



PRESS RELEASE

Eastern Connecticut State University Standout Named the State Farm/WBCA DIII Player of the Year

Atlanta, Ga. (March 18, 2004) -- The Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) announced that Allison Coleman of Eastern Connecticut State University has been named The State Farm/WBCA Division III Player of the Year. The WBCA presents this award annually to the top players in each of the five WBCA collegiate divisions (NCAA Divisions I, II, III, NAIA and JC/CC) and high school at its National Convention.

"Congratulations to Allison on the accomplishments she has made throughout her career," said WBCA CEO Beth Bass. "She has set an unprecedented milestone in the world of Division III women's hoops."

Senior Allison Coleman made history in several ways this season, including shattering several school records. She is the school's leading scorer including men's and women's basketball with over 1,000 points. Coleman ended her 117-game collegiate career with 1,991 points and 1,134 rebounds, and is also the leader in assists (579) and steals (369). In addition, Coleman is the first player in Little East Conference history to earn first team All-Conference and Player of the Year honors four times. Coleman made WBCA history by becoming the seventh player to be named to the Kodak All-America team four consecutive years, the only Division III player to have that distinction.

"State Farm is proud to honor an outstanding athlete such as Allison Coleman," said State Farm's Manager of Advertising and Sponsorships, Bobby Wilkinson. "We take great pride in supporting the future of women's sports."

The State Farm/WBCA Player of the Year Award is selected by the nine-member WBCA Player of the Year Committee, which consists of one WBCA-member coach from each of the eight WBCA NCAA Division III Regions.

Coleman will be formally presented to the WBCA and its members at the State Farm Wade Trophy and State Farm/WBCA Players of the Year Luncheon, presented by Jostens on Sunday, April 4, 2004 at 12:30 p.m. The luncheon is part of the 2004 WBCA National Convention, held in conjunction with the NCAA Division I Women's Final Four in New Orleans, Louisiana.