



PRESS RELEASE

Freed-Hardeman University's Meribeth Boehler Named 2011 State Farm/WBCA NAIA Player of the Year

ATLANTA – Meribeth Boehler of Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn., is the 2011 State Farm®/WBCA National Intercollegiate Athletic Association (NAIA) Player of the Year, the Women's Basketball Coaches Association announced today. The WBCA presents this award annually to the top players in each of the four WBCA collegiate divisions (NCAA Divisions II, III, NAIA and JC/CC) and high school.

"The WBCA is thrilled to present Meribeth Boehler with the State Farm/WBCA NAIA Player of the Year award," said WBCA CEO Beth Bass. "She has had an outstanding season, and is very deserving of this achievement. State Farm is synonymous with excellence and so is this student-athlete's performance."

Boehler, a 6-foot-2 senior forward-center, is the 2011 TransSouth Athletic Conference Player of the Year, a member of the 2011 All-TransSouth First Team and a TransSouth Scholar-Athlete. She was TransSouth Athletic Conference Player of the Week six times and the NAIA Player of the Week once this season.

Boehler, who is from Ramer, Tenn., and attended McNairy Central High School, leads the seventh-ranked Lady Lions in scoring with a 23.3 point-per-game average, which ranks second nationally among all NAIA Division I players. She also leads the Lady Lions in rebounding (9.8 rpg.) and blocked shots (45), and is second on the team in assists (75) and steals (51).

Freed-Hardeman (24-8) plays Thursday night against Shorter (Ga.) University in the opening round of the NAIA Division I national tournament in Jackson, Tenn.

Boehler was named first-team All-TransSouth Athletic Conference and second-team NAIA All-American following her junior season. She was second-team all-conference as a sophomore.

The State Farm/WBCA Player of the Year Award is selected by the seven-member WBCA Player of the Year Committee, which consists of one WBCA-member coach from each of the six WBCA NAIA Regions and the committee chair.

Boehler will be formally recognized during the WBCA Awards Show, which will be held at 6 p.m. Monday, April 4, in the Indiana Convention Center's Sagamore Ballroom. This event is part of the WBCA National Convention and is held in conjunction with the NCAA® Women's Final Four® in Indianapolis.

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About the WBCA:

Founded in 1981, the Women's Basketball Coaches Association promotes women's basketball by unifying coaches at all levels to develop a reputable identity for the sport and to foster and promote the development of the game as a sport for women and girls. For additional information about the WBCA, please visit wbca.org.