



PRESS RELEASE

## Parker Adds First WBCA National Player of the Month To List of Honors

ATLANTA, Ga. (February 6, 2008) -- University of Tennessee standout junior, Candace Parker, has been named the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) National Player of the Month for January for the first time in her career.

Parker, the reigning State Farm Wade Trophy Player of the Year, shot 63 percent from the field en route to averaging 19.1 points per game during the month, as the Lady Vols cruised through January with a perfect 9-0 record. The 6-4 Parker, who plays all positions on the court, pulled down 8.1 rebounds per game last month and also averaged 2.3 assists, 1.8 blocks and 3.1 steals. Her performances against Kentucky and Vanderbilt during the week of January 14-20 earned her the SEC Player of the Week award, her third this season. Parker has helped lead Tennessee to a 20-1 overall record and a No. 2 national ranking in the *USA TODAY* ESPN Division I Top 25 Coaches' Poll. The Lady Vols are currently tied with LSU for first place in the SEC with a 7-0 ledger in league play.

Parker, who was named to the Preseason State Farm "Wade Watch" list this year, currently leads the SEC and ranks 11th nationally in scoring with 20.4 points per game. Meanwhile, she is also nationally ranked in rebounding, blocks, steals and field goal percentage.

Last season, Parker was named NCAA Final Four MVP as she helped lead the Lady Vols to their seventh national championship. The two-time WBCA All-American catapulted herself into ninth place all-time in the Tennessee scoring records when she crossed the 1,700-point and 800-rebound marks against Arkansas on January 24. A native of Naperville, Ill., she has also performed as an All-American in the classroom, earning second-team *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-America honors last season, as well as being named to the SEC All-Academic Team.

Players earning WBCA National Player of the Month Honorable Mention for January include: Courtney Pilyapitis, Vermont (America East); Amber Harris, Xavier (Atlantic 10); Crystal Langhorne, Maryland (ACC); Ashley Williams, Jacksonville (Atlantic Sun); Andrea Riley, Oklahoma State (Big 12); Tina Charles, Connecticut (Big East); Natalie Doma, Idaho State (Big Sky); Megan Frazee, Liberty (Big South); Jolene Anderson, Wisconsin (Big Ten); Jessica Wilson, UC Santa Barbara (Big West); Jessica Canady, Old Dominion (Colonial Athletic); Twiggy McIntyre, Houston (Conference USA); Robyn Fairbanks, Utah Valley (Independent); Laura Menty, Siena College (Metro Atlantic); Amanda Jackson, Miami (Ohio) University (Mid-American); Shalamar Okley, Coppin State (Mid-Eastern); Kristi Cirone, Illinois State (Missouri Valley); Leilani Mitchell, Utah (Mountain West); Rachel Galligan, Eastern Illinois (Ohio Valley); Jayne Appel, Stanford

(Pac-10); Vanessa Van De Venter, Lafayette (Patriot League); Alex Anderson, Univ. of Tenn.-Chattanooga (Southern); Katherine Plummer, Nicholls State (Southland); Gina Hugelier, Western Illinois (Summit League); Amber Holt, Middle Tennessee (Sun Belt); Heather Bowman, Gonzaga (West Coast); Tanya Smith, Hawai'i (Western Athletic).

\*WBCA National Player of the Month is based on achievements during the respective month for nomination. All nominations must come from the conference office and the player's head coach must be a member of the WBCA.