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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WAC ANNOUNCES 2007-08 STAN BATES AWARD WINNERS**

**DENVER** – Idaho football player David Vobora and New Mexico State swimmer Karen Kaufmann have been named the 2007-08 Western Athletic Conference Stan Bates Award winners. Vobora is the second Idaho male student-athlete to earn the distinguished honor, while Kaufmann is the first New Mexico State female student-athlete to be honored. The award is named in honor of former WAC Commissioner Stan Bates. The award honors the WAC's top male and female scholar-athletes and recognizes the recipients' athletic and academic accomplishments.

Vobora, a senior from Eugene, Ore., is a communications and psychology major. He is a four-time academic all-WAC honoree and has earned Idaho's Scholar Student-Athlete award four different semesters. In 2007, he was named to the ESPN the Magazine All-District Academic Team. He was also a three-time Student-Athlete Advisory Committee team representative.

During 2007-08, Vobora volunteered for both the Race for the Cure and Relay for Life. He was also a volunteer teacher for the West Park Elementary Extended Reading Program.

On the football field, Vobora displayed similar success. Following the 2007 season, he earned the team's Most Valuable Defensive Player Award and became the Vandals' second all-time total tackle leader for a single season with 148. In 2007, Vobora ranked third in the nation in total tackles.

Kaufmann, a senior from Sparks, Nev., is an Elementary Education major. The swimmer is a three-time Academic all-WAC honoree. During the 2007-08 season, Kaufmann was Vice President of the New Mexico State SAAC and has been a member of SAAC since 2005.

Throughout her career at New Mexico State, Kaufmann worked with several volunteer organizations including helping the American Red Cross with hurricane relief. She also worked at La Casa shelter with the WAC SAAC and the New Mexico senior Olympics. She also spent her time volunteering with Girls Can and the Salvation Army.

In the pool, Kaufmann was a freestyle specialist serving as a leader both in and out of the water. At the 2007 WAC Swimming and Diving Championships, she had a top 20 finish in the grueling 1650-yard freestyle with a time of 18:29.88. Her season bests include four top 10 performances against WAC-rival Northern Arizona.

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### 2007-08 Stan Bates Award Nominees

#### Men, School, Sport

Matt Nelson, Basketball, Boise State  
 David Vobora, Football, Idaho  
 Abraham (Trei) Steward, Basketball, New Mexico State

#### Women, School, Sport

Dana Windley, Soccer, Idaho  
 Karen Kaufmann, Swimming, New Mexico State

### Previous Stan Bates Award Winners

Year	Men, School, Sport	Women, School, Sport
2008	David Vobora, Football, Idaho	Karen Kaufmann, Swimming, New Mexico State
2007	Lauri Hakala, Volleyball, Hawai'i Corey Cabral, Baseball, San Jose State	Melinda Ouwkerk, Cross Country/Track and Field, Idaho
2006	Jason Giuffre, Track and Field, Idaho	Christine Harms, Volleyball, Nevada
2005	James Adam Davis, Track and Field, Rice	Tracie Uchima, Softball, Hawai'i
2004	William Barker, Tennis, Rice	Allison Beckford, Track and Field, Rice
2003	Taylor Pullins, Baseball, Nevada	Stephanie Pascucci, Volleyball, San Jose State
2002	Chad Stoloff, Tennis, Nevada	Jennifer Ashcroft, Track and Field, Nevada
2001	Sebastian Iannariello, Tennis, TCU	Becky Witt, Softball, Fresno State
2000	Jeffery Piper, Cross Country, Rice	Jennifer Cafferty, Basketball, Rice
1999	Nate Kvamme, Football, Colorado State	Shelly Borrman, Track and Field, Colorado State
1998	Byron Shefchik, Swimming and Diving, BYU	Christina Bell, Soccer, Fresno State
1997	Obadele Thompson, Track and Field, UTEP	Angelica Ljungquist, Volleyball, Hawai'i
1996	Greg Myers, Football, Colorado State	Teresa James, Basketball, Colorado State
1995	Stoney Case, Football, New Mexico	Amy Burnett, Basketball, Wyoming
1994	Justin Hall, Football, New Mexico	Heidi Standteiner, Skiing, Utah
1993	Jason Elam, Football, Hawai'i	Anu Kaljurand, Track and Field, Brigham Young
1992	Chris Nelson, Track and Field, Air Force	Missy Marlowe, Gymnastics, Utah
1991	Robert Clayton, Swimming and Diving, Wyoming	Laura Zaugg, Track and Field, Brigham Young
1990	Collin Davie, Track and Field, Utah	
1989	Randy Welniak, Football, Wyoming Chuck Cutler, Football, Brigham Young	
1988	Chad Hennings, Football, Air Force	
1987	Steve Bartalo, Football, Colorado State	
1986	Rich Strong, Basketball, Colorado State	
1985	Ed Eyestone, Track and Field, Brigham Young	
1984	Jeff Kubiak, Football, Air Force	
1983	David Schreck, Football, Air Force	
1982	Frankie Sedillo, Football, New Mexico	
1981	Blane Gaison, Football, Hawai'i	

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