

**Date:** Wednesday, December 11, 2019  
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## **Grand Valley Stats's Riko Sagara named 2019 Division II Conference Commissioners Association Women's Soccer Player of the Year**



**ADA, Okla.** - Senior midfielder Riko Sagara claimed the 2019 Ron Lenz National Player of the Year to headline the 2019 Division II Conference Commissioners Association (D2 CCA) Women's Soccer All-America Teams.

Sagara has helped the Lakers to the 2019 NCAA DII Final Four (Dec. 12-14) for the second-straight season, a 23-1 overall record and a perfect 9-0 mark in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. No. 2 GVSU hosted the first round, defeating Southern Indiana and McKendree and then traveled to Mankato, Minn., to claim wins against No. 25 Indianapolis and No. 13 Minnesota State-Mankato.

The Tokyo, Japan, native has garnered 19 goals (2 in the win over MSU-Mankato), 23 assists and four match-winning goals in 2019.

Sagara joins six other members of the Lakers team to claim a spot on the 2019 D2 CCA All-America teams. She is joined by Ava Cook (F - 1st), Cecilia Steinwascher (D - 1st), Sydney O'Donnell (D - 1st, Jessica Radice (GK - 1st) and Chantel Carraza (F -2nd) as honorees for the 2019 season.

She also joins Cook (2018 - 2nd), Sandra Nabweteme from Southwestern Oklahoma State (2018 - 2nd) and Steinwascher (2017-18 - 1st) as members of the first time to win multiple D2 CCA All-America honors in their careers.

Flagler College and The College of Saint Rose both saw two student-athletes earn a spot on the first team. Flagler is represented by Sara Sandberg (F) and Charlene Nowotny (MF), while Saint Rose saw Nina Predanic (F) and Deanna Trongone (D) make the list.

Midfielder Shanade Hopcroft (Colorado, Colorado Springs), midfielder Katie Taylor (Mississippi College) and defender Emily Nelson (Western Washington) round out the first team.

The first team consists of student-athletes from seven of the eight regions. The Midwest led the way with six, while the Southeastern and East each tallied two and one member of the Central, South, South Central and West were named to the team.

The Ron Lenz National Player of the Year award was named for long-time South Dakota State sports information director Ron Lenz in 2008. Lenz was instrumental in the foundation of the NCAA Division II All-America program, which honors outstanding student-athletes across eight NCAA Division II sports.

Sports information directors from NCAA Division II schools and conferences selected the three D2 CCA All-America teams. The process begins at the regional level with all first-team all-region picks advancing to the national ballot. A total of 39 student-athletes representing 22 different institutions filled out the three teams.

The Division II Conference Commissioners Association encourages and promotes Division II athletics and high standards of sportsmanship as important elements of higher education. The CCA is a key communications link among the conferences as they discuss views, policies and regulations that impact Division II intercollegiate athletics and works closely with the NCAA as a communications channel to NCAA Division II member colleges and universities.



### 2019 Division II Conference Commissioners Association Women's Soccer All-America First Team

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
F	Sara Sandberg	Flagler College	Jr.	Orebro, Sweden
F	Ava Cook @	Grand Valley State	Jr.	Battle Creek, Mich.
F	Nina Predanic	The College of Saint Rose	Sr.	Brezice, Slovenia
F	Sandra Nabweteme @	Southwestern Oklahoma State	Sr.	Kampala, Uganda
MF	Riko Saraga ^	Grand Valley State	Sr.	Tokyo, Japan
MF	Shanada Hopcroft	University of Colorado-Colorado Springs	Jr.	Aylesburg, England
MF	Charlene Nowotny	Flagler College	Sr.	Marburg, Germany
MF	Katie Taylor	Mississippi College	Sr.	Tupelo, Miss.
D	Cecilia Steinwascher ^*	Grand Valley State	Jr.	Sterling Heights, Mich.
D	Sydney O'Donnell	Grand Valley State	Jr.	Novi, Mich.
D	Emily Nelson	Western Washington	Sr.	Puyallup, Wash.
D	Deanna Trongone	The College of Saint Rose	Sr.	Nanuet, N.Y.
GK	Jessica Radice	Grand Valley State	Jr.	Medina, Ohio

**2019 Ron Lenz National Player of the Year:** Riko Sagara, Sr. Grand Valley State

### 2019 Division II Conference Commissioners Association Women's Soccer All-America Second Team

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
F	Jenna Fannon	Goldey-Beacom College	Sr.	Newark, Del.
F	Dana Poetzsch	Molloy	Sr.	Hicksville, N.Y.
F	Chantel Carranza	Grand Valley State	Fr.	St. Charles, Ill.
F	Jenny Vetter	Minnesota State, Mankato	So.	Mankato, Minn.
MF	Lauren Hoelke	Bloomsburg	Jr.	Blackwood, N.J.
MF	Natalie Saddic ^#	UC San Diego	Sr.	San Diego, Calif.
MF	Riley Clark	Columbus State	Sr.	Peachtree City, Ga.
MF	Emma Heikkila	Nova Southeastern	Sr.	Tornio, Finland
D	Giselle Sawaged	Colorado School of Mines	Sr.	Highland Ranch, Colo.
D	Peyton Chick	Western Washington	Sr.	Kent, Wash.
D	Aleesa Muir	University of Colorado-Colorado Springs	Sr.	Colorado Springs, Colo.
D	Maggie Scales	Dallas Baptist	Sr.	McKinney, Texas
GK	Angelica Ramos	UC San Diego	Sr.	San Clemente, Calif.

### 2019 Division II Conference Commissioners Association Women's Soccer All-America Third Team

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
F	Leah Foster \$	Concord	So.	Wigan, England
F	Meagen Doyle ^	Bridgeport	Sr.	Harwich, England
F	Madisyn Hunt	Kentucky Wesleyan College	Jr.	Jasper, Ind.
F	Karlie White	Western Washington	Sr.	North Bend, Wash.
MF	Grace Eversaul	Western Washington	Jr.	Vancouver, Wash.
MF	Allison Scott	Lubbock Christian	Jr.	Lubbock, Texas
MF	Mira Kontio	Concord	Jr.	Vantaa, Finland
MF	Josefine Nilsen	Flagler College	Fr.	Färjestaden, Sweden
D	Tayah Naudascher	Bloomsburg	Sr.	Philadelphia, Penn.
D	Kelsey Kimball	UC San Diego	Sr.	Thousand Oaks, Calif.
D	Ally Gann	Central Missouri	Sr.	Lee's Summit, Mo.
D	Sophie Brundin	Embry-Riddle	Sr.	Sundsvall, Sweden
GK	Jenna Hawkins	Bloomsburg	Jr.	Gleetwood, Penn.

^ - 2018 D2 CCA All-America First Team

\* - 2017 D2 CCA All-America First Team

@ - 2018 D2 CCA All-America Second Team

# - 2017 D2 CCA All-America Second Team

\$ - 2018 D2 CCA All-America Third Team



## 2019 Division II Conference Commissioners Association Women's Soccer All-Region First Teams

### EAST

F	Maegen Doyle ^?	Bridgeport
F	Jenna Fannon	Goldey-Beacom
F	Dana Poetzsch #	Molloy
F	Nina Predanic ^&!	Saint Rose
MF	Anissia Fucci @*	Georgian Court
MF	Kaitlin Lister #&	Georgian Court
MF	Allyson Patterson	Southern New Hampshire
MF	Rebekka Skaasheim	Bridgeport
D	Amber Raines	Caldwell
D	Trista Seara	Mercy
D	Deanna Trongone	Saint Rose
D	Erin Wimmer	Georgian Court
GK	Marika Laurendeau	Saint Rose

### ATLANTIC

GK	Jenna Hawkins	Bloomsburg
F	Leah Foster!	Concord
F	Rachel Edge	Slippery Rock
F	Rachel Bell	Concord
F	Mahogany Willis	Indiana Univ. of Pennsylvania
MF	Mira Kontio	Concord
MF	Jordyn Minda	Slippery Rock
MF	Lauren Hoelke	Bloomsburg
MF	Madison LaPole	West Virginia Wesleyan
D	Morgan Carmichael	Concord
D	Madison Johnson	Slippery Rock
D	Tayah Naudascher	Bloomsburg
D	Paige Mancini	Millersville

### SOUTHEAST

F	Sara Sandberg @!	Flagler College
F	Jessica Cravero ^	Lincoln Memorial
F	Aqsa Mushtaq @	Lenoir-Rhyne
F	Ashley Romanowski @	Southern Wesleyan
MF	Charlene Nowotny	Flagler College
MF	Riley Clark #^	Columbus State
MF	Morgan Patton	Belmont Abbey College
MF	Josefine Nilsen	Flagler College
D	Katie Beck	Catawba College
D	Shaunalee Govia	Mount Olive
D	Christina Shimshock	Lenoir-Rhyne
D	Sara Carr	Flagler College
GK	Abbey Frail	Wingate

### MIDWEST

F	Ava Cook ^	Grand Valley State
F	Madisyn Hunt	Kentucky Wesleyan
F	Changel Carranza	Grand Valley State
F	Pia Nagel @	Ferris State
MF	Riko Sagara !	Grand Valley State
MF	Jillian Leetch	Rockhurst
MF	Jayla Campbell	Findlay
MF	Bri Rogers	Ferris State
D	Cecilia Steinwascher	Grand Valley State
D	Sydney O'Donnell	Grand Valley State
D	Madelyne Juenger	Southern Indiana
D	Bex Velloney	Cedarville
GK	Jessica Radice	

### SOUTH

F	Kathryn O'Brien	Rollins College
F	Anniina Sankoh	Lynn
F	TeMia Pride	West Alabama
F	Hannah Christophe	Nova Southeastern
MF	Katie Taylor!	Mississippi College
MF	Emma Heikkila	Nova Southeastern
MF	Bailey Tadlock	Christian Brothers
MF	Riley Tennant	Valdosta State
D	Liza Wise	Mississippi College
D	Sophie Brundin	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical
D	Isabella Garcia-Salas	West Florida
D	Page Napolitano	Nova Southeastern
GK	Gabby Kayser	Mississippi College

### SOUTH CENTRAL

F	Haley Knesek	Lubbock Christian
F	Delaney Schmidt	Dallas Baptist
F	Whitley Johns	Dixie State
F	Hannah Kelley-Lusk	West Texas A&M
MF	Shanade Hopcroft !	Colorado, Colorado Springs
MF	Allison Scott	Lubbock Christian
MF	Tanner Sanders	Colorado, Colorado Spring
MF	Avery McNeme	Angelo State
D	Giselle Sawaged	Colorado School of Mines
D	Aleesa Muir	Colorado, Colorado Springs
D	Maggie Sacles	Dallas Baptist
D	Caitlin Esterle	Colorado, Colorado Springs
GK	Shannon Mooney	Colorado Schools of Mines



## 2018 Daktronics NCAA Division II Women's Soccer All-Region First Teams

### CENTRAL

F	Sandra Nabweteme ^*+	Southwestern Oklahoma
F	Jenny Vetter !	Minnesota State-Mankato
F	Makyla Toth	Central Missouri
F	Kelsie Eason	Central Oklahoma
MF	Haley Freeman	Central Missouri
MF	Hannah White *	Oklahoma Baptist
MF	Alesha Duccini #	Minnesota State-Mankato
MF	Haleigh Bares	Concordia-St. Paul
D	Anna Haub	Concordia-St. Paul
D	Allysa Gann @	Central Missouri
D	Carmen Scott	Ouachita Baptist
D	Kelsey Gordon ^	Central Oklahoma
GK	Jordyn Clark	Concordia-St. Paul

### WEST

F	Taylor Scott	Cal Poly Pomona
F	Karli White	Western Washington
F	Sadie Ortiz	Stanislaus State
F	Julia Glaser ^	Point Loma
MF	Natalie Saddic !	UC San Diego
MF	Grace Eversaul @	Western Washington
MF	Ilena Rivera	Stanislaus State
MF	Mika Celeste	UC San Diego
D	Emily Nelson ^	Western Washington
D	Kelsey Kimball	UC San Diego
D	Riley West @	Sonoma State
D	Peyton Chick	Western Washington
GK	Angelica Ramos	UC San Diego

! - Indicates 2019 Region Player of the Year

^ - 2018 D2 CCA Region First Team

@ - 2018 D2 CCA Region Second Team

\$ - 2018 D2 CCA Region Third Team

\* - 2017 D2 CCA Region First Team

# - 2017 D2 CCA Region Second Team

& - 2016 D2 CCA Region First Team

+ - 2016 D2 CCA Region Second Team

### Selections from Regions

Atlantic - 5 (1 - 2nd / 4 - 3rd)

Central - 3 (1 - 1st / 1 - 2nd / 1 - 3rd)

East - 5 (2 - 1st / 2 - 1st / 1 - 3rd)

Midwest - 7 (5 - 1st / 1 - 2nd / 1 - 3rd)

South - 3 (1 - 1st / 1 - 2nd / 1 - 3rd)

Southeast - 4 (2 - 1st / 1 - 2nd / 1 - 3rd)

South Central - 5 (1 - 1st / 3 - 2nd / 1 - 3rd)

West - 7 (1 - 1st / 3 - 2nd / 3 - 3rd)

### Selections by Team

Grand Valley State - 7 (5 - 1st / 1 - 2nd)

Western Washington - 4 (1 - 1st / 1 - 2nd / 2 - 3rd)

Bloomsburg - 3 (1 - 1st / 2 - 2nd)

Flagler College - 3 (2 - 1st / 1 - 3rd)

UC San Diego - 3 (2 - 1st / 1 - 2nd)

Colorado, Colorado Springs - 2 (1 - 1st / 1 - 2nd)

Concord - 2 (2 - 3rd)

The College of Saint Rose - 2 (2 - 1st)

Bridgeport - 1 (1 - 3rd)

Central Missouri - 1 (1 - 3rd)

Colorado School of Mines - 1 (1 - 2nd)

Columbus State - 1 (1 - 2nd)

Dallas Baptist - 1 (1 - 2nd)

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical - 1 (1 - 3rd)

Goldey-Beacon - 1 (1 - 2nd)

Kentucky Wesleyan - 1 (1 - 3rd)

Lubbock Christian - 1 (1 - 3rd)

Minnesota State-Mankato - 1 (1 - 2nd)

Molloy - 1 (1 - 2nd)

Nova Southeastern - 1 (1 - 2nd)

Southwestern Oklahoma State - 1 (1 - 1st)