



PRESS RELEASE

WBCA Enhances Website with the Addition of State Farm Wade Trophy Section

ATLANTA, Ga. (November 5, 2003) -- The Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) today launched a new addition to its website: The State Farm Wade Trophy Page. The latest appendage to WBCA.org will highlight the history of the prestigious award, in addition to providing updated weekly statistics and profiles on each NCAA Division I player in contention for the trophy recognized as "The Heisman of Women's Basketball."

"We are excited about this bonus to our website," said WBCA Chief Executive Officer, Beth Bass. "The State Farm Wade Trophy page is an excellent resource for media representatives and fans to access statistics on all 35 players in the "Wade Watch," as well as follow weekly match-ups between candidates. It will be exciting to see the first "Wade Watch" match-up on ESPN during The State Farm Tip-Off Classic (November 16), where eight (8) of our candidates will face-off."

The State Farm Wade Trophy, now in its 27th year and named after the late, legendary three-time national champion Delta State University coach, Lily Margaret Wade, debuted in 1978 as the first-ever women's national player of the year award in college basketball. The highly regarded award is organized by the WBCA in conjunction with the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport (NAGWS).

Last year's State Farm Wade Trophy recipient was Diana Taurasi (University of Connecticut). The first recipient of the Wade Trophy was Carol Blazejowski of Montclair State in 1978. Other Wade Trophy/NCAA Division I Player of the Year recipients include many WNBA standouts such as Teresa Weatherspoon (1988), Jennifer Azzi (1990), Rebecca Lobo (1995), Ticha Penicheiro (1998), and two-time winner Nancy Lieberman (1979 and 1980) and Cheryl Miller (1985).

"State Farm is proud to continue to sponsor an award that honors the best in women's basketball," said Jack North, Executive Vice President of Financial Services, State Farm Insurance Company. "We are thrilled that the WBCA has developed an entire section on their website that is dedicated to The State Farm Wade Trophy and the partnership between State Farm and the WBCA."

Founded in 1981, the WBCA promotes women's basketball by unifying coaches at all levels to develop a reputable identity for the sport and to foster and promote the development of the game in all of its aspects as an amateur sport for women and girls. For more information about the WBCA, please visit WBCA.org.

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