



**Wharton County
Junior College**

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NEWS RELEASE

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WCJC ATHLETES RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

Baseball, volleyball and rodeo teams choose Most Valuable Players

WHARTON, TEXAS – Wharton County Junior College student athletes were recognized for their achievements both on and off the playing field during a recent awards banquet.

Athletes from the college's three sports programs – baseball, rodeo and volleyball – were praised individually by their respective coaches during the 52nd Annual Athletic Banquet, held recently in the Pioneer Student Center on the Wharton campus.

Two athletes were also singled out for the coveted Johnnie Frankie Award and the Dr. Ty Pate Academic Award. Jenny Banker, daughter of the late Coach Johnnie Frankie, presented the Johnnie Frankie Award to Austin Zillweger, a sophomore baseball player from Houston who has signed to play baseball for Houston Baptist University.

Leigh Ann Collins, WCJC's vice-president of instruction, presented the Dr. Ty Pate Award – established in the memory of the late WCJC administrator and former athlete – to Anthony Reed, a sophomore baseball player from Missouri City who is entering the United States Marine Corp's Officer Candidate School.

Volleyball Coach Brianna Florus shared individual statistics of her 12 players and a few anecdotes before presenting the Most Valuable Player award to Madison Taylor, a sophomore from Centerville.

Baseball Coach Keith Case, in his second season at WCJC, introduced his 30 players and credited them with success both on the field and in the classroom. The Pioneers finished the season with a 16-24 conference record and an overall record of 27-27, missing out on the National Junior College Athletic Association's Regional Tournament by just half a game. Case presented the Most Valuable Player award to Jacob Barfield, a freshman player out of Pearland.

Rodeo Coach Sean Amestoy shared highlights from his team's winning season and noted that six WCJC cowboys will compete at next month's College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyo. Amestoy presented Most Valuable Player honors to Reid Zapalac of Smithville.

Academic All-Conference awards were presented to six student athletes who had at least a 3.25 Grade Point Average, had been enrolled at the college for at least three semesters and had taken at least 36 hours of course work.

Academic All-Conference award winners were:

- MaKayla Lenamon (volleyball), Lolita
- J.T. Jakubik (baseball), Missouri City
- Luke Meza (baseball), Dickinson
- Austin Zillweger (baseball), Houston
- Will Blanchard (baseball), Bulverde
- Anthony Reed (baseball), Missouri City

The 52nd Annual WCJC Booster Club Athletic Banquet was made possible in part by WCJC and the WCJC Booster Club.

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