



PRESS RELEASE

Cardinal O'Hara's Linus McGinty Awarded RUSSELL ATHLETIC/WBCA National High School Coach of the Year

ATLANTA, Ga. (March 13, 2009) -- The Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) has selected Linus McGinty of Cardinal O'Hara High School (Springfield, Pa.) as the 2009 RUSSELL ATHLETIC/WBCA National High School Coach of the Year. This year marks the 20th year that this accolade has been presented and selected by the WBCA since 1990. With receiving this prestigious award comes the honor of serving as a head coach at the WBCA High School All-America Game *presented by Nike* on Saturday, April 4, 2009, at Washington University's Athletic Complex.

"I am honored to present this award to a very deserving candidate in Linus McGinty," said WBCA CEO Beth Bass. "We take great pleasure in recognizing those who commit themselves to the development of the future of women's basketball."

The Philadelphia, Pa., native began his coaching career at Our Lady of the Rosary School in West Philadelphia. McGinty coached seventh and eighth grade boys and taught at the school from 1971 to 1975. He started teaching and coaching on the high school level at Archbishop Carroll High School. In 1995, McGinty began his career at Cardinal O'Hara High School and has led the girls' basketball team to the Philadelphia Catholic League finals 13 out of the last 15 seasons.

McGinty has led his teams to eight Catholic League Championships and his current record of 622-106 is the best-ever among any Catholic League coach in both men and women's basketball. In April of 2008, his team was ranked No.15 in ESPN's High Elite 25 High School girls ranking. McGinty has been named Coach of the Year several times by area newspapers, and in 2008 he was named to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Hall of Fame.

"Russell Athletic is proud to honor the winner of the WBCA's Coach of the Year Award. McGinty embodies the true values of a dedicated and successful coach," said Catherine Gammon, Sr. Director of Sponsorships, Russell Athletic.

The WBCA would additionally like to congratulate the other eight District Coaches of the Year: Rick Clark (District 1 - York High School - York, Maine); Jasmina Perazic (District 3 - Elizabeth Seton High School - Bladensburg, Md.); Stan Bengé (District 4 - Ben Davis High School - Indianapolis, Ind.); John Larsen (District 5 - Lincoln SE High School - Lincoln, Neb.); Nancy Walling (District 6 - Pflugerville High School - Pflugerville, Texas); Craig Mortensen (District 7 - Moffat County High School - Craig, Colo.); Bo Corona (District 8 - St. Mary's Academy - Inglewood, Calif.); Tim Miller (District 9 - Bob Jones High School - Madison, Ala.).

Each winner is selected through a two-level process. The first level is by district, in which coaches from each WBCA geographical district vote for their respective top coach. McGinty, having been named the District 2 Coach of the Year, advanced as a finalist to the national level of the selection process along with the other eight District Coaches of the Year in high school. The top four vote getters are invited to coach in the WBCA High School All-America Game *presented by Nike* unless they have received this honor in the past five years.

The coaching line-up has also been selected for the Blue and White Team for the 20th Annual WBCA High School All-America Game *presented by Nike*. The head coach of the Blue Team will be WBCA National High School Coach of the Year winner McGinty, while Mortensen, will lead the White Team. Serving as an assistant for the Blue Team is Walling and for the White Team will be Larsen. Co-captain of the Blue Team is Yolanda Griffith of the WNBA's Indiana Fever and Tina Thompson of the WNBA's Los Angeles Sparks will be the White Team Co-captain.

McGinty and the national winners from the other five divisions will be honored at the RUSSELL ATHLETIC/WBCA National Coach of the Year Luncheon on Monday, April 6, 2009, at 1 p.m. CT in the Hyatt Regency St. Louis Riverfront Grand Ballroom. The luncheon is part of the 2009 WBCA National Convention, held in conjunction with the NCAA® Women's Final Four® in St. Louis, Mo.

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