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Gelso's got brain to match brawn

Truckee grad, University of Colorado senior nominated for academic awards

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The accolades continue.

After rounding out his collegiate career and outstanding senior campaign with a national title this past March, Truckee's Matt Gelso of the University of Colorado was selected last week to the ESPN The Magazine first-team Academic All-District at-large team.

Voted on by the College Sports Information Directors of America, Gelso also was nominated for the Academic All-America at-large team, which will be announced June 6, according to the University of Colorado [website](#).

"It's an honor to be named to the All-District academic team," said Gelso, a 2006 Truckee High grad and former junior standout with Far West Nordic. "The fact that there are 12 sports combined into one on the at-large team makes it pretty cool to be a part of."

"As far as academics are concerned, I never expected any recognition; I just went to class and did my work."

Gelso graduated earlier this month with a degree in business finance.

□ He finished with a 3.78 grade-point average while making the university's Dean's List (3.5 or better) as well as the Big 12 Commissioner's Honor Roll (3.0 or better) in each of his eight semesters.

And that's not all.

The 21-year-old also was a four-time member of the Division I National All-Academic ski team, while prior to graduation he was honored with the Big 12 Conference Medal award for his accomplishments in both the classroom and on the snow. He also received the University of Colorado's Scholar Athlete Award for posting the highest GPA among senior male student-athletes.

The academic awards follow a breakout senior season on the Buffaloes' Nordic ski team. Gelso tied a University of Colorado record with five consecutive wins this past season, then ended his college career with a bang by winning the NCAA Championship in the 10-kilometer classic discipline and finishing third in the freestyle race.

Gelso won seven races in his four years and recorded 22 podium finishes, which is tied for the fourth most in the University of Colorado's history. He became only the second American-born skier to win the classic race at the NCAA Championship, which helped lead his Buffaloes to a runner-up finish as a team.

The Buffaloes rewarded Gelso by honoring him as their 2009-2010 Athlete of the Year.

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