

John S. Steckbeck Award

Lehigh Athletics Department Awards

JOHN S. STECKBECK AWARD – Established in 1976, this award honors former Instructor of Physical Education and Director of Intramural and Recreation Sports John Steckbeck. “Steck” as he was known to thousands of Lehigh students, was beloved for his enthusiasm, dedication to Lehigh students, and love of all sports, particularly the “new” women’s sports at Lehigh. The John S. Steckbeck Award is sponsored and funded by alumnus Robert A. Kaufman ’68 who has also provided the financial support for the Women’s Athletics Fields on the Goodman Campus.

The honoree is an outstanding female athlete enrolled in her first year who has displayed a high level of character and to have maintained at minimum a satisfactory academic record. She is selected by the Athletics Department Awards Committee from nominations submitted by coaches.

2008-09 Finalists: (Winner in bold)

Kelly Draper (Lacrosse) – A four-time Patriot League Rookie of the Week, Kelly Draper helped Lehigh become the first school in Patriot League history to produce four consecutive Patriot League Rookies of the Year in any sport as she garnered the award for the 2009 season. A Second-Team All-Patriot League selection, Kelly ranked second on the Mountain Hawks and fourth in the league with 37 goals, and her 47 ground balls also rank fourth in the PL. Draper scored at least one goal in every game this season, but one, including a career-best six on two occasions. Draper scored three or more goals in four games and totaled a season-best two assists in a win at Drexel.

Julie Fernandez (Softball) – Julie Fernandez made quite an impact in her first season in the Brown and White, leading the Mountain Hawks in hitting with a .382 average. Fernandez garnered two Patriot League Rookie of the Week honors, as well as one Player of the Week accolade and earned First-Team All-League credentials as well as the 2009 Patriot League Rookie of the Year award. A First-Team All-Region selection as well, Fernandez ranked at or near the top of the P.L. in batting average, hits, on-base percentage, doubles, and total bases.

Alexa Williams (Basketball) – Alexa Williams was a major contributor in Lehigh’s journey to the 2009 Patriot League Women’s Basketball Championship. She appeared in all 33 games, starting nine of them, and averaged 13.5 minutes, 4.9 points and 4.3 rebounds per contest. Williams set her career-high with 17 points versus Army, tying the school record for made free throws in a game with 13. The 6-3 freshman pulled down a season-best nine rebounds in two games, and blocked a season-high three shots at St. Francis (Pa.). A three-time Patriot League Rookie of the Week, Alexa also earned a spot on the 2009 Patriot League All-Rookie Team.

Previous Finalists and Recipients:

2008	Lauren Dykstra (Lacrosse) , Jess Miller (Field Hockey), Erica Prosser (Basketball)	1993	Kim Miller, Softball
2007	Alex Ross (Basketball), Inneke Carmola (Lacrosse) , Tiffany Curtis (Softball)	1992	Donna Schall, Track & Field
2006	Julie Kafka (Soccer), Sara MacIntyre (Lacrosse), Lisa Sweeney (Softball)	1991	Kristi Kungl, Tennis
2005	Kate Marvel (Softball) , Michaela Pawlewicz (Soccer), Christy Smith (Field Hockey/Lacrosse)	1990	Megan Eves, Cross Country/Swimming & Diving
2004	Heather Hamasaki (Softball), Gina Lewandowski (Soccer) , Michelle Schwendenmann (Volleyball)	1989	No award given
2003	Dawn Gorynski, Basketball	1988	Nicole Bunker, Diving
2002	Emily Ling, Softball	1987	Carol Gibson, Field Hockey
2001	Linsey Kokal, Swimming & Diving	1986	*Gail Jacobs, Swimming & Diving
2000	Anne Tierney, Basketball	1985	*Carla Juliani, Field Hockey/Lacrosse
1999	Jamie Grivalsky, Swimming & Diving	1984	No award given
1998	Vanessa Buschmann, Swimming & Diving	1983	Amy L. Austin
1997	Danielle Baldwin, Basketball	1982	*Shawn Steward, Basketball/Kristin E. Yuracko, Tennis
1996	Ellen Cogswell, Cross Country/Track	1981	Kathy Zeberlein,
1995	Patty Godwin, Softball	1980	Brenda Sirois, Lacrosse
1994	Casey Bahrenburg, Swimming & Diving	1979	Lauren Gregg
		1978	Kim L. Powell
		1977	Cheri M. Novak
		1976	*Nancy K. Barrett-Kreider, Field Hockey/Lacrosse/ Basketball

(*Lehigh Hall of Fame inductee)