



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 8, 2018

Contact: Russell Luna
469.524.1009 / russell@Big12Sports.com

2018 Spring Scholar-Athletes of the Year Announced

Irving, Texas - The Big 12 Conference has announced its 2018 Spring Scholar-Athletes of the Year. The following student-athletes have been selected as award winners for their respective sports based on the votes of each sport's respective head coaches.

2018 BIG 12 BASEBALL SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Jake Irvin, Oklahoma, Jr., Bloomington, Minn.

- Human resources management major with a 3.83 grade-point average and 25 percent participation (starting pitcher).
- Is a two-time Academic All-Big 12 First Team honoree and 2018 All-Big 12 First Team selection.
- Finished with a 6-2 record and 3.41 ERA in 16 starts, while earning All-America Second Team honors from Collegiate Baseball.

2018 BIG 12 MEN'S GOLF SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Fredrik Nilehn, Texas Tech, Sr., Goteborg, Sweden

- Finance major with a 3.74 grade-point average and 100 percent participation.
- Selected as 2018 Big 12 Golfer of the Year and recorded a school-record scoring average of 70.13.
- Ranked eighth nationally in the Golfweek National Rankings.

2018 BIG 12 WOMEN'S GOLF SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Ariadna Fonseca Diaz, Kansas, Jr., Caracas, Venezuela

- Accounting major with a 3.97 grade-point average and 100 percent participation.
- Garnered Academic All-Big 12 First Team accolades in 2017 and 2018.
- Shot one-under in the final round of the 2018 Big 12 Championship, pacing the Jayhawks.

2018 BIG 12 ROWING SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Nicole Lane, Alabama, Sr., Johns Creek, Ga.

- Food and nutrition major with a 4.0 grade-point average and 100 percent participation.
- Guided the Crimson Tide to two 4+ victories during the 2018 season.
- Named 2018 Collegiate Rowing Association (CRCA) All-Conference and Scholar-Athlete.

2018 BIG 12 SOFTBALL SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Vanessa Shippy, Oklahoma State, Sr., Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

- Finance and marketing major with a 3.895 grade-point average and 100 percent participation.
- Tabbed the Big 12 Softball Scholar-Athlete of the Year for a second-consecutive year. Additionally, a three-time Google Cloud Academic All-American.
- Selected as the Big 12 Player of the Year in 2016 and 2018. Also, a three-time All-American selection by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA).

2018 BIG 12 MEN'S TENNIS SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Alex Rybakov, TCU, Jr., Coral Springs, Fla.

- Communication studies major with a 3.377 grade-point average and 100 percent participation.
- Part of a Horned Frogs squad that reached the Round of 16 for the fourth straight season, won their third straight Big 12 regular-season title and finished in the top-10 of the final Oracle/ITA team poll for the fourth consecutive year.
- A singles and doubles All-American who finished at No. 25 in the Oracle/ITA singles poll and No. 8 with Guillermo Nuñez in the Oracle/ITA doubles poll.

-more-

2018 BIG 12 WOMEN'S TENNIS SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Lily Miyazaki, Oklahoma, Sr., Tokyo, Japan

- Management of information technology major with a 4.0 grade-point average and 96 percent participation.
- Earned Big 12 Scholar-Athlete of the Year for a second consecutive season.
- The three-time All-Big 12 Singles First Team selection finished her OU career tied for third in career wins with a 96-35 record.

2018 CO-BIG 12 MEN'S TRACK & FIELD SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Hussain Al Hizam, Kansas, Jr., Jubail, Saudi Arabia

- Finance major with a 3.33 grade-point average and 85 percent participation.
- Garnered Google Cloud Academic All-District honors.
- Won the pole vault at the 2018 Big 12 Outdoor Track & Field Championship with a meet-record clearance of 18' 5.5" (5.63m). Also, the 2018 NCAA National Indoor Champion and Big 12 Indoor Champion in the pole vault

2018 CO-BIG 12 MEN'S TRACK & FIELD SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Brett Neelly, Kansas State, Jr., Gallatin, Tenn.

- Majoring in mechanical engineering with a 3.77 grade-point average and 65 percent participation.
- Placed second in the shot put and fourth in the discus at the 2018 Big 12 Outdoor Track & Field Championship.
- His shot put throw of 64' 3.25" (19.59m) at the Texas Tech Corky/Crofoot Shootout was the 14th-best performance in the NCAA this season.

2018 BIG 12 WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Amy Cashin, West Virginia, R-Sr., Werribee, Australia

- Counseling major with a 4.00 grade-point average and 85 percent participation.
- Two-time Big 12 Scholar-Athlete of the Year after earning the award in 2017.
- Placed second at the Big 12 Outdoor Track & Field Championship in the 3,000-meter steeplechase with a time of 10:00.04.

The Big 12 Conference established its Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award in 2012-13. A recipient is named in each conference-sponsored sport. Every Big 12 institution and affiliate members nominate one individual per sport with the winners selected by a vote of the league head coaches for that sport, who are not allowed to vote for their own student-athletes. Scholar-Athlete of the Year nominees must be a junior or senior (academic standing), have a cumulative grade point average of 3.20 or higher, participate in at least 20 percent of the team's scheduled contests and have a minimum of one year in residence at the institution.