



PRESS RELEASE

Gannon University's Wright Receives RUSSELL ATHLETIC/WBCA DII Coach of the Year

ATLANTA, Ga. (March 22, 2010) -- The Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) has selected Cleve Wright of Gannon University as the 2010 RUSSELL ATHLETIC/WBCA National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II Coach of the Year. This year marks the 28th year that this accolade has been presented, which has been selected by the WBCA since 1983.

"We are delighted to present the 2010 RUSSELL ATHLETIC/WBCA National Division II Coach of the Year award to Cleve Wright for an outstanding year," said WBCA CEO Beth Bass. "I speak on behalf of the WBCA when I say congratulations on a job well done."

Wright is in his eighth season as the head coach at Gannon University and is the all-time winningest coach in the program's history. He has a record of 166-74 in his career at Gannon and was recently named the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Western Division Coach of the Year. Wright's team has been ranked No.1 in the *USA TODAY/ESPN* Division II Top 25 Coaches' Poll for three consecutive weeks.

This season, Wright has led the Lady Knights to a perfect 36-0 record and the school's first appearance in the NCAA Division II Elite Eight Tournament. Gannon has tied an NCAA Division II record for victories in a season, equaling Drury's mark of 36 set in 2004. Wright's team has a streak of 36 straight wins, which is the fourth longest overall streak in NCAA Division II history. This year's squad captured their first-ever PSAC Championship and the NCAA Division II Atlantic Regional No. 1 seed.

Wright has 23 years of coaching experience, including three seasons as an assistant at Northwestern University. At Northwestern, Wright was responsible for the development of the post players and was the program's recruiting coordinator. The *Women's Basketball Journal* named Wright one of the top 25 assistant coaches in Division I during the fall of 2002.

From 1997-99, he was an assistant coach at Butler University. Prior to coaching at Butler, Wright spent four seasons as the head girls' basketball coach at Southwestern High School in Kentucky. At Southwestern, Wright earned Commonwealth Coach of the Year honors and 48th District Coach of the Year accolades in 1997.

Wright received his bachelor's degree from Berea College and then moved on to Ball State for his master's degree while serving as a graduate assistant. Wright has been affiliated with the Women's Basketball Coaches Association and the Indiana and

Kentucky Coaches Associations. He and his wife, Diane, have two daughters, Chloe (13) and Emma (10).

“RUSSELL ATHLETIC has been a part of millions of athletes and coaches lives for over a hundred years. We’ve seen our share of ups and downs, but like so many coaches, with dedication, sacrifice and hard work, RUSSELL ATHLETIC has continued to transcend generations,” said Gary Barfield, Executive Vice President, RUSSELL ATHLETIC. “That is why RUSSELL ATHLETIC is proud to honor Cleve Wright as the 2010 recipient of the RUSSELL ATHLETIC/WBCA National Division II Coach of the Year award. Cleve embodies the true meaning of our belief: proven on the field of play.”

Wright is one of six RUSSELL ATHLETIC/WBCA National Coaches of the Year selected, which also names winners for each of the other four WBCA collegiate divisions (NCAA Divisions I and III, NAIA and JC/CC) as well as high school.

The winner is selected through a two-level process. The first level is by region, in which coaches from each WBCA geographical region vote for their respective top coach. Wright, having received the most votes in WBCA Region 2, advanced as a finalist to the national level of the selection process along with the other eight Regional Coaches of the Year in NCAA Division II.

The WBCA would also like to recognize the following RUSSELL ATHLETIC/WBCA Division II Regional Coaches of the Year:

Region	Name	School
Region 1	Stephen Hancock	Franklin Pierce University
Region 3	Kevin Pederson	Lander University
Region 4	John Barnes	Michigan Tech University
Region 5	Lonnie Bartley	Fort Valley State University
Region 5	Dave Wilbers	Arkansas Tech University
Region 6	Brandon Schneider	Emporia State University
Region 7	Mark Kellogg	Fort Lewis College
Region 8	Carmen Dolfo	Western Washington

Wright and the national winners from the other five divisions will be recognized at the RUSSELL ATHLETIC/WBCA National Coach of the Year Luncheon on Monday, April 5, at 12:30 p.m. CT in the Marriott Rivercenter. The luncheon is part of the WBCA National Convention, held in conjunction with the NCAA® Women's Final Four® in San Antonio, Texas.

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