

# Intercollegiate Athletics

## Western among the top-ranked Division II programs

With four top-10 national finishes, led by a seventh-straight title in women's rowing, Western placed seventh nationally among 310 NCAA Division II schools in the final 2010-11 Learfield Sports Directors' Cup standings. This was the Vikings' third straight top-10 finish: They placed sixth in 2009-10 and 10th in 2008-09. The Vikings finished with a school-record 653.75 points, the highest in Great Northwest Athletic Conference history and second among all West Region schools in 2010-11, placing just 14.75 points behind University of California, San Diego. Besides being first in rowing, the Vikings were sixth nationally in women's outdoor track, ninth in men's cross country and 10th in women's cross country. They also were 11th in women's golf, 21st in men's indoor track, 28th in men's outdoor track and 31st in women's indoor track.

## Sarah Porter is three-time Athlete of the Year

For the third year in a row, senior distance runner **Sarah Porter** was named Western's Female Athlete of the Year. Porter, a graduate of Hockinson High School, was a four-time All-America during the 2010-11 school year, bringing her career



*Sarah Porter*

total to a school record 12. She earned All-America honors in three sports for the third straight year and competed at nationals 12 times, going all four years in three sports. Porter won the 10,000 meters at the outdoor nationals in a meet record time of 33:17.39, the fourth fastest in NCAA II history, and placed second in the 5,000. Her national 10,000 time was both a school and conference record and automatically qualified her for another trip to USA Championships in late June, where she placed 10th in the senior women's 10,000 meters. Last year, she became the school's first athlete to compete in that meet. Porter broke four school outdoor records this spring, three that she already held, in the 1,500, 3,000, 5,000 and 10,000. She also finished with three school indoor records in the mile, 3,000 and 5,000.

## Ryan Brown wins Male Athlete of the Year honors for second year

Pole vaulter **Ryan Brown**, with two back-to-back national titles under his belt, was named Male Athlete of the Year for the second year in a row. Brown, a graduate



*Ryan Brown won the pole vault at both the indoor and outdoor track and field national championships.*

of Bellingham's Squalicum High School, successfully defended his men's pole vault titles at both the NCAA Division II national indoor and outdoor championships. Prior to this year, no Viking athlete had ever won back-to-back national titles. Brown broke his own school and conference indoor pole vault title for the fourth consecutive season, having a school and conference best effort of 17-5. He was the first GNAC athlete to reach 17-feet in both indoor and outdoor competition. Brown posted his outdoor best of 17-8 1/2 last year. He went over 17-feet in three of his four national triumphs, reaching 16-11 in the other.



**Ryan Brown**

**Golfers Xavier Dailly and Katie Sharpe named Scholar-Athletes of the Year**

Two Western golfers, **Xavier Dailly** and **Katie Sharpe**, who helped the Vikings to men's and women's Great Northwest Athletic Conference championships, respectively, are the school's Male and Female Scholar-Athletes of the Year for 2010-11. The scholar-athlete awards, which have been handed out since 1999, recognize Western student-athletes who best demonstrate excellence both in competition and in the classroom.



**Xavier Dailly**

Dailly, a senior from Burlington, has a 3.80 (4.0 scale) grade point average. He is completing a degree in

economics after obtaining a degree in business administration and finance last spring. He had a 74.1 scoring average, earning first-team GNAC all-star honors for the second straight year. Dailly took medalist honors at the Saint Martin's Invitational and placed third at the GNAC Championship Tournament. The Vikings won that title and narrowly missed out on a trip to the NCAA Division II National Championships by placing sixth, one spot short of qualifying, at the West/Central Super Regional. Sharpe, a graduate of Bellingham High School, is a senior elementary education major with a 3.96 GPA. She had a 78.8 scoring average, earning first-team GNAC all-star recognition. She took co-medalist honors at both the Saint Martin's and WWU tournaments and placed fifth at the Sonoma State tourney. She helped the Vikings to the GNAC title, third place at the NCAA II Super West Regional and 11th place at nationals in the school's first appearance since 2008. Individually, Sharpe placed seventh at the GNAC tournament, 35th at regionals and tied for 38th at nationals.



**Katie Sharpe**

**Other highlights in athletics:**

**Volleyball**

Western's volleyball team finished the year with a 20-4 record and tied for first in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference. The team also tied for 16th in the final American Volleyball Coaches Association Top 25 Poll.

The team reached the semifinals at the NCAA II West Regional, defeating Alaska Anchorage 3-1 and losing to Seattle Pacific 3-2. **Allison Gotz** was named to the AVCA first-team All-American, with **Emily Jepsen** as an honorable mention. Jepsen was also GNAC Player of the Year. **Kari Rise** and **Megan Amundson** were named to the West Region all-Tournament Team. While Jepsen, Gotz and Rise were named GNAC first-team all-stars, **Marlayna Geary** was a second-team pick. GNAC Academic all-stars were **Kathryn Mertens**, Jepsen, **Bailey Jones**, **Haleigh Adkins**, **Laurie Yearout**, Amundson, **Breanne Graham**, Gotz and **Jordyn Bailey**. Coach **Diane Flick** was GNAC co-Coach of the Year.

### Men's Soccer

With 10 wins, six losses and two tied games, the men's soccer team placed third in the GNAC. **Gibson Bardsley** was named first-team Daktronics All-American, with **Kellan Brown** receiving honorable mention. Bardsley was also named GNAC Player of the Year. **Oscar Jimenez** joined Bardsley and Brown on the first-team Daktronics West Region all-stars and the first-team GNAC all-stars. GNAC academic all-stars were **Bryan Hall** and **Darragh Simm**. Led by coach **Travis Connell**, the team ranked fifth nationally in scoring offense and 13th in goals. Bardsley was ranked second nationally in goals per game, third in points per game, fifth in goals and seventh in points. He led team in points and goals and tied for assist lead with Jimenez. **Leo Cohen** led team with 1.08 goals against average and four shutouts.

### Women's Soccer

Western's Women's Soccer team ended the year with a 10-4-4 record and a fourth-place finish in the GNAC. **Claire Morgan** was named second-team National Soccer Coaches Association of America West Region all-star, with **Alicia Patten** picked to third team. Patten was also named second-team Daktronics West Region all-star. Morgan and Patten were named first-team GNAC all-stars, with second-team honors going to **Justina MacDowell** and **Jamie Arthurs**, who led the GNAC in shutout and ranked 13th nationally in save percentage. **Kelly Cates** was a GNAC Academic all-star. The team ranked eighth nationally in save percentage and 11th in both goals against and shutout percentage.

### Men's Cross Country

The team placed ninth among 24 teams at the NCAA Division II National Championships and ranked 10th in the final regular season U.S. Cross Country Coaches Association Top 25. At nationals, **Jordan Welling** placed eighth and **Bennett Grimes** 13th to earn U.S. Track and Field Cross Country Coaches Association All-America honors. **Blake Medhaug** placed 66th at nationals, **Eric Brill** 80th, **Nick**



Senior forward **Gibson Bardsley**, above, was the first Western men's soccer player named first-team Daktronics All-American. He had 18 goals during the 2010 season, tying for the third-highest total in school history.

**Abraham** 131st, **Chip Jackson** 138th and **Kyle Johnson** 173rd. The team placed third among 19 teams at West Regionals to earn the trip to nationals and came in second of nine teams at Great Northwest Athletic Conference Championships. Brill, Jackson and Welling were named USTFCCCA national scholar athletes. And Brill, Welling and **Travis Peters** were named GNAC Academic all-stars.

#### Women's Cross Country

With a 10th-place finish among 24 teams at the NCAA Division II National Championships, the team ranked



Senior guard John Allen was a second-team GNAC all-star.

12th in the final regular season U.S. Cross Country Coaches Association Top 25. The team also placed third among 24 teams at West Regional to earn the trip to nationals and placed second among nine teams at Great Northwest Athletic Conference Championships. **Sarah Porter** placed second at nationals to earn USTFCCCA All-America honors. **Lauren Breihof** placed 49th, **Rachael Johnson** 89th, **Jessica Boyer** 108th, **Phoebe Hartnett** 111th, **Lacey Nation** 146th, and **Sierra Brisky** 146th. Porter was named USTFCCCA West Region Athlete of the Year and GNAC Athlete of the Year. Porter and Breihof were GNAC all-stars. As for academic honors, Breihof, Brisky, Hartnett and Johnson were USTFCCCA national scholar athletes and

Breihof, Brisky, **Chandler Dennison**, **Kristi Fairbanks**, Hartnett, Johnson, **Gaby Krevat**, **Mary Rogers** and **Cheryl Watson** were GNAC Academic all-stars.

#### Women's Basketball

With a 26-4 record, the team reached the first round of the NCAA II West Regional, losing to Alaska Anchorage. They also racked up a 19-game winning streak, tied for second-longest in school history. They ranked 18th in final ESPN/USA Today/Women's Basketball Coaches Association Coaches Poll. After reaching the final of the GNAC Tournament, the team lost to Alaska Anchorage after defeating Simon Fraser and Montana State Billings. They placed first in GNAC regular-season standings. **Amanda Dunbar** was named second-team DII Bulletin All-American, received WBCA All-America honorable mention, was named first-team WBCA West Region all-star and GNAC Player of the Year. First-team GNAC all-stars were Dunbar, **Megan Pinske** and **Lauren Hefflin**, while Pinske and **Corinn Waltrip** were named GNAC academic all-stars. Coach **Carmen Dolfo** was named Coach of the Year for the GNAC and the WBCA West Region. Hefflin ranked 17th nationally in field-goal percentage, while the team ranked 10th nationally in scoring defense, 14th in scoring margin and 20th in 3-point percentage defense.

#### Men's Basketball

With a 16-11 record, the team placed fourth in the GNAC. **Michael Duty** was named first-team GNAC all-star, with **John Allen** as a second-team pick. **Rory Blanche** was named CoSIDA/Capital One second-

team College Division District 8 Academic All-Star and Blanch joined **Anthony Wiederkehr** and **Chris Mitchell** as GNAC academic all-stars. Allen ranked second nationally in free throw percentage and Blanche fourteenth in field-goal percentage. The team was 15th nationally in field-goal percentage and 17th in scoring offense.

#### Men's Indoor Track and Field

The team placed 21st at the NCAA II National Championships, ranked 21st in the final USTFCCCA National Top 25 Poll and placed second of eight teams in the GNAC Championships. **Ryan Brown** was first at nationals in pole vault and **Jordan Welling** finished seventh in 5,000 for USTFCCCA All-America honors. Brown's other honors included USTFCCCA National and West Region Field Athlete of the Year and GNAC Male Athlete of the Year. Brown also placed first in pole vault at the GNAC Championships for the fourth-straight year. Other GNAC winners were Welling in 5,000 meters, **Tim Clendaniel** in triple jump and **Alex Tilley** in 60. USTFCCCA West Region all-stars were **Nick Abraham**, **Dylan Hopper** and **Toby David** in distance medley relay; Brown and Clendaniel in pole vault and triple jump; **Ben Elder** and **Jacob Gilbert** in shot put; **Alex Harrison** in 60 hurdles; **Michael Hoffman** in weight throw; **Josh Larson** in high jump; **Blake Medhaug** in 5,000; **Cal Rosenberg** in pole vault; **Karsten Shick** in high jump; Tilley in 60 and 200 and Welling in 5,000 and distance medley relay. School records were set by Tilley in 60; Welling in 5,000; Tilley, **Phillip Villanueva**, **Levi Grudzinski** and David in the 4x400 relay; Brown

in pole vault; Clendaniel in triple jump; and **Michael Hoffman** in 35-lb. weight throw.

#### Women's Indoor Track and Field

The team placed 31st at the NCAA II National Championships, with **Sarah Porter** placing third in women's 5,000 to earn USTFCCCA All-America honors. Distance medley relay of **Rachael Johnson**, **Eleanor Siler**, **Megan O'Connell** and **Lauren Breihof** placed ninth. The team also placed sixth among eight teams at GNAC Championships. Porter was named USTFCCCA West Region Track Athlete of the Year and GNAC co-Female Athlete of the Year. USTFCCCA West Region all-stars were **Tanya Bjornsson** in 60 hurdles and long jump; Breihof in mile and 5,000; Johnson in 800, mile and distance medley relay; O'Connell in distance medley relay; Porter in 5,000 and distance medley relay; and Siler in 400 and distance medley relay. School records fell to Siler in 400, Porter in 5,000, **Lindsay Wells** in 20 lb. weight throw and **Brooklyn Holton** in pentathlon.

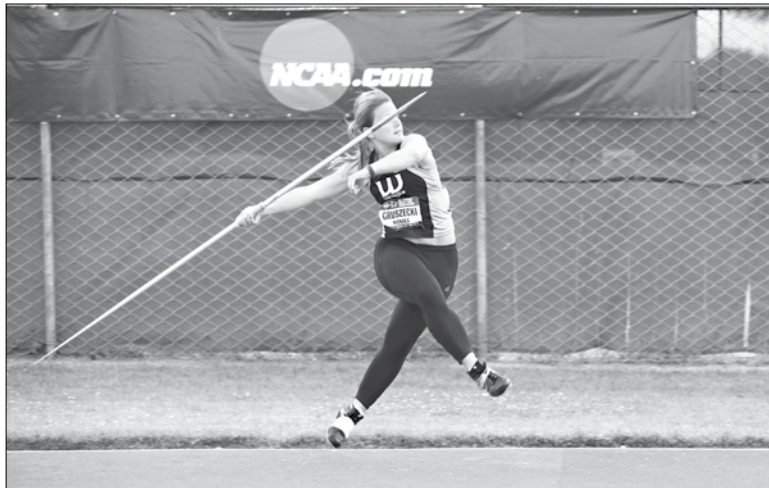
#### Women's Golf

The team ended the season with an 11th-place finish among 12 teams at the NCAA II National Championships, where **Sophie Elstrott** tied for 31st, **Katie Sharpe** tied for 38th, **Kara Zitzman** tied for 49th, **Claire Rachor**



*Sarah Porter won the 10,000 and came in second in the 5,000 at the Outdoor Track and Field National Championships.*

tied for 53rd and **Christa Goldie** tied for 58th. Led by GNAC Coach of the Year **Bo Stephan**, the team also placed third among nine teams at NCAA II Super West Regional, tied for eighth in the final Golf World/NGCA Coaches Poll and was first among four teams at GNAC Championships. Elstrott, who led the team in scoring average, was named NGCA honorable mention All-American, NGCA West Region all-star and GNAC Player of the Year. First-team GNAC all-stars were Elstrott, Zitzman, Sharpe, and Rachor. Taylor and Goldie were named to second team. In academic honors, Sharpe was named CoSIDA/Capital One first-team College Division District 8 Academic All-Star. Sharpe was also a GNAC Academic all-star along with teammates Taylor, Goldie and Rachor.



*Senior Monika Gruszecki won the NCAA Division II women's javelin at the outdoor track and field national championships.*

#### **Men's Golf**

The team placed sixth among 20 teams at the NCAA Division II Central/West Super Regional and 11th in the final Golf Coaches Association of America Top 25 poll. They were first among five teams at Great Northwest Athletic Conference Championships. **Dylan Goodwin**, who led the team in scoring average, was named third-team GCAA PING All-American, GCAA West Region all-star, GNAC Player of the Year and GNAC New-

comer of the Year. **Xavier Dailly** was named CoSIDA/Capital One second-team College Division Academic All-America and CoSIDA/Capital One first-team College Division District 8 Academic All-Star. Goodwin, Dailly and **Nick Varelia** were named first-team GNAC all-stars. **Sandy Vaughan** and **Brian Barhanovich** were named to the second team. Dailly and Barhanovich were GNAC Academic all-stars. Coach **Steve Card** was GNAC Coach of the Year.

#### **Softball**

The team's 36-16 season ended with a trip to the NCAA II West Sub Regional and a second-place ranking in the GNAC. Led by GNAC Coach of the Year **Amy Suiter**, the team opened the season with 12-straight wins. They were ranked sixth, a school best, in the NFCA Coaches Poll during regular season, and first in the NCAA II West Region Rating. Western also ranked 18th nationally in fielding percentage. **Erika Quint**, who ranked 10th nationally in both wins and strikeouts, was named GNAC Pitcher of the Year, first-team Daktronics West Region all-star and second-team NFCA West Region all-star. Daktronics West Region all-star second-team honors went to **Michelle Wrigley**. Quint and Wrigley were first-team GNAC all-stars while **Jackie Rothenberger** and **Meghan Carrillo** were named to the second-team.

#### **Men's Outdoor Track and Field**

The team ended its season with a 28th place finish at the NCAA II National Championships, where **Ryan Brown** won pole vault to earn USTFCCCA All-America

recognition. Also at nationals, **Michael Hoffman** placed 14th in hammer, **Jordan Welling** was 11th in both 10,000 and 5,000 and **Bennett Grimes** 14th in the 10,000 and 12th in 5,000. The team also placed second at the GNAC Conference Championships and Brown was named GNAC Athlete of the Year. USTFCCCA West Region all-stars were Brown in pole vault, **Tim Clendaniel** in triple jump, **Ben Elder** in shot put and discus, Grimes in 5,000 and 10,000, **Alex Harrison** in the javelin, Hoffman in hammer and discus, **Cory Okazaki** in 110 hurdles, and Welling in the 5,000 and 10,000. GNAC all-stars were Welling in 10,000, Clendaniel in triple jump, Hoffman in hammer and Elder in discus. Welling was also named named CoSIDA/Capital One first-team College Division District 8 Academic All-Star while **Eric Brill**, Clendaniel, Welling, **Andrew Gray**, **Tyler Nichols**, **Jacob Gilbert**, **Logan Darling**, **Travis Peters** and **Colby Mayberry** were GNAC academic all-stars. School records fell to Welling in 5,000 and Hoffman in hammer.

#### Women's Outdoor Track and Field

The team tied for sixth at the NCAA II National Championships, where **Sarah Porter** placed first in 10,000 and second in 5,000. Also at nationals **Monika Gruszecki** won the women's javelin and **Karis Anderson** tied for seventh in the women's pole vault to earn USTFCCCA All-America honors. **Rachael Johnson** finished 13th in 800. The team also placed second at the Great Northwest Athletic Conference Championships. Porter, who broke school records in the 1500, 3,000, 5,000 and 10,000, was named USTFCCCA West



*Monika Gruszecki*

were GNAC all-stars. GNAC academic all-stars were **Phoebe Hartnett**, **Mary Rogers**, **Kristin Fairbanks**, **Diana DeMarco**, **Callie Reff**, Johnson, **Sierra Brisky**, Breihof, **Valle Ledtke**, **Alex McDonald**, Gruszecki, **Megan Zukowski**, **Amanda Overdick**, **Haida Ikeda**, **Cheryl Watson** and Siler. School records were set by Johnson in 800 and Wells in hammer.

#### Women's Rowing

The team won its seventh-straight NCAA II National Championship, with both the varsity 8 and varsity 4 placing first in both the grand final and the qualifying heat. Seated in eight were **Samantha Oberholzer**, **Casey Mapes**, **Carson MacPherson-Krutzky**, **Jean Piette**, **Siri Carlson**, **Megan Northey**, **Stephanie Bluhm**, **Katie Woolsey** and **Kate Berni**. Seated in four were **Kelsey**

Region Track Athlete of the Year and GNAC Co-Athlete of the Year. USTFCCCA West Region all-stars were Anderson in pole vault, **Lauren Breifhof** in 10,000, Gruszecki in javelin, Johnson in 800, Porter in 1,500, 5,000 and 10,000, **Eleanor Siler** in 400, and **Lindsay Wells** in hammer. Porter and Gruszecki



*Junior Middle Blocker Emily Jepsen was a first-team pick on the Daktronics NCAA Division II West Region all-star squad.*

**McFarland, Kelsey Baker, Mariana Cains, Alyssa Dewey and Lauren Fleming.** First-team Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association All-Americans were Oberholzer and Carlson; second-team was Mapes. Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association National Scholar-Athletes were Cains, **Hannah Gallagher**, MacPherson-Krutzky, Mapes, Northey and **Miranda Steward**. Varsity 8, junior varsity 8, varsity 4 and novice 4 boats placed first in the grand finals at the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championship Regatta. Named first-team all-WIRA were Oberholzer, Mapes and Carlson and second-team were McFarland and Steward. The team also won the Northwest Collegiate Rowing Conference Championship, while the varsity 8, junior varsity 8, and 2nd varsity 4 boats were victorious at NCRC Championships. Carlson was named NCRC all-star and Mapes earned CoSIDA/Capital One first-team

Scholar-Athletes were Cains, Gallagher, MacPherson-Krutzky, Mapes, Northey and Steward. GNAC At-Large academic all-star honors went to Carlson, Cains, Dewey, Fleming, Gallagher, **Maddy Hillier**, Mapes, MacPherson-Krutzky, Northey, Steward and Woolsey. NCRC academic all-stars were Cains, Gallagher, **Christine Henie**, Hillier, MacPherson-Krutzky, Mapes, **Claire Marine**, Northey and Steward. Coach **John Fuchs** was named WIRA Coach of the Year.

College Division  
District 8 Academic  
All-Star honors.  
Named Collegiate  
Rowing Coaches  
Association National



*Western's Women's Rowing Team celebrates its seventh-straight NCAA Division II National Championship.*