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Scholar-Athletes Are A Way of Life

01.15.2010 | Athletics, Students  "Student-athlete" isn't just a buzzword at the University of Dayton. It's a way of life.

Among the top 50 Division I athletics programs in the 2009-10 Learfield Sports Directors Cup standings released this week by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics, the University of Dayton has the sixth-best graduation rate. The standings reflect results from the 2009 fall sports season.

Only Notre Dame, Duke, Boston College, Villanova and William and Mary have better graduation rates among the top 50 athletic programs in the nation. Dayton is tied with Stanford.

"Recognition such as this only comes with a strong commitment to academics across the University, as well as in the athletics division," said Tim Wabler, University of Dayton vice president and director of athletics. "University of Dayton athletics is about opportunity. Our student-athletes are competing for – and winning – championships while earning a top-tier education. These two things, along with the high level of community service they perform, help them develop the skills necessary to become the leaders of the future. We take great pride in what they are accomplishing."

Dayton ranks 47th in the current Learfield Sports Directors Cup standings for collegiate athletics programs and ahead of Michigan, Cincinnati, Kentucky and Tennessee. It ranks first among Atlantic 10 Conference schools.

Dayton ranks 22nd nationally in the NCAA's Graduation Success Rate report released last November. Ivy League schools do not report their graduation rates to the NCAA.

During fall 2009, Flyer teams won at an unprecedented rate — a .824 winning percentage. The University of Dayton was the only Division I institution in the nation to have five teams — football, women's cross-country, women's volleyball, women's soccer and men's soccer — win league championships in the fall. Three teams — women's volleyball, women's soccer and men's soccer — finished the season nationally ranked. The women's volleyball and women's soccer teams advanced to the NCAA tournament.

The Learfield Sports Directors Cup program honors NCAA and NAIA schools for maintaining broad-based athletics programs with success in many sports. Each school receives points for finishing nationally in a respective sport. For Division I, the program awards points for 10 men's sports and 10 women's sports.

Doug Hauschild at 937-229-4390.