



PRESS RELEASE

## WBCA announces finalists for 2012 State Farm/WBCA NAIA Player of the Year

ATLANTA (March 15, 2012) – Tugce Canitez of Westmont College (Santa Barbara, Calif.), Regena Jackson of Belhaven University (Jackson, Miss.) and Jennifer Jorgenson of Grand View University (Des Moines, Iowa) are the 2012 State Farm®/WBCA National Intercollegiate Athletic Association (NAIA) Player of the Year, the Women's Basketball Coaches Association announced today.

The winner will be announced during the second annual WBCA Awards Show on Monday, April 2, in Denver. This event is part of the WBCA National Convention and is held in conjunction with the NCAA® Women's Final Four®.

"The WBCA is pleased to name Tugce, Regena and Jennifer as the finalists for the State Farm/WBCA NAIA Player of the Year award," said WBCA CEO Beth Bass. "These women have had outstanding seasons, and are very deserving of this achievement. State Farm is synonymous with excellence and so are these student-athletes' performances. I would like to wish each of these ladies good luck at the WBCA Awards Show in Denver!"

"State Farm is proud of the achievement of these amazing women," said Pam El, marketing vice president for State Farm. "We are happy to support this outstanding program that celebrates their hard work and dedication."

Canitez, a 6-foot-2 junior forward, leads Westmont (29-3) in scoring (19.5 per game) and rebounding (10.3 per game). The Turkey native led her team, ranked fourth nationally in NAIA Division I, to a Golden State Athletic Conference championship with 18 points and 12 rebounds. Westmont earned a No. 1 seed in the NAIA National Championship bracket and faces eighth-seeded Lyon in the opening round today.

Jackson, a 5-foot-7 senior guard from Denham, La., averages more than 24 points per game for the 26-6 Belhaven women's basketball team. A five-seed in the NAIA DI National Championship bracket, Belhaven has looked to Jackson as the leading scorer in 28 of their competitions. The Southern States Athletic Conference two-time player of the year has had six 30-plus-point outings this season, including two 42-point performances.

Jorgenson, a 5-foot-10 senior guard, boasts a 40.4 three-point percentage this season. The Dayton, Iowa, native nets an average of 7.9 field goals and 7.2 free throws per game – both are team highs – for 23.8 points per game. In addition to her offensive skills, Jorgenson pulls down 10 rebounds per contest for NAIA Division II No. 7 Grand View (24-5).

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.

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