



# ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA® TEAM SELECTED BY CoSIDA

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## TROY PUGA OF FRIENDS HEADLINES CoSIDA ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA® NAIA BASEBALL TEAM

**AUSTIN, Texas** | **Troy Puga** of Friends University headlined the 2020 Academic All-America® NAIA Baseball Team as awarded by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

Puga was named the CoSIDA Academic All-America® Team Member of the Year for NAIA Baseball. Puga, a senior infielder from Pueblo, Colorado, entered exclusive company as a three-time Academic All-America® selection, taking second-team acclaim last year and a first-team nod as a sophomore.

The NAIA Academic All-America® program is financially supported by the NAIA national governance structure to assist CoSIDA with handling the awards fulfillment aspects for the 2019-20 NAIA Academic All-America® teams.

Despite the cancellation of spring competition during COVID-19, CoSIDA continued its sponsorship of the Academic All-America® awards program. Student-athletes were selected based on career statistics.

Puga boasts of a 4.00 cumulative grade-point average studying health sciences/biochemistry. He was recognized for his academic achievement with a Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference Scholar-Athlete honor, Daktronics NAIA Scholar-Athlete award and three CoSIDA Academic All-District® accolades.

In his Falcons career, he is a .362 hitter with 32 doubles, 12 home runs and 82 runs batted in. This season, Puga produced a robust .349 average along with a .495 on-base percentage and a .547 slugging percentage. A unanimous first-team All-KCAC performer in 2019,

Puga was fourth in the conference in hitting (.385) with a league-high .444 average in conference games while clouting seven homers and driving in 33 runs overall. He is a two-time conference player of the week.

The CoSIDA Academic All-America® NAIA Baseball Team included three repeat recipients – Puga, **Jacob Bulthuis** from Olivet Nazarene University and Arizona Christian University's **Brent Smith**. Bulthuis and Smith became two-time CoSIDA Academic All-America® selections. Smith was a repeat first-team honoree, while Bulthuis was selected to the second team a year ago.

Puga was the only member of the squad to have an undergraduate GPA of 4.00, while two had 4.00 GPAs in graduate work. The average GPA for the 12-man first team came out to 3.80, while the average GPA for the entire team was 3.78.

For more information on the Academic All-America® program, go to <https://academicallamerica.com/>.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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## 2020 Academic All-America® Baseball Team NAIA

### FIRST TEAM

Pos.	Name	School	GPA	Yr.	Major
P	Nick Little	Concordia University (Neb.)	3.97	Jr.	Business Administration
P	Dan Vos	Trinity Christian College	3.91	Jr.	Accounting
C	Kenneth Piper	Columbia College (Mo.)	3.76	Sr.	Psychology
INF	Anders Green	William Jessup University	3.64	Sr.	Kinesiology
INF	Andrew Kennedy	Taylor University	3.93	Sr.	Exercise Science
INF	Troy Puga (2,@)	Friends University	4.00	Sr.	Health Sciences / Biochemistry
INF	Thomas Sautel	Concordia University (Neb.)	3.98/4.00	Gr.	Business Administration
OF	Jacob Bulthuis (2)	Olivet Nazarene University	3.75	Jr.	Actuarial Science
OF	Bryan Leef	University of the Cumberlands	3.58	Sr.	Business Administration
OF	Brent Smith (1)	Arizona Christian University	3.94	Sr.	Business Administration
OF	Tyler Williams	Oklahoma City University	3.63	Sr.	Strategic Communications
DH	Nicholas Izquierdo	St. Thomas University (Fla.)	3.57/3.70	Gr.	Sports Administration

### SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Name	School	GPA	Yr.	Major
P	Landon Bloir	Indiana Institute of Technology	3.93	Sr.	Accounting
P	Hunter Dollander	Georgia Gwinnett College	3.51	Sr.	Exercise Science
C	Luis Mujica	Point Park University	3.71	Jr.	Civil Engineering
INF	Reed Harter	Dakota Wesleyan University	3.95	Sr.	History Education
INF	Yanni Patten	Mount Vernon Nazarene University	3.50	Sr.	Mathematics
INF	Martin Radosevic	Baker University	3.98	Sr.	Sports Administration
INF	Aaron Saal	Mount Vernon Nazarene University	3.69/4.00	Gr.	Business Administration
INF	Ben Zordani	Saint Xavier University	3.80	Sr.	Criminal Justice
OF	David Anderson	Grace College	3.81	Sr.	Accounting
OF	Peyton Crispin	Oklahoma City University	3.60	Jr.	Human Performance
OF	Jay Denman	Lourdes University	3.60	Sr.	Marketing
DH	Tanner Killian	Indiana Wesleyan University	3.85	Sr.	Business

**CoSIDA Academic All-America® Team Member of the Year: Troy Puga, Friends University**

*(1) – CoSIDA Academic All-America® NAIA first-team selection in 2019*

*(2) – CoSIDA Academic All-America® NAIA second-team selection in 2019*

*(@)) – CoSIDA Academic All-America® College Division first-team selection in 2018*