



PRESS RELEASE

USA Basketball Women's Senior National Team Joins WBCA All-Star Doubleheader

ATLANTA, Ga. (February 17, 2004) -- The Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) adds more star power to their line-up of players for this year's All-Star Challenge. On Saturday, April 3, the 2004 USA Basketball Women's Senior National Team will make its way to Tulane University (New Orleans, LA) and take on the top 20 senior collegiate players in the country.

Each year, the WBCA All-Star Challenge is featured among several events during the WBCA National Convention and Women's Final Four®. This year's game, as part of the "WBCA Night of All-Stars," will be held at Tulane University's Fogelman Arena. Tip-off will be at 4:30 p.m. CT for the WBCA High School All-America Game, followed by the All-Star Challenge Game at 6:30 p.m. CT. This will be the third time (1996, 2002) the USA Basketball Senior National Team has participated in the college all-star game. Lisa Leslie earned MVP honors when they competed in 2002.

"We are ecstatic and honored to have the USA Basketball Senior National Team participate in this year's game," said WBCA CEO, Beth Bass. "Our fans and friends will have the opportunity of a lifetime to see the best women's basketball talent at all levels."

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

The USA Basketball Senior National Team will be coached by Van Chancellor (Houston Comets) and feature Olympians Lisa Leslie (Los Angeles Sparks); Sheryl Swoopes (Houston Comets); Dawn Staley (Charlotte Sting); Katie Smith (Minnesota Lynx) and DeLisha Milton-Jones (Los Angeles Sparks) and other WNBA All-Stars Sue Bird (Seattle Storm); Tamika Catchings (Indiana Fever); Shannon Johnson (San Antonio Silver Stars); and Tina Thompson (Houston Comets).

"USA Basketball is pleased to once again be participating in the WBCA All-Star Challenge," said USA Basketball Executive Director Jim Tooley. "This game will be an important part of the USA Basketball Women's Senior National Team's April training and it offers an opportunity for some past and future USA Basketball team members to play against our very best players. I'm sure it will be a memorable evening for everyone."

This year's All-Star Challenge team will be disclosed at a later date and alternates will

be chosen to replace those seniors competing in the Women's Final Four. Past participants include: Chamique Holdsclaw (Washington Mystics); Ticha Penicherio (Sacramento Monarchs); Cheryl Ford (Detroit Shock); LaToya Thomas (San Antonio Silver Stars); Murriel Page (Washington Mystics), Nikki Teasley (Los Angeles Sparks); Marie Ferdinand (San Antonio Silver Stars) and many more stars of the WNBA.