



# Sports

## MSU honors top athletes

Two seniors earn top male, female awards

Free Press staff

**MANKATO** — Minnesota State University athletes Michael Lawrence and Tiffany Graham earned top honors last weekend at the annual Maverick Achievement Awards and Honors Dinner held in the Centennial Student Union.

Lawrence, a track sprinter, earned the Senior Medal of Honor as the top senior male athlete for the 2005-06 school year. A three-time NCAA All-American, Lawrence claimed the national championship in the indoor 200-meter dash.

He captured the 100- and 200-meter titles at the 2005 outdoor conference championships and holds school records in both the indoor and outdoor 200. Lawrence also earned two letters with the Minnesota State football team.

Volleyball player Graham earned MSU's Women's Athletics Medal of Honor as the top senior female athlete for the 2005-06.

Graham was a two-time All-NCC selection her junior and senior years, also earning honorable-mention status as a sophomore. She was named to the All-Central Region Team on two occasions, earning first-team honors in 2005 and second-team in 2004. A two-time NCC Player of the Week, Graham was also selected as the team's captain in 2005.

Mavericks' wrestler Mathias Bitz and track and field distance runner Scott Fiksdal were named co-winners of the Don Buchanan Award, which goes to the most well-rounded senior male student-athlete. Women's basketball player Arin Andrews earned the Georgene Brock Award, an award that is given to the school's most well-rounded senior female student-athlete.

Bitz is a two-time NCAA wrestling qualifier at 157 pounds, placing third and earning All-American status in 2004-05. He owns a two-year record of 58-27 and was named team captain in 2005-06. Bitz was also named to the All-Academic Team as a senior, holding a 3.54 GPA in management.

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Fiksdal, the 2006 North Central Conference indoor champion in the 1,000-meter run, mile and distance medley relay, was also a two-time NCC indoor champion in the 4x800-meter relay.

Fiksdal owns school records in the indoor mile and indoor and outdoor 4x800. He is a physical education major with a 3.39 GPA.

Andrews finished her career ranked ninth on the team's all-time scoring list and seventh on the all-time rebounding list. She also ranks in the Top 10 in career rebounds, free throws, field goals and points per game. An exercise science and pre-physical therapy major, Andrews carries a 3.27 GPA.

Other Maverick Achievement Award recipients this school year were Michael Belisle (men's tennis), Linnea Campbell (women's track and field), Natalie Coleman (women's soccer), Melody DeLeon (women's track and field), Stacey Duarte (women's basketball), Mark Guetzko (men's swimming), Jimmie Gunn (football), Sabrina Howard (women's swimming and diving), David Johnson (men's swimming), Jen Jonsson (women's hockey), Jodi Kirk (women's soccer), John Koons (wrestling), Lindsay McCulloch (women's hockey), Ryan McKelvie (men's hockey), Matt McMurtry (baseball), Lisa Paulson (women's track and field), Jason Pendleton (men's golf), Heather Peterson (women's basketball), Jesse Pfeifer (football), Katija Opitz (women's soccer), Rob Rankin (men's hockey), Amber Sharratt (women's hockey), Lisa Spoden (women's golf), Rachel Stahn (women's swimming and diving), Ryan Steele (football), Melissa Stinson (women's track and field), Michelle Untiedt (women's bowling) and Jamie VanDenElzen (football).



Minnesota State's Michael Lawrence (top) and Tiffany Graham were honored as the top male and female athletes of the year at a banquet in the Centennial Student Union at MSU.