



PRESS RELEASE

WBCA Announces Preseason Selections for the 2009–2010

ATLANTA, Ga. (July 30, 2009) -- The Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA), on behalf of the Wade Coalition, announced the 2009–2010 preseason "Wade Watch" list for The State Farm Wade Trophy Division I Player of the Year. The 25–member list is made up of top NCAA Division I student–athletes who best embody the spirit of Lily Margaret Wade according to the following criteria: game and season statistics, leadership, character, effect on their team and overall playing ability.

"I am excited to announce the 25 student–athletes who make up the 2009–2010 State Farm Wade Trophy 'Watch' list," said Jeanne Lenti Ponsetto, Chair of the State Farm Wade Trophy Committee and Athletic Director at DePaul University. "The committee has done a superb job yet again at selecting the best and brightest in the women's game. This group represents 20 institutions and 10 conferences and if it is any indicator of what's to come this season, I think we all have a lot to look forward to."

This year's list has 20 institutions and 10 conferences represented. Connecticut and Stanford each have three student–athletes on the list – Tina Charles, Tiffany Hayes and Maya Moore from the Huskies – and – Jayne Appel, Kayla Pedersen and Jeanette Pohlen from the Cardinal. Ohio State added two (Jantel Lavender and Samantha Prahalis) to the list.

The ACC, BIG EAST, Big Ten and Pac–10 each have four student–athletes on the list, followed by the Big 12 (3), SEC (2), Atlantic–10 (1), Mountain West (1), Sun Belt (1) and West Coast (1).

Two seniors in Appel and Charles are making the list for the third year. Five others become two–time "Wade Watchers" including Allyssa DeHaan (Michigan State), Jantel Lavender (Ohio State), Pedersen (Stanford), Andrea Riley (Oklahoma State) and Monica Wright (Virginia).

The only two–time winners of the Wade Trophy include Louisiana State's Seimone Augustus (2005 and 2006) and Old Dominion's Nancy Lieberman (1979 and 1980).

The State Farm Wade Trophy, now in its 33rd year and named after the late, legendary three–time national champion Delta State University coach, Lily Margaret Wade, debuted in 1978 as the first–ever women's national player of the year award in college basketball. This highly prestigious award, regarded as the "Heisman of Women's Basketball," is organized by the WBCA, in conjunction with the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport (NAGWS).

The 2010 State Farm Wade Trophy winner will be announced at the WBCA National Convention, held in conjunction with the NCAA Women's Final Four, in San Antonio, Texas, April 2–6.

2009–2010 State Farm Wade Trophy Preseason List:

Name	Year	Position	Institution
Jayne Appel	Senior	F/C	Stanford
Jessica Breland	Senior	F	North Carolina
Tina Charles	Senior	C/F	Connecticut
Alysha Clark	Senior	F	Middle Tennessee
Allyssa DeHaan	Senior	C	Michigan State
Alexis Gray– Lawson	Senior	G	Cal
Tiffany Hayes	Sophomore	G	Connecticut
Allison Hightower	Senior	G	LSU
Ashley Houts	Senior	G	Georgia
Jantel Lavender	Junior	C	Ohio State
Danielle McCray	Senior	G/F	Kansas
Jacinta Monroe	Senior	F/C	Florida State
Maya Moore	Junior	F	Connecticut
Jené Morris	Senior	G	San Diego State
Deirdre Naughton	Senior	G	DePaul
Kayla Pedersen	Junior	F	Stanford
Ta'Shia Phillips	Junior	C	Xavier
Jeanette Pohlen	Junior	G	Stanford
Samantha Prahalis	Sophomore	G	Ohio State
Andrea Riley	Senior	G	Oklahoma State
Danielle Robinson	Junior	G	Oklahoma
Jenna Smith	Senior	C	Illinois
Carolyn Swords	Junior	C	Boston College
Courtney Vandersloot	Junior	G	Gonzaga
Monica Wright	Senior	G	Virginia

The Wade Trophy Coalition was established in June of 2000 when the WBCA partnered with The National Association of Girls and Women in Sport (NAGWS). For the past eight years the two have worked together to present The State Farm Wade Trophy Player of the Year Award. A committee comprised of coaches, administration and media from across the United States selects the winner.

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About the NAGWS

The National Association of Girls and Women in Sport (NAGWS) was established to develop and deliver equitable and quality sport opportunities for ALL girls and women through relevant research, advocacy, leadership development, educational strategies, and programming in a manner that promotes social justice and change.