



Scholar-Baller Huskies Balance Education, Basketball

Six Huskies earn academic honors for maintaining a 3.0+ GPA

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SEATTLE - As a senior, [Sarah Morton](#) has learned the ins and outs of being a student athlete. She has found a way to manage her time, identify her priorities and get everything done.

And she's one of five Washington women's basketball players who have been given the title of Scholar Baller for the 2010 fall quarter, joining [Marjorie Heard](#), [Jeneva Anderson](#), [Kristi Kingma](#), [Kassia Fortier](#) and [Mercedes Wetmore](#). All six of these exceptional student-athletes achieved a minimum grade point average of 3.0 during fall quarter. Additionally, they all maintain cumulative GPAs of over a 3.0.

Scholar Baller is a national program aimed at bringing educational programming and recognition to high school and collegiate athletes, who excel both academically and athletically.

The student-athletes have been able to power through the challenges that come from being a collegiate athlete. These specific athletes credit much of their success to their time management skills.

"It's tough to try to balance your time but as long as you have it in your mind that you have to get things done before you hang out with friends or play guitar or things like that," said Morton, a senior sociology and communications major. "As long as you have that figure out you'll be all right,

"Because I've doing this for four years, time management is definitely something I've learned and picked up on pretty easily."

Most would think that the extra time and commitment to basketball would hinder one's study habits. However, Anderson sees the extra obligation as a positive, something that makes her focus even more. "I like how structured my life is because if it's not as structured I'm free-willed and I lose track of everything so I really appreciate having basketball as a part of it," she said.

Along with the time management challenges that come with being a student athlete, as the players also need to plan everything around their basketball schedule during the season. For example, the team is currently on a trip to southern California that spans close to two weeks including games against UCLA and USC, followed by the Pac-10 Tournament. When trips like these occur, the players must plan in advance to make school work fit.

"We're going to be gone for 10 or 12 days, so it's keeping in touch with those in class, and keeping up on the notes," Heard said. "It's hard to keep a relationship with your professor or TA but I think you should do it because they're more flexible when you're gone."

For those that successfully accept the challenge of being a student athlete, they use their extra available resources. On top of being able to register for classes early, they are offered tutoring and additional advising. The athletic department provides academic assistance significantly when athletes are in need of help.

"If we ever are struggling with a class, we can talk with our coaches and they can help us find a tutor or we can go straight to the athletic department," Morton said, "and they have helped me out in anything I need; they always have answers."

Anderson noted the importance of acknowledging when you need help, instead of going through unnecessary struggles on your own.

"Sometimes I'm too filled with pride, and want to say that I don't need help but I really do," the Spokane native said. "I talk to my professor and TAs all the time, letting them know I need help doing this because I have a lot of stuff on my plate."

These five scholar-ballers have followed the right path, and embody what it means to be a student-athlete at the University of Washington.