



PRESS RELEASE

WBCA Announces 2007–2008 Preseason Candidates for the "Wade Watch"

ATLANTA, Ga. (August 14, 2007) -- The 2007–08 preseason "Wade Watch" list for the State Farm Wade Trophy Division I Player of the Year was announced Tuesday by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association. The 25–member list, selected by a committee of leading coaches, journalists and basketball administrators, is comprised of top Division I student–athletes who best embody the spirit of Margaret Wade according to the following criteria: game and season statistics, leadership, character, effect on their team and overall playing ability.

"I believe the committee did an outstanding job choosing a group of student–athletes that excels both on and off the court," said Jeanne Lenti Ponsetto, Chair of the State Farm Wade Trophy Committee and Athletic Director at DePaul University. "These 25 skilled and talented young women represent the best the college game has to offer. With the level of play increasing year–by–year, we are sure to see yet another season of top–notch, exciting competition."

A total of 17 institutions and seven conferences are represented in this season's installment of the "Wade Watch" list. Maryland, Rutgers and Tennessee each add a trio of student–athletes with Marissa Coleman, Crystal Langhorne and Kristi Toliver for the Terrapins; Matee Ajavon, Essence Carson and Kia Vaughn for the Scarlett Knights; and Nicky Anosike, Alexis Hornbuckle and Candace Parker, last year's winner of the State Farm Wade Trophy who became the first–ever sophomore to receive the award, for the Lady Vols. Other schools with multiple representatives include Connecticut (Tina Charles and Renee Montgomery) and Stanford (Jayne Appel and Candice Wiggins).

The BIG EAST leads the list in numbers with eight student–athletes. The Atlantic Coast Conference and the Southeastern Conference both have five followed by the Pacific–10 with three, the Big Ten with two and the Big 12 and Sun Belt both with one representative.

Sylvia Fowles (LSU), Tasha Humphrey (Georgia), Erlana Larkins (North Carolina), Candice Wiggins (Stanford) and Langhorne have all become very familiar with the "Wade Watch" list with this being their third consecutive selection. Six others are making their second appearance including Crystal Kelly (Western Kentucky), Courtney Paris (Oklahoma), Ajavon, Coleman, Parker and Toliver.

Should Parker repeat as the State Farm Wade Trophy Player of the Year, she would become only the third recipient to receive the award twice. The only other two–time winners of the Wade Trophy include Louisiana State's Seimone Augustus (2005 and

2006) and Old Dominion's Nancy Lieberman (1979 and 1980).

The State Farm Wade Trophy, now in its 30th year and named after the late, legendary three-time national champion Delta State University coach, Lily Margaret Wade, debuted in 1978 as the first-ever women's national player of the year award in college basketball. This highly prestigious award, regarded as the "Heisman of Women's Basketball", is organized by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA), in conjunction with the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport (NAGWS).

The 2008 State Farm Wade Trophy winner will be announced at the WBCA National Convention held in conjunction with the NCAA Women's Final Four in Tampa, Fla., April 5-8, 2008.

2007-08 State Farm Wade Trophy Preseason List

The preseason candidates for the State Fame Wade Trophy are listed in alphabetical order

Name	Year	Position	Institution
Matee Ajavon	Senior	G	Rutgers University
Charel Allen	Senior	G	University of Notre Dame
Jolene Anderson	Senior	G	UWM, Madison
Nicky Anosike	Senior	F/C	University of Tennessee
Jayne Appel	Sophomore	F/C	Stanford University
Essence Carson	Senior	F	Rutgers University
Tina Charles	Sophomore	C	University of Connecticut
Marissa Coleman	Junior	G/F	University of Maryland
Sylvia Fowles	Senior	C	Louisiana State University
Devanei Hampton	Junior	C	University of California
Alexis Hornbuckle	Senior	G	University of Tennessee
Tasha Humphrey	Senior	F	University of Georgia
			Western Kentucky
Crystal Kelly	Senior	F	University
Crystal Langhorne	Senior	C	University of Maryland
Erlana Larkins	Senior	F	University of North Carolina
Angel McCoughtry	Junior	F	University of Louisville
Renee Montgomery	Junior	G	University of Connecticut
Marscilla Packer	Senior	G	Ohio State University
Courtney Paris	Junior	C	University of Oklahoma
Candace Parker	Junior	F/C/G	University of Tennessee
Kristi Toliver	Junior	G	University of Maryland
Kia Vaughn	Junior	C	Rutgers University
Mercedes Walker	Senior	C	University of Pittsburgh
Abby Waner	Junior	G	Duke University
Candice Wiggins	Senior	G	Stanford University