

Argo Women Achieve Academic Accolades

GREAT FALLS, Mont. – The University of Great Falls Athletic Director Gary Ehnes is proud to announce that three Lady Argo soccer players have been named to the 2011 National Soccer Coaches Association of America and Adidas – Women’s Scholar All-West Region Team.

Boasting an impressive 3.94 grade point average and majoring in Biology, Argo senior Ashly Pezel, of Simi Valley, Calif. was named to the Second Team. During her four years as an Argo Ashley is tied for the top point earner for the entire women’s soccer program amassing an impressive 17 goals and 9 assists.

To be nominated for this prestigious award, a student-athlete must have at least a 3.30 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) throughout her career, start more than 50 percent of all games and be a significant contributor to the team, be nominated by an institution that is a current NSCAA member, be a junior or above in academic standing at the current institution, be in her second year at the current school. Those meeting the criteria will be considered by the committee for one of the Scholar All-American teams. The committee reviews both the academic and athletic accomplishments of the nominees. The NSCAA Scholar Athletes of the Year are selected by the national selection committee from all levels of the Scholar All-America teams

“What a tremendous honor for all three ladies.” Head Coach Brian Clarke said. “This is exactly the type of academic and athletic performance we would like all of our student-athletes to strive for.” Athletic Director Gary Ehnes said. “Ashley is one of only four student-athletes who attend an NAIA school to be named to either the first or second team.” Clarke added. Only one NAIA student-athlete was named to the first team, Kaycee Gunion a Cal State San Marcos senior majoring in Kinesiology and holding a 3.53 gpa.

Two other Lady Argos were identified as Honorable Mention student-athletes. Great Falls native and Argo senior Jenell Jackson claims a gpa of 3.86 in Biology. Libby native Quinn Wilson is a junior at UGF who is majoring in Secondary Education and holding a 3.90 gpa.

“I am so very proud of what these ladies accomplished both in the classroom as well as on the field of play.” Clarke concluded. “This award bears witness to the bright future in store for these fine young ladies. I am exceptionally proud of their accomplishment.” Ehnes concluded.