal berth in the NCAA Division II Elite Eight.

He led the Falcons in scoring, averaging 18.2 points, assists (5.1) and three-point percentage (.474) and was ranked in the Top 10 in the conference in five different categories (fourth in three-point percentage, fifth in assists and steals, seventh in free throw percentage and eighth in scoring) in earning *GNAC Player-of-the-Year* honors.

In the classroom, Binetti, who was SPU's team co-captain and Team MVP, carved out a 3.54 grade point average in business administration, earning GNAC academic and CoSIDA Academic all-region honors. During his academic career at SPU, he was named to the Dean's list six different times.

"Tony represents the true student-athlete, someone who is just as committed to academics as he is to basketball, and it showed both on and off the court," Seattle Pacific coach Jeff Hironaka said.

Mullen, who competed in the NCAA Division II National Track-and-Field meet in the 1500 meters this spring, compiled a perfect 4.00 GPA during her academic career, earning GNAC academic all-conference honors seven times – four times in track and field and three in cross country.

Mullen, who is a biology major, placed 15<sup>th</sup> in the NCAA national meet in the 1500 after finishing second in the conference meet. She also finished seventh in the 800 meters.

During the indoor season, she finished second in the 800, bettering the provisional national qualifying mark with a season-best time of 2:17.18. She was also a member of CWU's distance medley squad which won the conference title in a meet record time of 12:24.60.

Mullen also had second place finishes in the conference meet in the outdoor 800 in 2003 and 2005 and in the indoor 800 in 2005. She represented CWU in four different conference and regional cross country championships posting best finishes of 21<sup>st</sup> in the conference meet in 2003 and 39<sup>th</sup> in the regional meet in 2004.

"Lindy is definitely what you would call a primary example of a true scholar-athlete," CWU head coach Kevin Adkisson said. "She has a great combination of athletic ability and academic ability, but in addition she was truly motivated throughout her career.

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## 2-2-2 GNAC Scholar-Athlete

“She went above and beyond what was required in her degree program and was involved in a lot of undergraduate research. Two summers ago she went to China to present some of her research. In my mind, she is very deserving of this award.”

## GNAC Scholar-Athletes-of-the-Year

### Years Male

2001-02 Erik Totten, Western Washington (Football)  
2002-03 Tobias Schwoerer, Alaska Anchorage (Cross Country)  
2003-04 Rob White, Western Washington (Football)  
2004-05 Nathan Carlson, Saint Martin's (Cross County & Track)  
2005-06 Tony Binetti, Seattle Pacific (Basketball)

### Female

Nichole Sauvageau, Seattle (Soccer)  
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Liz Bishop, Western Washington (Volleyball)  
Martina Kartikova, Saint Martin's (Basketball)  
Lindy Mullen, Central Washington (Track & Field)