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NCAA NAMES THE MOST OUTSTANDING STUDENT-ATHLETES IN CROSS COUNTRY IN  
CONJUNCTION WITH THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS

INDIANAPOLIS---The NCAA has named Carole Zajac, Villanova University; Elva Dryer, Western State College; and Missy Buttry, Wartburg College as its Most Outstanding Student-Athletes in Cross Country over the past 25 years. The honor was bestowed in conjunction with the NCAA's celebration surrounding the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women's Championships.

Zajac was the national champion at the NCAA Division I Cross Country Championships in 1993 with a time of 16:40.3 and in 1992 with a time of 17:01.9. She was the runner-up in the championships in 1991. Dryer was the national champion at the Division II Cross Country Championships in 1994 (17:34.4) and in 1993 (17:20.9). Buttry was a three-time national champion at the Division III Cross Country Championships, earning the individual title in 2004 (20:22.0); in 2003 (20:00.2); and in 2002 (20:17.3).

In 1981, the NCAA began sponsoring women's championships, which opened the door to increased athletic and academic opportunities for female athletes. Today, the NCAA sponsors 44 women's championships in 20 sports, providing more than 150,000 women with an opportunity to compete for national titles each year.

An NCAA expert panel selected the Most Outstanding Student-Athlete in the sport of cross country. The panel, which consisted of current and former coaches; athletics administrators; sports

information directors and coaches association members, used historical data and championship results to make their decision.

The NCAA Division I Cross Country Championships begin November 12, 2005. Indiana State University will host the finals November 21, in Terre Haute, Indiana. The NCAA Division II Cross Country Championships begin November 5-6, 2005. California State Polytechnic University will host the finals November 19, in Chino, California. The NCAA Division III Cross Country Championships begin November 12, 2005. Ohio Wesleyan University will host the finals November 19, in Delaware, Ohio.

The following NCAA women's sports are celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary during the 2005-06 athletic season: Divisions I and III women's field hockey; Divisions I, II and III women's cross country; Divisions I, II and III women's volleyball; Divisions I, II and III women's swimming; Divisions I, II and III women's basketball; National Collegiate women's gymnastics; Divisions I, II and III women's tennis; Division I women's golf; Division I women's lacrosse; Division I women's rowing; Divisions I and II softball; and Divisions I, II and III women's outdoor track.