



PRESS RELEASE

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

ATLANTA, Ga. (March 11, 2008) -- University of North Carolina senior, Erlana Larkins, has been named the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) National Player of the Month for February, becoming the third player this season to earn the award for the first time in her career.

Larkins led the Tar Heels to a perfect 7-0 record in February en route to claiming the Atlantic Coast Conference regular season championship. The 6'1 forward shot 61.8 percent from the floor during the month of February as she posted 16.9 points per game. She also pulled down an average of 10.1 rebounds while dishing out 4.1 assists per game. She notched three consecutive double-doubles from February 7 through February 18, and she claimed her second ACC Player of the Week honor for the week of February 17. Larkins has helped lead North Carolina to a 30-2 overall record and a No. 2 national ranking in the USA TODAY ESPN Division I Top 25 Coaches' Poll.

A Preseason State Farm "Wade Watch" nominee, Larkins is the ACC's leading offensive rebounder while ranking fourth in the league in overall rebounding. One of the top all-around players in the conference, she ranks in the ACC leaderboards in eight different categories, including scoring, field goal percentage, assists and steals. Leading the Tar Heels to their fourth consecutive ACC tournament championship Sunday, March 9, Larkins was named the ACC Tournament Most Valuable Player.

A native of Riviera Beach, Fla., Larkins has proven to be one of North Carolina's most prolific all-time scorers, as she currently ranks first in school history in field goal percentage. The senior also ranks among North Carolina's all-time bests in career rebounding average, career free throw percentage and career blocks. She recently became a four-time All-ACC honoree, earning first-team accolades this season for the third consecutive year after being named a member of the second-team as a freshman.

Players earning WBCA National Player of the Month Honorable Mention for February include: Courtnay Pilyapitis, Vermont (America East); Kimberly Beck, George Washington (Atlantic 10); Courtney Paris, Oklahoma (Big 12); Maya Moore, Connecticut (Big East); Natalie Doma, Idaho State (Big Sky); Megan Frazee, Liberty (Big South); Jantel Lavender, Ohio State (Big Ten); Gabriela Marginean, Drexel (Colonial Athletic); Traci Edwards, Milwaukee (Horizon League); Robyn Fairbanks, Utah Valley (Independent); Rachele Fitz, Marist College (Metro Atlantic); Tiara DeLaHoussaye, Western Michigan (Mid-American); Amber Bland, North Carolina A&T (Mid-Eastern); Rebekah Parker, Evansville (Missouri Valley); Leilani Mitchell, Utah (Mountain West);

Ashley Hayes, Murray State (Ohio Valley); Candice Wiggins, Stanford (Pac-10); Hope Foster, Bucknell (Patriot League); Sylvia Fowles, Louisiana State (SEC); Alex Anderson, Univ. of Tenn.–Chattanooga (Southern); Onika Anderson, Texas–San Antonio (Southland); Julia Whitted, IUPUI (Summit League); Crystal Kelly, Western Kentucky (Sun Belt); Heather Bowman, Gonzaga (West Coast); JoKierra Sneed, Louisiana Tech (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.