

ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA® TEAM

S E L E C T E D B Y C O S I D A

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SIUE's Esker Repeats as Softball Academic All-America of Year in College Division; Mississippi State's Jaspers Heads University Team

WALTHAM, Mass. – For the second straight year, outfielder Jenny Esker of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, a standout on the field and in the classroom, has been named the softball Academic All-America® of the Year for the college division.

On the University Division side, the Academic All-America of the Year for softball is Mississippi State first baseman Kate Jaspers, a senior from Prescott, Ariz. who has compiled a 4.00 grade point average as a psychology major. She hit .390 with 47 RBI while helping the Bulldogs to a 39-26 season.

Esker and Jaspers top the 2004 CoSIDA Academic All-America softball team, which was announced Thursday by the College Sports Information Directors of America.

Esker, owner of a 3.99 GPA as a physics major, hit .358 with eight home runs and 36 RBIs during a 35-19 season for the Cougars. She's a former Player of the Year in the Great Lakes Valley Conference, and was recently named the recipient of the conference's prestigious Richard F. Scharf Paragon Award winner. Esker, in addition to being the AAA of the Year the last two years, was a second-team honoree in 2002.

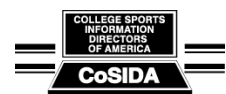
The University Division first team features two players from Kent State University, seniors Carrie Eneix, a catcher from Pickerington, Ohio, and Marci Ridenbaugh, an infielder from Canton, Ohio. Both are among the five players on the 11-member first team with career GPA's of 3.9 or better.

The only repeat first team selection on the University Division team is senior outfielder Sarah Martz of DePaul University, a Lanark, Ill. resident who has a 3.805 GPA in secondary education/math.

Eight of the 11 first-team selections in the college division have GPA's of 3.9 or better, including perfect 4.00's by Kassie Long of Central Missouri State, a senior infielder from Carrollton, Mo., and Molly Gale of Gettysburg College, a junior outfielder from Franklin, Mich. The second team includes junior outfielder Kristi Huegel of Alta Vista, Iowa, who helped St. Thomas University (Minn.) to the NCAA Division III national championship.

The complete list of student-athletes named to the Academic All-America Softball Team is attached.

The Academic All-America Teams program honors 816 male and female student-athletes annually who have succeeded at the highest level on the playing field and in the classroom. Individuals are selected through voting by CoSIDA, the College Sports Information Directors of America; a 2,000-member organization consisted of sports public relations professionals for colleges and universities in the United States and Canada.



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To be eligible, a student-athlete must be a varsity starter or key reserve, maintain a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.20 on a scale of 4.00, have reached sophomore athletic and academic standing at his/her current institution and be nominated by his/her sports information director. Since the program's inception in 1952, CoSIDA has bestowed Academic All-America honors on more than 14,000 student-athletes in Division I, II, III and NAIA covering all NCAA championship sports.

For more information about the Academic All-America Teams program, please visit www.cosida.com or email rlipe@bentley.edu.

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2004 Academic All-America Softball Team (University Division)

First Team

Pos.	Name	School	Year	Hometown	GPA	Major
P	Megan Meyer	Seton Hall	Jr.	Vermilion, Ohio	3.967	Biochemistry
P	Amy Harre	Southern Illinois	Jr.	Nashville, Ill.	3.716	Physiology
C	Carrie Eneix	Kent State	Sr.	Pickerington, Ohio	3.913	Integrated Language
IF	Katie Evans	Texas A&M-Corpus Christi	Sr.	Tempe, Ariz.	3.89	Kinesiology
IF	Natalie Furrow	Michigan State	Sr.	San Diego, Calif.	3.66	Social Relations
IF	Kate Jaspers	Mississippi State	Sr.	Prescott, Ariz.	4.00	Psychology
IF	Marci Ridenbaugh	Kent State	Sr.	Canton, Ohio	3.972	Integrated Math
OF	Sarah Martz	DePaul	Sr.	Lanark, Ill.	3.805	Secondary Education/ Math
OF	Jaymie Voss	Western Michigan	Sr.	Kalamazoo, Mich.	3.96	Education
OF	Kristen Zaleski	Texas State	Sr.	Temple, Texas	3.47	Criminal Justice
DP	Katie Shimon	Drake	Sr.	Perry, Iowa	3.66	Marketing

Second Team

Pos.	Name	School	Year	Hometown	GPA	Major
P	Jenny Gladding	Florida	Sr.	Palm City, Fla.	3.53	Criminology
P	Brooke Mitchell	Louisiana-Lafayette	Jr.	Pasadena, Texas	3.518	Business Finance
C	Ashley Smith	South Carolina	So.	Portage, Mich.	4.00	Civil Engineering
IF	Kim Dodson	St. Bonaventure	Jr.	Tonawanda, N.Y.	3.78	Business
IF	Dianna Korcak	Jacksonville	Sr.	Clearwater, Fla.	3.673	Elementary Education
IF	Jackie McClain	Alabama	Sr.	Soddy Daisy, Tenn.	3.34	Secondary Education/ Social Science
IF	Kim Wilmoth	Baylor	Jr.	Garland, Texas	3.97	Accounting
OF	Erin Brooks	Fordham	Sr.	Norwich, N.Y.	3.86	Business Administration
OF	Kris Burdine	Ball State	Sr.	New Palestine, Ind.	3.783	Marketing
OF	Iyhia McMichael	Mississippi State	Sr.	Nacogdoches, Texas	3.24	General Business Admin.
DP	Wendy Jo Allen	Arizona	Sr.	Moreno Valley, Calif.	3.324	Business Management

Third Team

Pos.	Name	School	Year	Hometown	GPA	Major
P	Jamie Southern	Fresno State	Jr.	Fresno, Calif.	3.46	Liberal Studies
P	Erin Voeltz	Georgia Tech	Sr.	Westlake, Calif.	3.71	Management
C	Ashlie D'errico	Pacific	Sr.	Lancaster, Calif.	3.87	English/Mathematics
IF	Stephanie Best	UCF	Jr.	Fort Mill, S.C.	3.238	Liberal Studies
IF	Kristen Caldwell	UMKC	Sr.	Kansas City, Mo.	3.848	Nursing
IF	Rachael Riopel	Gardner-Webb	Jr.	Rhineland, Wisc.	3.888	Biology
IF	Ricki Walker	Colorado State	Sr.	Aurora, Colo.	3.31	Psychology
OF	Cameron Astiazaran	Illinois-Chicago	Jr.	Rolling Hills Estates, Cal.	3.65	Criminal Justice
OF	Auriel Jenkins	Southern Mississippi	Sr.	Pearl, Miss.	3.45	Coaching/Sports Admin.
OF	Janiva Willis	Winthrop	Jr.	Irishtown, N.B.	3.74	Physical Education
DP	Nikki Denman	Eastern Michigan	So.	Sylvania, Ohio	3.63	Recreation/Parks Mgmt.

Academic All-America of the Year: Kate Jaspers, Mississippi State



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Pos.	Name	School	Yr.	Hometown	GPA	Major
P	Liz Coburn	Linfield	Sr.	Albany, Ore.	3.89	Communication
P	Christy Deken	Missouri-Rolla	Sr.	Poplar Bluff, Mo.	3.73	Electrical Engineering
C	Amy Edge	Saint Mary's	Jr.	Mineral Point, Wisc.	3.95	Biology/Pre-Physical Therapy
IF	Haley Allen	Carson-Newman	Sr.	Newport, Tenn.	3.97	Accounting
IF	Kassie Long	Central Missouri State	Sr.	Carrollton, Mo.	4.00	Early Childhood Education
IF	Liz Swary	Washington, Mo.	Jr.	Cleveland, Ohio	3.95	Economics
IF	Maria Zangardi	King's College, Pa.	Sr.	Pittston Township, Pa.	3.98	Communications/Spanish
OF	Jenny Esker	So. Illinois-Edwardsville	Sr.	Steeleville, Ill.	3.99	Physics
OF	Molly Gale	Gettysburg	Jr.	Franklin, Mich.	4.00	History
OF	Lori Scheetz	Dickinson	Sr.	Easton, Pa.	3.95	Political Science
DP	Shannon Rasmussen	Eastern Oregon	Jr.	Everett, Wash.	3.73	Psychology

Second Team

Pos.	Name	School	Yr.	Hometown	GPA	Major
P	Sarah Betts	Bluffton	So.	Bryan, Ohio	3.71	Chemistry
P	Cari Chewning	North Florida	Sr.	Winter Haven, Fla.	3.79	Graphic Design
C	Kim Rementer	Salisbury	Jr.	Denton, Md.	4.00	Psychology
IF	Rosie Aley	Salisbury	Sr.	Aquasco, Md.	3.70	Biology
IF	Stephanie Huber	Florida Southern	Jr.	Vancouver, B.C.	3.63	Sociology/Psychology
IF	Chyanne Kleve	Upper Iowa	Sr.	Waucoma, Iowa	3.71	Criminology/Wellness
IF	Angela Williams	Fayetteville State	Sr.	Mobile, Ala.	3.71	Physical Education
OF	Kate Brandt	Simpson	Jr.	Coquiltam, B.C.	4.00	Biology
OF	Kristi Huegel	St. Thomas, Minn.	Jr.	Alta Vista, Iowa	3.81	Business/Accounting
OF	Jennifer Kypta	Maryville, Mo.	Sr.	Collinsville, Ill.	3.85	Biology
DP	Allison D'Ambrosia	Juniata	Jr.	State College, Pa.	3.64	Biology

Third Team

Pos.	Name	School	Yr.	Hometown	GPA	Major
P	Emillie Collins	Louisiana College	Jr.	Bentley, La.	4.00	Psychology
P	Meghan Mooberry	St. Francis, Ill.	Sr.	Byron, Ill.	3.86	Marketing
C	Nicole Loudin	Baldwin-Wallace	So.	Sheffield Lake, Ohio	3.60	Psychology
IF	Heather Bortz	Moravian	Jr.	Allentown, Pa.	3.42	Elemen. Educ./Psychology
IF	Ria Hoog	Texas A&M-Kingsville	Sr.	Castroville, Texas	3.96	Kinesiology
IF	Gretchen Ruecker	Pacific Lutheran	So.	Hillsboro, Ore.	3.66	Social Work
IF	Andrea Wells	Pacific Lutheran	Jr.	Olympia, Wash.	3.92	Physical Therapy
OF	Brynn Hasse	Illinois Wesleyan	Jr.	Chillicothe, Ill.	3.40	Psychology
OF	Michelle Hofmann	Angelo State	Sr.	Sierra Vista, Ariz.	3.81	Kinesiology
OF	Megan Russell	Albion	Sr.	Portage, Mich.	3.91	Economics/Management
DP	Ashley Speak	Nebraska-Kearney	So.	Lexington, Neb.	3.80	Math Education

Academic All-America of the Year: Jenny Esker, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville

