



WOMEN'S SOCCER

MISSOURI VALLEY CONFERENCE UPDATE

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MVC Contact: Nathaniel Gale, Assistant Director for Communications & Digital Strategy

Office: 314.444.4328 • **Cell:** 443.540.5582 • **Email:** ngale@mvc.org

1818 Chouteau Ave. • St. Louis, MO 63103

WWW.MVC-SPORTS.COM



MVC Announces 2021 Women's Soccer All-Conference Teams

ST. LOUIS – For a second straight season, Loyola's Megan Nemec headlines a list of 33 student-athletes named to the 2021 MVC All-Conference women's soccer teams as selected by the coaches. Nemec was among the league leaders for goals, assists and points. The spring Player of the Year followed it up with another one in the fall after leading the Ramblers to their fourth consecutive regular-season title.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Megan Nemec, Loyola

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Abby Swanson, Loyola

GOALKEEPER OF THE YEAR: Nikki Coryell, Valparaiso

FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR: Taylor Harrison, Loyola

COACHING STAFF OF THE YEAR: Loyola (Barry Bimbi, Chris Brown, Angela Staveskie)

MVC FAIR PLAY AWARD (fewest penalty cards per match in league games): Northern Iowa

Loyola's Megan Nemec has been a force to be reckoned with this season, consistently ranking as one of the top point scorers in the conference. The junior forward has seven goals plus six assists for 20 points, with all three being second in the conference rankings. This is Nemec's second straight player of the year award. Previously, she has earned inclusion on the United Soccer Coaches First Team All-Midwest region team and multiple All-MVC honors.

The league's Defensive Player of the Year also hails from the three-time defending tournament champs. Another repeat award winner, Abby Swanson, was part of a defensive unit that only allowed 0.38 goals per game when playing conference opponents. The reigning defensive player of the week, Swanson, was just as comfortable on the attacking end as she was in the defensive third. Her offensive exploits saw her net three goals, one of which was a game winner. The Illinois native has won many awards over her career, highlighted by a USC Second Team All-America nod in spring 2021.

Another Rambler, Taylor Harrison, earned the MVC's Freshman of the Year honor. A three-time MVC Freshman of the Week, Harrison only got better as the season went on. She turned into one of the Ramblers biggest offensive playmakers, with her 11 points tied for second on the team. Converting four of her 14 shots on goal, she tacked on three assists while contributing in all 15 of Loyola's matches.

For a second-straight season, the MVC Goalkeeper of the Year is Nikki Coryell of Valparaiso. In her 15 matches, Coryell saved 83 shots while allowing only 1.11 goals per contest. The reigning Goalkeeper of the Year protected her crown and now claims the top honor for the second time in her career. The sophomore also grabbed All-MVC first team and All-Freshman team nods in the spring during her first collegiate season. The Aurora native led the conference in save percentage during conference play with .865 and was tied for the most shutouts with five.

Loyola's coaching staff earned the MVC's Coaching Staff of the Year honor. The Ramblers coaching staff of head coach Barry Bimbi, assistant coach Chris Brown and assistant coach Angela Staveskie guided the Ramblers to an 11-2-2 overall record and an unbeaten 7-0-1 MVC record. This earned them a league-record fourth straight Missouri Valley Conference regular-season crown along with their fourth consecutive MVC Coaching Staff of the Year award. Loyola carries an eight-match unbeaten streak into the postseason.

The University of Northern Iowa Panthers earned the Valley's Fair Play Award, which is structured after the FIFA Fair Play honor. It is awarded to the Valley squad that has the fewest penalty cards during MVC matches. The Panthers were the only team that did not produce a single card during conference play. Also, they had the least number of fouls with 46.

The season continues for most of our award winners as the semifinals kick off with Valparaiso vs. Evansville on Friday, November 5, at 3 p.m. (ESPN+) in Chicago. The second semifinal match follows the first match and pits the host Loyola against Drake with the first kick at 6 p.m. CT on ESPN+. The league championship and an automatic berth in the NCAA Championship are determined Sunday, November 7 at 1 p.m. CT as the two semifinal winners faceoff on ESPN+.



MISSOURI VALLEY CONFERENCE

2021 Women's Soccer All-Conference

FIRST TEAM

Name	School	Pos.	Yr.	Hometown (Previous School)
Nikki Coryell	Valparaiso	GK	So.	Aurora, Ill. (Metea Valley)
Aly Kilburg	Loyola	D	Sr.	Park Ridge, Ill. (Maine South)
Ashley Santos	Illinois State	D	Gr.	Falls Church, Va. (Naperville North)
Libby Helverson	Drake	D	Sr.	West Des Moines, Iowa (Valley)
Abby Swanson	Loyola	MF	Sr.	Downers Grove, Ill. (Downers Grove North)
Jacqueline Baetz	Missouri State	MF	Sr.	St. Louis, Mo. (Webster Grove)
Anna Durnin	Missouri State	MF	Sr.	Wentzville, Mo. (Fort Zumwalt North)
Celeste Wahlberg	Indiana State	F	Jr.	South Elgin, Ill. (St. Charles North)
Megan Nemec	Loyola	F	Jr.	Tinley Park, Ill. (Andrew)
Kelsie James	Valparaiso	F	So.	Carmel, Ind. (Carmel)
Emily Ormson	Evansville	F	Sr.	Folsom, Calif. (Vista Del Lago)

SECOND TEAM

Name	School	Pos.	Yr.	Hometown (Previous School)
Maddie Alexander	Indiana State	GK	So.	Battle Creek, Mich. (Harper Creek)
Alaina Abel	Loyola	D	So.	Green Bay, Wis. (Bay Port)
Nicole Norfolk	Valparaiso	D	Jr.	Menomonee Falls, Wis. (Divine Savior Holy Angels)
Sandra Thiman	UNI	D	Sr.	Stockholm, Sweden (Butler Community College)
Ashley Harrington	UNI	MF	So.	Ankeny, Iowa (Ankeny)
Emma Nagel	Drake	MF	So.	Green Bay, Wis. (Bay Port)
Katie Yankey	Indiana State	MF	So.	Floyds Knobs, Ind. (Floyd Central)
Lauren Heinsch	UNI	F	So.	Mahtomedi, Minn. (Mahtomedi)
Natalie Vaughn-Low	Illinois State	F	Sr.	Dekalb, Ill. (Dekalb)
Kiley Dugan	Valparaiso	F	Jr.	Irwin, Penn. (Penn-Trafford)
Lindsey DuSatko	Valparaiso	F	So.	Plainfield, Ill. (North)

HONORABLE MENTION: GK Kelsie Stone, Drake; D Jenna Ross, Loyola; D Johnnie Hill, Northern Iowa; D Rachel Rosborough, Evansville; D Lily Overstreet, Drake; D Emilie Hill, Evansville; D Natalie Graf, Valparaiso; MF Taylor Harrison, Loyola; MF Mackenzie Kent, Indiana State; F Sasha Thompson, Indiana State; F Katharine Stephens, Loyola.

ALL-FRESHMAN TEAM

Name	School	Pos.	Hometown (Previous School)
Abigail White	Valparaiso	D	Commerce Township, Mich. (Walled Lake Central)
Kasey Neidhardt	Illinois State	D	Highland, Ill. (Granite City)
Taylor Harrison	Loyola	MF	Dixon, Ill. (Dixon)
Jaimee Cibulka	Loyola	MF	Woodridge, Ill. (Benet Academy)
Mackenzie Kent	Indiana State	MF	Aurora, Ind. (St. Henry District)
Siri Ott	UNI	MF	Waverly, Iowa (Waverly)
Makenna Shepard	Drake	MF	Council Bluffs, Iowa (Saint Albert)
Ashley Scesniak	Southern Illinois	MF	Hoffman Estates, Ill. (William Fremd)
Dana Fish	Valparaiso	F	Sheboygan, Wis. (Sheboygan North)
Grace O'Keefe	Missouri State	F	Overland Park, Kan. (Saint Thomas Aquinas)
Hailey Autenrieb	Evansville	F	Cincinnati, Ohio (Seton)

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