



PRESS RELEASE

Ball State's Kelly Packard Takes Home Maggie Dixon Division I Rookie Coach of the Year Accolade

ATLANTA, Ga. (March 30, 2009) -- The Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) has selected Ball State's Kelly Packard as the recipient of the 2009 Maggie Dixon Division I Rookie Coach of the Year award. This distinguished award honors a WBCA Division I head coach who has led their team to a successful season during their first year at the helm.

"We would like to honor Kelly Packard with this year's Maggie Dixon award as she has elevated Ball State University to new levels in just her first year," said WBCA CEO Beth Bass. "We had a terrific pool of first-year head coaches, but Kelly Packard stood out above the rest, and we wish her much success at Ball State in the future."

Packard became the first coach in Ball State's women basketball history to win 26 games in a rookie season. She led the Cardinals to their best ever overall and home records, 26-9 and 14-1, respectively. Ball State also had its best Mid-America Conference showing, turning in a 14-2 ledger. Packard coached senior guard Porchia Green to MAC First Team All-MAC and Defensive Player of the Year honors.

In just her first season, Packard guided Ball State to its third straight Mid-American Conference West Division title, its first MAC Tournament title and first NCAA Tournament berth. The Cardinals went on to earn the program's first-ever NCAA Tournament first round victory when it topped defending national champions, the University of Tennessee, 71-55. With the win, Ball State captured its 12th straight victory and tied the school record for the longest win streak in program history.

Prior to Ball State, Packard served as executive director of the WNBA Expansion Team for Colorado, working for Triple Crown Sports. Before this stint, she spent two years as head coach for the Colorado Chill of the National Women's Basketball League. Between 2004 and 2006 she led the Chill to 34-12 record and claimed the 2005 and 2006 league championships.

Packard began her collegiate coaching career at Colorado State, where she served for five seasons over two stints. During this span, the Rams saw remarkable success as they posted a 99-49 record and appeared in two NCAA Tournaments.

The four year letter-winner at Anderson University was inducted into the Anderson University Hall of Fame in 2002. She was a four-time All-Hoosier Conference for Women selection and ended her career as the school's all-time leading scorer and rebounder.

Packard 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 WBCA National Convention, held in conjunction with the NCAA® Women's Final Four® in St. Louis, Mo.

The Maggie Dixon Rookie Coach of the Year award is in honor of the late Maggie Dixon, former Army head coach, whose success during her inaugural year at the Army helm was remarkable. The Black Knights won the Patriot League title in 2006 and Dixon was named the Patriot League Coach of the Year after leading Army to the NCAA Tournament for the first time at the NCAA Division I level. Coach Dixon passed away on April 6, 2006, just a few weeks following their appearance in the NCAA Tournament.