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Four Sports Teams Honored for Their Academics or Sportsmanship

Winthrop University

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Four Sports Teams Honored for Their Academics or Sportsmanship

Quick Facts

- The women's tennis team and the men's and women's golf teams were named recipients of the NCAA's Public Recognition Award this week by NCAA President Mark Emmert.
- Also, the 2016 Winthrop baseball team was voted by the conference's student-athletes as the Big South Conference Sportsmanship Award winner in baseball.

*Jodi Wendt*

ROCK HILL SOUTH CAROLINA — Three Winthrop athletic teams have been recognized by the **NCAA** for ranking in the top 10 percentile of the **Division I Academic Progress Rate** for the 2014-15 academic year.

And a fourth team was voted recently as the **Big South Conference Sportsmanship Award** winner.

The women's tennis team and the men's and women's golf teams were named recipients of the NCAA's Public Recognition Award this week by **NCAA President Mark Emmert**.

*Kevin Pendley*

The three Winthrop squads are among 21 Big South Conference teams and 1,071 Division I squads that received the recognition. The honor is bestowed upon teams with an NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate in the top 10 percentile of all squads in their respective sports for the academic year.

"I couldn't be more proud of our team coaches (**Jodi Wendt, Kevin Pendley '98, and Cid Carvalho '82, '89**) for this recognition. This recognition demonstrates their commitment to the excellence of our student-athletes in the classroom as well as in competition," said **Winthrop Director of Athletics Ken Halpin**.

*Cid Carvalho*

Following its implementation in 2003 as part of the academic reform, the NCAA tracks the **classroom performance** of student-athletes on every Division I team through the annual scorecard of academic achievement, known as APR. The score honors selected Division I sports teams by publicly recognizing their latest multiyear APR (the most recent APRs are based on scores from the 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 academic years).

*Tom Riginos*

To earn the award, the team is required to score in the top 10 percentile of their sport or between a 983 to a perfect 1,000. Nine hundred and forty-four teams earned a perfect APR score. A total of 290 schools placed at least one team on the top APR list.

The **women's golf team**, coached by Wendt, and Carvalho's **women's tennis** squad made the cut for the second time, while Pendley's **golf team** is a first-time recipient. The total number of Winthrop teams that have received the **Public Recognition Award** since 2006 is nine.

Meanwhile, the **2016 Winthrop baseball team** was voted by the conference's student-athletes as the Big South Conference Sportsmanship Award winner in baseball.

"The Big South Conference sportsmanship award is a great honor and is an indicator that our student-athletes always represent Winthrop University, the Athletic Department and our baseball

program in a first-class manner, both on and off the fields. This award is evidence that we are respected by the other teams in our conference who recognized the outstanding character of our young men,” said **Winthrop Coach Tom Riginos**.

The team awards were voted on by Big South student-athletes following each conference championship, and are based on sportsmanship and fair play.

For more information, contact **Jack Frost** of Winthrop Athletics at frostj@winthrop.edu.

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