



PRESS RELEASE

Seattle Pacific Coach Repeats as Russell Athletic/WBCA NCAA Division II Coach of the Year

ATLANTA, Ga. (March 23, 2004) -- RUSSELL ATHLETIC and the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) have selected Coach Gordy Presnell of Seattle Pacific University, as the 2004 RUSSELL ATHLETIC/WBCA NCAA Division II Coach of the Year. Presnell becomes the 22nd coach in history to receive this accolade, which has been selected by the WBCA since 1983.

For the second straight season, Presnell guided the Falcons to capturing the Great Northwest Athletic Conference title with an unblemished record. This is also the second year that Presnell has claimed the Russell Athletic/WBCA Division II Coach of the Year award. Last year, the team finished with a 29-1 record and Presnell won conference and region Coach of the Year honors. Presnell has more wins than any of the previous Seattle Pacific coaches; is the winningest coach in the conference and has not had a losing season at Seattle Pacific University. The team is currently ranked number one in the USA Today/ESPN/WBCA Top 25 Coaches' Poll with a 30-0 record and have made it to the Division II Elite Eight.

"RUSSELL ATHLETIC congratulates Coach Presnell of Seattle Pacific University, the 2004 RUSSELL ATHLETIC/WBCA Division II Coach of the Year," said Rod McGeachy, Vice President of Marketing. "We respect the commitment that all coaches make to their team and their sport and we at RUSSELL ATHLETIC are proud to be associated with this special achievement in Coach Presnell's life."

Presnell is one of six WBCA National Coaches of the Year selected by the Association, which also names winners for each of the other four WBCA collegiate divisions (NCAA Divisions I and III, NAIA and JC/CC) plus high school. Each collegiate winner is selected through a two-level process. The first level is by region, in which coaches from each WBCA geographical region vote for their respective top coach. Presnell, having received the most votes in WBCA Region 8-West, advanced as a finalist to the national level of the selection process along with the other seven Russell Athletic/WBCA Regional Coaches of the Year in NCAA Division II.

Presnell and the national winners from the other five divisions will be presented to the WBCA membership at the RUSSELL ATHLETIC/WBCA Coach of the Year Luncheon on Tuesday, April 6 at noon at the New Orleans Marriott. 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.