



Chris Graham
Commissioner
grahamc@midwestconference.org

Tom Miller
Interim Sports Information Director
millert@ripon.edu

www.midwestconference.org

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Midwest Conference Softball

St. Norbert Mother & Daughter Win Coach, Player of the Year Awards

RIPON, WIS. -- St. Norbert followed its third Midwest Conference Softball Championship with a near sweep of the league's North Division annual awards in 2009. Junior catcher/outfielder **Brienne Oehlke** was named the MWC North Player of the Year which she will share with Lawrence sophomore first baseman **Carli Gurholt**, the only non-Green Knight to win an award. Sophomore **Kayla Krueger** was tabbed as the North's Pitcher of the Year, while her mother, Head Coach **JoAnn Krueger**, wins Coach of the Year.

Krueger becomes the first Green Knight to win Pitcher of the Year since it became its own award in 2005. Along with teammate Oehlke, she is also the first person in school history to receive a Player of the Year awards since individual awards began in 1996. Krueger enters the NCAA Tournament tied for the league-lead with 10 wins while holding opposing hitters to a .252 average. The sophomore pitched in every game of the 2009 MWC Tournament giving up only eight earned runs while striking out seven and allowing just one base on balls.

Gurholt is the first Viking to win Player of the Year since 2006 after ranking in the top five in nearly every offensive category. The sophomore ranks first in slugging percentage (.919), RBI's (45), home runs (12), and sacrifice flies (2) while being second in batting average (.419), on-base percentage (.500), and total bases (79). Her counterpart Oehlke put on an impressive show in the final and deciding game of the MWC tourney, going 2-for-3 with two home runs and three RBI's. The junior was top three in the league in slugging percentage (.768), triples (4), and home runs (8).

Krueger wins her second Coach of the Year award (2007) in her 11th year after leading St. Norbert to its second MWC title in the past three seasons. She directed the Green Knights to a 10-3 league-mark while going 203-187-1 in her career. Two of the school's three championships have come with Krueger at the helm.

NORTH DIVISION POSITIONAL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Carli Gurholt, Lawrence University, Sophomore, First Baseman
 Brienne Oehlke, St. Norbert College, Junior, Catcher/Outfielder

NORTH DIVISION PITCHER OF THE YEAR

Kayla Krueger, St. Norbert College, Sophomore

NORTH DIVISION COACH OF THE YEAR

JoAnn Krueger, St. Norbert College

NORTH FIRST TEAM	Yr.	Pos.	School
Leah Kelly	Sr.	2B/C	Beloit College
Alex Goodson	Jr.	Util.	Lawrence University
Carli Gurholt	So.	SS	Lawrence University
Natalie Geenen	Sr.	SS	Ripon College
Andrea Knorr	Sr.	P	Ripon College
Brittnee Peotter	So.	P	Ripon College
Jackie Reichhart	Jr.	1B	Ripon College
Kayla Krueger	So.	IF/P	St. Norbert College
Brienne Oehlke	Jr.	C/OF	St. Norbert College
Stephanie Ortiz	So.	IF/OF	St. Norbert College

NORTH SECOND TEAM	Yr.	Pos.	School
Kandace Fox	Fr.	1B/3B	Beloit College
Lauren Rybka	Sr.	SS	Beloit College
Jackie Messler	Sr.	OF	Carroll University
Maggie Shaffer	Fr.	IF	Carroll University
Jenna Reichel	Sr.	IF	Lawrence University
Katie Simonsen	Fr.	OF	Lawrence University
Alli Jensen	So.	C	Ripon College
Megan Sockness	So.	OF	Ripon College
Kim Sawyer	Sr.	OF	St. Norbert College
Tracy Palmer	Jr.	IF	St. Norbert College

RIPON, WIS. -- Lake Forest junior shortstop **Tracy Rainey** and Monmouth senior **Sarah Christensen** were named the 2009 MWC South Player and Pitcher of the Year, respectively, while Rainey's skipper **Joe Kinsella** was named the division's Coach of the Year after leading the Foresters to their fourth consecutive South Division title.

This marks the second straight year that Christensen has received the Pitcher of the Year award, becoming the first player to do so since Lake Forest's **Ashley Closson** (2005-06). The senior finished the 2009 campaign with a 9-4 record and a 3.43 ERA, while also throwing two complete game shutouts. She finished top five in the conference in opposing batting average (.231), strikeouts (101), hits allowed (73), runs allowed (45), and doubles allowed (10).

After a one-year hiatus, Rainey has returned the Player of the Year award back to Lake Forest. Before Knox's **Katie Dura** won last season, a Forester had taken home the hardware every year since 2001. Rainey proved to be the top hitter in the MWC with an average of .482, which is 63 percentage points higher than the any other batter. She also finished first in the league in on-base percentage (.520), hits (54), doubles (18), and total bases (87). She led a Lake Forest offense to 17 runs in its only win of the MWC Tournament, by going 4-for-5 with five RBI's and three runs scored against Monmouth.

Kinsella becomes the third Forester coach to win Coach of the Year since the league office began handing out the honor in 1997. The skipper is 58-48, including 10-3 in the MWC this season, in his three years at the helm of the Lake Forest program. Kinsella looks to bring the Foresters back to national prominence that was highlighted by a 2002 stop in the National Championship.

**A tie in the voting results in the 11 players listed*

SOUTH DIVISION POSITIONAL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Tracy Rainey, Lake Forest College, Junior, Shortstop

SOUTH DIVISION PITCHER OF THE YEAR

Sarah Christensen, Monmouth College, Senior

SOUTH DIVISION COACH OF THE YEAR

Joe Kinsella, Lake Forest College

SOUTH FIRST TEAM	Yr.	Pos.	School
Brianna Gallo	So.	IF	Grinnell College
Amanda Stromquist	Fr.	R/IF	Grinnell College
Sydni Szafranski	So.	IF	Illinois College
Jeanette Andresen	Jr.	P/Util.	Lake Forest College
Mallory Norton	Jr.	3B	Lake Forest College
Sam Pinsonneault	Jr.	2B/OF	Lake Forest College
Tracy Rainey	Jr.	SS	Lake Forest College
Lauren Bergstresser	Fr.	C/Util.	Monmouth College
Sarah Christensen	Sr.	P	Monmouth College
Morgan Seiler	Fr.	SS	Monmouth College

SOUTH SECOND TEAM*	Yr.	Pos.	School
Kelsey Montgomery	So.	IF	Grinnell College
Tiffany Belton	So.	OF	Illinois College
Jodi Schroeder	Jr.	C	Illinois College
Kate Latshaw	Sr.	3B/DH	Knox College
Beth McRill	Fr.	OF	Knox College
Brianna Williams	Fr.	1B/P	Knox College
Hannah Michal	Sr.	OF	Lake Forest College
Shelby Neill	Jr.	1B/C	Lake Forest College
Brittany Forney	Fr.	P/IF	Monmouth College
Amanda Murdock	Sr.	P	Monmouth College
Ashley Parer	Sr.	OF	Monmouth College

