



PRESS RELEASE

Duke University's Alana Bears Named WBCA/NCAA Division I Player of the Month

ATLANTA, Ga. (January 13, 2004) -- Duke University senior guard Alana Beard has been named the first Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) NCAA Division I Player of the Month for December, WBCA CEO, Beth Bass announced today. The WBCA reintroduces its player of the month program after several years of hiatus. The WBCA will announce a player of the month throughout the college women's basketball season for the months of December, January, February, and March.

Beard, a native of Shreveport, Louisiana, averaged 18.8 points, 5.0 rebounds, 4.8 assists, 4.0 steals and 1.2 blocked shots, and opened conference play and the month of December with a win against Wake Forest (Dec. 5).

December also marked a homecoming for Beard, who returned to her native town to take on Northwestern State on December 20. The trip home proved to be a pleasant one as the Blue Devils were victorious over the Lady Demons 105-53, with a healthy contribution from Beard, who had 19 points and six rebounds. Beard also tied her career high seven steals with a 90-59 win over Hampton on December 28. To close out the month and 2003, Beard led the Blue Devils past Loyola Marymount 81-53 with a 19-point performance.

Duke is currently on a 13-game winning streak, achieving their 500th win in the program's 29 seasons with their most recent victory over the University of North Carolina 79-57 on January 11 and a huge win over the reigning NCAA Division I Women's Basketball National Champions, University of Connecticut on January 3.

Thus far this season, Beard has been named ACC Women's Basketball Player of the Week twice, marking the 15th time she has received the honor. She became Duke's all-time leading scoring leader with 2,248 points against Florida State (Jan. 5). Beard is also candidate for The State Farm Wade Trophy and Bayer Advantage Senior Class Award along with teammate Iciss Tillis.

Also nominated: Patechia Hartman, Georgia State University (Atlantic Sun); Kate Flavin, University of Richmond (Atlantic 10); Rebekkah Brunson, Georgetown University (BIG EAST); Kathleen Nygaard, Eastern Washington (Big Sky); Kelly Mazzante, Penn State (Big 10); Jamie Carey, University of Texas (Big 12); Emily Faurholdt, University of Idaho (Big West); Monique Coker, Old Dominion (Colonial Athletic Association); Khara Smith, DePaul (Conference USA); Rosalee Mason, Manhattan College (Metro Atlantic Athletic); Andrea Csaszar, Kent State (Mid-American Conference); Zane Teilane, Western Illinois (Mid-Continent Conference); Leisel Harry, Coppin State (Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference); Sherry McCracklin, UNLV (Mountain West Conference); Pam O'Connor,

Eastern Illinois (Ohio Valley Conference); Giuliana Mendiola, University of Washington (Pacific-10); Katie Macfarlane, United States Military Academy (Patriot League); Vanessa Hayden, University of Florida (Southeastern Conference); Tiffany Hamm, Western Carolina University (Southern Conference); Diamond Cosby, Northwestern State (Southland Conference); Amie Williams, Jackson State University (Southwestern Athletic Conference); and Amber Obaze, Louisiana Tech (Western Athletic Conference).

*WBCA NCAA Division I Player of the Month honors is based on achievements during respective month for nomination and game-by-game statistics. All nominations must come from the conference office and the player's head coach must be a member of the WBCA.