

BC3 tops conference with 30 student-athletes on spring sports all-academic team

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(Butler, PA) Butler County Community College led the 10-member Western Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference with 30 student-athletes named to the WPCC's 2018 spring sports all-academic team, including seven players on a Pioneers' softball squad that captured its third conference crown in a row, a women's basketball player closing in on BC3's all-time scoring record, and two golfers chasing All-American status this week.

To be eligible for the WPCC all-academic team, student-athletes must carry a minimum of 12 credit hours. Those with grade-point averages between 3.0 and 3.49 attain honors, and those with GPAs from 3.5 to 4.0, high honors.

BC3 student-athletes selected to the WPCC all-academic team in softball were Mackenzie Bortmas, a Moniteau High graduate; Brooke Dingel, Butler; Sydney Natili, Knoch; Lydia Roth, Erie County, high honors; Lauren Smith, Seneca Valley; Alexis Vogan, Slippery Rock; and Jessica Yenick, Knoch. Dingel and Roth were also members of BC3's women's basketball team.

The Pioneers on April 21 captured their third WPCC softball championship in a row and fifth since 1989 with a 7-6 win over Garrett College, McHenry, Md.

Pioneers' student-athletes named to the WPCC all-academic team in women's basketball, in addition to Dingel and Roth, were Carly Burdett, Knoch, high honors; Mackenzie Craig, Karns City, high honors; Amanda Dorcy, Butler; Kelly Kriely, Butler, high honors; Caitlyn Mueller, First Baptist Christian, Butler, high honors; and Darienne Yates, Slippery Rock.

Craig, a freshman, led players on all 100 National Junior College Athletic Association Division III women's basketball teams with averages of 31.9 points and 23.1 rebounds through 24 games. Her 765 points were second only to the 766 scored in 29 games by Rachel Domoulin, of Elgin Community College, Elgin, Ill.

Craig is 306 points from breaking BC3's women's basketball career scoring record of 1,070, set by Julia Baxter, of Butler, in 2017; and 547 points shy of becoming the Pioneers' all-time leading scorer in basketball, a record held by Bryant Lewandowski, of Butler, who amassed 1,311 points from 1997 to 1999 for the Pioneers' men's team.

Lewandowski, 39, of Cleveland, was among three 2018 inductees into BC3's Charles W. Dunaway Pioneer Hall of Fame in May.

2 all-academic golfers vying for All-American status

BC3 student-athletes named to the WPCC all-academic team in golf were Julia Fischer, Freeport; Anthony Lewis, Butler, high honors; Noah Morgan, Allegheny-Clarion Valley; Luke Ostermeyer, Laurel; and Michael Rozzi, Neshannock.

Rozzi and Morgan this week are competing for All-American status in the 72-hole NJCAA Division III national tournament in Chautauqua, N.Y.

Pioneers' student-athletes named to the WPCC all-academic team in men's basketball were Joshua Campbell, Knoch, high honors; Ian McElroy, Karns City; Noah Pollock, Karns City, high honors; Brendon Record, Grove City; Jordan Sager, Mohawk; Jace Stutz, Butler; and Joel Stutz, Butler.

Guards Joel Stutz and Record led BC3 with points per game averages of 21.7 and 21.4, respectively. Joel Stutz also led the Pioneers with 6.7 rebounds per game and finished No. 9 among players on 112 NJCAA Division III teams with 109 3-pointers.

BC3 student-athletes named to the WPCC all-academic team in baseball were Matthew Cornetti and Jeff Smolen, Knoch; James Flemm, Freeport; Aaron Marterella, Moniteau; and Conner Thomas, Butler. Each received high honors.

Flemm's .377 batting average was second-best for the Pioneers. He also led BC3's pitching staff with a 4.11 earned-run average.

Westmoreland County Community College, Youngwood, had 28 student-athletes named to the WPCC's 2018 spring sports all-academic team; the Community College of Allegheny County-Boyce had 11; Penn Highlands Community College, Johnstown, nine; the University of Pittsburgh-Titusville, seven; the Community College of Allegheny County-South, seven; Garrett College, six; the Community College of Allegheny County-North, five; and the Community College of Beaver County and the Community College of Allegheny County-Allegheny did not report student-athletes on all-academic team.