



PRESS RELEASE

Gail Goestenkers to Receive WBCA's Carol Eckman Award

ATLANTA, Ga. (March 9, 2006) -- The Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) has announced Gail Goestenkers of Duke University as the winner of the Carol Eckman Award.

The Carol Eckman Award is presented annually to an active WBCA coach who exemplifies Eckman's spirit, integrity and character through sportsmanship, commitment to the student-athlete, honesty, ethical behavior, courage and dedication to purpose. The award is named in honor of the late Carol Eckman, the former West Chester State College coach who is considered the "Mother of the Women's Collegiate Basketball Championship." Eckman organized the first women's basketball championship at West Chester in 1969 and continued to garner recognition and support for the women's game until her death from cancer in 1985.

"Gail proves to be among the best through her commitment to not only the game of basketball, but also to her student-athletes," said CEO Beth Bass. "She is the epitome of what the Carol Eckman Award truly represents."

Goestenkers finishes up her 14th season with Duke University's women's basketball program after arriving in 1992. She has taken the Blue Devils to their first appearances in the NCAA Sweet Sixteen (1998, '99, '00, '01, '02, '03, '04, '05), Elite Eight (1998, '99, '02, '03, '04, '05), Final Four (1999, '02, '03) and National Championship (1999) games along with capturing the schools first Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Tournament Championship (2000, '01, '02, '03, '04).

Aside from winning the ACC Coach of the Year in 1996, '98, '99, '02, '03 and '04, Goestenkers has earned the Victor Award as National Coach of the Year in 1999, as well as the 2000 Basketball Times National Coach of the Year, the 2002 Gballmag.com National Coach of the Year and the 2003 Naismith, WBCA/Rawlings and Victor Award as National Coach of the Year. She has been honored with WBCA District II Coach of the Year in 2001, '02, '03 and '04 as well as WBCA District III Coach of the Year in 1995.

Prior to coaching at Duke, Goestenkers earned her undergraduate degree in physical education at Saginaw Valley State (Mich.) and went on to serve as a graduate assistant for Iowa State during the 1985-86 season. From there, she took the assistant coaching position at Purdue University, where she would coach for the next six years before beginning her career at Duke.

Outside of the collegiate realm, Goestenkers has served on the USA Basketball Collegiate Committee in the summer of 2001. She served as the assistant coach for

the 2002 USA World Championship team, as well as the 2004 gold medal winning USA Olympic team and the 2005 USA World Championship gold medal team.

Geostenkors will be formally recognized at the WBCA Awards Luncheon presented by State Farm and Jostens on Sunday, April 2 at 12:30 p.m. (ET) in the Hynes Convention Center Ballroom. The WBCA Awards Luncheon presented by State Farm and Jostens is part of the WBCA National Convention held in conjunction with the 2006 NCAA® Women's Final Four®. This year the WBCA celebrates its Silver Anniversary, marking 25 years of existence.

Now in its 21st year, the Carol Eckman Award has recognized the following individuals in women's basketball: Bonnie Henrickson, University of Kansas (2005); Deirdre Kane, West Chester University (2004); Marsha Sharp, Texas Tech University (2003); Barbara Stevens, Bentley College (2002); Juliene Simpson, East Stroudsburg University (2001); Kathy Delaney-Smith, Harvard University (2000); Susan Summons, Miami-Dade (Fla.) Community College (1999); Kay James, University of Southern Mississippi (1998); Amy Ruley, North Dakota State University (1997); Dr. Joann Rutherford, University of Missouri (1996); Ceal Barry, University of Colorado (1995); the late Sue Gunter, Louisiana State University (1994); C. Vivian Stringer, University of Iowa (1993); Dr. Jill Hutchison, Illinois State University (1992); Marian Washington, University of Kansas (1991); Maryalyce Jeremiah, Cal State Fullerton (1990); Linda Hill-MacDonald, University of Minnesota (1989); Kay Yow, North Carolina State University (1988); Jody Conradt, University of Texas (1987) and Laura Mapp, Bridgewater College (1986).