



PRESS RELEASE

WBCA Recognizes Success in the Classroom with Academic Top 25

ATLANTA, Ga. (July 15, 2008) -- The Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) announced its winners for the 2007-08 Academic Top 25 Team Honor Roll Monday. This award, given in NCAA Division I, NCAA Division II, NCAA Division III, NAIA and Junior College/Community College, awards teams throughout the nation that carry the highest grade point averages (GPA) for the entire season based on the nomination submitted by WBCA-member head coaches.

"I would like to say congratulations to each and every one of these teams for producing some impressive cumulative grade point averages," said WBCA CEO Beth Bass. "These numbers would be notable for one student-athlete alone, but for an entire team to compile overall GPAs such as this is truly remarkable. I tip my hat to these programs and wish continued success both on and off the court."

Division	Institution	2007-08 Head Coach	GPA	Top 25 Range
NCAA I	South Dakota State University	Aaron Johnston	3.669	3.669-3.278
NCAA II	University of South Dakota	Chad Lavin	3.649	3.649-3.385
NCAA III	Concordia University (Wisconsin)	Stacey Brunner	3.637	3.637-3.375
NAIA	Concordia University - Nebraska	Drew R. Olson	3.667	3.667-3.227
JC/CC	Seward County Community College	Toby Wynn	3.560	3.560-3.011*

*=top 17 range

All five institutions are no stranger to the WBCA Academic Top 25 Honor Roll as each one has received distinction on this list before. South Dakota State claimed the top spot in NCAA Division I for the third consecutive year while South Dakota, in NCAA Division II, and Concordia University (Wisconsin), in NCAA Division III, are claiming the No. 1 ranking in each one's respective division for the first time. In the NAIA ranks, Concordia University - Nebraska takes home the highest GPA for the seventh time (2000-05, 2008) since this award began in 1998. Seward County has also enjoyed the poll position in its division (JC/CC) prior to this year claiming top honors in 2001 and

2002.

GPA's are calculated by dividing the total number of quality points earned by each student-athlete on an institution's roster in the given academic terms by the total number of hours earned by the team. The GPA's are rounded to the nearest thousandth of a point. Per a motion passed by the WBCA Board of Directors in 2007, teams making the list of Academic Top 25 Team Honor Roll must obtain at least a 3.000 overall GPA.

NCAA Division I

South Dakota State is making quite a name for itself on the WBCA Academic Top 25 Team Honor Roll as the Jackrabbits secured the top spot amongst NCAA Division I institutions for the third consecutive season. In addition to compiling the top GPA in their division, Aaron Johnston's team also claims the top overall team GPA amongst all divisions which is yet another distinction they have captured for the third year in a row. Aside from its classroom successes, South Dakota State also enjoyed another great year on the court as the Jackrabbits advanced to the Women's NIT before falling in the first round to Creighton.

"The women on our team have made our entire university and community very proud," said Johnston. "They have truly committed themselves to success in the classroom, on the court and in the community. Being recognized for the top GPA the third consecutive year is a tremendous accomplishment for our student-athletes."

The WBCA Academic Top 25 Team Honor Roll for NCAA Division I is as follows:

	School	2007-08 Head Coach	Team GPA
1	South Dakota State University	Aaron Johnston	3.669
2	Kansas State University	Debbie Patterson	3.652
3	Indiana State University	Jim Wiedie	3.591
4	Eastern Washington University	Wendy Schuller	3.584
5	Western Carolina University	Kellie J. Harper	3.543
6	University of Northern Iowa	Tanya E. Warren	3.535
7	Eastern Illinois University	Brady Sallee	3.475
8	Manhattan College	Myndi Hill	3.430
9	Utah Valley State College	Cathy Nixon	3.419
10	University of Northern Colorado	Jaime White	3.414
11	Montana State University - Bozeman	Tricia L. Binford	3.392
12	Southern Illinois University at Carbondale	Dana Eikenberg	3.371
13	Niagara University	Kendra Faustin	3.361
14	Liberty University	Carey Green	3.354
15	Saint Bonaventure University	Jim Crowley	3.352
16	University of Maine	Cindy Blodgett	3.345
17	American University	Melissa McFerrin	3.342
T18	Canisius College	Terrence E. Zeh	3.326
T18	North Dakota State University	Amy Ruley	3.326
20	Oakland University	Beckie Francis	3.312

21	Dartmouth College	Christina Wielgus	3.311
22	University of New Mexico	Don Flanagan	3.308
23	Wichita State University	Jane Albright	3.289
24	Valparaiso University	Keith Freeman	3.286
25	Columbia University	Paul E. Nixon	3.278

NCAA Division II

South Dakota caps off an already impressive 2007–08 season with its first WBCA Academic Top 25 Team Honor Roll win. Head Coach Chad Lavin, who has since retired after 14 years at the helm, led his Coyotes to the NCAA Division II National Championship game and finished the season with a 33–2 record. Lavin and senior guard Jeana Hoffman were both previously honored by the WBCA with the RUSSELL ATHLETIC/WBCA Division II National Coach of the Year award and State Farm Coaches' All–America Team distinction, respectively.

"What an outstanding accomplishment by Chad Lavin and his team," said Ryun Williams, who takes over the reins at South Dakota following Lavin's retirement. "This team had the total student–athlete package. Receiving this academic honor as well as playing in the NCAA Division II Championship game caps off an outstanding season on the floor and in the classroom. This honor is a direct reflection of the great academic and administrative support our student–athletes receive here at the U."

The WBCA Academic Top 25 Team Honor Roll for NCAA Division II is as follows:

	School	2007–08 Head Coach	Team GPA
1	University of South Dakota	Chad Lavin	3.649
2	Michigan Technological University	John M. Barnes	3.639
3	Seton Hill University	Ferne Labati	3.591
4	University of Nebraska – Kearney	Carol Russell	3.590
5	West Texas A&M University	Krista L. Gerlich	3.557
6	Regis University	Linda Raunig	3.528
7	Rockhurst University	Rebecca D. Morrisey	3.526
8	Saint Martin's University	Timothy J. Healy	3.515
9	Gannon University	Cleve Wright	3.508
10	Southwest Minnesota State University	Mike Jewett	3.494
11	Shepherd University	Jodie A. Runner	3.488
12	West Liberty State College	Lynn Ullom	3.481
13	Minnesota State University, Moorhead	Karla Nelson	3.476
14	University of North Dakota	Gene Roebuck	3.474
15	Ashland University	Sue Ramsey	3.439
16	Clarion University	Gie Parsons	3.420
T17	Abilene Christian University	Shawna L. Lavender	3.413
T17	Winona State University	Scott Ballard	3.413
19	Seattle Pacific University	Julie Van Beek	3.412

20	Bemidji State University	Mike Curfman	3.406
21	Montana State University – Billings	Kevin Woodin	3.405
22	Franklin Pierce University	Mark Swasey	3.399
23	Northwood University	Jeff Curtis	3.398
24	Colorado Christian University	Nikki J. Long	3.396
25	University of Findlay	Kate Cummings	3.385

NCAA Division III

As with South Dakota, Concordia University (Wisconsin) is making its debut at the No. 1 position on the WBCA Academic Top 25 Team Honor Roll. The Falcons claimed back-to-back Northern Athletic Conference regular season titles and made a run at the tournament title this season, but fell short losing by just two points in overtime. Head Coach Stacey Brunner's club finished the season with 20 wins and just seven losses.

"This is an outstanding accomplishment," said Brunner. "Like so many universities, we strive to be No. 1 off the court as well as on! I am so proud of our players for reaching this goal!"

The WBCA Academic Top 25 Team Honor Roll for NCAA Division III is as follows:

	School	2007–08 Head Coach	Team GPA
1	Concordia University (Wisconsin)	Stacey Brunner	3.637
2	Messiah College	Michael Miller	3.627
T3#	Maryville University – St. Louis	Chris Ellis	3.592
T3#	Finlandia University	Curtis Wittenberg	3.571
T3	Saint Lawrence University	Jennifer Kroll	3.528
4	Emory University	Christy Thomaskutty	3.501
5	College of St. Benedict	Mike Durbin	3.488
6	Beloit College	Don Adams	3.472
7	Simpson College	Brian Niemuth	3.469
8	York College	Betsy Witman	3.467
9	Elizabethtown College	Yvonne Kauffman	3.462
10	Drew University	Gail Gilchrest	3.447
11	Hamline University	Melissa Young-Kruse	3.441
12	University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire	Tonja Englund	3.436
13	Northland College	Dan Roiger	3.430
14	Rhodes College	Matt V. Dean	3.427
15	Calvin College	John Ross	3.419
16	Marywood University	Tara Macciocco	3.415
17	DeSales University	Fred Richter	3.411
18	Augsburg College	Jennifer K. Britz	3.405
19	Connecticut College	Laura Hungerford	3.400
20	Luther College	Jane Hildebrand	3.391

21	Mount Holyoke College	Michelle Scecina	3.383
22	Denison University	Sara Lee	3.381
23	Lakeland College	Teri S. Johnson	3.379
24	McDaniel College	Becky L. Martin	3.378
25	Gustavus Adolphus College	Mickey Haller	3.375

#Due to a computer error, these institutions were left off the initial WBCA Academic Top 25 Team Honor Roll.

NAIA

Making an impressive seventh appearance in the top spot for the NAIA division is Concordia University – Nebraska. The Bulldogs certainly proved they could excel in the classroom with an overall GPA of 3.667, but this team also produced on the court. Head Coach Drew R. Olson's squad finished the season at 26–7 and advanced to the quarterfinals of the NAIA Division II National Championship.

"It is a great honor to receive this high academic award," said Concordia University – Nebraska Head Coach Drew R. Olson. "I am proud of this team and what they accomplished. They were extremely committed and disciplined to the idea of student-athlete along with having their priorities in order: God, family, school, basketball, others. It was a great season; successful on the court and in the classroom."

The WBCA Academic Top 25 Team Honor Roll for NAIA is as follows:

	School	2007–08 Head Coach	Team GPA
1	Concordia University – Nebraska	Drew R. Olson	3.667
2	Westminster College	JD Gustin	3.653
3	Oklahoma Christian University	Stephanie Findley	3.623
4	Blue Mountain College	Lavon Driskell	3.608
5	Mount Marty College	Chuck Iverson	3.603
6	Davenport University	Mark Youngs	3.578
7	Bethel College (IN)	Jody Martinez	3.544
8	Northwestern College	Earl Woudstra	3.541
9	Carroll College	Shawn Nelson	3.540
10	Freed–Hardeman University	Dale E. Neal	3.485
11	Midland Lutheran College	Joanne Bracker	3.461
12	Valley City State University	Jill K. DeVries	3.447
13	Trevecca Nazarene University	Gary L. Van Atta	3.444
14	Lewis–Clark State College	Brian R. Orr	3.387
15	Ottawa University	Bruce Tate	3.377
16	Doane College	Tracee Fairbanks	3.363
T17#	University of Rio Grande	David Smalley	3.344
T17	Indiana Wesleyan University	Steve G. Brooks	3.330
18	University of Montana – Western	Kevin Engellant	3.315
19	Spring Arbor University	Tara Kreklau	3.311
20	Montana State University – Northern	Chris D. Mouat	3.281
21	Loyola University (LA)	DoBee Plaisance	3.254
22	Eastern Oregon University	Anji D. Weissenfluh	3.253

23	Baker University	Susan D. Decker	3.248
24	Saint Xavier University	Robert Hallberg	3.246
25	Trinity Christian College	Liz. G. Metcalfe	3.227

#Due to a computer error, this institution was left off the initial WBCA Academic Top 25 Team Honor Roll.

Junior College/Community College

Seward County returns to the No. 1 position in the JC/CC division after claiming top honors in both 2001 and 2002. This season, the Lady Saints advanced to the quarterfinals in Region VI for the 16th straight season and also recorded their 16th consecutive 20+ win season. Seward County finished the year strong winning 11 of its last 13 contests for an overall record of 23-9.

"First I would like to say thank you to the WBCA from Seward County Community College for all the work you do in supporting academics in women's basketball," said Toby Wynn, head coach of Seward County Community College. "We are very honored to receive this award from the WBCA for being the top academic team in the JC/CC division. I would also like to say thank you to all the administration and faculty here at Seward County for we have some of the best people in the country here. Finally, a big thank you to all of our student-athletes who made this happen with all of their hard work and for understanding the value of going to class every day and taking care of their studies."

The WBCA Academic Top 17* Team Honor Roll for JC/CC is as follows:

	School	2007-08 Head Coach	Team GPA
1	Seward County Community College	Toby Wynn	3.560
2	Colby Community College	Tom E. Stephens	3.470
3	Iowa Lakes Community College	Brian Radtke	3.469
4	Lincoln College	Carol Wilson	3.388
5	Ellsworth Community College	Ed Geitz	3.387
6	Ventura College	Ed Mircetic	3.344
7	Salt Lake Community College	Betsy Specketer	3.312
8	Solano Community College	Matt Borchert	3.209
9	Lon Morris College	Rosalyn E. Floyd Tindel	3.162
10	Cypress College	Margaret Mohr	3.157
11	Minn. State Comm. and Tech Coll. - Fergus Falls	Ann L. Williams	3.135
12	Western Texas College	Tammy Davis	3.113
13	Clarendon College	Rusty Kennedy	3.102
14	Eastern Arizona Junior College	Dan Dersam	3.076
15	Phoenix College	Samantha Ezell	3.061
16	Marshalltown Community College	Larry Roberts	3.016
17	Seminole Community College	Maureen Smith	3.011