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BIG TEN ANNOUNCES 2006 WOMEN'S SOCCER ALL-BIG TEN TEAMS AND INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Nittany Lions capture two individual awards, Illinois tabbed for three

PARK RIDGE, Ill. – The Big Ten office announced the 2006 All-Big Ten and All-Freshman women's soccer teams, as well as individual award winners today. Penn State, the 2006 conference champion, claimed two of the four individual honors as Ali Krieger was named a Co-Defensive Player of the Year which she shares with Illinois' Emily Zurrer. Nittany Lion head coach Paula Wilkins was honored as Coach of the Year for the fifth time in her career.

Illinois' picked up two more individual accolades as Ella Masar was tabbed Offensive Player of the Year and Chichi Nweke claimed Freshman of the Year laurels.

Masar piloted the Illini to their best regular season conference finish since 2003, when the squad also claimed the Big Ten Tournament title. In Big Ten competition, the junior had a breakout year, scoring 1.40 points per game – an average that ranks second in the conference. Masar also tied for third in goals (5) and assists (4), while leading the league with three game-winning shots.

Nweke is the first Illini to claim Freshman of the Year honors. A potent offensive outlet on the field for Illinois, Nweke is tied for second on the team with six goals and three assists.

Zurrer led an Illini defense that has recorded nine shutouts with just a 1.09 goals allowed average. On Oct. 23, she became the first non-goalskeeper to win multiple Defensive Player of the Week awards in one season after also earning the weekly laurels on Sept. 11. Spearheading Penn State's defensive effort in conference play, Krieger ranks six in the Big Ten in assists per game with five. The senior midfielder led a Nittany Lion team that allowed a league-low 0.70 goals per game.

Wilkins becomes the first women's coach to earn four straight Coach of the Year accolades. Wilkins guided Penn State to its ninth straight Big Ten Championship with a mark of 8-1-1 in conference play. The title streak is now tied with Indiana women's tennis (1987-95) as the second longest run in women's conference championship history. Only Michigan's women's swimming and diving program had a longer span of titles with 12 from 1987-98.

Currently ranked No. 9 in the latest NSCAA/adidas National Rankings, the Nittany Lions enter this year's Big Ten Tournament as the top seed for the ninth consecutive season.

The conference office also announced honorees from each team for the Big Ten Sportsmanship Award. The student-athletes chosen are individuals who have distinguished themselves through sportsmanship and ethical behavior. In addition, the student-athletes must be in good academic standing and have demonstrated good citizenship outside of the sports-competition setting. Honorees for women's soccer are Illinois' **Quinn Reynolds**, Indiana's **Lindsay McCarthy**, Iowa's **Melisa Kaetterhenry**, Michigan's **Lindsey Cottrell**, Michigan State's **Lauren Astry**, Minnesota's **Kaitlin Wagner**, Northwestern's **Shannon Schneeman**, Ohio State's **Amanda Ball**, Penn State's **Sarah Dwyer**, Purdue's **Kristin Hetzel** and Wisconsin's **Kara Kabelis**. These eleven student-athletes are now candidates for the Big Ten Sportsmanship Award, as the conference

office will honor one male and one female student-athlete from each institution at the end of the school year.

2006 Women's Soccer All-Big Ten Teams

<u>Position</u>	<u>First Team*</u>	<u>Second Team*</u>
Forward	ELLA MASAR, ILL Aubrey Aden-Buie, PSU Parrissa Eyorokon, PUR Lisa Collison, OSU	Kelsey Hans, NU Lisa Grubb, OSU Judy Coffman, MICH
Midfield	Lara Dickenmann, OSU Sheree Gray, PSU Allie Long, PSU Kara Kabellis, WIS	Christie Kotynski, IND Jordyn Shaffer, PUR Kelsey Hood, MINN
Defense	Ali Krieger, PSU Emily Zurrer, ILL Melissa Miller, OSU	Kelly Lawrence, IND Lindsey Cottrell, MICH Lauren Lamping, IND Denay Riley, PSU
Goalkeeper	Lauren Mason, PUR	Megan Tuura, MICH Alyssa Naeher, PSU

2006 Women's Soccer All-Freshman Team

<u>Position</u>	
Forward	Lauren Hill, MSU Chichi Nweke, ILL Katie Schoepfer, PSU
Midfield	Christie Kotynski, IND Lauren Sinacola, MSU Jackie Santacaterina, ILL Ashley Bowyer, OSU
Defense	KELLY LAWRENCE, IND Leigh Jakes, NU Lyndsey Mueller, MINN
Goalkeeper	ALYSSA NAEHER, PSU

Sportsmanship Award Honorees

Quinn Reynolds, ILL
Lindsay McCarthy, IND
Melisa Kaetterhenry, IOWA
Lindsey Cottrell, MICH
Lauren Astry, MSU
Kaitlin Wagner, MINN
Shannon Schneeman, NU
Amanda Ball, OSU
Sarah Dwyer, PSU
Kristin Hetzel, PUR
Kara Kabellis, WIS

Offensive Player of the Year: Ella Masar, ILL

Defensive Co-Players of the Year: Emily Zurrer, ILL, and Ali Krieger, PSU

Freshman of the Year: Chichi Nweke, ILL

Coach of the Year: Paula Wilkins, PSU

UNANIMOUS SELECTIONS IN ALL CAPS

* At-large pick awarded to first-team midfield and second team defense

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