



Baseball | 1/14/2015 2:01:00 PM | Shawn Smith, Sports Information Director

## Nine Student-Athletes Earn NSIC Myles Brand All-Academic with Distinction



**BURNSVILLE, Minn.** – The University of Minnesota Crookston had nine student-athletes recognized as recipients of the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) Myles Brand All-Academic with Distinction Award as announced the NSIC Commissioner Erin Lind.

The baseball team was the most recognized sport for UMC with [Jesse Jennings](#) (Sr., OF, Robbinsdale, Minn./Criminal Justice), [Travis Magdzas](#) (Sr., DH, Duluth, Minn./Criminal Justice) and [Richie Navratil](#) (Sr., P, Blansko, Czech Republic/Management) receiving the award. Women's basketball had two student-athletes honored with [Kenzie Church](#) (Sr., F, Fairmount, N.D./Management) and [Ashley Martell](#) (Sr., G, Somerset, Wis./Health Science) earning the award. Soccer player [Cayla Bendel](#) (Sr., Lakeville, Minn./Natural Resources), men's golfer [Matt Bjorgo](#) (Sr., Crookston, Minn./Natural Resources), football player [Matt Borowicz](#) (Sr., Stephen, Minn./Health Science) and volleyball player [Brittany Looker](#) (Sr., Rochester, Minn./Health Science) received the honor.

The Golden Eagles nine student-athletes were up from four last year. UMC had the fourth-most student-athletes along with Upper Iowa University, behind only Winona State University, University of Sioux Falls and Minnesota State University, Mankato.

The honor, named for the late NCAA President Dr. Myles Brand, is bestowed to senior NSIC student-athletes who have a cumulative grade point average of 3.75 or higher, are exhausting their eligibility and are on track to graduate. Each student-athlete will be recognized by the NSIC with a certificate of achievement and a wrist watch. Furthermore, each institution is highly encouraged to have these student-athletes be publicly recognized at a home athletic event. A total of 111 student-athletes from the NSIC's 16 institutions will receive the award in its sixth year.

"The Myles Brand All-Academic with Distinction Award is one of the highest honors a student-athlete in the NSIC can achieve. To earn this prestigious honor, one must show a commitment and dedication to both academics and athletics, characteristics in which Dr. Myles Brand emphasized. I am extremely proud of all these student-athletes for their devotion to their universities, the NSIC and to their personal academic and athletic goals. I have no doubt these student-athletes will continue to achieve success in life well beyond the classroom and the competition venues," said Lind.

Dr. Myles N. Brand, visionary leader, educator and reformer, served as the President of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) from 2003-2009. He passed away in September 2009 at the age of 67 after a battle with pancreatic cancer. Brand presided over passage of the most comprehensive academic reform package for intercollegiate athletics in recent history - a package that refocused the attention of student-athletes, coaches and administrators on the education of student-athletes. Brand also changed the national dialog on college sports to emphasize the educational value of athletics participation and the integration of intercollegiate athletics with the academic mission of higher education. His impact on Division II ran deep by implementing an identity campaign and a strategic-positioning platform tied to specific divisional attributes. He challenged Division II to continue its game-environment and community-engagement focus, and improve academic success rates.

The NSIC is a 16-team, 17-sport, NCAA Division II conference with teams located in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota.

For more information, visit the Golden Eagle Athletics website at [www.goldeneaglesports.com](http://www.goldeneaglesports.com).

Follow the Golden Eagles on Facebook at Golden Eagle Sports and on Twitter at @UMCAthletics.

The University of Minnesota, Crookston is an NCAA Division II Institution and a member of the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC). The Golden Eagle Equestrian team is a member of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA).

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PLAYERS MENTIONED ▾

<b>#34 Ashley Martell</b> G / 5' 8" / Junior	<b>#77 Matt Borowicz</b> OL / 6' 7" / Senior
<b>#14 Cayla Bendel</b> D/MF / 5' 4" / Senior	<b>#8 Brittany Looker</b> OH / 5' 10" / Senior
<b>#20 Kenzie Church</b> F / 5' 10" / Senior	<b>#2 Jesse Jennings</b> OF / 5' 11" / Senior / R
<b>#25 Travis Magdzas</b> OF/DH / 5' 8" / Senior / R	<b>Matt Bjorgo</b> Senior

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