

UW's Bingisser Named First-Team Academic All-American

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Martin Bingisser placed sixth in the hammer at the 2007 NCAA Championships

SEATTLE - Washington's Martin Bingisser a rare distinction Monday, adding first-team ESPN the Magazine Academic All-America honors to the first-team All-America honors he earned in competition at the NCAA Track & Field Championships earlier this month. Bingisser was named to ESPN's the Magazine's Academic All-America third-team in 2006, and was an All-American on the track as well that season.

A graduate of Bellevue's Interlake High School, Bingisser was one of 15 male athletes selected to the Academic All-America first team by a judging panel comprised of executive members of the Collegiate Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). The second-year UW law student was also named to both the conference and district All-Academic first-teams earlier this year.

Bingisser recently completed his second year in UW's School of Law, where he has maintained a 3.73 grade-point average. The 23-year-old graduated from Washington in 2005 after just three years of collegiate study, earning a bachelor's degree in philosophy with a stellar 3.87 GPA.

Since transferring to Washington in 2003 from Cal State Northridge, Bingisser has established himself as one of America's top young hammer throwers, earning All-America honors each of the past two seasons, including a sixth-place NCAA Championships finish earlier this month. Bingisser, who also won the conference indoor weight throw title in 2006, boasts the second-best mark in UW history in the hammer at 222 feet, 1 inch, trailing only four-time NCAA hammer champion Scott Neilson's 238-7 mark in the UW annals.

In addition to his athletic and academic prowess, Bingisser is one of the nation's leading hammer scholars. His website, HammerCenter.org, is one of America's top resources for hammer news, statistics and information, including training videos, message boards and other resources for hammer throwers of all ages.

"Martin is as well-rounded a student-athlete as any coach, fan or parent could ever dream of," said fifth-year Washington head coach Greg Metcalf "The things he's been able to accomplish in all areas of his life are truly remarkable. The next time the NCAA makes one of those commercials about what a student-athlete should be, they should come out and talk to Martin. He's been an outstanding teammate, and will be a fantastic lawyer."

Bingisser, who is spending his summer interning with a law firm in Washington, D.C., has also been that he has awarded an NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship which will allow him to continue his legal education. The prestigious scholarships of \$7,500 each are given to just 29 male and 29 female student-athletes in spring sports each year, and are intended "to reward individuals whose dedication and effort are reflective of those characteristics necessary to succeed and thrive through postgraduate study in an accredited graduate degree program."