



*Today's Scholar-Athletes - Tomorrow's Leaders*

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## **Colgate Claims Two Of Four Major Patriot League Softball Awards**

*CU's Donaldson And Isaac Win Player And Pitcher Of The Year, Respectively*

*Army's Gerheim Is The Freshman Of The Year, While Bucknell's Breneman Honored As Coach Of The Year*

CENTER VALLEY, Pa. – Colgate University claimed a pair of the Patriot League's major softball awards after finishing the regular-season 11-7. Junior outfielder **Dorothy Donaldson** (Lakeland, Fla.) and senior **Elena Isaac** (Chandler, Ariz.) were selected as the Player of the Year and the Pitcher of the Year, respectively. Army designated player **Lindsey Gerheim** (Alpharetta, Ga.) was chosen as the Freshman of the Year, while Bucknell mentor **Janelle Breneman** wins the Coach of the Year award to round out the list major award winners. Post-season recipients will be honored at the annual Softball Championship banquet Friday evening at Lehigh University.

The Black Knights placed a League-best seven players on the All-League teams, while defending tourney champion Colgate had six recipients. Regular-season champion Lehigh landed five student-athletes on the all-star squad, while Holy Cross and Bucknell laid claim to four and three All-Leaguers, respectively.

Donaldson is the Player of the Year after finishing the regular-season with a .419 batting average, which leads the League and is 29th among NCAA leaders. The three-time all-star leads the PL in batting average, home runs (12), walks (28), on-base percentage (.522) and slugging percentage (.775). Donaldson has been even tougher on League foes with a .490 average, 22 RBI, 20 runs scored and six bombs.

In just three seasons, Donaldson has moved into the Top 10 in several offensive categories in League and Colgate history. The junior outfielder recently became the PL career home run leader with her 33rd bomb. She is also the PL's all-time walks leader (65). Donaldson enters the weekend tied for first on CU's all-time batting average chart (.391), third in RBI (106), sixth in hits (154), tied for sixth in doubles (27), first in home runs (33) and third in total bases (284). She is the third Raider to win Player of the Year honors (**Melissa Rawson** in 2003 and **Melissa Mack** in 1998).

Isaac is just the second Colgate student-athlete to win Pitcher of the Year honors, joining **Tara McGoff**, who won the award in 1997 and 1998. Isaac is 15-6 on the year with a 1.27 earned run average, which is second among League leaders. The senior also leads the League in victories and shutouts (6). In League play, Isaac was 6-3 with a 2.56 earned run average and two shutouts.

Earlier this season, Isaac became the fifth pitcher in League history to surpass the 50-win mark. With 58 career victories entering the PL tourney, she needs one win to tie Colgate's all-time record set by McGoff. Isaac is among the Patriot League all-time leaders in shutouts (21) and earned run average (1.66).

Gerheim has been a welcomed addition for the Black Knights. The rookie designated player owns a .333 batting average with 21 runs scored and 15 RBI. In League play, Gerheim was 17-for-50 with four doubles and three homers. The two-time Freshman of the Week was also 5-for-5 in stolen bases against PL opponents. She is the first Army player to win the Freshman of the Year award, which was established in 2002.

Breneman is honored by her peers for the first time in her career after leading Bucknell to its first Patriot League Tournament berth since 2000. The Bison entered the final weekend of the League season needing three wins over Holy Cross and managed to pull off the series sweep to claim the final post-season berth. Breneman guided BU to eight victories in League play, which are the most by a Bison squad since 2001. Breneman is the second Bucknell skipper to win the Coach of the Year award, following in the footsteps of **Terrie Grieb**, who won top honors three times.

All six of Colgate's All-League selections landed on the first team. Joining Donaldson and Isaac on first-team are **Natalie Rawson** (Palmdale, Calif.), **Nichole Rawson** (Palmdale, Calif.), **Erin Hanna** (Tucson, Ariz.) and **Rachel Smith** (Annandale, Va.). Gerheim, who makes a first-team appearance as a rookie, as well as juniors **Lindsay March** (Tucson, Ariz.) and **Lauren Gobar** (Richmond, Texas), are the Army representatives on the first-team, while Lehigh lands senior **Shana Treon** (Allentown, Pa.) and sophomore **Kate Arico** (Flemington, N.J.) on the top squad. Rounding out the All-League first-team are Bucknell senior catcher **Angela Stackhouse** (Muncy, Pa.) and Holy Cross junior outfielder **Mary Beth Ryan** (Holden, Mass.).

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Natalie Rawson earned her third-straight berth on a post-season squad after breaking the Colgate single-season record for RBI. The junior second baseman's 45 RBI this season ranks 12th among NCAA leaders and is second on the PL single-season chart. Natalie Rawson also leads the PL in runs scored (37) and doubles (13).

Nichole Rawson, Natalie's twin sister, garners first-team honors in her first season in Hamilton. The junior shortstop is third in the League with a .371 batting average. She is also among the PL leaders in hits (46), runs scored (36), home runs (6), doubles (10), on-base percentage (.447) and slugging percentage (.597).

The Raiders' final two first-team selections, Hanna and Smith, have been consistent contributors for Colgate all season. In League play, Hanna registered a .365 average with eight RBI and four runs scored. Smith, who earns her second-straight first-team berth, notched a .382 average and crossed the plate 13 times in League play.

March earns post-season accolades for the third time in her career with .319 batting average and a League-best 14 sacrifice hits. The junior second baseman accounted for 21 runs in League play via 11 scores and 10 RBI. Gobar takes home all-star honors for the first time in her career after recording a .352 average and a .606 slugging percentage against PL foes. The junior shortstop, who was the April 12 Player of the Week, leads the League with 20 stolen bases and has moved into a tie for third on the PL career list.

Treon garners All-League accolades for the third-straight year after posting a .361 batting average during the regular-season. The senior outfielder leads the PL and is tied for 12th in the NCAA in triples with six. Arico is a first-team selection for the first time in her career after going a perfect 7-0 in League play with a 1.16 earned run average, which tied for the League lead. Overall, the sophomore hurler is 13-2 with a 1.42 earned run average and three shutouts.

Stackhouse is an all-star for the first time in her career after a break-out year. The senior catcher enters the weekend with a .405 batting average, which is second in the League and 46th in the country. In the regular-season finale against Mount St. Mary's, Stackhouse broke the Bucknell single-season RBI record with her 35th run-scoring hit.

Ryan earns her second-straight first-team appearance with a .343 batting average in League play. The junior outfielder had 23 of her 43 hits this season against PL opponents. Overall, Ryan is second on the team and ninth in the Patriot League with a .333 average.

The regular-season champions lay claim to three second-team selections, **Heather Hamasaki** (Glendale, Calif.), **Mary Wieder** (Emmaus, Pa.) and **Jessica Young** (Center Valley, Pa.), while Army has four honorees on the second team, led by **Ashlie Christian** (Payette, Idaho), **Leigh Harrell** (Windsor, N.C.), **Lisa Huntington** (Costa Mesa, Calif.) and **Nikki Posey** (Midlothian, Texas). Bucknell lays claim to second-teamers sophomore infielder **Lauren Wible** (Dover, Pa.) and junior outfielder **Jill Pompeii** (DuBois, Pa.), while Holy Cross lands **Jean Connolly** (Tewksbury, Mass.), **Melissa Beshire** (Charlton, Mass.) and **Nicole Vitti** (Stamford, Conn.) on the second-team.

Hamasaki earns second-team honors after a stellar rookie campaign. The freshman pitcher leads the Patriot League with a 1.20 earned run average and 147 strikeouts. She is also among the NCAA leaders with three saves. In League play, Hamasaki was solid with a 4-1 record and a 1.16 earned run average, which tied her for the PL lead. She also fanned 49 PL batters.

Wieder, who was a first-team honoree a year ago, finished the regular-season second on the team and seventh in the League in batting average with a .351 mark. The sophomore catcher is also among the PL leaders in hits (53), runs batted in (33), doubles (13), total bases (72) and on-base percentage (.372). Young has been a solid all-around player for the Mountain Hawks with 45 hits, including 11 doubles, 25 runs scored and 21 RBI.

Christian gains her second all-star berth after another solid season. The senior owns a 1.77 earned run average with an 8-3 record and five saves. Earlier this season, Christian became the Patriot League career saves leader (11). Harrell has been the perfect compliment to Christian this season. Harrell is fifth in the PL with a 1.64 ERA and is second in victories (14-9). In League play, she was just as tough with an 8-2 record and a 1.74 ERA.

Huntington earns her third-straight All-League honor with 27 hits, 15 runs scored and 13 RBI this season, while Posey is an all-star for the second consecutive season. Posey avoided the sophomore slump by posting a .311 average with nine doubles and six home runs. The sophomore outfielder also scored 17 times and drove in 18 other tallies.

Wible, who was a second-team all-star last season, is one of Bucknell's top offensive contributors with a .348 batting average, eight runs scored and 19 RBI. In PL action, the sophomore first baseman knocked in 11 runs and scored six times thanks in part to a .350 mark at the plate. Pompeii gains post-season honors after finishing the regular-season third on the team in runs scored (17) and walks (10). The junior outfielder leads the squad with eight sacrifice hits.

Connolly, who accounted for 17 runs scored and 16 RBI, leads the team in triples (3) and is second on the squad with seven doubles. Beshire was a dominate force for HC in League play, ripping 27 of her 37 hits on the season. The senior outfielder finished fifth in the League with a .415 batting average. Vitti contributed on the mound and at the plate for the Crusaders. The senior is third on the squad with a .328 batting average in limited action at the plate. In the circle against League foes, Vitti was 1-6 with a 3.33 earned run average.

The Patriot League, which was founded on the principles of admitting athletes who are academically representative of their class, is in its second decade of academic and athletic excellence. Participation in athletics at Patriot League institutions is viewed as an important component of the undergraduate experience. The Patriot League, which began as a successful Division I-AA football conference in 1986 and became an all-sport conference in 1990, includes American, Army, Bucknell, Colgate, Holy Cross, Lafayette, Lehigh and Navy as full members and six associate members. These institutions are among the oldest and most prestigious in the nation and their alumni that have played leadership roles in the shaping of our country. In the most recent NCAA Graduation Rate Report of student-athletes, the Patriot League ranked FIRST among NCAA Division I conferences.

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**2004 Patriot League Softball All-League Team****First Team**

<b><u>Player, School</u></b>	<b><u>Cl.</u></b>	<b><u>Pos.</u></b>	<b><u>Hometown/High School</u></b>	<b><u>Previous PL Honors</u></b>
Kate Arico, Lehigh	So.	P	Flemington, N.J./Hunterdon Central	
Elena Isaac, Colgate	Sr.	P	Chandler, Ariz./Desert Vista	'03: 1st; '02: 1st
Angela Stackhouse, Bucknell	Sr.	C	Muncy, Pa./Hughesville	
Lauren Gobar, Army	Jr.	INF	Richmond, Texas/Stephen F. Austin	
Lindsay March, Army	Jr.	INF	Tucson, Ariz./Canyon Del Oro	'03: 2nd; '02: 1st
Natalie Rawson, Colgate	Jr.	INF	Palmdale, Calif./Highland	'03: 1st; '02: 2nd
Nichole Rawson, Colgate	Jr.	INF	Palmdale, Calif./Highland	
Dorothy Donaldson, Colgate	Jr.	OF	Lakeland, Fla./Lakeland	'03: 1st; '02: 1st, ROY
Mary Beth Ryan, Holy Cross	Jr.	OF	Holden, Mass./Notre Dame Academy	'03: 1st
Shana Treon, Lehigh	Sr.	OF	Allentown, Pa./Parkland	'03: 1st; '02: 2nd
Lindsey Gerheim, Army	Fr.	DP	Alpharetta, Ga./Milton	
Erin Hanna, Colgate	So.	DP	Tucson, Ariz./University	
Rachel Smith, Colgate	Sr.	UT	Annandale, Va./W.T. Woodson	'03: 1st

**Second Team**

<b><u>Player, School</u></b>	<b><u>Cl.</u></b>	<b><u>Pos.</u></b>	<b><u>Hometown/High School</u></b>	<b><u>Previous PL Honors</u></b>
Ashlie Christian, Army	Sr.	P	Payette, Idaho/Payette	'03: 2nd
Leigh Harrell, Army	Jr.	P	Windsor, N.C./John A. Holmes	
Heather Hamasaki, Lehigh	Fr.	P	Glendale, Calif./Glendale	
Mary Wieder, Lehigh	So.	C	Emmaus, Pa./Emmaus	'03: 1st
Jean Connolly, Holy Cross	Sr.	INF	Tewksbury, Mass./Littleton	
Lisa Huntington, Army	Jr.	INF	Costa Mesa, Calif./Newport Harbor	'03: 2nd; '02: 2nd
Lauren Wible, Bucknell	So.	INF	Dover, Pa./Dover	'03: 2nd
Jessica Young, Lehigh	Jr.	INF	Center Valley, Pa./Southern Lehigh	'03: 1st
Melissa Beshire, Holy Cross	Sr.	OF	Charlton, Mass./Shepard Hill	
Jill Pompeii, Bucknell	Jr.	OF	DuBois, Pa./DuBois Central Christian	
Nikki Posey, Army	So.	OF	Midlothian, Texas/Midlothian	'03: 2nd
Nicole Vitti, Holy Cross	Sr.	UT	Stamford, Conn./Stamford	

**Player of the Year:** Dorothy Donaldson, Colgate, Jr., OF (Lakeland, Fla./Lakeland)

**Pitcher of the Year:** Elena Isaac, Colgate, Sr. (Chandler, Ariz./Desert Vista)

**Freshman of the Year:** Lindsey Gerheim, Army, Fr., DP (Alpharetta, Ga./Milton)

**Coach of the Year:** Janelle Breneman, Bucknell (first award)