



PRESS RELEASE

## 2012 State Farm/WBCA NCAA DIII Player of the Year Finalists Named

ATLANTA (March 16, 2012) – Caroline Stedman of Amherst College and Carissa Verkaik of Calvin College are the finalists for the 2012 State Farm®/WBCA Division III Player of the Year award, the Women's Basketball Coaches Association announced today.

State Farm and the WBCA present the player of the year award annually to the top player in each of the five WBCA membership divisions (NCAA Divisions II, III, NAIA, junior/college college and high school). 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 Caroline and Carissa as the finalists for the State Farm/WBCA Division III 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."

Stedman, a 5-foot-10 guard from Walpole, Mass., averages 13.9 points per game for NCAA Division III No. 1 Amherst. The senior has played an incremental role in her team's success this season, leading them to a New England Small College Athletic Conference championship with 17 points and two steals. Stedman and the Lord Jeffs are vying for an NCAA Division III national championship and will face George Fox on March 16 in the Women's Final Four.

Verkaik, a 6-foot-2 forward from Holland, Mich., posts 19.2 points per game and pulls down 8.8 rebounds a contest for No. 5 Calvin. The junior averages 4.3 blocks a game, tallying 128 on the season. Verkaik was also named the D3hoops.com Great Lakes Region Player of the Year following her impressive season.

The State Farm/WBCA Player of the Year Award is selected by the 10-member WBCA Player of the Year Committee, which consists of one WBCA-member coach from each of the nine WBCA JC/CC Regions and the committee chair.

#### About State Farm®:

State Farm and its affiliates are the largest provider of car insurance in the U.S. and is a leading insurer in Canada. In addition to providing auto insurance quotes, their 17,800 agents and more than 65,000 employees serve 81 million policies and accounts – more than 79 million auto, home, life and health policies in the United States and Canada, and nearly 2 million bank accounts. Commercial auto insurance, along with coverage for renters, business owners, boats and motorcycles, is also available. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company is the parent of the State Farm family of companies. State Farm is ranked No. 37 on the Fortune 500 list of largest companies. For more information, please visit <http://www.statefarm.com> or in Canada <http://www.statefarm.ca>.

#### 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).