



PRESS RELEASE

Blue Team Pulls Out 79–77 Victory in WBCA High School All–America Game

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (April 4, 2009) –“ The future stars of tomorrow shined in Saint Louis in the 2009 Women’s Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) High School All–America Game *presented by Nike* Saturday, as the Blue Team held off a late surge by the White Team to take the title, 79–77.

After a lay–up by State Farm/WBCA High School Player of the Year Brittney Griner with 5:35 remaining in the game giving the blue team a double–digit advantage, it looked like the blue squad would cruise to the win. The White Team had another plan and clawed its way back to pull within three with 33 seconds left in regulation.

Notre Dame recruit Skylar Diggins, the leading scorer for the White squad, reeled off nine points in the home stretch to enable her group a chance for the win. The two teams traded baskets the final 33 seconds, but the White Team was never able to get closer than two. Diggins closed out the game with a made basket, but it wouldn't be enough to take the victory.

"Skylar Diggins did a great job of turning it on at the end of the game to make it close," said White Team head coach Craig Mortensen. "I thought all the kids played well together and did a great job of sharing the ball since they have not had much time to practice with each other."

Griner, a Baylor University signee from Nimitz Senior High in Houston, Texas, earned Blue Team MVP honors thanks to her 20 points (9–of–15), nine rebounds, eight blocks and three steals. Griner led both squads in blocks and came second to White Team MVP Diggins in scoring, assists and steals. Diggins topped both squads with 24 points, 17 of which were in the second half, five assists and five steals.

"Today's game was a big honor for me to be able to play in," said Griner. "You don't get all the top 20 girls in the same gym at the same time. I wanted to go out and take advantage of playing with all these talented girls."

The White Team equaled the output of the Blue Team in the second half with 43 points and 16 made baskets. For the game, both teams were pretty equal as the Blue squad shot 38 percent and the White team 31.3 percent. Both teams tallied at least 60 rebounds, 15 or more assists and double–digits in steals.

The victorious Blue Team also had two other players scoring in double figures as Taber Spani (Tennessee) and Tayler Hill each reeled off 10 a piece. Blue team's Destiny Williams (Illinois) led the defensive front with 12 rebounds.

For the White Team, Monique Oliver (Southern Cal) contributed a double-double with 14 points and 13 rebounds, while Markel Walker (UCLA) also reached the double-figure column on the defensive side with 11 points. Kelsey Bone (South Carolina) added 13 boards.

For photo requests, please email cwilliams@wbca.org.