



UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND

Sports Information

Chiles Center • 5000 N. Willamette Blvd. • Portland, Ore. 97203
Phone: 503.943.7439/7731 • Fax: 503.943.7242

Sports Information Director: Julie Natale

Assistant SID: Jason Brough

Graduate Assistant SID: Chris Logan

Date: Sept. 16, 2004

**For Immediate Release:
Contact: Julie Natale**

• Portland General Release •

Imani Dorsey Named Oregon's NCAA Woman of the Year

The selection process for the 14th annual NCAA Woman of the Year Award has begun with the announcement of 52 state winners (including Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico). The University of Portland's Imani Dorsey has been selected to represent the state of Oregon and will have a shot at becoming a finalist for the national award later this month. The NCAA Woman of the Year Award honors standout female student-athletes who have achieved excellence in academics, athletics and community leadership.

Dorsey finished her brilliant career at Portland in leading the Pilots to four straight trips to the NCAA Tournament and a national championship in the 2002 season. The 2003 WCC Defender of the Year anchored a defense which recorded a 76-16-4 record during her career. Dorsey earned numerous honors including first team all-West Region and All-America honors with *Soccer Buzz* and *Soccer Post Magazine*. Dorsey, an Interdisciplinary Studies major, posted a 3.84 grade-point average, made the Dean's List for eight consecutive semesters, was twice selected as an Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar, and served as the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) Vice President at Portland. The Santa Monica, Calif. native was also honored with the WCC Commissioner's Honor Roll Gold Award, was a CoSIDA Academic All American, an All-America NSCAA Scholar-Athlete selection, the 2003 WCC Co-Female Scholar Athlete of the Year, and an NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship Recipient. Away from campus, Dorsey volunteered time with elementary schools, the Doernbecher Children's Hospital, and helped families at the Ronald McDonald House.

The 2004 state winners represent 12 sports. Thirty winners are from Division I schools, and 11 each are from Divisions II and III.

Each NCAA member institution was invited to nominate one student-athlete. For the fifth straight year, schools that submitted an ethnic minority candidate also were allowed to submit a second nominee. Twenty-six schools, the same number as in 2003, took advantage of the opportunity to do so. The total number of applications, however, dropped from 338 in 2003 to 276 this year. Division I submitted 138 nominations, Division II submitted 42 and Division III submitted 96. It was the first year since 1998 that the total number of nominations fell below 300.

A committee composed of representatives from member institutions chose the state honorees. That same committee will choose 10 finalists from among the 52 state winners. Selection criteria include grade-point average, athletics accomplishments and community service.

The 10 finalists will be announced in the September 27 issue of *The NCAA News*.

The NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics will choose a national winner from among the 10 finalists. The national honoree will be announced during the 2004 NCAA Woman of the Year dinner October 31 in Indianapolis.

Dot Richardson, a former U.S. Olympic gold medal winner in softball, and Sheri Coale, head women's basketball coach at the University of Oklahoma, will emcee the 14th annual event.

As part of the NCAA Woman of the Year weekend activities, the 2004 honorees will visit Indianapolis-area middle schools to speak with children about their experiences as student-athletes and about balancing academics and athletics.

Ashley Jo Rowatt, a former swimming student-athlete at Kenyon College, was named as the 2003 Woman of the Year. Rowatt was the first Division III student-athlete to win the award.

UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND

2004 State Winners

State	Winner	School	Sport(s)
Alabama	Stephanie Kite	University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa	Gymnastics
Alaska	Sigrid Aas	University of Alaska Fairbanks	Cross Country, Skiing
Arizona	Nicole Gurnicz	University of Arizona	Outdoor Track and Field, Cross Country
Arkansas	Jessica Johnson	University of Arkansas, Fayetteville	Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field
California	Kelly Albin	University of California, Davis	Lacrosse
Colorado	Rebekah Walter	Adams State College	Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field, Cross Country
Connecticut	Brittany Allen	Wesleyan University (Connecticut)	Cross Country, Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field
Delaware	Tyechia Smith	University of Delaware	Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field
District of Columbia	Karla Kucerkova	American University	Volleyball
Florida	Sara McLarty	University of Florida	Swimming and Diving
Georgia	Julie Hardt	University of Georgia	Swimming and Diving
Hawaii	Lily Kahumoku	University of Hawaii, Manoa	Volleyball
Idaho	Abbey Elsberry	Boise State University	Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field
Illinois	Sarah Martz	DePaul University	Softball
Indiana	Megan Grunert	University of Indianapolis	Swimming and Diving
Iowa	Raegan Schultz	Central College (Iowa)	Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field, Volleyball
Kansas	Nicole Ohlde	Kansas State University	Basketball
Kentucky	Cherelle Lampkins	Morehead State University	Volleyball
Louisiana	Kristin Schmidt	Louisiana State University	Softball
Maine	Elizabeth Wanless	Bates College	Volleyball, Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field
Maryland	Courtney Davidson	U.S. Naval Academy	Basketball
Massachusetts	Anna Crary	Smith College	Rowing
Michigan	Sherita Williams	Michigan State University	Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field
Minnesota	Cassie Busse	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	Volleyball
Mississippi	Kathryn Jaspers	Mississippi State University	Softball
Missouri	Kathryn Hamera	University of Missouri, Rolla	Cross Country, Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field
Montana	Brooklynn Lorenzen	University of Montana	Basketball
Nebraska	Stephanie Kirby	University of Nebraska at Omaha	Soccer
Nevada	Bridget Byrne	University of Nevada, Las Vegas	Softball
New Hampshire	Lana Smith	Dartmouth College	Lacrosse
New Jersey	Julie Culley	Rutgers, St. Univ. of New Jersey, New Brunswick	Cross Country, Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field
New Mexico	Jennifer Delich	University of New Mexico	Skiing
New York	Amanda Laytham	Ithaca College	Cross Country, Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field
North Carolina	Heather Davis	Winston-Salem State University	Softball
North Dakota	Kinsey Coles	North Dakota State University	Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field, Cross Country
Ohio	Kayla Heising	College of Wooster	Swimming and Diving
Oklahoma	Shana Robinson	University of Tulsa	Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field
Oregon	Imani Dorsey	University of Portland	Soccer
Pennsylvania	Joanna Lohman	Pennsylvania State University	Soccer
Puerto Rico	Ana C. Ramirez Marquez	University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras	Volleyball, Outdoor Track and Field
Rhode Island	Karen Prazar	Brown University	Rowing
South Carolina	Anna Vagstad	Winthrop University	Volleyball
South Dakota	Brianne Edwards	University of South Dakota	Outdoor Track and Field
Tennessee	Kristin Peck	Lipscomb University	Softball, Volleyball
Texas	Melanie Carter	Abilene Christian University	Basketball
Utah	Erin Cartwright-Davis	Utah State University	Volleyball
Vermont	Rebecca Brakeley	Middlebury College	Lacrosse, Field Hockey
Virginia	Melissa Block	Mary Washington College	Lacrosse
Washington	Hailey Noble	University of Puget Sound	Rowing
West Virginia	Carmen Blissit Wheeling	Jesuit University	Cross Country, Outdoor Track and Field, Rowing
Wisconsin	Kay Mikolajczak	University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh	Outdoor Track and Field, Basketball
Wyoming	Kimama Wells	University of Wyoming	Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field