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For Immediate Release

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OAC Announces 2004 Softball Award Winners



Ohio Athletic Conference

Baldwin-Wallace College

●
Capital University

●
Heidelberg College

●
John Carroll University

●
Marietta College

●
Mount Union College

●
Muskingum College

●
Ohio Northern University

●
Otterbein College

●
Wilmington College

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Twinsburg, OH -- Mount Union and Muskingum each had players earn an Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) 2004 softball special award. Muskingum sophomore pitcher **Erica Hoyt (Tipp City/Bethel)** was voted the 2004 Gayle Lauth OAC Player-of-the-Year and is also the recipient of the 2004 John Wells OAC Pitcher-of-the-Year award. Mount Union freshman catcher **Crystal Thomas (Akron/Walsh Jesuit)** was voted the 2004 Bob Jordan OAC Rookie-of-the-Year. All three awards are voted on by the league coaches.

Gayle Lauth OAC Player-of-the-Year and the John Wells OAC Pitcher-of-the-Year

Muskingum sophomore pitcher **Erica Hoyt** has been named the Gayle Lauth Player-of-the-Year for the first time in her career, while it is the second consecutive year that she has been selected as the John Wells Pitcher-of-the-Year.

Hoyt has been dominant on the mound this season, winning an NCAA Division III leading 32 games (prior to the OAC Tournament), including an unblemished 18-0 mark against Conference competition. In 81 innings of work against OAC opponents during the regular season, Hoyt tallied 116 strikeouts and a mere 0.45 earned run average. Heading into the 2004 OAC Tournament, Hoyt had an OAC and school record 225 strikeouts on the year.

This is the third straight year that a Muskingum player has earned both of these awards.

Bob Jordan OAC Rookie-of-the-Year

Mount Union freshman catcher **Crystal Thomas** helped lead the Purple Raiders to their 14th appearance in the OAC Tournament in 2004. In 18 Conference games played, Thomas batted .368 with 21 hits, including two home runs and four doubles. She also scored 11 runs and had 15 runs-batted in. Behind the plate, Thomas had 55 putouts with no errors.

All three awards are in their third year of existence.

The Player-of-the-Year award is named in honor Gayle Lauth, who was an administrator of women's sports at Ohio Northern for 32 years. The Pitcher-of-the-Year award is named in honor of the late John Wells, long-time pitching coach at Muskingum College. The Rookie-of-the-Year award is named in honor of the late Bob Jordan an assistant coach Mount Union College.

**NOTE: OAC Coach-of-the-Year will be announced
on Monday, May 3.**

#jw#

All-OAC Softball Team

Muskingum's Zupko Earns All-Conference Honors for the Fourth Straight Season

Twinsburg, OH -- Muskingum senior outfielder **Erin Zupko (Girard/Liberty)** is making her fourth straight appearance on an All-Ohio Athletic Conference team in 2004.

Zupko was a three-time First Team award winner, while earning Second Team honors in 2001. Zupko helped lead the Muskies to back-to-back undefeated seasons in Conference play. Muskingum went 18-0 the past two seasons, while also going through the 1992, 1999 and 2000 seasons with unscathed marks. Zupko leads the Conference in runs scored with 35 (as of April 29).

The All-OAC Softball Team is selected by the League coaches. The following lists the 2004 All-OAC Softball Teams.

FIRST TEAM

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Name, School</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Hometown/High School</u>
C	Nicole Loudin, Baldwin-Wallace *	So.	Sheffield Lake/Elyria Catholic
1B	Jen Shay, Muskingum !	Sr.	Stow
2B	Danielle LoVaglio, John Carroll &	Sr.	Cincinnati/Mt. Notre Dame
SS	Casey Ward, Baldwin-Wallace	So.	Amherst/Steele
3B	Shauna Jellison, Muskingum &	Sr.	Zanesville/Maysville
OF	Lindsay Bramhall, Muskingum	So.	Dayton/Vandalia Butler
OF	April Rader, Muskingum	Jr.	Bucyrus/Colonel Crawford
OF	Erin Zupko, Muskingum *!^	Sr.	Girard/Liberty
DP	Nicole Blubaugh, Muskingum *	Jr.	New Lexington
UP	Bridget Knazek, John Carroll &	Jr.	Parma Hts./Valley Forge
P	Candice Miller, Marietta *	Sr.	Cuyahoga Falls
P	Erica Hoyt, Muskingum *	So.	Tipp City/Bethel

SECOND TEAM

C	Jen Feldkircher, Muskingum	Sr.	Westlake/Magnificat
1B	Brooke Alexander, Capital	Fr.	Akron/Springfield
2B	Abby Jackson, Ohio Northern *	Sr.	Wauseon
SS	Jeanna Rayman, Muskingum	Sr.	North Huntingdon, PA
3B	Ronda Barth, Mount Union	Jr.	Berlin Center/Western Reserve
OF	Bridget Knazek, John Carroll *	Jr.	Parma Hts./Valley Forge
OF	Lori Schmidt, Baldwin-Wallace	Fr.	Brunswick
OF	Janine Solomon, John Carroll	So.	Streetsboro/Walsh Jesuit
DP	Jamie Wallace, Capital &	Jr.	Wintersville/Indian Creek
UP	Jeanette Brezina, Baldwin-Wallace	Jr.	Parma Hts./Valley Forge
P	Marie Mascari, Ohio Northern	Jr.	Pataskala/Gahanna Lincoln
P	Deana McKee, Capital &+	Sr.	Utica/Licking Valley

KEY:

*2003 First Team &2003 Second Team +2002 First Team !2002 Second Team ^2001 First Team