



# UPDATE

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## ATLANTIC 10 ANNOUNCES SOFTBALL ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

*Brandice Balschmitter of UMass earns fourth Pitcher of the Year Honor; Carly Normandin of UMass named Player of the Year; Monica Aguilar of Saint Joseph's tabbed Rookie of the Year; Fordham's Mary Beth Puccio earns Student-Athlete of the Year honors; Elaine Sortino of UMass "three-peats" as Coach of the Year*

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PHILADELPHIA, Pa.** - Massachusetts teammates Carly Normandin and Brandice Balschmitter have been named the 2009 Atlantic 10 Softball Player and Pitcher of the Year, respectively, in voting conducted among the Conference's head coaches. This is Balschmitter's fourth consecutive Pitcher of the Year award.

In that same vote, Saint Joseph's third-baseman Monica Aguilar has been tabbed the Rookie of the Year and Elaine Sortino of Massachusetts earns Coach of the Year distinction for the third straight season and 10th time overall. Additionally, senior Mary Beth Puccio, a designated player from Fordham, is the Softball Student-Athlete of the Year in voting among the Conference's sports information directors.

Normandin enters this week's Atlantic 10 Championship (May 6-9) as the A-10's leading batter with a .439 overall average and an impressive .515 batting average in Conference play. The junior outfielder from Gardner, Mass., also leads the league in slugging percentage (.770), hits (65) and total bases (114), while ranking second in on-base percentage (.478), doubles (14), triples (four) and runs scored (46). She has ranked in the top 20 all season nationally in batting average and is in the top ten in doubles per game (0.36). A three-time A-10 Player of the Week, she is also making her second straight appearance on the All-Conference first-team.

Balschmitter, who garners her fourth-straight A-10 Pitcher of the Year award, enters the Championship with the league's lowest ERA at 0.96 and ranks fourth nationally in shutouts with a league-leading 18 on the year. She becomes just the second student-athlete in A-10 history to garner four consecutive major awards for her sport as Karo Isajan of La Salle was named the Most Outstanding Diver of the Year in men's swimming & diving from 2004-2007. A native of Newark, N.Y., Balschmitter has held opponents to a .178 batting average and boasts a record of 28 wins and just four losses, including a perfect 12-0 mark in league play. She was named the A-10 Pitcher of the Week a league-record 28 times in her career and has posted nine career no-hitters, including two this season.

Aguilar has had an impressive rookie campaign for the Hawks. She ranks third overall in the A-10 in batting average (.370) and slugged an impressive .582 with a .457 on-base percentage. The third-baseman from Buena Park, Calif., has reached base safely in 30 of 41 contests and had two separate hitting streaks of eight and nine games apiece. She leads the team in batting in Conference action (.438) and her 16 extra-base hits lead the squad.

Joining Normandin, Balschmitter and Aguilar on the All-Conference first-team are Sarah Reeves, Whitney Mollica and Samantha Salato of Massachusetts; Charlotte's Sarah Malene, Serena Smith and Emily Jeffery; Samantha Pellechio of Fordham; Brooke Darreff of Saint Joseph's; and Dayton's Lauren Nacke. The A-10 first-team honored 12 student-athletes due to a tie in voting at third base between Mollica and Aguilar.

The All-Conference second-team consists of teammates Katie Johns, Kristin Nicoletti and Nicki Jost of Saint Louis; Kyllie Magill and Whitney Williams from Massachusetts; Fordham's Jocelyn Dearborn, Melissa Andrews and Jen Mineau; Erika Rosenwinkel and Dani Gonzales of Saint Joseph's; and La Salle's Gina Massaro.

The All-Rookie team includes Aguilar, Nacke, Magill and Mineau from the All-Conference teams along with Lindsey Kay Bright from Fordham; Temple's Jess Hirschbuhl; Erin Cejka and Kelcie Matesa of Saint Louis; and Sara Plourde from Massachusetts.

Puccio earns Student-Athlete of the Year honors after posting a 3.67 grade point average as an accounting major. The designated player hailing from Brightwaters, N.Y., was a 2008 CoSIDA/ESPN *The Magazine* First-Team Academic All-America and earned honorable mention All-Conference honors a year ago. She ranks second on the team in doubles (11) and is third in home runs (five) and RBI (35). She currently sits in sixth place on the Fordham career home run list with 14.

Along with Puccio, the softball Academic All-Conference team consists of Katie Johns and Nicki Jost of Saint Louis; Dayton's Anne Maci and Molly Meyer; Sarah Malene and Serena Smith from Charlotte; Temple's Krystle Metzler; Whitney Mollica of Massachusetts; and St. Bonaventure's Kathryn Pazda.

Now in her 30th year at Massachusetts, Sortino has earned the A-10 Coach of the Year award an unprecedented 10 times, this time for leading the Minutewomen to their 21st A-10 regular season title and the top seed in the A-10 Championship. Last season, she became

just the 11th coach in NCAA history and eighth in Division I annals to reach the 1,000- win plateau. She boasts a career record of 1,052-440-5 (.704).

A-10 Softball All-Conference (page 2)

### 2009 ATLANTIC 10 SOFTBALL ALL-CONFERENCE TEAMS

<b>FIRST-TEAM</b>	<i>School</i>	<i>Pos.</i>	<i>Cl.</i>	<i>Hometown</i>	<i>AVG</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>HR</i>	<i>RBI</i>
Sarah Reeves	Massachusetts	1B	Jr.	Elkton, Md.	.290	16	9	34
Sarah Malene	Charlotte	2B	Sr.	Woodbridge, Va.	.276	37	0	11
Monica Aguilar	Saint Joseph's	3B	Fr.	Buena Park, Calif.	.370	33	4	20
Whitney Mollica	Massachusetts	3B	Sr.	Windham, N.H.	.328	32	4	23
Samantha Pellechio	Fordham	SS	So.	Lebanon, N.J.	.365	26	10	14
Carly Normandin	Massachusetts	OF	Jr.	Gardner, Mass.	.439	46	9	33
Samantha Salato	Massachusetts	OF	Sr.	Toms River, N.J.	.301	26	15	44
Serena Smith	Charlotte	OF	Jr.	Mooreville, N.C.	.302	29	4	37
Brooke Darreff	Saint Joseph's	C	Jr.	Hartsville, Pa.	.391	15	4	29
Lauren Nacke	Dayton	DP	Fr.	Greenwood, Ind.	.282	18	10	30
					<i>ERA</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>K</i>
Brandice Balschmiter	Massachusetts	P	Sr.	Newark, N.Y.	0.96	28	4	281
Emily Jeffery	Charlotte	P	Jr.	Matthews, N.C.	1.36	22	8	272
<b>SECOND-TEAM</b>	<i>School</i>	<i>Pos.</i>	<i>Cl.</i>	<i>Hometown</i>	<i>AVG</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>HR</i>	<i>RBI</i>
Katie Johns	Saint Louis	1B	Sr.	The Dalles, Ore.	.277	17	2	16
Kyllie Magill	Massachusetts	2B	Fr.	Seekonk, Mass.	.333	23	2	16
Jocelyn Dearborn	Fordham	3B	Jr.	New Milford, Pa.	.275	35	8	37
Whitney Williams	Massachusetts	SS	Jr.	Kingsley, Pa.	.318	29	6	21
Melissa Andrews	Fordham	OF	Sr.	Vista, Calif.	.327	48	4	22
Kristin Nicoletti	Saint Louis	OF	So.	St. Louis, Mo.	.302	40	1	8
Erika Rosenwinkel	Saint Joseph's	OF	Sr.	Oak Park, Ill.	.328	24	8	32
Nicki Jost	Saint Louis	C	Jr.	St. Louis, Mo.	.314	26	2	38
Gina Massaro	La Salle	DP	Jr.	Havertown, Pa.	.340	14	1	5
					<i>ERA</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>K</i>
Dani Gonzales	Saint Joseph's	P	Sr.	Litchfield Park, Ariz.	2.62	13	11	108
Jen Mineau	Fordham	P	Fr.	Schaghticoke, N.Y.	1.70	17	11	162
<b>ROOKIE TEAM</b>	<i>School</i>	<i>Pos.</i>	<i>Cl.</i>	<i>Hometown</i>	<i>AVG</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>HR</i>	<i>RBI</i>
Monica Aguilar	Saint Joseph's	3B	Fr.	Buena Park, Calif.	.370	33	4	20
Lindsey Kay Bright	Fordham	OF	Fr.	Federal Way, Wash.	.347	38	0	10
Erin Cejka	Saint Louis	DP	Fr.	Kirkwood, Mo.	.306	13	2	29
Jess Hirschbuhl	Temple	SS	Fr.	Jamison, Pa.	.314	11	1	13
Kyllie Magill	Massachusetts	2B	Fr.	Seekonk, Mass.	.333	23	2	16
Lauren Nacke	Dayton	DP	Fr.	Greenwood, Ind.	.282	18	10	30
					<i>ERA</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>K</i>
Kelcie Matesa	Saint Louis	P	Fr.	Benld, Ill.	4.22	7	13	111
Jen Mineau	Fordham	P	Fr.	Schaghticoke, N.Y.	1.70	17	11	162
Sara Plourde	Massachusetts	P	Fr.	Bristol, Conn.	1.83	6	1	67
<b>HONORABLE MENTION</b>	<i>School</i>	<i>Pos.</i>	<i>Cl.</i>	<i>Hometown</i>	<i>AVG</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>HR</i>	<i>RBI</i>
Lindsey Kay Bright	Fordham	OF	Fr.	Federal Way, Wash.	.347	38	0	10
Molly Meyer	Dayton	OF	Jr.	Elk Grove, Ill.	.364	46	2	11
Mary Beth Puccio	Fordham	DP	Jr.	Brightwaters, N.Y.	.303	31	5	35

*Player of the Year:* Carly Normandin, Massachusetts

*Pitcher of the Year:* Brandice Balschmiter, Massachusetts

*Rookie of the Year:* Monica Aguilar, Saint Joseph's

*Coach of the Year:* Elaine Sortino, Massachusetts

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**2009 ATLANTIC 10 SOFTBALL ACADEMIC ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM**

	<i>School</i>	<i>Pos.</i>	<i>Cl.</i>	<i>Hometown</i>	<i>Major</i>
Katie Johns	Saint Louis	1B	Sr.	The Dalles, Ore.	Nutrition & Dietetics
Nicki Jost	Saint Louis	C	Sr.	St. Louis, Mo.	Criminal Justice
Anne Maci	Dayton	IF	Jr.	Fishers, Ind.	Exercise Physiology
Sarah Malene	Charlotte	2B	Sr.	Woodbridge, Va.	Business
Krystle Metzler	Temple	C	Jr.	Phoenix, Ariz.	Business Management
Molly Meyer	Dayton	OF	Jr.	Elk Grove, Ill.	Marketing
Whitney Mollica	Massachusetts	3B	Sr.	Windham, N.H.	Sport Management
Kathryn Pazda	St. Bonaventure	OF	Sr.	Clarence, N.Y.	Business-Management Science
Mary Beth Puccio	Fordham	DP	Sr.	Brightwaters, N.Y.	Accounting
Serena Smith	Charlotte	OF	Jr.	Mooresville, N.C.	Nursing

*Student-Athlete of the Year:* Mary Beth Puccio, Fordham

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