



PRESS RELEASE

## WBCA Releases Finalists for the 2008 State Farm Wade Trophy

ATLANTA, Ga. (March 26, 2008) -- The State Farm Wade Trophy Committee along with the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) and the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport (NAGWS) announced today the 12 finalists in contention for The State Farm Wade Trophy.

"The State Farm Wade Trophy committee has compiled quite an impressive list of 12 finalists," said WBCA CEO Beth Bass. "These young women not only succeed on the hardwood, but also serve as positive role models in the community. Each one of the finalists is deserving of the State Farm Wade Trophy."

The candidates were selected by a vote of committee members comprised of leading basketball coaches, journalists and basketball administrators. Members of the committee will select the winner of The State Farm Wade Trophy from the 10-member Division I State Farm Coaches' All-America Team and will be announced at the State Farm Coaches' All-America Team Press Conference and The State Farm Wade Trophy Announcement during the WBCA National Convention on Saturday, April 5, 2008, at 9:45 a.m. (ET).

"State Farm would like to congratulate the finalists for the 2008 State Farm Wade Trophy and for their outstanding achievements throughout the year," said Mark Gibson, assistant vice president advertising for State Farm. "These athletes epitomize the true meaning of student-athlete and we are honored to recognize them for their accomplishments on and off the court."

The State Farm Wade Trophy Finalists:

Player Name	Institution	Year	Position
Matee Ajavon	Rutgers University	Sr.	G
Essence Carson	Rutgers University	Sr.	G
Tina Charles	University of Connecticut	So.	C
Sylvia Fowles	Louisiana State University	Sr.	C
Crystal Langhorne	University of Maryland	Sr.	C
Erlana Larkins	University of North Carolina	Sr.	F
Angel McCoughtry	University of Louisville	Jr.	F
Renee Montgomery	University of Connecticut	Jr.	G
Courtney Paris	University of Oklahoma	Jr.	C
Candace Parker	University of Tennessee	Sr.	G/F/C
Kristi Toliver	University of Maryland	Jr.	G
Candice Wiggins	Stanford University	Sr.	G

The State Farm Wade Trophy, now in its 31st year is named after the late, legendary three-time national champion Delta State University coach, Lily Margaret Wade. This most prestigious award, regarded as "The Heisman of Women's Basketball", debuted in 1978 as the first-ever women's national player of the year award in college basketball.

Last year's State Farm Wade Trophy winner was Tennessee's Candace Parker. The first recipient of the Wade Trophy was Carol Blazejowski of Montclair State in 1978. Other Wade Trophy/NCAA Division I Player of the Year recipients include many WNBA standouts such as Teresa Weatherspoon (1988), DeLisha Milton-Jones (1997), Ticha Penicheiro (1998), Sue Bird (2002) and Diana Taurasi (2003). Seimone Augustus (2005 and 2006) and Nancy Lieberman (1979 and 1980) are the award's only two-time recipients.

The Wade Trophy Coalition was established in June of 2000 when the WBCA partnered with The National Association for Girls and Women in Sport (NAGWS). For the past eight years the two have worked together to present The State Farm Wade Trophy Player of the Year Award. A committee comprised of coaches, administration and media from across the United States selects the winner.

#### About State Farm

State Farm(r) insures more cars than any other insurer in North America and is the leading U.S. home insurer. State Farm's 17,000 agents and 68,000 employees serve over 75 million auto, fire, life and health policies in the United States and Canada, and more than 1.6 million bank accounts. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company is the parent of the State Farm family of companies. State Farm is ranked No.22 on the Fortune 500 list of largest companies. For more information, please visit [statefarm.com](http://statefarm.com)(r) or in Canada [statefarm.ca](http://statefarm.ca)(tm).

#### About the NAGWS

The National Association for Girls and Women in Sport (NAGWS) was established to develop and deliver equitable and quality sport opportunities for ALL girls and women through relevant research, advocacy, leadership development, educational strategies, and programming in a manner that promotes social justice and change.