



PRESS RELEASE

LSU's Chatman Named RUSSELL ATHLETIC/WBCA National Division I Coach of the Year

ATLANTA, Ga. (March 28, 2005) -- RUSSELL ATHLETIC and the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) have selected Pokey Chatman of Louisiana State University as the 2005 RUSSELL ATHLETIC/WBCA National NCAA Division I Coach of the Year. Chatman becomes the 23rd coach in history to receive this accolade, which has been selected by the WBCA since 1983.

"Pokey is truly deserving of this honor, her dedication to her student-athletes and the game of basketball make her an excellent choice for this honor," said WBCA CEO, Beth Bass. On behalf of the WBCA, we are thrilled to present her with this award."

Chatman, who is in her first year as head coach of the Lady Tigers, was also named Southeastern Conference (SEC) Coach of the Year, Naismith Coach of the Year and the United States Basketball Writers Association's Coach of the Year. This season, Chatman guided the Lady Tigers to a 29-2 regular season record and the program's first SEC regular season championship. Chatman made history as the first first-year coach to record a perfect 14-0 record in the SEC.

Chatman had previously spent 13 seasons on the Lady Tiger staff as an associate coach. During the 2003-04 season, Chatman became the most famous associate coach in the country when she took on the role of acting head coach in Sue Gunter's absence and lead the Lady Tigers to their first 2004 NCAA Division I Women's Final Four in their home state. She earned the 2004 Black Coaches Association's National Coach of the Year honors for her efforts in relief.

"Russell Athletic is honored to congratulate Coach Pokey Chatman, the 2005 RUSSELL ATHLETIC/WBCA National NCAA Division I Coach of the Year. With a deep commitment to supporting female athletes and elevating their athletic performance on the court, Russell Athletic shares Coach Chatman's passion for competition and devotion to preserving the integrity of sport," said Rod McGeachy, Vice President of Marketing for Russell Athletic. "We have the utmost respect and admiration for Coach Chatman, and we applaud her dedication to mentoring young female athletes on and off the basketball court."

Chatman 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 II 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. Chatman, having received the most votes in WBCA Region 3-Mideast, advanced as a finalist to

the national level of the selection process along with the other seven Regional Coaches of the Year in NCAA Division I.

RUSSELL ATHLETIC and the WBCA would also like to recognize the following regional Division I Coaches of the Year:

Region 1	Dawn Staley	Temple University
Region 2	Sue Semrau	Florida State University
Region 4	Doug Bruno	DePaul University
Region 5	Bill Fennelly	Iowa State University
Region 6	Jim Foster	Ohio State University
Region 8	Kelly Graves	Gonzaga University

Chatman and the national winners from the other five divisions will be presented to the WBCA membership at the RUSSELL ATHLETIC/WBCA National Coach of the Year Luncheon on Tuesday, April 5 at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown. The luncheon is part of the 2005 WBCA National Convention, held in conjunction with the NCAA Division I Women's Final Four in Indianapolis, Indiana.