



GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE

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GSC ANNOUNCES 2012 TOP TEN AWARD WINNERS

Birmingham, Ala. — The Gulf South Conference is proud to announce its 16th annual GSC Top Ten Award winners. These awards recognize the top male and female student-athletes – five each – in the GSC based on athletic, academic and extracurricular achievement during the 2011-12 academic year. One male and one female from this group will receive the Commissioner's Trophy, the Conference's most prestigious honor.

Each Top Ten designate will be honored, and the Commissioner's Trophy winners named, at the league's annual Awards Banquet on June 25 at the Hilton Birmingham Perimeter Park. The program begins at 6:30 p.m. and will also include recognition of the University of West Florida, which won the GSC's All-Sports Trophy for both men and women.

The Top Ten selections are chosen with the assistance of an advisory committee that consists of athletic directors, senior women's administrators, sports information directors, faculty athletic representatives and presidents from randomly selected Gulf South Conference schools. The committee makes a recommendation the league's commissioner, who has the final decision. Ties are not broken, so more than 10 student-athletes can be honored.

Two Top Ten honorees are making their second attempt to win the Commissioner's Trophy. North Alabama junior **Nikki Brown** (women's soccer, Bognot Regis, England) was a 2011 Top Ten selection while Alabama-Huntsville senior **Josh Moshier** (men's cross country, Port Byron, Ill.) made the 2010 list.

Brown is the 14th student-athlete to earn consecutive Top Ten honors after she helped UNA to the school's first GSC women's soccer title and third consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance while gathering All-American and Academic All-American honors. Moshier is just the third student-athlete to earn two non-consecutive Top Ten selections after he won individual medalist honors at the GSC championship meet and placed second at the NCAA South Region meet, leading the Chargers to the title in both races. He was also named to the Division II All-Academic Cross Country team.

The remaining eight Top Ten recipients are first-time honorees. On the women's side, Alabama-Huntsville sophomore **Mary Kelley** (softball, Mobile, Ala.) is the only underclassman on the list. She is joined by Valdosta State junior **Morgan Johnson** (softball, Macon, Ga.), and Delta State's **Veronica Walker** (basketball, Indianola, Miss.) and West Florida's **Anna Stoecklein** (volleyball, St. Charles, Mo.), both seniors.

Kelley is looking to become just the second UAH student-athlete to earn the Commissioner's Trophy. A two-time All-American, she hit .394 and drove in 52 runs for the Chargers this past season. Johnson earned All-Conference and All-American honors this season as she helped the Blazers win the first softball national championship in school and GSC history. Walker finished her career as one of the top women's basketball players in the history of the GSC, a three-time GSC Player of the Year and All-American and one of just four players to score 2,000 career points and grab 1,000 career rebounds. Stoecklein earned All-GSC and All-Region honors in 2011 after leading the Argonauts to a fourth consecutive GSC title.

The remaining men's honorees are all seniors. Delta State's **Micah Davis** (football, Wesson, Miss.) looks to become the third Statesman football player to earn the award in the last six years. He finished third in the voting for the 2011 Harlon Hill Award, the most prestigious honor in Division II football. North Alabama's **Jake Greer** (golf, Birmingham, Ala.) is the fifth consecutive Top Ten men's honoree for the Lions and hopes to make it consecutive Commissioner's Trophy winners after earning All-Region and Academic All-American honors. West Florida's **Sean Gunnels** (tennis, Mobile, Ala.) is the ninth Top Ten men's honoree for UWF as he helped the Argonauts to a GSC title and national runner's-up finish. West Georgia's **Stuart Drew** (baseball, Douglas, Ga.), after hitting .347 for the Wolves this season, looks to become the third UWG men's student-athlete to take home the Commissioner's Trophy.

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PROFILES OF TOP TEN WINNERS

Nikki Brown, University of North Alabama
Women's Soccer/Forward
Junior/Bognor Regis, England
Secondary Education/3.75 Overall G.P.A.

Nikki Brown continued her strong athletic and academic success this season at North Alabama, becoming just the 14th student-athlete – men or women - to earn GSC Top Ten honors in consecutive seasons.

Brown has been a key component in a three-year stretch that has seen the Lions' women's soccer team reach the GSC pinnacle. Brown continued her stellar play on the pitch in 2011, scoring nine goals and notching 11 assists in leading UNA to a 17-4 overall record, the school's first GSC Tournament title and a berth in the NCAA Regional Tournament. She ranked 12th among the Division II players in assists this season and has set numerous school records.

Her academic record includes two-time Academic All-GSC honors, two Capital One/CoSIDA Academic All-District selections and 2011 Academic All-America honors, while also helping the Lions earn a Team Academic Award for having a cumulative 3.0 grade point average.

She is also involved on and off campus in community service, individually and as part of the women's soccer team. Brown assisted in tornado relief and cleanup efforts in northwest Alabama and read to school children as part of the Reading Between the Lions program. She has also volunteered for several UNA initiatives for young children.

Micah Davis, Delta State University
Football/Quarterback
Senior/Wesson, Miss.
Chemistry/Biology/Pre-Med/4.00 Overall G.P.A.

Micah Davis capped off a splendid career at Delta State in 2011, leading the team to back-to-back GSC titles and advancing to the Division II national semifinals.

The Wesson, Miss. native was the GSC and South Region Offensive Player of the Year, an All-American, and a national finalist for the Harlon Hill Trophy, given to the top football player in Division II. He threw for 3,788 yards and 23 touchdowns as the Statesmen spent several weeks at No. 1 in the national rankings.

As good as Davis was on the gridiron, he was just as successful in the classroom. He had a 4.0 grade point average and was a finalist for the Campbell Trophy, presented to the nation's top football scholar-athlete. An Academic All-American, he was named a National Scholar Athlete by the National Football Foundation and was named to every academic honor society available for chemistry/pre-med majors at DSU.

Davis was very active in supporting the local community, serving as an organizer for Habitat for Humanity, reading to students at a local elementary school, worked the Soles for Souls event at DSU as well as organized the school's Pink Out Parker Field event for cancer research.

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Stuart Drew, University of West Georgia
Baseball/Second Base
Senior/Douglas, Ga.
Pre-Med Biology/3.80 Overall G.P.A.

Stuart Drew was the mainstay on the field for the Wolves in 2012. The senior from Douglas captured second straight team batting championship with a .347 batting average. This followed a junior campaign in which he batted .440 and was named a first team All-America.

Beyond the field, Drew also excelled in the classroom. He was this season named to the GSC All-Academic team, honoring his on-field performance and his 3.80 grade point average in his major of Pre-Med/Chemistry.

Drew's positive impact was also seen with his work in West Georgia's Wolves Helping Others program, which had an important impact on young people around the UWG community.

Jake Greer, University of North Alabama
Golf/No. 1
Senior/Birmingham, Ala.
HPER/Sports Management/3.38 Overall G.P.A.

Jake Greer has distinguished himself as both an outstanding golfer who has contributed greatly to UNA's success and as an outstanding scholar who has earned conference, regional and national awards. His contributions to UNA's success as a team are unmistakable. Prior to Greer coming to UNA in 2008, UNA had never won a GSC golf title. During his four years with the Lions, he helped UNA win three (2009, 2010, 2012). He also helped lead the team to four straight NCAA Regional appearances and the 2009 South Region title.

Individually he won six tournaments during his career at UNA, was national Freshman of the Year and South Region Medalist in his first year of collegiate golf, was four-time All-GSC, three-time All-South Region and two-time honorable mention All-American (with this year's teams still to be announced).

Academically, Greer is a three-time Academic All-GSC honoree, a Capital One/CoSIDA Academic All-District selection, a second-team Capital One Academic All-America pick and a Cleveland Golf/Srixon All-America Scholar.

He has also volunteered individually and as part of his team in community service projects, including assisting in tornado relief and cleanup efforts in northwest Alabama and reading to school children as part of the Reading Between the Lions program.

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Sean Gunnels, University of West Florida

Men's Tennis

Senior/Mobile, Ala.

Pre-Professional Biology/3.59 Overall G.P.A.

Sean Gunnels is model Division II student-athlete. Not only was he a member of the nationally successful UWF men's tennis team for four years, but he also made an impact on the faculty, staff and student-athletes around him.

Gunnels has been a leader not only at UWF, but within the Gulf South Conference, as he chaired the GSC student-athlete advisory committee. His committee work on campus at UWF included work with the Intercollegiate Athletic Advisory Committee, the Vice President of Student Affairs Advisory Board and the Student Fees Committee, and he was also a student representative during the university's master planning process.

His impact on campus culminated in winning the Kenneth L. Curtis Award, an award recognizing significant contributions, leadership and service to campus life at UWF. The Curtis Award is not just for student-athletes, but for the entire student body at the university.

The Mobile, Ala. native was a leader for the Argonauts national runner-up team in 2012. The senior saw action in singles and doubles, posting an 8-6 record in singles and 4-3 mark in doubles. He was a perfect 4-0 in singles against GSC opponents, and he saw action in UWF's round-of-16 victory over Nebraska-Kearney, going up 6-2, 3-2 at the No. 6 singles spot before his teammate clinched the team win.

Gunnels graduated with a 3.59 grade point average, earning a degree in Pre-Professional Biology. He was accepted into the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Dental School.

Morgan Johnson, Valdosta State University

Softball/Outfielder

Junior/Macon, Ga.

Nursing/3.66 Overall G.P.A.

Morgan Johnson has one mention in her résumé that no other 2012 GSC Top Ten honoree has – national champion.

Johnson's list of accomplishments is simply complimented by her being on the first GSC team to ever capture a national title in softball. This season, Johnson earned All-GSC, All-Region and All-America honors after hitting .427 with 6 home runs and 51 runs batted in. She was named to both the GSC and NCAA All-Tournament teams as the Blazers finished the season 58-5.

Academically, Johnson achieved a 3.66 overall grade point average in Nursing and earned Academic All-Region and All-America honors while being chosen for several honors societies, including the International Dean's List Society. She was also selected to the GSC Spring All-Academic Team.

Johnson's community effort was also exemplary. She was named the Valdosta State Community Service Student-Athlete Award winner as she volunteered for the Storehouse Ministry, which helps feed the homeless as well as packing food boxes for shut-ins. She organized and conducted free softball clinics for young children and helped organize the VSU Softball Blood Drive that was the second-largest blood drive in South Georgia over the past 12 months.

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Mary Kelley, University of Alabama-Huntsville
Softball/Outfield/Catcher
Sophomore/Mobile, Ala.
Business-Finance/Biology/3.33 Overall G.P.A.

In just two seasons, **Mary Kelley** has made a huge impact on the field as she has earned All-American status after both campaigns. This season she was among the best in the league as she led the GSC with 23 doubles and ranked fifth with a .394 batting average. Additionally, she was fourth in both on-base percentage and RBI as she earned All-GSC recognition for a second consecutive year.

Balancing her athletic prowess with her academic abilities, the Mobile, Ala., native was selected by CoSIDA to the Capital One Academic All-District Team, and the finance major was also a GSC All-Academic Team honoree while landing on the conference's Academic Honor Roll for the second straight year.

In her free time Kelley has been a strong member of the community, performing numerous charitable acts. She has volunteered for her church's prison outreach ministry, and after the devastating earthquake in Haiti, she helped make shoe box gifts for those affected. She has also joined with her teammates, hosting a group of children with special needs at the UAH Softball Complex, and she was an active participant in the community events the team took part in at the 2011 Division II Softball Championships.

A leader on campus, also, Kelley was a group leader at UAH's annual Girls in Science and Engineering Day, helping to encourage and inspire girls in grades three, four and five in the disciplines of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Josh Moshier, University of Alabama-Huntsville
Men's Cross Country
Senior/Port Byron, Ill.
Physics/3.87 Overall G.P.A.

Josh Moshier – who also was named to the Top Ten in 2010 – has been a mainstay as a leader of the men's cross country and track and field teams over the last four years, earning more accolades and having accomplished more than any runner in the history of the UAH program. The Port Byron, Ill., native paced the Chargers to their second-ever GSC Championship while claiming the individual title.

Moshier went on to lead UAH to the first NCAA South Region Championship in program history by finishing a program-best second overall, which sent the squad to their third NCAA Championship in the last five years. His time of 32:11 on the 10,000-meter course at the region championships shattered the school record by 11 seconds, earning him his third All-South Region honor. He is the only member to be on both GSC Championship teams, while also being the only team member to compete at all three NCAA Championships in UAH history.

Off the course, Moshier's academic record speaks for itself, as he has maintained a 3.86 GPA while majoring in physics, with minors in mathematics and economics. Along with balancing outstanding academics and superior athletic achievement, he served over 150 students and had over 600 appointments as a tutor on-campus. For that, he received recognition as the UAH Student Success Center's top tutor in 2011-12. In the community, Moshier worked as a youth camp leader in the summer of 2009, 2010 and 2011 for Riverdale Rams Basketball and Hoops for Hope.

Earlier this year, Moshier was announced as a winner of the prestigious NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship. In addition, he was bestowed the UAH Athletics' President's Award – the top academic award for a UAH student-athlete. Moshier was named an Academic All-American on the track in 2010, while earning a spot on the USTFCCA All-Academic team for cross country in 2008, 2009 and 2011. For the third time in his career, he landed on the 2011 Academic All-GSC team, adding to his 2008 and 2009 honors.

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Anna Stoecklein, University of West Florida
Volleyball/Libero
Senior/St. Charles, Mo.
Nursing/3.47 Overall G.P.A.

Anna Stoecklein leaves the University of West Florida with a degree in Nursing and as one of the top players in Argonaut history. The St. Charles, Mo. native left an indelible mark on the UWF volleyball family with her performances both on and off the court.

The two year-libero led the Argos to two straight Gulf South Conference championships as well as a pair of NCAA South Regional Tournaments, all while maintaining stellar academic marks. Stoecklein graduated with a 3.47 grade point average, all while captaining the UWF defense. She led the defense to a .149 opponents' hitting percentage, the top mark in the GSC, and individually she was just the third player in program history to earn 1,000 career digs. Stoecklein raked in a slew of honors during her senior season, including second team All-GSC, honorable mention All-Region, and GSC All-Academic Team and Honor Roll accolades.

Volunteering also made it onto Stoecklein's schedule, partaking in Habitat for Humanity, the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk, the UWF Pack it Pink Match, Girl Scouts All Sports Day, Make-A-Wish and the Special Olympics, just to name a few.

Veronica Walker, Delta State University
Women's Basketball/Forward
Senior/Indianola, Miss.
HPER/Exercise Science/2.8 Overall G.P.A.

Veronica Walker has been one of the most impressive and feted athletes in Gulf South Conference history, completing her career with a bevy of accolades that will be tough to top in the future.

This season, she was a finalist for National Player of the Year, which added to Walker's impressive list of career accomplishments. This Indianola, Miss. native nabbed NCAA Division II South Region Player of the Year honors by the WBCA and Daktronics, as well as the 2012 C Spire Gillom Trophy, which is presented annual to the best collegiate women's basketball player in Mississippi. The Gulf South Conference Player of the Year led Delta State to a GSC regular-season title, averaging 18 points and 8.7 rebounds per game. Both numbers are team highs, while her scoring mark ranks among the nation's top 30. She finished her career ranked fourth in the GSC, third at DSU, all-time in scoring (2,188); second in DSU history and sixth in the GSC in total rebounds (1,086) and is just the fourth Lady Statesmen and the third player in Gulf South Conference history to record over 2,000 points and 1,000 rebounds in a career. She has been named to several All-American and All-South Region teams over the last three seasons and was also the GSC Freshman of the year in 2008-09.

Away from the hardwood, Walker was an organizer for Habitat for Humanity, reading to students at a local elementary school, worked the Soles for Souls event at DSU as well as an organizer the school's Pink Out Sillers Coliseum event for cancer research.

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TOP TEN HONOREES

WOMEN

Name	School	Sport
Nikki Brown	North Alabama	Soccer
Morgan Johnson	Valdosta State	Softball
Mary Kelley	Alabama-Huntsville	Softball
Anna Stoecklein	West Florida	Volleyball
Veronica Walker	Delta State	Basketball

MEN

Name	School	Sport
Micah Davis	Delta State	Football
Stuart Drew	West Georgia	Baseball
Josh Greer	North Alabama	Golf
Sean Gunnels	West Florida	Tennis
Josh Moshier	Alabama-Huntsville	Cross Country

OTHER TOP TEN NOMINEES

West Alabama

Polina Babkina

Senior; Sochi, Russia

Psychology, 3.59 Grade Point Average

Gabriel Poe

Junior, Pheba, Miss.

Exercise Science, 3.58 Grade Point Average

West Georgia

Antoinette Diaz

Senior, Hurley, N.M.

Sports Management, 3.38 Grade Point Average

GSC