



PRESS RELEASE

## Woudstra Named 2011 RUSSELL ATHLETIC/WBCA National NAIA Coach of the Year

ATLANTA – Earl Woudstra, who on Tuesday night coached the Northwestern College Red Raiders to a second-straight NAIA Division II national championship, is the 2011 RUSSELL ATHLETIC/WBCA National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Coach of the Year, the WBCA announced today. Woudstra is the 27th coach to receive this honor, which has been selected by the WBCA since 1985.

"The WBCA is pleased to present Earl Woudstra with the RUSSELL ATHLETIC/WBCA National NAIA Coach of the Year award," said WBCA CEO Beth Bass. "Coaches receive lots of awards, but to be chosen for one by your peers has got to be the highest compliment."

This year's national championship was Northwestern's fourth title under Woudstra, who has guided the Red Raiders to 403 wins in his 17 years as head coach. His teams have made 10 national tournament appearances, including each of the last six seasons.

With Woudstra at the helm, Northwestern has won more than 30 games five times and amassed 20 or more wins 11 times. In 2007–08, the year of Woudstra's second championship, Northwestern won a school-record 35 games -- a mark equaled by this season's team, which finished its championship season at 35–1. Woudstra also led the Red Raiders to the national championship in 2001 with a 32–4 record and guided his team to a runner-up finish in 2000 with a 27–6 record. His 2006 and 2009 squads reached the national semifinals, and he guided his team to the quarterfinals in 2002.

A 1978 Northwestern alum, Woudstra also serves as the assistant athletic director and professor of kinesiology. In addition, Woudstra serves on the Orange City City Council, a position he has held since 1999.

"RUSSELL ATHLETIC continues to be committed to women's sports, including a focus to develop the latest innovations for women, specifically in terms of uniforms and apparel," said Gary Barfield, Executive Vice President, RUSSELL ATHLETIC. "Through RUSSELL ATHLETIC'S dedication to women's athletics, we are proud to honor Coach Earl Woudstra. Coach Woudstra's accomplishments enable new vision for all student-athletes."

Woudstra, as well as the five other RUSSELL ATHLETIC/WBCA National Coach of the Year recipients, 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.

**About RUSSELL ATHLETIC:**

For more than 100 years, Russell Athletic, a division of Russell Brands, LLC, has supplied America's athletes and teams with the latest innovations to help them perform at their best and is a leading supplier of team uniforms at the high school, college, and professional level. Russell Athletic activewear and college licensed products are broadly distributed and marketed through department stores, sports specialty stores, retail chains, and college bookstores. For more information, please visit [www.russellathletic.com](http://www.russellathletic.com). Russell Athletic® is a trademark of Russell Brands, LLC. Russell Athletic, Proven on the Field of Play.

**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](http://wbca.org).