



PRESS RELEASE

## 2003 WBCA All-Star Challenge to Feature Nation's Premier Senior Collegiate Players

ATLANTA, Ga. (March 10, 2003) -- The Women's Basketball Association (WBCA) has selected its all-star line-up for the 2003 WBCA All-Star Challenge. On Friday, April 4 twenty of the top senior collegiate players in women's basketball will showcase "Who's Got Game?" at Georgia Tech's Alexander Memorial Coliseum.

The 6th Annual WBCA All-Star Challenge will take place as part of a doubleheader prelude to the NCAA Women's Final Four in Atlanta, Georgia. This year's game will be the second of a doubleheader event featured during the WBCA's "The Night of All-Stars". Not only will fans get to watch and collect autographs from the future WNBA stars, but college hoops as well, at the WBCA High School All-America Game, presented by Nike, where things will tip-off at 6:00 p.m. (EST).

The WBCA All-Star Challenge features 17 of the top senior NCAA Division I players, voted on by Division I Head Coaches, and the NCAA Division II, III and NAIA top senior vote getters in The State Farm Player of the Year ballots, to go head to head in an action-packed game of women's basketball.

Leading the college all-stars at point guard is Vanderbilt's Ashley McElhiney, University of North Carolina's Coretta Brown, Iowa State's Lindsey Wilson, Brigham Young University's Erin Thorn and Boston College's Brianne Stepherson.

A slew of outstanding perimeter players will be participating in the contest including Tennessee's Kara Lawson, Notre Dame's Alicia Ratay, Tulsa's Allison Curtin, Villanova's Trish Juhline, UCLA's Michelle Greco and Clemson's Chrissy Floyd.

Dominating the inside will be the second half of Vanderbilt's dynamic duo, Chantelle Anderson, Mississippi State's star post player, LaToya Thomas, Tennessee's Gwen Jackson, Plenette Pierson of Texas Tech, Jocelyn Penn out of South Carolina and Louisiana Tech's Cheryl Ford.

The All-Star Challenge Roster could change if any of the aforementioned players' teams are participating in the NCAA Women's Final Four. In that case, alternates have been chosen based on voting results.

"The WBCA is ecstatic to present "The Night of All-Stars". The WBCA All-Star Challenge has become one of the most anticipated events surrounding NCAA Women's Final Four and our national convention", said WBCA CEO Beth Bass. "It's exciting to see the future of women's basketball convene for one night of hardwood action."

Past stars of the All-Star Challenge include: Semeka Randall (Seattle Storm), Marie Ferdinand (Utah Starzz), Chamique Holdsclaw (Washington Mystics), Ticha Penicherio (Sacramento Monarchs), Kelly Miller (Charlotte Sting); Coco Miller (Washington Mystics); Murriel Page (Washington Mystics), Olympia Scott-Richardson (Indiana Fever); Cindy Blodgett (Sacramento Monarchs) and many more stars of the WNBA.

Last year's WBCA All-Star Challenge took a different twist, as the college all-stars took on the USA Basketball Women's National Team. The 2002 WBCA All-Star Challenge squad was led by the MVP performance of Danielle Crockrom (San Antonio Silver Stars), however the USA Basketball Women's National Team prevailed with a 100-59 victory behind a double-double performance of 30 points and 10 rebounds from WNBA superstar Lisa Leslie (Los Angeles Sparks).

Fans can order tickets by calling the Georgia Tech Ticket Office at 888-TECH-TIX (888-832-4849) or by visiting the Georgia Tech Box Office. Tickets for the WBCA "Night of All-Stars" are \$25.00. Lower Level reserved bench seats are \$20.00 a piece or group rate of \$15.00 a piece for 10 or more. Upper level general admission seats are \$15.00 a piece or group rate of \$10.00 a piece for 10 or more tickets.

### 2003 WBCA All-Star Challenge Sketches

#### Ashley McElhiney, Vanderbilt, 5-6 PG

McElhiney helped the Commodores to a 19-8 regular season record as she led the team in assists with 193 in 27 games. McElhiney is averaging 10.1 points per game this season and has connected on 51 of 121 three-point shots (.421).

#### Coretta Brown, North Carolina, 5-9 PG

Named to the All-Atlantic Coast Conference first team for the second year. Brown is the Tarheels' leading scorer averaging 14 points per game through 29 games. Brown is also impressive at the free throw line hitting 70 of 86 attempts (81.4%).

#### Lindsey Wilson, Iowa State, 5-9 PG

Wilson is averaging 19.2 points for the Cyclones through 26 games as she is on the floor leader. On February 26th, she buried the Colorado Buffaloes hitting 18 of 24 shots from the field ending the day with 41 points, 4 rebounds, and 2 assists.

#### Erin Thorn, BYU, 5-10 PG

Thorn is leading the Cougars with 18.3 points per game and a total of 153 assists through 26 games. In Mountain West Conference games Thorn has hit 42 of 97 three point shots (.433), and has been great on defense leading the team with 32 steals in conference play.

#### Brianne Stepherson, Boston College, 5-9 PG

As an unselfish player for the Eagles, Stepherson has dished out a team leading 141 assists through 27 games this season. Stepherson is also averaging 7.6 points per game and has 32 steals this season.

#### Kara Lawson, Tennessee, 5-9 Perimeter

The spirited leader of the Lady Vols is second on the team in scoring with 14.1 points per game and assists with 113 through 29 games. At the foul line Lawson is has hit 70 of 80 attempts (.875). Lawson is the team leader from long range hitting 46.5% of

three pointers attempted.

Alicia Ratay, Notre Dame, 6–0 Perimeter

Ratay has helped lead the Fighting Irish to an 18–9 record on the season including a 10–6 record in the Big East. She has led the team in scoring in 8 of 27 games including 17 points in a win at USC earlier this season.

Allison Curtin, Tulsa, 5–11 Perimeter

Curtin has been the high scorer for the Golden Hurricanes this season in all but 2 of the 28 games this season. Her barrage started in the season opener as she poured in 30 points in a dramatic one point win against SW Missouri State in the Preseason WNIT.

Trish Juhline, Villanova, 5–10 Perimeter

Juhline set a new Big East record for career three–point field goals for just conference games against Providence on Senior Night. She also leads the team in scoring averaging 18 points per game through 27 games this season.

Michelle Greco, UCLA, 5–9 Perimeter

Led the PAC–10 in scoring average (19.2) and steals (2.78) through the end of the regular season. Her jump shot in the lane with 6.1 seconds remaining was the winning shot in a home game against Oregon this year.

Chrissy Floyd, Clemson, 5–9 Perimeter

Named to the Atlantic Coast Conference's 50th Anniversary Team, one of two active players named to this team. Floyd had a season high 27 points in a game at North Carolina earlier this season.

Chantelle Anderson, Vanderbilt, 6–6 Inside/Post

Anderson, a First Team All–SEC Selection, led the Commodores in scoring through 27 games averaging 18.1 points per game. She also leads the team in field goal percentage (.624) and blocks with 45.

LaToya Thomas, Mississippi State, 6–2 Inside/Post

Thomas, the 2003 SEC Player of Year and three–time Kodak All–American, has been a nemesis to opposing coaches the last four years. She has led the Bulldogs to a 22–6 record during the season and poured in 42 points against Tulsa in the Preseason WNIT.

Plenette Pierson, Texas Tech, 6–2 Inside/Post

Helped lead the Red Raiders to a 24–4 record during the season. Pierson led the team in scoring this season and fired in a season high 32 points against Missouri earlier this season. She also averaged 7.5 rebounds per game through 28 games.

Jocelyn Penn, South Carolina, 6–0 Inside/Post

Penn, a First Team All–SEC Selection, leads the team in scoring with a 24.9 points per game average, which included a 45 point outburst against the College of Charleston. She has also had an amazing 103 steals in 26 games played this season.

Cheryl Ford, Louisiana Tech, 6–3 Inside/Post

Ford averaged a double–double for the season through 28 games by leading the Lady Techsters in points (15.3 per game) and rebounds (12.5 per game). Had a career

night when she scored 28 points and grabbed 23 rebounds in a win over SMU this season.