



Softball | 10/17/2017 1:18:00 PM

## Softball Recognized for Academic Effort



**Crookston, Minn.-** Each fall, the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) recognizes collegiate and high school softball teams, and individuals, for their success in the classroom. For their efforts throughout the fall of 2016 and spring 2017, the Golden Eagles were well represented on the All-Academic lists.

85 NCAA Division II teams were recognized as 2016-2017 NFCA All-Academic Teams with the Golden Eagles making the list with their combined team grade point average of 3.328. The 2017 list was topped by a pair of NSIC schools with Upper Iowa University (3.813) and Northern State University (3.721) coming in at #1 and #2.

In total, over 7300 individuals were recognized as NFCA All-America Scholar Athletes for these two-semester combined grade point average of 3.50 or better; nine of which were Golden Eagle softball players. The total of nine is up one from both 2015 and 2016 where UM Crookston placed eight players on the academic individual lists.

2017 Honorees

- [Victoria Bayliss](#) – West Bloomfield, Mich.
- [Caroline Bjorge](#) – Prior Lake, Minn.
- [Bailey Braatz](#) – Buffalo, Minn.
- [Kate Howell](#) – Badger, Minn.
- [Mikayla Jones](#) – Huxley, Iowa
- [Kassidy Klaphake](#) – Clear Lake, Minn.
- [Maggie Morales](#) – Tucson, Ariz.
- [Paige Pitlick](#) – Jordan, Minn.
- [Alexis Santoyo](#) – Kansas City, Mo.

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PLAYERS MENTIONED ▾

<b>#7 Victoria Bayliss</b> 2B/OF / 5' 1" / Junior / L	<b>#17 Bailey Braatz</b> P/DP / 5' 9" / Senior / R
<b>#9 Kate Howell</b> OF / 5' 8" / Junior / R	<b>#8 Mikayla Jones</b> P / 5' 3" / Sophomore / R
<b>#26 Maggie Morales</b> OF / 5' 7" / Sophomore / R	<b>#15 Kassidy Klaphake</b> P / 5' 5" / Junior / R
<b>#11 Paige Pitlick</b> P / 5' 7" / Freshman / R	

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