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MID-AMERICA INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION

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All-MIAA Softball Team announced

Repeat MVP choice Economon leads four Bulldogs on first team; ESU's Stevens tapped as top frosh

(OVERLAND PARK, Kan.) — Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association regular season and postseason tournament champion Truman State University (39-14, 15-3 MIAA) had four players earn first-team honors on the 2003 All-MIAA squad as voted on by the conference's coaches prior to last weekend's tournament.

Junior SS Elizabeth Economon repeated as the conference's Most Valuable Player selection, entering the NCAA Division II North Central Regional as the MIAA's leader in hitting (.427), home runs (16 -- .302 per game), RBI (59 -- 1.11 per game) and runs scored (45 -- .85 per game). Economon also was the only unanimous choice to the first team.

Joining her from Truman on the first-team are senior RHP Britni Buford, sophomore OF Stephanie Cepicky and freshman 3B Loni Wedemeier. Wedemeier (0.96) and Buford (1.03) are 1-2 on the conference ERA leaders list, while Cepicky, a second-team All-MIAA choice in 2001 who missed last season with a knee injury, is second in stolen bases (23 -- 0.43 per game). Wedemeier is among the conference leaders in hitting (18th, .305), slugging (15th, .457) and RBI (10th, 30 -- .57 per game).

Regular season runner-up Washburn (34-14, 13-5 MIAA) had two repeat first-team selections from 2002 -- junior 1B Dara Clouse and junior 3B Katie Schmidt (who was first team as a designated player last season). They were joined by freshman OF Tiffany Whitt.

Economon, Clouse, Schmidt and senior C Megan Beattie of tournament runner-up Emporia State (37-20, 9-9 MIAA) were the only repeat first-teamer from 2002.

Rounding out the first team are junior DP Cassi Haines and senior utility player Christy Capner of Southwest Baptist (4-28, 3-15 MIAA), junior RHP Christy Deken and junior 2B Janet Borgmeyer of Missouri-Rolla (19-26, 7-11 MIAA), senior OF Kelly Carter and freshman utility player Ashley Pride of Northwest Missouri State (30-21, 10-8 MIAA) and junior OF Desiree Price of Central Missouri State (32-21, 12-6 MIAA).

ESU P/DP Melissa Stevens, who led the Lady Hornets to the championship round of the conference tournament with three straight shutouts and has a league-leading 20 wins, was selected as Freshman of the Year. She also earned

second-team All-MIAA honors in the pitching circle.

Emporia State's Stacy Gemeinhardt (pronounced ga-MINE-hardt) and Missouri-Rolla's Dave Burwell shared the Wilson Coach of the Year honors. ESU's 37 wins is the most for the school in softball since 1996, while UMR qualified for the conference tournament after missing out last season -- improving on its 2002 record by 6 1/2 games.

First Team

Britni Buford, TSU	P	5-7	Sr.	Kahoka, Mo.
Christy Deken, UMR	P	5-9	Jr.	Poplar Bluff, Mo.
+Megan Beattie, ESU	C	5-8	Sr.	Olathe, Kan.
+Dara Clouse, WU	1B	5-6	Jr.	Silver Lake, Kan.
Janet Borgmeyer, UMR	2B	5-10	Jr.	Jefferson City, Mo.
*+Elizabeth Economon, TSU	SS	5-3	Jr.	St. Louis, Mo.
+Katie Schmidt, WU	3B	5-5	Jr.	Topeka, Kan.
Loni Wedemeier, TSU	3B	5-7	Fr.	Bowling Green, Mo.
Kelly Carter, NWMSU	OF	5-5	Sr.	Excelsior Springs, Mo.
Stephanie Cepicky, TSU	OF	5-5	So.	St. Louis, Mo.
Desiree Price, CMSU	OF	5-8	Jr.	Olathe, Kan.
Tiffany Whitt, WU	OF	5-7	Fr.	Overland Park, Kan.
Cassi Haines, SBU	DP	5-3	Jr.	Wichita, Kan.
Christy Capner, SBU	UT	5-7	Sr.	Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
Ashley Pride, NWMSU	UT	5-9	Fr.	Ravenwood, Mo.

*=unanimous choice.

+=First-team All-MIAA choice in 2002

Two third basemen, four outfielders and two utility players were selected due to ties in voting.

Second Team

Katie Gregg, WU	P	5-7	So.	Overland Park, Kan.
Melissa Stevens, ESU	P	5-5	Fr.	Lenexa, Kan.
Megan Spring, NWMSU	C	5-6	Jr.	Warsaw, Mo.
Leann Paul, TSU	1B	5-7	Jr.	Olathe, Kan.
Sissy Fletcher, CMSU	2B	5-3	Sr.	DeSoto, Kan.
Lisa Roe, MSSC	2B	5-5	Sr.	Lenexa, Kan.
Tara Risetter, NWMSU	SS	5-5	So.	Junction City, Kan.
Whitney Brownfield, MWSC	OF	5-7	So.	Blue Springs, Mo.
Angie McCoy, NWMSU	OF	5-10	Jr.	Excelsior Springs, Mo.
Alese Woolard, MSSC	OF	5-5	So.	Claremore, Okla.
Michelle Martinez, PSU	DP	5-3	Sr.	Escondido, Calif.
Jana Allison, MSSC	UT	5-4	Sr.	Lebanon, Mo.

Two second basemen were selected because of a tie in the voting. No second-team third baseman was selected.

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Honorable Mention

Shelly MacDonald, NWMSU	P	5-9	So.	Lawson, Mo.
Ashley Perkins, WU	P	5-7	So.	Shawnee, Kan.
Deb Potter, ESU	P	5-9	Jr.	Shawnee, Kan.
Renee Roberts, UMR	P	5-7	Fr.	Columbia, Mo.
Laura Ruebhausen, CMSU	P	5-6	Jr.	Leavenworth, Kan.
Breanna Wonderly, TSU	P	5-5	Jr.	Conception, Mo.
Mary Barrow, MSSC	C	5-5	So.	Muskogee, Okla.
Julie Blaufuss, WU	C	5-10	Sr.	Lenexa, Kan.
Brigitte Hull, PSU	C	5-4	So.	Sedan, Kan.
Mickey McCulloch, CMSU	C	5-10	So.	Prince George, B.C., Canada
Kristen Armilio, MSSC	1B	5-5	Sr.	Belton, Mo.
Amy Beverly, MWSC	1B	5-9	Fr.	Ankeny, Iowa
Beth Blackburn, CMSU	1B	5-10	Jr.	Ballwin, Mo.
Kelly Gartner, ESU	1B	5-9	Jr.	Topeka, Kan.
Shelby Ortwerth, TSU	2B	5-6	Sr.	Hannibal, Mo.
Valerie Curtis, MWSC	SS	5-3	Sr.	Davenport, Iowa
Jenny Meitz, UMR	SS	5-7	Jr.	Pacific, Mo.
Kami Weston, MSSC	SS	5-5	Jr.	Baxter Springs, Kan.

Honorable Mention (continued)

Lindsey Abbott, ESU	OF	5-8	So.	Oskaloosa, Kan.
Molly Balke, UMR	OF	5-4	Jr.	High Ridge, Mo.
Cheratin Dunn, SBU	OF	5-9	Fr.	Marshfield, Mo.
Kara Reed, MSSC	OF	5-4	Jr.	Linwood, Kan.
Kelly Ulrich, MWSC	OF	5-7	Sr.	Monticello, Minn.
Thea Summers, CMSU	DP	5-6	Sr.	Marshall, Mo.
Kala Huske, WU	DP	5-5	Fr.	Overland Park, Kan.
Jackie Sells, WU	UT	5-3	So.	Lee's Summit, Mo.

Most Valuable Player

Elizabeth Economon, SS, TSU

Freshman of the Year

Melissa Stevens, P/DP, ESU

Wilson Co-Coaches of the Year

Dave Burwell, UMR &
Stacy Gemeinhardt, ESU

– MIAA –



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