



PRESS RELEASE

## Dennis Cox Named RUSSELL ATHLETIC/WBCA National NCAA Division II Coach of the Year

ATLANTA – Dennis Cox, head coach at Clayton State University, is the 2011 RUSSELL ATHLETIC/WBCA National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II Coach of the Year, the Women's Basketball Coaches Association announced today. This is the 29th year of this honor, which has been selected by the WBCA since 1983.

"The WBCA is pleased to present Dennis Cox with the RUSSELL ATHLETIC/WBCA National Division II 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."

With a record of 181–45 at Clayton State and a winning percentage of .801, Cox is the second–winningest active women's head coach at the Division II level. He leads second–ranked Clayton State (32–1) against No. 15 Bentley in the NCAA Division II Elite Eight quarterfinals today.

Cox has directed the Lakers to what is currently the best season in program history. Clayton State became the second team in Peach Belt Conference history to go undefeated during the regular season, and Clayton State's 32 victories is the most in a season for a Peach Belt women's team. In addition, the Lakers captured their fourth Peach Belt regular season title under Cox. He was selected Peach Belt Conference Coach of the Year.

Cox took over the helm of the Laker women's basketball program prior to the 2004–05 season, and his impact was immediately felt. In his six seasons, Clayton State almost overnight become one of the elite women's programs in Division II with four Peach Belt Conference regular season championships, three Peach Belt Conference Tournament championships, and seven straight trips to the NCAA Division II National Tournament.

Prior to joining Clayton State, Cox served six years as the head coach at Daytona Beach Community College in Daytona Beach, Fla., building DBCC into a powerhouse. He compiled a 147–41 record, won three Mid–Florida Conference championships, a Mid–Florida Conference Tournament championship and had a state runner–up finish at the school. His top season at Daytona Beach came as recent as the 2002–03 campaign when his Falcons finished fourth in the nation in the National Junior College Athletic Association final poll with a 29–2 record. Cox was named the Women's Basketball Coaches Association Region IX Coach of the Year in 2003 and was named the Mid–Florida Conference Coach of the Year on three different occasions.

In addition to his six seasons at Daytona Beach, Cox served as the head coach at Valencia Community College in Orlando, Fla., for eight years. He became the first full-time head coach at Valencia in 1989 and compiled a 144–97 record, including four seasons with 20 or more wins and three state tournament appearances.

Cox’s overall record at the junior college level was 291–138 for a winning percentage of .678.

“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 Dennis Cox. Coach Cox’s accomplishments enable new vision for all student-athletes.”

The national coach of the year is selected from a list of finalists composed of the eight regional coaches of the year, who are chosen by vote of their peers in their respective WBCA membership regions.

Joining Cox, the Region 3 Coach of the Year, in receiving RUSSELL ATHLETIC/WBCA Regional Division II Coach of the Year honors for 2011 are:

Region	Coach	Institution
Region 1	Barbara Stevens	Bentley University
Region 2	Lynn Ullom	West Liberty University
Region 4	Kimberly Cameron	Michigan Technological University
Region 5	Sandra Rushing	Delta State University
Region 6	Gene Steinmeyer	Northwest Missouri State University
Region 7	Mark Kellogg	Fort Lewis College
Region 8	Carmen Dolfo	Western Washington University

Cox, 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 in all of its aspects as a sport for women and girls. For more information about the WBCA, please visit [wbca.org](http://wbca.org).