



PRESS RELEASE

## Muffet McGraw Honored with WBCA's Carol Eckman Award

ATLANTA, Ga. (March 5, 2009) -- The Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) has announced Muffet McGraw of Notre Dame as the 2009 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.

"It is always an honor for me to present the Carol Eckman Award because of what it represents," said WBCA CEO Beth Bass. "This year I am happy to present Muffet with the award as she demonstrates the qualities of the late Carol Eckman. Her dedication to the profession and to her student-athletes is outstanding."

McGraw is one of only eight active Division I coaches to guide her team to a national title - winning the crown in 2001. Her teams have also appeared in the NCAA® Women's Final Four® in 1997 and have made seven trips to the NCAA Sweet 16 and 15 NCAA Tournament appearances, including a current string of 13 straight berths.

No other statistic provides more evidence of McGraw's commitment to the student-athlete than her 100 percent graduation rate, a spotless 57-for-57, since arriving at Notre Dame in the summer of 1987.

Under McGraw's guidance the past 13 seasons (1996-2008), the Irish have compiled an impressive 315-108 record, including a 166-50 regular-season mark in the BIG EAST, the second-best winning percentage in league history. She has coached an impressive 21 Irish players who have garnered all-conference honors, three conference players-of-the-year and rookies-of-the-year and 17 conference all-rookie team selections. No less than 16 Notre Dame student-athletes have gone on to play professionally, including nine who have either been drafted or signed as free agents with WNBA teams.

On the national level, McGraw has been widely regarded as a champion for student-athletes. In June 2002, McGraw accepted an invitation from U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige to join the Commission on Opportunity in Athletics and with this

appointment became the only women's basketball coach on the Commission. During the summer of 2004, McGraw served on the WBCA's Special Committee on Recruiting and Access, which helped create numerous proposals to the NCAA that clarified and strengthened national recruiting guidelines.

On top of her tireless work at Notre Dame, McGraw is often called upon to be a featured speaker at various camps, luncheons and other fundraisers around the country. For several years, she has been a co-chair for the annual "Run, Jan, Run" golf tournament, which benefits local chapters of the YWCA. McGraw has also helped coordinate the annual Coaches' Car Wash, with proceeds going to the University's fundraising efforts for United Way, and in the summer of 2006, she served as honorary chair of "Jazz on the Terrace," a concert and silent auction with proceeds benefitting the RiverBend Cancer Services in Michigan.

McGraw will be formally recognized at the WBCA Awards Luncheon *presented by State Farm and Jostens* on Tuesday, April 7, at Noon (CT) in the Hyatt Regency St. Louis Riverfront Grand Ballroom. The WBCA Awards Luncheon *presented by State Farm and Jostens* is part of the WBCA National Convention held in conjunction with the 2009 NCAA® Women's Final Four® in St. Louis, Mo.

Now in its 24th year, the Carol Eckman Award has recognized the following individuals in women's basketball: Doug Bruno, DePaul University (2008); Theresa Grentz, University of Illinois (2007); Gail Goestenkers, 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); the late Kay Yow, North Carolina State University (1988); Jody Conradt, University of Texas (1987), and Laura Mapp, Bridgewater College (1986).