



SOFTBALL

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FOUR SCHOOLS REPRESENTED IN MAJOR YEAR-END SOFTBALL AWARDS

ALBANY, N.Y.-- University of Maine junior second baseman Ashley Waters (Amesbury, Mass./Amesbury) garnered the 2008 America East Softball Player of the Year, highlighting the America East Softball Championship Banquet held Wednesday night at the Crowne Plaze Hotel in downtown Albany, N.Y. Stony Brook ace Alyssa Struzenberg (Cooper City, Fla./Cooper City) received this year's Pitcher of the Year, while Boston University outfielder April Setterlund (Torrance, Calif./South Torrance) became the second straight Terrier to earn the Rookie of the Year award. Chris Cannata, head coach of the number-one seed Albany Great Danes, was voted Coach of the Year by her peers. All awards were voted on by the conference's eight head coaches.

Waters is the first Black Bear to take home softball's top honor since 2000. The junior was among the league leaders in nearly every offensive category, leading America East in hits (58), home runs (10) and total bases (101). Waters hit .352 during the 2008 campaign, and rose to the occasion in conference games, hitting at an even .400 against league foes. She was twice named the America East Player of the Week, and received the same honor from the ECAC on April 9.

Struzenberg was dominant in the circle all year long, racking up 38 appearances, 190.2 innings pitched, 21 wins and 223 strikeouts to lead the conference in each category. Opposing batters hit just .172 off of this sophomore hurler as she compiled a 1.98 earned run average. Struzenberg was truly the Sea-wolves' workhorse, starting 30 games, finishing eight and going over five innings per game. She earned the league's Pitcher of the Week twice on February 25 and April 21. Struzenberg is the first Stony Brook pitcher to garner this award.

Setterlund was the top offensive freshman in the conference, hitting for a .363 average, reaching base at a .433 clip, and stealing 14 bases. She finished tied for second in the conference with 12 doubles and tied for first with Waters with 58 hits. Setterlund went errorless in 54 chances manning the outfield and recorded 52 putouts. Setterlund, the sixth Terrier to win the rookie accolade, won the Rookie of the Week on April 14.

Cannata, a 1985 graduate of Albany, is nearing the end of her 14th season as the head coach for the Great Danes and is the winningest coach in program history. She led the Great Danes to this year's America East Regular Season crown, the top seed for the America East Softball Championship and a 32-15 overall record. Seven of Cannata's players were honored with All-Conference accolades this season. This is the fourth time in her career Cannata has received this honor.

Joining Struzenberg, Waters and Setterlund on the All-Conference First Team were Albany's Leah McIntosh (Whitby, Ontario/Sinclair), Meagan Butsch (Tomball, Tex./Tomball), Amber Maisonet (Newburgh, N.Y./Newburgh), Boston University's Melissa Dubai (Auburn, Wash./Auburn Riverside), Shayne Lotito (Acton, Calif./Vasquez), UMBC's Kali Shirk (North Wales, Pa./North Penn), Ashley Gray (Pasadena, Calif./Northeast), Amanda Fefel (Baltimore, Md./Catonsville), and Stony Brook's Marissa Fleury (Mahopac, N.Y./Mahopac).

Making up the second team was Albany's Michelle Connors (Clifton Park, N.Y./Shenendehowa), Bailey Van Deest (Goddard, Kan./Goddard), Boston University's Cassidy Hardy (Jupiter, Fla./Jupiter), Christy Leath (St. Charles, Mo./Francis Howell Central), Rachel Hebert (Humble, Tex./Humble), Tyler Benson (Tucson, Ariz./Catalina Hills), Hartford's Brittney Stratton (Staten Island, N.Y./Tottenville), Maine's Terren Hall (Bucksport, Maine/Bucksport), Alexis Souhlaris (Derry, N.H./Pinkerton Academy), Stony Brook's Vicki Kavitsky (Cherry Hill, N.J./Cherry Hill East), Kelsi Fanelli (Audubon, N.J./Audubon) and Vermont's Rachelle Eloschuk (Calgary, Alberta/Bishop Grandin).

Setterlund and Hall were also named to the All-Rookie Team, an honor they shared with Albany's Andrianna Walraven (Thompson Ridge, N.Y./Pine Bush), Gina Mason (Sacramento, Calif./El Camino), Binghamton's Brianna Andrews (Endicott, N.Y./Union-Endicott), Deannie Plemon (Irvine, Calif./Woodbridge), Boston University's Melanie Delgado (Torrance, Calif./Bishop Montgomery), Kelley Engman (Vienna, Va./Bishop O'Connell), Maine's Kirstin Allen (Doylestown, Pa./Central Bucks West), UMBC's Stephanie Weigman (Elkridge, Md./Archbishop Spalding) Lauren Brummell (Hanover, Va./Hanover) and Vermont's Caroline Goddard (Oakland, Calif./Piedmont).

Twenty-five All-Conference and All-Rookie honorees will take Albany Field for the 2008 America East Softball Championship, a double-elimination tournament, on Thursday, May 8. Top-seeded Albany and fourth-seeded UMBC will meet at 1 p.m. in a rematch of last year's final which the Great Danes took from the Retrievers. No. 2 Boston University and No. 3 Stony Brook will play at 3:30 p.m. The conference champion will be crowned on Saturday, May 10, and will receive an automatic berth into the NCAA Softball Championship.

First Team

Leah McIntosh	P	Albany	So.	Whitby, Ontario/Sinclair
Alyssa Struzenberg	P	Stony Brook	So.	Cooper City, Fla./Cooper City
Kali Shirk	C	UMBC	Sr.	North Wales, Pa./North Penn
Marissa Fleury	1B	Stony Brook	Jr.	Mahopac, N.Y./Mahopac
Ashley Waters	2B	Maine	Jr.	Amesbury, Mass./Amesbury
Meagan Butsch	3B	Albany	Jr.	Tomball, Tex./Tomball
Melissa Dubay	SS	Boston U.	Jr.	Auburn, Wash./Auburn Riverside
Amber Maisonet	OF	Albany	Sr.	Newburgh, N.Y./Newburgh
April Setterlund	OF	Boston U.	Fr.	Torrance, Calif./South Torrance
Shayne Lotito	OF	Boston U.	Jr.	Acton, Calif./Vasquez
Ashley Gray	DP	UMBC	Sr.	Pasadena, Calif./Northeast
Amanda Fefel	Util.	UMBC	So.	Baltimore, Md./Catonsville

Second Team

Cassidi Hardy	P	Boston U.	So.	Jupiter, Fla./Jupiter
Brittney Stratton	P	Hartford	So.	Staten Island, N.Y./Tottenville
Christy Leath	C	Boston U.	Jr.	St. Charles, Mo./Francis Howell Central
Rachel Hebert	1B	Boston U.	So.	Humble, Tex./Humble
Michelle Connors	2B	Albany	So.	Clifton Park, N.Y./Shenendehowa
Terren Hall	3B	Maine	Fr.	Bucksport, Maine/Bucksport
Vicki Kavitsky	SS	Stony Brook	So.	Cherry Hill, N.J./Cherry Hill East
Alexis Souhlaris	OF	Maine	So.	Derry, N.H./Pinkerton Academy
Kelsi Fanelli	OF	Stony Brook	Jr.	Audubon, N.J./Audubon
Rachelle Eloschuk	OF	Vermont	Sr.	Calgary, Alberta/Bishop Grandin
Tyler Benson	DP	Boston U.	Sr.	Tucson, Ariz./Catalina Hills
Bailey Van Deest	Util.	Albany	So.	Goddard, Kan./Goddard

All-Rookie

Andrianna Walraven	Albany	Fr.	Thompson Ridge, N.Y./Pine Bush
Gina Mason	Albany	Fr.	Sacramento, Calif./El Camino
Brianna Andrews	Binghamton	Fr.	Endicott, N.Y./Union-Endicott
Deannie Plemon	Binghamton	Fr.	Irvine, Calif./Woodbridge
April Setterlund	Boston U.	Fr.	Torrance, Calif./South Torrance
Melanie Delgado	Boston U.	Fr.	Torrance, Calif./Bishop Montgomery
Kelley Engman	Boston U.	Fr.	Vienna, Va./Bishop O'Connell
Terren Hall	Maine	Fr.	Bucksport, Maine/Bucksport
Kirstin Allen	Maine	Fr.	Doylestown, Pa./Central Bucks West
Stephanie Weigman	UMBC	Fr.	Elkridge, Md./Archbishop Spalding
Lauren Brummell	UMBC	Fr.	Hanover, Va./Hanover
Caroline Goddard	Vermont	Fr.	Oakland, Calif./Piedmont

Player of the Year

Ashley Waters, Maine

Pitcher of the Year

Alyssa Struzenberg, Stony Brook

Rookie of the Year

April Setterlund, Boston U.

Coach of the Year

Chris Cannata, Albany