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2011 BIG EAST WOMEN'S SOCCER POSTSEASON AWARDS ANNOUNCED
– A trio of repeat winners highlight the awards. –

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. – Regular-season divisional champion Louisville earned a pair of major awards as the BIG EAST Conference presented its women's soccer postseason honors and named its all-conference selections on Thursday evening at the Lakeview Golf Resort and Spa. Louisville sophomore Christine Exeter was named the BIG EAST Offensive Player of the Year, while Cardinals head coach Karen Ferguson-Dayes earned BIG EAST Coach of the Year honors.

For the second consecutive year, Marquette senior Natalie Kulla was named the BIG EAST Goalkeeper of the Year, while senior teammate Kerry McBride was named the BIG EAST Defensive Player of the Year. Also for the second time, Georgetown redshirt-senior Ingrid Wells earned BIG EAST Midfielder of the Year accolades. West Virginia freshman Kate Schwindel earned BIG EAST Rookie of the Year honors. Notre Dame earned the third annual Team Fair Play Award.

This year's BIG EAST Championship will be held Nov. 4 and 6 at Dick Dlesk Stadium on the campus of West Virginia University. All three games will be televised live nationally on the CBS College Sports Network. In addition, the title game also will be broadcast live on numerous regional sports networks including SportsNet New York (SNY) and streamed online at www.bigeast.tv for free.

For the second straight year, Kulla followed her Preseason Goalkeeper of the Year selection with the BIG EAST Goalkeeper of the Year honor. Holding a league-leading 0.66 goals-against average, Kulla helped lead Marquette to its third consecutive American Division title. The senior totaled seven shutouts in conference action and anchored a team that ranked first in the league in goals-against average at 0.64. In all games, Kulla totaled 10 shutouts and held a 0.67 goals-against average. She is the first person to win back-to-back Goalkeeper of the Year honors since Villanova's Jillian Loyden (1995-97).

McBride was named BIG EAST Defensive Player of the Year for the second straight season. The senior helped lead one of the league's top defenses, allowing just seven goals in 11 conference games and posting a 0.63 goals-against average. Outside of conference action, Marquette ranked first in the BIG EAST with a 0.64 goals-against average and 12 shutouts. McBride also helped limit Marquette opponents to just 2.5 shots on goal per game. Earlier in the season, McBride was named to the M.A.C. Hermann Trophy Watch List as one of the top players in the nation. She is the first player to win back-to-back Defensive Player of the Year honors since Notre Dame's Jen Grubb in 1998-99.

Two-time BIG EAST Midfielder of the Year Ingrid Wells earned her honor after accumulating 17 points, including a league-best nine assists, during conference play. The only unanimous All-BIG EAST selection, Wells was named to the M.A.C. Hermann Trophy Watch List as one of the top players in the nation. She helped boost the Hoyas' offense, which ranked among the league leaders at 2.60 goals per game. In all games, the redshirt senior leads the team with 30 points, including 12 assists. Wells scored a pair of game-winning goals this season and is arguably one of the most dynamic players in the league. She is the first player to win back-to-back Midfielder of the Year honors since UConn's Meghan Schnur in 2006-07.

Exeter earned BIG EAST Offensive Player of the Year honors after totaling 24 points and scoring a league-leading 11 goals in conference action. The sophomore recorded at least one point in 11 of 12 league games, and tallied 29 points overall. Exeter also helped lead the Cardinals to their first BIG EAST regular-season crown as the National Division champions. Last year, Exeter was the first Louisville player to earn one of the league's major awards after being tabbed BIG EAST Rookie of the Year. Exeter also is the first sophomore to earn Offensive Player of the Year honors since Notre Dame's Kerri Hanks in 2006.

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Head coach Karen Ferguson-Dayes has led the Cardinals (11-5-3, 8-1-2 BIG EAST) to a No. 1 seed in the BIG EAST Championship, their first, and earned BIG EAST Coach of the Year honors. The Cardinals also are unbeaten in 12 of their last 13 games, and won a school-record eight conference games. Picked to finish fourth in the league's preseason poll, Louisville won its first BIG EAST National Division crown. Ferguson-Dayes is in her 11th season with Louisville.

Schwindel was tabbed the BIG EAST Rookie of the Year after totaling 16 points, including five goals this year. In league play she had 15 points, including five goals, to rank among the BIG EAST leaders. She also earned BIG EAST Rookie of the Week honors on Oct. 10. Schwindel is the first West Virginia player to be named BIG EAST Rookie of the Year since Ashley Banks shared the honor with Kia McNeill (Boston College) in 2004.

Notre Dame, under the direction of 13th-year head coach Randy Waldrum, earns the third annual team Fair Play Award after totaling just 77 points (67 fouls, two yellow cards and zero red cards) during conference play. The Fair Play Award is given to the team that accumulates the fewest points using the following scoring system: foul (one point), yellow card (five points) and red card (10 points).

2011 BIG EAST Women's Soccer Major Award Winners

BIG EAST Offensive Player of the Year

Christine Exeter, Louisville, So., F

BIG EAST Defensive Player of the Year

Kerry McBride, Marquette, Sr., D

BIG EAST Midfielder of the Year

Ingrid Wells, Georgetown, R-Sr., M

BIG EAST Goalkeeper of the Year

Natalie Kulla, Marquette, Sr., GK

BIG EAST Rookie of the Year

Kate Schwindel, West Virginia, Fr., F

BIG EAST Coach of the Year

Karen Ferguson-Dayes, Louisville

Team Fair Play Award

University of Notre Dame

2011 BIG EAST Women's Soccer All-Conference Teams

ALL-BIG EAST FIRST TEAM

Kelly D'Ambrisi, Georgetown, Sr., M

Christine Exeter, Louisville, So., F

Melissa Henderson, Notre Dame, Sr., F

Maegan Kelly, Marquette, So., F

Natalie Kulla, Marquette, Sr., GK

Kerry McBride, Marquette, Sr., D

Blake Miller, West Virginia, Sr., F

Katie Ryan, Villanova, Sr., F

Jessica Schuveiller, Notre Dame, Sr., D/M

Camille Trujillo, Georgetown, Sr., F

*Ingrid Wells, Georgetown, R-Sr., M

ALL-BIG EAST SECOND TEAM[^]

Sara Keane, West Virginia, R-Fr., GK
Chelsea Klotz, USF, Sr., F
Mandy Laddish, Notre Dame, So., M
Jen Leaverton, St. John's, Sr., F
Amy Marron, St. John's, So., M/F
Bry McCarthy, West Virginia, Jr., D
Tina Romagnuolo, Syracuse, Jr., F/M
Katelyn Ruhe, Pittsburgh, Sr., M
Danielle Schulmann, Connecticut, R-Jr., F
Kate Schwindel, West Virginia, Fr., F
Frances Silva, West Virginia, So., F
Demi Stokes, USF, So., F

ALL-BIG EAST THIRD TEAM[^]

Samantha Baker, Georgetown, Sr., F
Morgan Celaya, DePaul, Sr., F
Daphne Corboz, Georgetown, Fr., M
Ashley Cuba, Pittsburgh, Jr., F
Riley Houle, Connecticut, Fr., M
Jennifer Jones, Louisville, Sr., M
Ally Miller, Marquette, Jr., M
Taylor Patterson, USF, Jr., M
Katie Ritter, Seton Hall, So., F
Jenna Roncarati, Providence, Jr., D
Taylor Wilson, Seton Hall, Sr., M
Shannon Woeller, Rutgers, R-Jr., D

ALL-BIG EAST ROOKIE TEAM

Lauren Bohaboy, Notre Dame, Fr., F
Daphne Corboz, Georgetown, Fr., M
Riley Houle, Connecticut, Fr., M
Megan Hunsberger, Syracuse, Fr., M
Sara Keane, West Virginia, R-Fr., GK
Caitlin McLaughlin, St. John's, Fr., F
Stephanie Myers, Villanova, R-Fr., M
Kate Schwindel, West Virginia, Fr., F
Mady Vicker, Marquette, Fr., F/M
Anne Vikre, USF, R-Fr., M
Erin Yenney, Louisville, Fr., M

[^]Due to a tie in voting, extra members have been added

* Unanimous selection

-- The BIG EAST is the largest and most diverse Division I conference in the country. It was formed in 1979 and represents the athletic interests of 16 member institutions including the University of Cincinnati, University of Connecticut, DePaul University, Georgetown University, University of Louisville, Marquette University, University of Notre Dame, University of Pittsburgh, Providence College, Rutgers University, St. John's University, Seton Hall University, University of South Florida, Syracuse University, Villanova University and West Virginia University.

The BIG EAST Conference has captured 31 national championships in six different sports and is a founding member of the Bowl Championship Series. For more information on the Conference and its membership, please visit www.bigeast.org. --