



## 2013 DAKTRONICS, Inc. DIVISION II ALL-AMERICA VOLLEYBALL TEAMS

Contact: Mike Grosz, Sports Information Director, Wayne State (Neb.) College

Phone: (402) 375-7326 Fax: (402) 375-7271

E-mail: migrosz1@wsc.edu

December 11, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Daktronics, Inc. All-America Volleyball Team Announced: *Minnesota Duluth's Kate Lange named 2013 Ron Lenz Daktronics National Player of the Year*

**The Daktronics Division II All-America Volleyball Team** is sponsored by Daktronics, Inc., an acknowledged world leader in scoring, timing and programmable display systems for virtually every sport at every level of competition...the company also markets DakStats sports statistics software with programs for football, basketball and baseball. The All-America Volleyball team is selected by the NCAA Division II members of the College Sports Information Directors of America (D2SIDA).

*National Coordinator*

Mike Grosz, Wayne State (Neb.) College

*Vice-Chair / Atlantic Region Coordinator*

Doug Spatafore, Lock Haven University

*Central Region Coordinator*

Gene Cassell, Washburn University

*East Region Coordinator*

Andy Beardsley, New Haven

*Midwest Region Coordinator*

DJ Foster, Grand Valley State

*South Region Coordinator*

A.A. Moore, Gulf South Conference

*South Central Region Coordinator*

Aimee Davison, Colorado Christian

*Southeast Region Coordinator*

Chad Jackson, Armstrong Atlantic

*West Region Coordinator*

Bob Guptill, Great Northwest  
Athletic Conference

WAYNE, Neb. - Minnesota Duluth senior outside hitter Kate Lange has been the go-to player for the Bulldogs over the last three seasons. After leading NCAA Division II in kills per game and points per game, Lange today was named the 2013 Ron Lenz Daktronics Volleyball National Player of the Year. Voting for the award was conducted by NCAA Division II members of the College Sports Information Directors of America (D2SIDA).

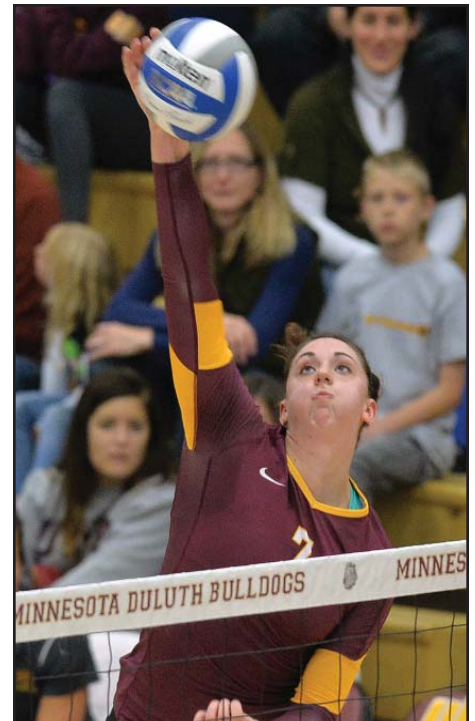
Joining Lange as Daktronics First Team All-Americans are two repeat selections - Concordia-St. Paul senior setter **Amanda Konetchy** and BYU-Hawai'i junior outside hitter **Shih Ting Chen**. Other Daktronics First Team All-America honorees, all seniors, include outside hitter **Kayla Koenecke** of Concordia-St. Paul, middle hitters **Amber Cannady** from New Haven and **Laura Iwuchukwu** of West Texas A&M and libero **Caitlyn Dean** from Tusculum College.

Lange, a 6-1 senior outside hitter from Hibbing, Minnesota, led NCAA Division II this season in kills per game (5.41) and points per game (6.14). She was a two-time Player of the Year in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference and led Minnesota Duluth to a 33-3 record and a trip to the Central Region final before falling to six-time defending national champion Concordia-St. Paul. Lange closed her stellar career with an astonishing 2,078 kills.

For a fourth straight season, Konetchy is a Daktronics First Team All-American setter for Concordia-St. Paul. The 5-7 senior from Victoria, Minnesota led NCAA Division II in assists per set for a fourth straight season at 13.22 while helping Concordia-St. Paul top the nation in kills per set and assists per set as a team this season. Konetchy also continues an All-America string at setter for the Golden Bears. The school has produced an All-American setter every year since 2005, joining former National Player of the Year Maggie McNamara (2006-09) and Cailin Terharr, a Second Team All-American in 2005.

Chen is the lone underclassman to be selected Daktronics First Team All-American. The 5-11 junior outside hitter from BYU-Hawai'i was a First Team All-American last season while collecting Third Team All-American honors as a freshman. Chen led the Seaside's to a 27-1 record this season and a second straight trip to the Elite Eight after averaging 5.09 kills and 5.66 points per game this season, ranking second in NCAA Division II in both categories this season.

Concordia-St. Paul's Kayla Koenecke rounds out the First Team All-American outside hitters. The senior from Delano, Minnesota leads NCAA Division II in attack percentage this season at .405 and has posted an impressive .391 percentage during her four-year career for the Golden Bears. Koenecke tops Concordia-St. Paul this season with 3.67 kills per game and also averages 3.53 digs per contest.



**2013 Ron Lenz Daktronics National Volleyball Player of the Year Kate Lange of Minnesota Duluth. (Photo courtesy of UMD Sports Information)**

Cannady was the top vote getter at middle hitter while helping New Haven to a 28-5 record and a berth in the East Regional final. The 6-4 senior middle blocker from Younkers, New York ranked second in NCAA Division II in blocks per game at 1.52. The Daktronics East Region Player of the Year also averaged a team-leading 3.41 kills per game while hitting .362 for the season.

The other First Team middle hitter is Laura Iwuchukwu from West Texas A&M. The 6-0 senior from Edmond, Oklahoma led NCAA Division II in blocks per game this season (1.63) while helping the Lady Buffs to a 34-3 record and the South Central region title.

Rounding out the 2013 Daktronics First Team All-Americans is libero Caitlyn Dean from Tusculum College. The senior from Fort Wayne, Indiana is a four-time All Southeast Region selection and the all-time leader in NCAA Division II in career digs. Dean averaged 6.03 digs per game this season to rank seventh in NCAA Division II while leading the South Atlantic Conference for a fourth straight season.

## 2013 Daktronics NCAA Division II Volleyball All-American Teams

### 2013 RON LENZ DAKTRONICS VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR KATE LANGE - MINNESOTA DULUTH

#### 2013 DAKTRONICS ALL-AMERICA FIRST TEAM

POS	PLAYER	CL	SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
OH	Kate Lange	Sr.	Minnesota Duluth	Hibbing, Minn.
OH	Shih Ting Chen	Jr.	BYU-Hawai'i	Yunlin, Taiwan
OH	Kayla Koenecke	Sr.	Concordia-St. Paul	Delano, Minn.
MH	Amber Cannady	Sr.	New Haven	Yonkers, N.Y.
MH	Laura Iwuchukwu	Sr.	West Texas A&M	Edmond, Okla.
S	Amanda Konetchy	Sr.	Concordia-St. Paul	Victoria, Minn.
L	Caitlyn Dean	Sr.	Tusculum	Fort Wayne, Ind.

#### 2013 DAKTRONICS ALL-AMERICA SECOND TEAM

POS	PLAYER	CL	SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
OH	Berkley Whaley	So.	Tampa	St. Petersburg, Fla.
OH	Abby Aiken	Jr.	Grand Valley State	Onsted, Mich.
OH	Juliia Pakhomenko	Sr.	Northwood	Donetsk, Ukraine
MH	Kayla Erickson	Jr.	Western Washington	Gig Harbor, Wash.
MH	Holly Hafemeyer	Sr.	Augustana (S.D.)	Faribault, Minn.
S	Ying Chun Chen	Jr.	BYU-Hawai'i	Kaohsiung, Taiwan
L	Samantha Hutchinson	Jr.	Western Washington	University Place, Wash.

#### 2013 DAKTRONICS ALL-AMERICA THIRD TEAM

POS	PLAYER	CL	SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
OH	Anna Hilton	Sr.	Wingate	Hickory, N.C.
OH	Jill Edwards	Sr.	Shippensburg	Raleigh, N.C.
OH	Taylor Sturms	So.	Colorado Christian	Lone Tree, Colo.
MH	Meagan Burke	Jr.	Tampa	Jacksonville, Fla.
MH	Brenna McIntosh	So.	Cal. State San Bernardino	Yorba Linda, Calif.
S	Danielle Johnson-Hazelwood	So.	Colorado School of Mines	Cypress, Texas
L	Cameron Hartson	Sr.	Dallas Baptist	Midlothian, Texas

**HONORABLE MENTION ALL-AMERICANS:** Julia Ashen, California State - Monterey Bay (Outside Hitter); Marissa Cox, Washburn (Outside Hitter); Jessica Santaniello, Armstrong Atlantic (Outside Hitter); Jessica Wagner, Tampa (Middle Hitter); Maddie Huth, Angelo State (Middle Hitter); Kaitlyn DeStefano, Adelphi (Middle Hitter); Annie Reilly, Central Missouri (Libero); Meghan Binkerd, Indianapolis (Setter).