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Timothy W. Gleason, Commissioner

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For Immediate Release
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Marietta's Gessner Named OAC Scholar-Athlete of the Month

Twinsburg, OH-Marietta senior **Katherine Gessner (Massillon/Washington)** has been named the Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) Scholar-Athlete of the Month for the month of September.

In its seventh year of existence, the OAC Scholar-Athlete of the Month honors an exceptional student-athlete on a monthly basis. Criteria for the award consist of the student-athlete being a junior or senior status, competition in a sport that is in-season, sportsmanlike conduct and carrying at least a cumulative grade-point average (gpa) of 3.0.

Collegiate coaches know that leadership from within plays a vital role in the success of a program. Marietta women's soccer coach Patrick Holguin is no exception. He has seen first hand what strong leadership can bring to a team. The 2003 Lady Pioneers broke the school record for wins (12) and became the first women's soccer team in school history to earn a spot in the OAC Tournament. Katherine Gessner was a major reason for that success.

"Katherine is a great asset to both our women's soccer program and Marietta College," said Holguin. "She is a well rounded individual and a great leader for the younger student-athletes, both on the field and in the classroom."

The marketing major with minors in leadership and sports management was the leading goal scorer on the Pioneers team in 2003, while carrying a 3.644 GPA. She tallied eight goals, including two game-winners. Gessner also scored multiple goals in three games last season and earned Honorable Mention All-OAC accolades for her efforts.

"Being a student-athlete in the OAC has been a wonderful experience for me," said Gessner. "I have been able to play soccer in a competitive Conference while still focusing on academics and earning a degree."

Off the field, Gessner is just as active. She is a member of Tau Pi Phi, the National Honor Society in Accounting, Business and Economics and Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC). Early this summer she spent a month studying abroad in Brazil and then returned to Marietta where she served as a marketing intern for youth programs at the YMCA.

"It's not easy to split time between academics and athletics, even when you're not in season, but you have to manage your time if you want to give 100% all the time."

The senior tri-captain hopes that her final season as a Pioneer will be the most memorable of her career and that the Marietta women's soccer program will continue to reach new heights in the OAC in 2004.

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Marietta Sports Information Director Dan May is credited for this feature

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