



PRESS RELEASE

Breanna Stewart Named 2012 State Farm/WBCA National High School Player of the Year

ATLANTA (Feb. 8, 2012) –The Women's Basketball Coaches' Association (WBCA) announced today that Breanna Stewart of Cicero (N.Y.)–North Syracuse High School is the 2012 State Farm®/WBCA National High School Player of the Year.

"Congratulations to Breanna for earning this award," said WBCA CEO Beth Bass. "She has set the bar higher than ever for high school student–athletes, and the WBCA would like to wish her the best on her future in collegiate women's basketball."

Stewart, a 6–foot–3 forward, is currently ranked No. 1 among high school girls basketball players in the U.S. by ESPN HoopGurlz.com. She also was honored by USA Basketball in January as the 2011 Female Athlete of the Year.

As Cicero–North Syracuse's leading scorer, Stewart averages 24 points per game and has scored in double figures in every game of the season. She has scored 25 or more points in six games, including a season–high 44 against Hill School on Jan. 17 and two performances of more than 30 points each.

Stewart will play collegiately for the University of Connecticut, making her the seventh WBCA National High School Player of the Year to sign with the Huskies. Previous players of the year on UConn's roster include Kaleena Mosqueda–Lewis (2011), Maya Moore (2007), Tina Charles (2006), Ann Strother (2002) and Tamika (Williams) Raymond (1998). Elena Delle Donne (2008) initially signed with UConn, but enrolled at the University of Delaware before playing for the Huskies.

Cicero–North Syracuse (14–2) sits atop its conference standings with an unblemished mark of 10–0. As of Jan. 30 the Northstars are ranked eighth nationally by ESPN HoopGurlz.com after debuting at No. 26 in the 2011–12 preseason rankings.

"Breanna's remarkable achievements, both on and off the court, make her truly deserving of this prestigious award," said Pam El, Marketing Vice President for State Farm. "State Farm is extremely proud and honored to recognize this outstanding student–athlete and we wish her the best in all her future endeavors."

Stewart will be formally honored at halftime of the 2012 WBCA High School All–America Game presented by NIKE, which will be played at 4:30 p.m. MT Saturday, March 31, at the Pepsi Center in Denver. The game is held annually as part of the WBCA National Convention and NCAA® Women's Final Four® "Super Saturday" festivities.

State Farm and the WBCA annually name players of the year in each of the five WBCA collegiate divisions (NCAA's Divisions I, II, III, NAIA and JC/CC) and high school.

About State Farm®:

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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. The WBCA is pleased to join the women's sports community in commemorating the 40th anniversary of Title IX, which was passed by Congress on June 23, 1972, and provides females with equal opportunities in athletics in the U.S. For more information on the WBCA, please visit wbca.org.