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Grand Valley Stats's Riko Sagara named 2019 Division II Conference Commissioners Association Women's Soccer Player of the Year



ADA, Okla. - Senior midfielder Riko Sagara claimed the 2019 Ron Lenz National Player of the Year to headline the 2019 Division II Conference Commissioners Association (D2 CCA) Women's Soccer All-America Teams.

Sagara has helped the Lakers to the 2019 NCAA DII Final Four (Dec. 12-14) for the second-straight season, a 23-1 overall record and a perfect 9-0 mark in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. No. 2 GVSU hosted the first round, defeating Southern Indiana and McKendree and then traveled to Mankato, Minn., to claim wins against No. 25 Indianapolis and No. 13 Minnesota State-Mankato.

The Tokyo, Japan, native has garnered 19 goals (2 in the win over MSU-Mankato), 23 assists and four match-winning goals in 2019.

Sagara joins six other members of the Lakers team to claim a spot on the 2019 D2 CCA All-America teams. She is joined by Ava Cook (F - 1st), Cecilia Steinwascher (D - 1st), Sydney O'Donnell (D - 1st), Jessica Radice (GK - 1st) and Chantel Carraza (F - 2nd) as honorees for the 2019 season.

She also joins Cook (2018 - 2nd), Sandra Nabweteme from Southwestern Oklahoma State (2018 - 2nd) and Steinwascher

(2017-18 - 1st) as members of the first time to win multiple D2 CCA All-America honors in their careers.

Flagler College and The College of Saint Rose both saw two student-athletes earn a spot on the first team. Flagler is represented by Sara Sandberg (F) and Charlene Nowotny (MF), while Saint Rose saw Nina Predanic (F) and Deanna Trongone (D) make the list.

Midfielder Shanade Hopcroft (Colorado, Colorado Springs), midfielder Katie Taylor (Mississippi College) and defender Emily Nelson (Western Washington) round out the first team.

The first team consists of student-athletes from seven of the eight regions. The Midwest led the way with six, while the Southeastern and East each tallied two and one member of the Central, South, South Central and West were named to the team.

The Ron Lenz National Player of the Year award was named for long-time South Dakota State sports information director Ron Lenz in 2008. Lenz was instrumental in the foundation of the NCAA Division II All-America program, which honors outstanding student-athletes across eight NCAA Division II sports.

Sports information directors from NCAA Division II schools and conferences selected the three D2 CCA All-America teams. The process begins at the regional level with all first-team all-region picks advancing to the national ballot. A total of 39 student-athletes representing 22 different institutions filled out the three teams.

The Division II Conference Commissioners Association encourages and promotes Division II athletics and high standards of sportsmanship as important elements of higher education. The CCA is a key communications link among the conferences as they discuss views, policies and regulations that impact Division II intercollegiate athletics and works closely with the NCAA as a communications channel to NCAA Division II member colleges and universities.



2019 Division II Conference Commissioners Association Women's Soccer All-America First Team

| <u>Pos.</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>School</u> | <u>Year</u> | <u>Hometown</u> |
|-------------|-------------------------|---|-------------|-------------------------|
| F | Sara Sandberg | Flagler College | Jr. | Orebro, Sweden |
| F | Ava Cook @ | Grand Valley State | Jr. | Battle Creek, Mich. |
| F | Nina Predanic | The College of Saint Rose | Sr. | Brezice, Slovenia |
| F | Sandra Nabweteme @ | Southwestern Oklahoma State | Sr. | Kampala, Uganda |
| MF | Riko Saraga ^ | Grand Valley State | Sr. | Tokyo, Japan |
| MF | Shanada Hopcroft | University of Colorado-Colorado Springs | Jr. | Aylesburg, England |
| MF | Charlene Nowotny | Flagler College | Sr. | Marburg, Germany |
| MF | Katie Taylor | Mississippi College | Sr. | Tupelo, Miss. |
| D | Cecilia Steinwascher ^* | Grand Valley State | Jr. | Sterling Heights, Mich. |
| D | Sydney O'Donnell | Grand Valley State | Jr. | Novi, Mich. |
| D | Emily Nelson | Western Washington | Sr. | Puyallup, Wash. |
| D | Deanna Trongone | The College of Saint Rose | Sr. | Nanuet, N.Y. |
| GK | Jessica Radice | Grand Valley State | Jr. | Medina, Ohio |

2019 Ron Lenz National Player of the Year: Riko Sagara, Sr. Grand Valley State

2019 Division II Conference Commissioners Association Women's Soccer All-America Second Team

| <u>Pos.</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>School</u> | <u>Year</u> | <u>Hometown</u> |
|-------------|-------------------|---|-------------|-------------------------|
| F | Jenna Fannon | Goldey-Beacom College | Sr. | Newark, Del. |
| F | Dana Poetzsch | Molloy | Sr. | Hicksville, N.Y. |
| F | Chantel Carranza | Grand Valley State | Fr. | St. Charles, Ill. |
| F | Jenny Vetter | Minnesota State, Mankato | So. | Mankato, Minn. |
| MF | Lauren Hoelke | Bloomsburg | Jr. | Blackwood, N.J. |
| MF | Natalie Saddic ^# | UC San Diego | Sr. | San Diego, Calif. |
| MF | Riley Clark | Columbus State | Sr. | Peachtree City, Ga. |
| MF | Emma Heikkila | Nova Southeastern | Sr. | Tornio, Finland |
| D | Giselle Sawaged | Colorado School of Mines | Sr. | Highland Ranch, Colo. |
| D | Peyton Chick | Western Washington | Sr. | Kent, Wash. |
| D | Aleesa Muir | University of Colorado-Colorado Springs | Sr. | Colorado Springs, Colo. |
| D | Maggie Scales | Dallas Baptist | Sr. | McKinney, Texas |
| GK | Angelica Ramos | UC San Diego | Sr. | San Clemente, Calif. |

2019 Division II Conference Commissioners Association Women's Soccer All-America Third Team

| <u>Pos.</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>School</u> | <u>Year</u> | <u>Hometown</u> |
|-------------|------------------|---------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| F | Leah Foster \$ | Concord | So. | Wigan, England |
| F | Meagen Doyle ^ | Bridgeport | Sr. | Harwich, England |
| F | Madisyn Hunt | Kentucky Wesleyan College | Jr. | Jasper, Ind. |
| F | Karlie White | Western Washington | Sr. | North Bend, Wash. |
| MF | Grace Eversaul | Western Washington | Jr. | Vancouver, Wash. |
| MF | Allison Scott | Lubbock Christian | Jr. | Lubbock, Texas |
| MF | Mira Kontio | Concord | Jr. | Vantaa, Finland |
| MF | Josefine Nilsen | Flagler College | Fr. | Färjestaden, Sweden |
| D | Tayah Naudascher | Bloomsburg | Sr. | Philadelphia, Penn. |
| D | Kelsey Kimball | UC San Diego | Sr. | Thousand Oaks, Calif. |
| D | Allya Gann | Central Missouri | Sr. | Lee's Summit, Mo. |
| D | Sophie Brundin | Embry-Riddle | Sr. | Sundsvall, Sweden |
| GK | Jenna Hawkins | Bloomsburg | Jr. | Gleetwood, Penn. |

^ - 2018 D2 CCA All-America First Team * - 2017 D2 CCA All-America First Team
 @ - 2018 D2 CCA All-America Second Team # - 2017 D2 CCA All-America Second Team
 \$ - 2018 D2 CCA All-America Third Team



2019 Division II Conference Commissioners Association Women's Soccer All-Region First Teams

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| <u>EAST</u> | | | <u>ATLANTIC</u> | | |
| F | Maegen Doyle ^? | Bridgeport | GK | Jenna Hawkins | Bloomsburg |
| F | Jenna Fannon | Goldey-Beacom | F | Leah Foster! | Concord |
| F | Dana Poetzsch # | Molloy | F | Rachel Edge | Slippery Rock |
| F | Nina Predanic ^&! | Saint Rose | F | Rachel Bell | Concord |
| MF | Anissia Fucci @* | Georgian Court | F | Mahogany Willis | Indiana Univ. of Pennsylvania |
| MF | Kaitlin Lister #& | Georgian Court | MF | Mira Kontio | Concord |
| MF | Allyson Patterson | Southern New Hampshire | MF | Jordyn Minda | Slippery Rock |
| MF | Rebekka Skaasheim | Bridgeport | MF | Lauren Hoelke | Bloomsburg |
| D | Amber Raines | Caldwell | MF | Madison LaPole | West Virginia Wesleyan |
| D | Trista Seara | Mercy | D | Morgan Carmichael | Concord |
| D | Deanna Trongone | Saint Rose | D | Madison Johnson | Slippery Rock |
| D | Erin Wimmer | Georgian Court | D | Tayah Naudascher | Bloomsburg |
| GK | Marika Laurendeau | Saint Rose | D | Paige Mancini | Millersville |
| <u>SOUTHEAST</u> | | | <u>MIDWEST</u> | | |
| F | Sara Sandberg @! | Flagler College | F | Ava Cook ^ | Grand Valley State |
| F | Jessica Cravero ^ | Lincoln Memorial | F | Madisyn Hunt | Kentucky Wesleyan |
| F | Aqsa Mushtaq @ | Lenoir-Rhyne | F | Changel Carranza | Grand Valley State |
| F | Ashley Romanowski @ | Southern Wesleyan | F | Pia Nagel @ | Ferris State |
| MF | Charlene Nowotny | Flagler College | MF | Riko Sagara ! | Grand Valley State |
| MF | Riley Clark #^ | Columbus State | MF | Jillian Leetch | Rockhurst |
| MF | Morgan Patton | Belmont Abbey College | MF | Jayla Campbell | Findlay |
| MF | Josefine Nilsen | Flagler College | MF | Bri Rogers | Ferris State |
| D | Katie Beck | Catawba College | D | Cecilia Steinwascher | Grand Valley State |
| D | Shaunalee Govia | Mount Olive | D | Sydney O'Donnell | Grand Valley State |
| D | Christina Shimshock | Lenoir-Rhyne | D | Madelyne Juenger | Southern Indiana |
| D | Sara Carr | Flagler College | D | Bex Velloney | Cedarville |
| GK | Abbey Frail | Wingate | GK | Jessica Radice | |
| <u>SOUTH</u> | | | <u>SOUTH CENTRAL</u> | | |
| F | Kathryn O'Brien | Rollins College | F | Haley Knesek | Lubbock Christian |
| F | Anniina Sankoh | Lynn | F | Delaney Schmidt | Dallas Baptist |
| F | TeMia Pride | West Alabama | F | Whitley Johns | Dixie State |
| F | Hannah Christophe | Nova Southeastern | F | Hannah Kelley-Lusk | West Texas A&M |
| MF | Katie Taylor! | Mississippi College | MF | Shanade Hopcroft ! | Colorado, Colorado Springs |
| MF | Emma Heikkila | Nova Southeastern | MF | Allison Scott | Lubbock Christian |
| MF | Bailey Tadlock | Christian Brothers | MF | Tanner Sanders | Colorado, Colorado Spring |
| MF | Riley Tennant | Valdosta State | MF | Avery NcNeme | Angelo State |
| D | Liza Wise | Mississippi College | D | Giselle Sawaged | Colorado School of Mines |
| D | Sophie Brundin | Embry-Riddle Aeronautical | D | Aleesa Muir | Colorado, Colorado Springs |
| D | Isabella Garcia-Salas | West Florida | D | Maggie Sacles | Dallas Baptist |
| D | Page Napolitano | Nova Southeastern | D | Caitlin Esterle | Colorado, Colorado Springs |
| GK | Gabby Kayser | Mississippi College | GK | Shannon Mooney | Colorado Schools of Mines |



2018 Daktronics NCAA Division II Women's Soccer All-Region First Teams

CENTRAL

| | | |
|----|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| F | Sandra Nabweteme ^{^*+} | Southwestern Oklahoma |
| F | Jenny Vetter [!] | Minnesota State-Mankato |
| F | Makyla Toth | Central Missouri |
| F | Kelsie Eason | Central Oklahoma |
| MF | Haley Freeman | Central Missouri |
| MF | Hannah White [*] | Oklahoma Baptist |
| MF | Alesha Duccini [#] | Minnesota State-Mankato |
| MF | Haleigh Bares | Concordia-St. Paul |
| D | Anna Haub | Concordia-St. Paul |
| D | Allysa Gann [@] | Central Missouri |
| D | Carmen Scott | Ouachita Baptist |
| D | Kelsey Gordon [^] | Central Oklahoma |
| GK | Jordyn Clark | Concordia-St. Paul |

WEST

| | | |
|----|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| F | Taylor Scott | Cal Poly Pomona |
| F | Karli White | Western Washington |
| F | Sadie Ortiz | Stanislaus State |
| F | Julia Glaser [^] | Point Loma |
| MF | Natalie Saddic [!] | UC San Diego |
| MF | Grace Eversaul [@] | Western Washington |
| MF | Ilena Rivera | Stanislaus State |
| MF | Mika Celeste | UC San Diego |
| D | Emily Nelson [^] | Western Washington |
| D | Kelsey Kimball | UC San Diego |
| D | Riley West [@] | Sonoma State |
| D | Peyton Chick | Western Washington |
| GK | Angelica Ramos | UC San Diego |

- ! - Indicates 2019 Region Player of the Year
- ^ - 2018 D2 CCA Region First Team
- @ - 2018 D2 CCA Region Second Team
- \$ - 2018 D2 CCA Region Third Team
- * - 2017 D2 CCA Region First Team
- # - 2017 D2 CCA Region Second Team
- & - 2016 D2 CCA Region First Team
- + - 2016 D2 CCA Region Second Team

Selections from Regions

- Atlantic - 5 (1 - 2nd / 4 - 3rd)
- Central - 3 (1 - 1st / 1 - 2nd / 1 - 3rd)
- East - 5 (2 - 1st / 2 - 1st / 1 - 3rd)
- Midwest - 7 (5 - 1st / 1 - 2nd / 1 - 3rd)
- South - 3 (1 - 1st / 1 - 2nd / 1 - 3rd)
- Southeast - 4 (2 - 1st / 1 - 2nd / 1 - 3rd)
- South Central - 5 (1 - 1st / 3 - 2nd / 1 - 3rd)
- West - 7 (1 - 1st / 3 - 2nd / 3 - 3rd)

Selections by Team

- Grand Valley State - 7 (5 - 1st / 1 - 2nd)
- Western Washington - 4 (1 - 1st / 1 - 2nd / 2 - 3rd)
- Bloomsburg - 3 (1 - 1st / 2 - 2nd)
- Flagler College - 3 (2 - 1st / 1 - 3rd)
- UC San Diego - 3 (2 - 1st / 1 - 2nd)
- Colorado, Colorado Springs - 2 (1 - 1st / 1 - 2nd)
- Concord - 2 (2 - 3rd)
- The College of Saint Rose - 2 (2 - 1st)
- Bridgeport - 1 (1 - 3rd)
- Central Missouri - 1 (1 - 3rd)
- Colorado School of Mines - 1 (1 - 2nd)
- Columbus State - 1 (1 - 2nd)
- Dallas Baptist - 1 (1 - 2nd)
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical - 1 (1 - 3rd)
- Goldey-Beacon - 1 (1 - 2nd)
- Kentucky Wesleyan - 1 (1 - 3rd)
- Lubbock Christian - 1 (1 - 3rd)
- Minnesota State-Mankato - 1 (1 - 2nd)
- Molloy - 1 (1 - 2nd)
- Nova Southeastern - 1 (1 - 2nd)
- Southwestern Oklahoma State - 1 (1 - 1st)