



PRESS RELEASE

Duke Standout Alana Beard Captures Prestigious State Farm Wade Trophy

ATLANTA, Ga. (April 3, 2004) -- Alana Beard of Duke University has been named the recipient of the prestigious State Farm Wade Trophy.

"Alana has had an incredible senior season filled with many exciting highlights," said WBCA Chief Executive Officer Beth Bass. "Alana has proven to be one of the best women's basketball players at the collegiate level. Her stellar career and accomplishments have made her very deserving of this award and on behalf of the WBCA, I congratulate her and wish her continued success."

The Wade Trophy, named after the late, legendary three-time national champion Delta State University head coach Lily Margaret Wade, debuted in 1978 as the first-ever women's national player of the year award in college basketball. Past winners of the Wade Trophy include several prominent WNBA executives and players: New York Liberty vice president and general manager Carol Blazejowski (1978-inaugural winner), Nancy Lieberman (1979, '80 - the only two-time winner), Cheryl Miller (1984), former Connecticut Sun forward Rebecca Lobo (1995), Sacramento Monarchs guard Ticha Penicheiro (1998), and Seattle Storm guard Sue Bird (2002).

Alana received the award during the Kodak/WBCA All-America Team Press Conference and State Farm Wade Trophy Announcement on April 3, 2004. The award presentation was a part of the WBCA National Convention held in New Orleans. Last year's Wade Trophy recipient was Diana Taurasi of the University of Connecticut.

Beard is a player that displays passion and integrity on the court and has definite impact on her team. Beard led her team to the Elite Eight of the NCAA Championship Tournament this season. The first female basketball player to have their jersey retired at Duke, Alana is Duke's all-time leading scorer for men and women with 2,687 points, ranking 15th in the NCAA record books.

Alana is also the first player in ACC history to be named ACC Player of the Year three times and is the first player in ACC men's and women's history to notch eight ACC Championships (four regular season and four tournament). She owns 18 ACC Player of the Week selections, which ranks first all-time in the ACC ... recorded 16 double-doubles.

In her career, Beard has accumulated over 2,600 points, 500 assists and 400 steals, making her the first in NCAA history in either men's or women's basketball to achieve those collective numbers. Beard led her team and the conference in scoring with 19.7 points per game.

The National Association of Girls and Women in Sport (NAGWS) was established to develop and deliver equitable and quality sport opportunities for ALL girls and women through relevant research, advocacy, leadership development, educational strategies, and programming in a manner that promotes social justice and change.

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