

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



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Athletes and supporters honored at Laurier banquet

Waterloo (March 26) — Dozens of athletes and supporters of athletic programs were recognized at Wilfrid Laurier University's annual varsity athletes award banquet at the Waterloo Inn on Wednesday, March 25.

Graduate student **ANDY CECCHINI of Thorold** received the President's Trophy as outstanding male athlete of the year and was also named most valuable player on the football team. A running back, Cecchini was named MVP of both the Churchill Bowl and the Vanier Cup championship games. He is a graduate of Denis Morris Secondary School.

NENA ORESCANIN of Niagara Falls received the President's Trophy for outstanding female athlete of the year and was also named MVP of the women's soccer team. She was named an OWIAA all-star last season and received a bronze medal at the OWIAA championships. She is a three-time team MVP, two-time OWIAA all-star, and one-time member of the all-Canadian team. A fourth-year student majoring in physical education, Orescanin is a graduate of A.N. Myer Secondary School.

TANIA RUSYNYK of Mississauga won the women's Academic Athletic Achievement Award. The offensive backbone of the women's soccer team, Rusynyk has been team rookie of the year, team MVP and, this year, a member of the OWIAA all-star team. Majoring in honors biology and physical education, she has maintained a "B" average. She is a graduate of Port Credit Secondary School.

JIM BURKITT of Oshawa was presented with the men's Academic Athletic Achievement Award. A starting linebacker and key player on the special teams of the football team, Burkitt was a second team OUAA all-star. A fourth-year fine arts student, Burkitt has a "B" average. He is a graduate of Eastdale Collegiate and Vocational Institute.

TOM HEIGHWAY of London received the men's award for Person Contributing Most to Athletics. As president of the Lettermen's Club, Heighway has helped improve the club's finances so it has been able to pay for new equipment for the training room, as well as renovations for a lounge. He played centre for the football team. A third-year arts student, Heighway is a graduate of London South Secondary School.

JENNIFER WELSH of Peterborough received the women's award as Person Contributing Most to Athletics. As president of the Women's Athletic Association, Welsh helped raise the association's profile on campus. Projects included organizing high school and university basketball and volleyball tournaments, as well as home games for the women's basketball and volleyball teams. A third-year honors arts student, Welsh is a graduate of Adam Scott Collegiate and Vocational Institute.

MICHELLE KUKTA of Brantford was named student trainer of the year. The trainer for the women's basketball team, she also provided assistance in the training room and helped with on-site injury care for the intramural hockey program. A graduate of North Park Collegiate and Vocational Institute, Kukta will graduate from Laurier's physical education program this spring.

DAVE DAGG of Guelph was recognized for his contribution to Laurier's athletic program with the Tuffy Knight Award. For more than 10 years, he has helped coach the defensive halfbacks and receivers of the football team. For the first seven years, he was involved only in the training camp, but over the last three years he has worked with the team from mid-August until the end of the season. A graduate of Waterloo Lutheran University (Laurier's forerunner) in 1969, Dagg went on to get his master's degree in education from Cambridge University. He now teaches at Guelph Collegiate and Vocational Institute.

STEVE DAVIS of Waterloo was honored with the Unsung Hero Award. Now Laurier's co-ordinator of alumni affairs, Davis has been involved with WLU's athletic

programs for more than 10 years. As a student, he played varsity volleyball, was president of the Lettermen's Club, and an active member of the student training staff. Since graduating in 1986, Davis has spent seven years as an assistant coach and recruiter for the men's volleyball team and continued to assist with training duties for the football team.

Other student athlete award winners include: Eleonora (Gigi) Cignini of Orangeville, women's soccer rookie of the year; Paul Abdool of Scarborough, men's volleyball MVP; Tiffany Bunning of Chatham, women's basketball co-MVP; Rob Carter of Mississauga, men's swimming MVP; Dan Deep of London, men's basketball MVP; Janice Field of London, women's basketball co-MVP; Reinhardt Keller of Collingwood, football lineman of the year;

Jason Koskela of Cambridge, men's volleyball rookie of the year; Ferdinand Krauss of Kitchener, men's soccer MVP; Matt Kutney of Toronto, rugby rookie of the year; Carrie Ostrom of Newbury, women's volleyball rookie of the year; Tom Pallin of Etobicoke, men's basketball rookie of the year; Rick Pracey of Brantford, hockey rookie of the year; Jeff Prince of Brantford, rugby MVP; Larry Rucchin of London, hockey MVP; Andrew Scharschmidt of Kitchener, football rookie of the year; Lori Spoltore of Elmira, women's volleyball MVP; Gord Watson of West Hill, men's soccer rookie of the year; and Nancy Woodhall of Waterloo, women's swimming MVP.