

BIGSKYCONF.COM



BIG SKY CONFERENCE
2491 WASHINGTON BLVD, SUITE 201
OGDEN, UT, 84401

CONTACT: ALYSSA ASKEW
MEDIA RELATIONS ASSISTANT
801.392.1978 x-12
AASKEW@BIGSKYCONFERENCE.ORG



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BIG SKY CONFERENCE ANNOUNCES 2013 SOFTBALL ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

OGDEN, Utah (May 8, 2013) - The Big Sky Conference has announced the inaugural softball All-Conference team and individual award winners. The selections were made in a vote by the league's seven head coaches earlier this week. Coaches were not allowed to vote for their own players.

Idaho State catcher Vicky Galasso was named Player of the Year, while Portland State senior Anna Bertrand was named Pitcher of the Year. Idaho State's Maddy Hickman was named Freshman of the Year. Southern Utah pitcher Ariel Zimmerman was named Newcomer of the Year.

Galasso finished the season leading the league with a .544 batting average in conference play and a .476 overall average. She also led the conference in slugging percentage with a 1.059. Galasso was first with 31 RBIs in conference and 57 overall. The sophomore from Huntington Beach, Calif., led an Idaho State offense to a league-leading 38 home runs as a team and a .383 team batting average in conference. Galasso was named Player of the Week three times this season.

Anna Bertrand, a senior from McMinnville, Ore., finished the season with a 2.21 ERA in conference and a 2.88 overall ERA. She was first in the league in strikeouts with 186 overall and 101 of those coming in conference play. Bertrand had 186 of Portland State's 236 strikeouts. Overall, she held her opponents to a .238 batting average. Bertrand has been named Pitcher of the Week five times this season.

Hickman, a freshman from Huntington Beach, Calif., has played in all 49 of Idaho State's games, starting in 48. She was fourth in overall batting average with a .368, finishing only behind three of her teammates. Hickman had a .597 overall slugging percentage and was third in overall RBIs with 43.

Southern Utah's Ariel Zimmerman, a junior from Lehi, Utah, who transferred from Salt Lake Community College, led the Thunderbirds with a 4.44 ERA, pitching 167 innings with 107 strikeouts. Opponents hit .317 off of her as she faced 712 batters.

ISU's Galasso and Hickman were joined on the First-Team by three other teammates; outfielder Katelyn Marquez, pitcher/utility player Amanda Fitzsimmons and utility player Terah Blackwell. Portland State had three players receive First-Team honors in Bertrand, third baseman Crysta Conn and outfielder Becca Bliss. Southern Utah placed two players on the First-Team in shortstop Kelli Hales and outfielder Kylee Wolf.

Northern Colorado second baseman Melissa Marcovecchio and Sacramento State pitcher Caitlin Brooks rounded out the first team.

Idaho State, Portland State, Southern Utah and Sacramento State will compete in the inaugural Big Sky Championship this weekend in Pocatello, Idaho.

All of the conference tournament games can be viewed on EISN at ihigh.com/eisnnetwork.

Big Sky Conference 2013 Softball Individual Award Winners

Player of the Year

*Vicky Galasso, Idaho State

Pitcher of the Year

Anna Bertrand, Portland State

Freshman of the Year

Maddy Hickman, Idaho State

Newcomer of the Year

*Ariel Zimmerman, Southern Utah

**Unanimous Selection*

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2013 Big Sky Softball All-Conference Teams

FIRST TEAM

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Year</i>
Catcher	*Vicky Galasso	Idaho State	Sophomore
First Base	*Maddy Hickman	Idaho State	Freshman
Second Base	Melissa Marcovecchio	Northern Colorado	Sophomore
Shortstop	Kelli Hales	Southern Utah	Freshman
Third Base	Crysta Conn	Portland State	Junior
Outfielder	Katelyn Marquez Becca Bliss Kylee Wolf	Idaho State Portland State Southern Utah	Freshman Junior Freshman
Pitcher	Anna Bertrand Caitlin Brooks	Portland State Sacramento State	Senior Sophomore
Pitcher/Utility	*Amanda Fitzsimmons	Idaho State	Senior
Utility	Terah Blackwell	Idaho State	Junior

*Unanimous Selection

SECOND TEAM

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Year</i>
Catcher	Lauran Bliss	Portland State	Freshman
First Base	Brittany Hendrickson	Portland State	Sophomore
Second Base	Carly McEachran	Portland State	Senior
Shortstop	Alicia Fine	Portland State	Sophomore
Third Base	Becky Molyneaux	Idaho State	Senior
Outfielder	Sadie Lopez Kelli Frye Mikkel Griffin	Portland State Sacramento State Southern Utah	Senior Senior Senior
Pitcher	Ariel Zimmerman Morgan Allaband	Southern Utah Weber State	Junior Sophomore
Pitcher/Utility	Mikayla Duffy	Northern Colorado	Sophomore
Utility	Kelsey Bryant	Southern Utah	Senior

HONORABLE MENTION

Catcher - Kortney Solis - Sacramento State; Katie Olinger - Southern Utah

First Base - Madison Resley - Southern Utah; Krystin Kubo - Weber State

Second Base - Brooke Ford - Weber State

Shortstop - Hailey Breakwell - Idaho State; Cami Bennett - North Dakota; Brooke Silva - Weber State

Third Base - Emily McCormick - Sacramento State; Kadi Henderson - Southern Utah; Alyson Kulp - Weber State

Outfielder - Katee Wiley - Idaho State; Amanda Johnson - North Dakota; Lindsey Smith - Northern Colorado; Paige Martin - Sacramento State; London Clarke - Weber State

Pitcher - Kylee Colvin - Weber State

Pitcher/Utility - Caralyn Chewning - North Dakota

Utility - Kristin (D) Jantzer - North Dakota; Jamie Pollak - Northern Colorado; Alyssa Vanderdrink - Sacramento State