



PRESS RELEASE

Doug Bruno Honored with WBCA's Carol Eckman Award

ATLANTA, Ga. (March 6, 2008) -- The Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) has announced Doug Bruno of DePaul 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.

"There is no doubt that Doug demonstrates all the amazing qualities of the late Carol Eckman," said WBCA CEO Beth Bass. "Doug's loyalty to the game and his student-athletes make him very deserving of this award."

Bruno has served as a pioneer for women's basketball on all levels. For the past 22 seasons, he has coached at his alma mater, DePaul University. Since 1988, the Blue Demons have won over 400 games, been to 12 NCAA Tournaments, made four WNIT appearances, won four conference tournament titles and four regular-season championships.

Bruno's teams have also been as successful in the classroom with 99 players earning conference academic honor roll mentions. In DePaul's final season in Conference USA, the Blue Demons captured the regular-season championship along with the Team Academic Award for the highest cumulative GPA.

In addition to his coaching at DePaul, Bruno led the undefeated, gold-medal winning 2007 FIBA U19 World Championship team and 2006 FIBA Americas U18 Champions. For these efforts, he was selected as the 2007 USA Basketball Co-Developmental Coach of the Year.

Off the court, Bruno has served as President of the WBCA and consultant to the WNBA's Chicago Sky.

Bruno will be formally recognized at the WBCA Awards Luncheon presented by State Farm and Jostens on Tuesday, April 8, at Noon (ET) in the Marriott Waterside's Grand Ballroom. The luncheon is part of the WBCA National Convention held in conjunction with the 2008 NCAA® Women's Final Four® in Tampa Bay, Fla.

Now in its 23rd year, the Carol Eckman Award has recognized the following individuals in women's basketball: Theresa Grentz, University of Illinois (2007); Gail Goestenkors, Duke University (2006); 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).