Northeast-10 Announces Winter Scholar-Athlete Sport Excellence Award Recipients

South Easton, Mass. – The Northeast-10 Conference has announced its Scholar-Athlete Sport Excellence Award recipients for the 2010-2011 winter athletic season in the sports of men’s and women’s basketball, ice hockey, men’s and women’s indoor track and field, and men’s and women’s swimming.

Seven student-athletes, who excelled both on the field of play and in the classroom during the 2010-2011 winter athletic season, have been recognized by the conference office for their accomplishments. The athletes include a three-time indoor track and field national champion in Shannon Gagne from The University of New Haven; the men’s basketball conference player of the year, Saint Anselm College’s Thomas Baudinet; and all conference performers from the sports of swimming and women’s basketball.

Gagne concluded one of the most prolific campaigns in New Haven history this past season. The senior captured three titles at the Division II National Championships in Albuquerque, N.M. Gagne became the first National Champion in New Haven track and field history, and also garnered All-American honors in all three events, becoming a six-time All-American, another school record. Gagne won the long jump (5.95 meters), the 400-meter dash (54.03), and the 200-meter dash (23.66) events at the competition.

The senior was named the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association East Region Women's Indoor Track Athlete of the Year, the Northeast-10 Conference Women's Championship Most Valuable Athlete, and the Northeast-10 Women's Athlete of the Year.

At the NE-10 Conference Championships, Gagne won the 55 meter, 200 meter and 400 meter dashes, and competed on New Haven’s third-place 4x400-meter relay team. She also won the long jump with the nation's longest jump this year at 6.02m.

Gagne is an eight-time member of the University of New Haven Dean's List, a feat accomplished by only one other current student-athlete at New Haven. She currently has a 3.93 grade point average and is majoring in criminal justice. Gagne was named to the 2010-11 Academic All-Conference Team and is a long time member of the NE-10 Commissioner's Honor Roll.

Thomas Baudinet of Saint Anselm was named the Sport Excellence Award Winner for the sport of men’s basketball. The senior’s list of accolades includes being named to the Daktronics All-America Third Team selection; he was named to the State Farm® NABC All-America Team, the Daktronics East All-Region First Team, NABC East All-District First Team, and Northeast-10 Conference Player of the Year.
He was a unanimous All NE-10 First Team selection as he led the conference in scoring (22.1 ppg), and was among the league leaders in a handful of other categories, including second in 3-point field goals made (85), third in minutes played (1,000), and fourth in free throw percentage (.861).

Baudinet, who carries a 3.30 GPA and is majoring in history, has received a number of academic accolades. Those include being named to the Saint Anselm Dean’s List six times. He was also chosen as a 2008-2009 and 2009-10 Northeast-10 All-Academic honoree during his sophomore and junior years, respectively.

**Emily Rousseau** from Stonehill College was named the Sport Excellence Award winner for women’s basketball. She was a second team All-Conference selection and helped lead the Skyhawks to the Northeast-10 Conference Tournament. In eighteen games this past season, Rousseau averaged 17 points per game, four assists per game, and three rebounds per game. For her career, she was a three-time All-Northeast-10 Conference selection and the senior was named to the Daktronics All-Region second team as a junior.

Rousseau is a finance major at Stonehill with a 3.64 grade point average. She earned Capital One Academic All-District I honors twice, earning second team honors this winter. She was named to the NE-10 Commissioner's and Athletic Director's Honor Roll multiple semesters and was named to the 2010-11 Academic All-Conference Team.

Saint Michael’s College **Tully LaBelle-Hamer** was selected as the recipient of the Sport Excellence Award for men’s ice hockey. The senior from Fairbanks, Alaska played in all 27 games for the Purple Knights and was third among the team’s defenseman with seven assists. He also scored a goal this past season in helping Saint Michael’s reach the conference championship game.

LaBelle-Hamer, who carries a 3.89 GPA and is majoring in electrical engineering, was named to the Saint Michael’s Dean’s List seven times. The senior was named to multiple NE-10 Commissioner's Honor Rolls and has carried a 4.0 GPA each of the last three semesters. He was also named to the 2010-11 Academic All-Conference Team.

Senior **Patrick Waszczak** from Southern Connecticut State University claimed the award for the sport of men's indoor track and field. Waszczak was named All-American in the pole vault as he qualified and competed at the NCAA Championships this past winter. He was also named All-Region and All-New England in the pole vault, and was the Northeast-10 Conference champion in the event as well.

Academically, Waszczak carries a 3.33 GPA at So. Connecticut and is majoring in exercise science. He was a USTFCCA All-Academic Team selection and is a multiple honoree for Northeast-10 Conference Commissioner's Honor Roll. The senior was also named to the 2010-11 Academic All-Conference Team.

Another So. Connecticut student-athlete was selected as the Sport Excellence Award winner in her sport of women’s swimming and diving, **Amanda Burden**. Burden was named All-American in three-meter diving at the NCAA Championships but was unable to compete at the Northeast-10 or Metro Championships due to injury. She was also named the Northeast-10 Conference women’s diver of the year.

The junior psychology major carries a 3.70 GPA and was the recipient of this award last year, as well. Burden was named to the Northeast-10 Conference Commissioner’s Honor Roll and was a Northeast-10 Women’s Swimming and Diving All-Academic Team honoree. She was named the Division II Athletic Directors Association Academic Achievement Award winner and was also named to the 2010-11 Academic All-Conference Team.
Le Moyne College’s Drew Acquaviva was selected as the Sport Excellence Award winner for men’s swimming and diving. The junior from Delmar, N.Y. placed first at the Northeast-10 Conference Meet in the 100 meter and 200 meter backstroke. He also placed 2nd in the 50 meter Freestyle. Acquaviva also was a member of the 1st place 200 meter Freestyle Relay, setting NE-10 Conference record. He was a member of the first place 200 Medley Relay team and the second place 400 freestyle relay squad.

The junior, who carries a 3.86 GPA and is majoring in mathematics, was named to the 2010-11 Academic All-Conference Team.

The Northeast-10 Scholar-Athlete Sport Excellence awards are chosen by a vote of a committee of athletic administrators and Faculty Athletic Representatives (FAR). The Northeast-10 will honor one student-athlete per conference-sponsored sport each year. There will be a total of 23 Scholar-Athlete Sport Excellence Award winners during the course of the academic year. The conference will announce the winter sport winners later this spring and will announce the spring sport winners in June.

To be eligible for the Scholar-Athlete Sport Excellence award the student-athlete must have completed at least two consecutive semesters of full-time enrollment at their current institution and at least two years of athletic eligibility at any institution. In addition, the student-athlete must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of a 3.30.

The Northeast-10 is an association of 16 NCAA Division II colleges and universities located in New England and New York that are committed to supporting balanced academic and athletic opportunities for more than 6,500 student-athletes. Each year, 4,500 of those student-athletes compete in Conference championships in 23 sports, making the NE-10 the largest DII conference in the country. Leading the way in the classroom, on the field and within the community, the Northeast-10 is proud of its comprehensive program and the experience it provides student-athletes.

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