



PRESS RELEASE

Catchings, Beard Named Honorary Co-Captains for WBCA High School All-America Teams

ATLANTA, Ga. (March 25, 2005) -- The Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) named Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) stars Tamika Catchings (Indiana Fever) and Alana Beard (Washington Mystics) as Honorary Nike Co-Captains of the 2005 WBCA High School All-America Game, presented by Nike on Saturday, April 2 at the University of Indianapolis' Nicoson Hall.

"We are thrilled about having two of our former WBCA All-Americans participate as honorary co-captains," said Beth Bass, WBCA CEO. "These two are exceptional role models for our High School All-Americans, who are the future of women's basketball."

Both WNBA players are former WBCA High School All-Americans. Catchings, a four-time Kodak/WBCA All-American from the University of Tennessee participated in the 1997 event. Beard, a graduate of Duke University and a three-time Kodak/WBCA All-American participated in the 2000 event.

"I am really honored about being a co-captain at the WBCA High School All-America Game," said Catchings. "Having been a part of the game in my senior year in high school; it was an honor to even be able to play with such great players. And now to be able to reverse the roles, and be a co-captain, I am excited about seeing what the future holds for women's basketball."

The nation's top 20 female high school seniors will participate in the college-style regulation game. Last year's game featured such standouts as the University of Tennessee's Alexis Hornbuckle and Candace Parker, LSU's Sylvia Fowles, Matee Ajavon out of Rutgers University and Georgia's Natasha Humphrey. Over the years, such notable players as Chamique Holdsclaw, Sue Bird, Diana Taurasi, Nikki Teasley and Swin Cash have participated in the WBCA High School All-America Game.

"It is definitely an honor to be chosen as a co-captain for the WBCA High School All-America Game," said Beard. "It was a blessing for me to a part of such a fun and elevating experience. Therefore, being able to come back and be associated with an event of this sort is going to be blast. These WBCA all-stars are the future of women's basketball and I can't wait to see what's in store."

This will be the first game featured in the "WBCA Night of All-Stars," a doubleheader prelude to the NCAA Women's Final Four. Following the WBCA High School All-America Game will be the future stars of the WNBA competing in the WBCA All-Star Challenge, which brings 20 of the top female seniors in collegiate basketball together

for a night of spectacular hoops.