



PRESS RELEASE

WBCA High School All–America Game is on the Move

ATLANTA, Ga. (September 6, 2002) --The Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) announced today it will relocate the 2003 WBCA High School All–America Game presented by Nike to Atlanta, GA – the host city of the 22nd Annual WBCA National Convention and the NCAA Division I Women's Final Four. This move will provide broader national exposure for the High School All–America Game and avoid direct competition with a newly introduced all–star game scheduled to take place the week preceding the Women's Final Four.

"We are excited to have this outstanding event as part of the festivities surrounding the 'Super Bowl of Women's Basketball,' however, it was an incredibly difficult decision to leave Hartford, Connecticut," said Beth Bass, WBCA CEO. "We had over 10,000 fans in attendance at last season's game and The Phoenix Companies and the Hartford basketball community have set a standard over the last five years that will be hard to match."

What is even more exciting for basketball fans is the 12th annual WBCA High School All–America Game will be held in conjunction with the WBCA's All–Star Challenge, an exhibition game featuring 20 of the nation's top collegiate senior players. These two premiere Women's Basketball all–star events will be held Friday, April 4, 2003. The WBCA has received NCAA certification for the high school game, which will allow college coaches to now be in attendance to watch their future stars.

"Phoenix has been proud to be the title sponsor of the WBCA High School All–America Game for the past five years. The Connecticut basketball community is unparalleled in its support of Women's Basketball. That enthusiasm helped build this game into a recognized and prestigious event," said Robert Fiondella, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. "While it is sad to see the game leave Hartford, we know it now has a national platform from which to grow even bigger. In the end, that is in the best interest of Women's Basketball. We remain committed to supporting the Hartford community by hosting various events such as UConn Women's Basketball, The Phoenix Classic, The Hartford FoxForce and the Broadway Series at the Bushnell, to name a few."

The WBCA High School All–America Game has featured such WNBA All–Stars as Chamique Holdsclaw (Washington Mystics/University of Tennessee), Sue Bird (Seattle Storm/University of Connecticut), Tamika Catchings (Indiana Fever/University of Tennessee), Katie Smith (Minnesota Lynx/The Ohio State University) and Nykesha Sales (Orlando Miracle/University of Connecticut).

The game time and site of the 2003 WBCA High School All–America Game presented

by Nike and the WBCA All-Star Challenge will be announced at a later date.

Founded in 1981, the WBCA promotes women's basketball by unifying coaches at all levels to develop a reputable identity for the sport and to foster and promote the development of the game in all of its aspects as an amateur sport for women and girls. For more information about the WBCA please visit our website at www.wbca.org.