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BIG SKY ANNOUNCES MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS ALL-CONFERENCE TEAMS AND AWARD WINNERS

OGDEN, Utah, (May 1, 2015) - Idaho's Galina Bykova was named the Big Sky Conference women's tennis MVP. Idaho's Odon Barta was named the Big Sky Conference men's tennis MVP.

The All-Conference selections and individual awards were voted by the league's head coaches and released by the league office on Friday.

Bykova becomes the second Vandal to receive the honor as Idaho's Cathy Law won the MVP award back in 1990. Bykova, a sophomore from St. Petersburg, Russia, went 17-4 overall at the No. 1 singles spot, and was a perfect 11-0 in conference play. In Idaho's first season back with the Big Sky after a nearly 20-year hiatus, the Vandals broke a historic streak, topping Sacramento State 4-3 in the conference championship to claim the title and end the Hornets' run having won the previous 13 tournaments.

Bykova had singles winning streaks as high as seven late in the season and was ranked ninth in the Mountain Region by the ITA. Idaho went 10-1 in Big Sky play, 15-8 overall, and earned the Big Sky's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament, where they will face defending-champion UCLA on May 9. In an April match against No. 57 Oregon Bykova faced Alina Rose, who was ranked 71st nationally at the time, defeating her in straight sets 6-3, 6-3. Three of Bykova's five singles losses on the season came against national or regionally ranked players.

Bykova paired with Emmie Marx, Idaho's other first-team selection, at No. 1 doubles and accumulated a 10-7 record and an 8-1 mark in conference play.

Montana senior Sasha Carter and Sacramento State junior Daria Savchenko each earned their second-consecutive first-team honor. UM senior Precious Gbadamosi and Weber State junior Agata Bachanek were named to the first team along with Sac State sophomores Alina Soltanici and Deimante Bulotovaite.

Barta is the first Idaho men's player to be named MVP. The junior from Budapest, Hungary was 14-9 overall and 7-4 in conference play. He helped the Vandals to a 16-11 overall record and an 8-3 mark in the Big Sky. Idaho defeated Northern Arizona in the conference championship, earning an automatic NCAA tournament bid. They will face national tennis power Southern California in the first round on May 8.

Barta and No. 2 doubles partner Felipe Fonseca were each first-team selections, as the duo were 16-9 overall and 8-2 in conference action. Fonseca had 19 singles wins, tied for the most in the conference.

Eastern Washington sophomore Robert Dula and Montana junior Semion Branzburg were named to their second-straight first team. Idaho State senior Krzysztof Stempien and Northern Colorado senior Ben Gendron each made the jump to first team after being second-team choices last season. Rounding out the first team is Montana State sophomore Andre Napolitano and Northern Arizona senior Jordan Gobatie

2015 WOMEN'S BIG SKY ALL-CONFERENCE TENNIS TEAM

First Team

<u>Player</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Galina Bykova (MVP)	Idaho	So.	St. Petersburg, Russia
Emmie Marx	Idaho	Sr.	Mossel Bay, South Africa
\$Sasha Carter	Montana	Sr.	Bainbridge Island, Wash.
Precoius Gbadamosi	Montana	Sr.	Houston, Texas
Deimante Bulotovaite	Sacramento State	So.	Kaunas, Lithuania
\$Daria Savchenko	Sacramento State	Jr.	Uta, Russia
Alina Soltanici	Sacramento State	So.	Chisinau, Moldova
Agata Bachanek	Weber State	Jr.	Gdansk, Poland

\$Two-Time First Team Selection

Second Team

<u>Player</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Janaya Smith	Eastern Washington	Fr.	Kingston, Tasmania
Sophie Vickers	Idaho	Sr.	Melbourne, Australia
Hailey Rochin	Northern Arizona	So.	Tucson, Ariz.
Tracy Dong	Portland State	So.	Surrey, B.C.
Romy Dodd-Stevens	Weber State	Fr.	Australia

Honorable Mention

Belen Barcenilla - Idaho; Jessica Brycki - Montana State; Laura Middel - Montana State; Johanna Vang - Northern Arizona; Marta Lewandowska - Northern Arizona; Jordan Denesik - Northern Arizona; Veronika Rogova - Southern Utah;

2015 MEN'S BIG SKY ALL-CONFERENCE TENNIS TEAM

First Team

<u>Player</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Odon Barta (MVP)	Idaho	Jr.	Hungary, Budapest
\$Robert Dula	Eastern Washington	So.	Rijeka, Croatia
Felipe Fonseca	Idaho	Fr.	Curitiba, Brazil
Krzysztof Stempien	Idaho State	Sr.	Lodz, Poland
\$Semion Branzburg	Montana	Jr.	Ashdod, Israel
Andre Napolitano	Montana State	So.	Maringa, Brazil
Jordan Gobatie	Northern Arizona	Sr.	Riverside, Calif.
Ben Gendron	Northern Colorado	Sr.	Flower Mound, Texas

\$Two-Time First Team Selection

Second Team

<u>Player</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Roy Brandys	Sacramento State	Sr.	Random, Poland
Landon Barlow	Weber State	Jr.	Salt Lake City, Utah
Todd Fought	Weber State	Jr.	West Vancouver, B.C.
Jakub Gewert	Weber State	Jr.	Gnlezno, Poland

Honorable Mention

Cristobal Ramos Salazar - Idaho; Mark Kovacs - Idaho; Yannick Schmidl - Montana; Peter Mimmagh-Fleming - Montana; Javier Martin-Morillas - Montana State; Ethan Lopez - Portland State; Stuart Tierney - Portland State; Sean Kolar - Sacramento State