

Kozon nominated for NCAA Woman of the Year

Award honors student-athletes for success both on and off the court

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INDIANAPOLIS - For the second consecutive year, a Blue Raider athlete will be a nominee for the prestigious NCAA Woman of the Year Award as former volleyball standout Izabela Kozon was selected as the Sun Belt Conference's representative, as announced by the NCAA on Thursday. "Izabela embodies everything you want out of a student-athlete," director of athletics Chris Massaro said. "Not only is she a terrific volleyball player, she's an even better person and was a joy to have on campus over the past four years. We are very proud of her." "At this point, I think Izabela's accomplishments speak for themselves," head coach Matt Peck added. "It's gratifying to see that good things continue to happen for her, and they are definitely well deserved." Kozon is coming off one of the more



memorable individual seasons in Sun Belt history, leading the Blue Raiders to both the conference regular season and tournament championships, earning Player of the Year, Tournament Most Outstanding Player and AVCA All-American accolades along the way. A native of Warsaw, Poland, Kozon will represent her country at the 2011 World University Games later this month. Previously, former basketball player Alysha Clark was selected as a nominee in 2010. The NCAA Woman of the Year Award is in its 21st year and is designed to honor female student-athletes who have distinguished themselves throughout their collegiate careers in academic achievement, athletic

excellence, community service and leadership. This year, a record 471 nominations were submitted to the NCAA throughout all three divisions. Each conference then selects a student-athlete to be eligible for the honors. In order to qualify for the award, a female student-athlete must have completed her eligibility in her primary sport by the end of the 2011 spring season and graduated no later than the 2011 summer term with a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.5. A committee composed of representatives from across the country will select 10 nominees from each NCAA division to compose the Top 30, who will be announced later this month. In September, three finalists from each division will make up the Top Nine with the winner getting announced at the Woman of the Year dinner in Indianapolis on October 16.

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