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GVSU, WESTERN STATE NAMED MEN'S SCHOLAR TEAMS OF THE YEAR FOR DIVISION II AMONG ALL-ACADEMIC TEAMS

By Kyle Terwillegar, USTFCCCA
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NEW ORLEANS – The Grand Valley State and Western State men's track & field programs have earned Scholar Team of the Year honors for the 2013 Division II indoor and outdoor seasons, respectively, the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) announced Wednesday.

As the highest-placing teams with at least a 3.00 cumulative team grade point average at this season's indoor and outdoor NCAA Division II Championships, these two squads stood out among 42 men's programs that combined academic and athletic achievement to earn All-Academic Team honors this season. The full list can be found below.

The Lakers of Grand Valley State maintained a 3.00 cumulative team GPA and finished fourth at the NCAA Division II Indoor Track & Field Championships with 43.5 points behind 10 different scoring performances. GVSU's relay teams were particularly strong, with third-place finishes in both the 4x400 and the distance medley relays.

GVSU last won the indoor Scholar Team of the Year in 2007, when they swept both the indoor and outdoor awards.

Outdoor Scholar Team of the Year honors went to Western State, which maintained a 3.12 cumulative team GPA en route to a fifth-place finish at the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track & Field Championships. The Mountaineers' 36 points came largely through wins at both 5000 and 10,000 meters by Gabe Proctor and a win at 1500 meters by outdoor track Scholar Athlete of the Year Vegard Olstad.

This marks the second consecutive season Western State has earned outdoor Scholar Team of the Year honors, and the third time since 2007.

Johnson C. Smith Posts Top Team GPA Among 42 All-Academic Teams

The USTFCCCA also announced Tuesday the 2013 Division II All-Academic Track & Field teams. A total of 42 institutions earned the distinction as a result of earning a cumulative team GPA of 3.00 or higher.

Johnson C. Smith was the top team in Division II with a cumulative team mark of 3.448, followed closely by Sioux Falls at 3.424 and Bentley at 3.33.

In terms of conferences, both the NSIC and GLIAC were represented by six teams apiece. The GNAC and GLVC each had five teams earn All-Academic Team honors, while the RMAC had four.

MEN'S SCHOLAR TEAM AWARD HISTORY

Indoor Track & Field

2013: Grand Valley State
2012: Findlay
2011: Chadron State
2010: Ashland
2009: Ashland
2008: Minnesota State
2007: Grand Valley State

Outdoor Track & Field

2013: Western State
2012: Western State
2011: Johnson C. Smith
2010: Ashland
2009: Ashland
2008: North Dakota
2007: Grand Valley State
Western State

TOP 10 TEAMS (CUMULATIVE GPA)

Johnson C. Smith University	3.448
University of Sioux Falls	3.424
Bentley University	3.33
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania	3.3
The University of Findlay	3.29
Southwest Baptist University	3.273
Bellarmino University	3.27
Maryville University of Saint Louis	3.25
Michigan Technological University	3.25
Northwest Nazarene University	3.25

School	Cumulative Team GPA	Conference
Adelphi University	3.05	Northeast-10
Bellarmino University	3.27	GLVC
Bentley University	3.33	Northeast-10
Chadron State College	3.07	RMAC
Colorado School of Mines	3.05	RMAC
Concordia University, St. Paul	3.15	NSIC
Drury University	3.23	GLVC
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania	3.30	PSAC
Georgia Regents University	3.09	Peach Belt
Grand Valley State University	3.00	GLIAC
Harding University	3.10	Great American
Hillsdale College	3.01	GLIAC
Indiana University of Pennsylvania	3.09	PSAC
Johnson C. Smith University	3.45	CIAA
King College	3.02	Conf. Carolinas
Lake Superior State University	3.15	GLIAC
Lewis University	3.11	GLVC
Maryville University of Saint Louis	3.25	GLVC
Michigan Technological University	3.25	GLIAC
Minot State University	3.16	NSIC
Missouri University of Science and Technology	3.14	GLVC
Montana State University Billings	3.13	GNAC
MSU-Moorhead	3.07	NSIC
Northern State University	3.03	NSIC
Northwest Nazarene University	3.25	GNAC
Northwood University (Michigan)	3.16	GLIAC
Seattle Pacific University	3.16	GNAC
Seton Hill University	3.00	WVIAC
Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania	3.20	PSAC
South Dakota School of Mines & Technology	3.11	Independent (D-II)
Southwest Baptist University	3.27	MIAA
The University of Findlay	3.29	GLIAC
Truman State University	3.24	MIAA
University of Alaska Anchorage	3.11	GNAC
University of California, San Diego	3.19	CCAA
University of Colorado, Colorado Springs	3.03	RMAC
University of Nebraska at Kearney	3.00	MIAA
University of Sioux Falls	3.42	NSIC
University of the Incarnate Word	3.03	Lone Star
Wayne State College (Nebraska)	3.19	NSIC
Western Oregon University	3.04	GNAC
Western State Colorado University	3.12	RMAC