



PRESS RELEASE

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

ATLANTA (March 19, 2012) – Kari Daugherty of Ashland University, Ashley Arlen of Wayne State College and Veronica Walker of Delta State University are the finalists for the 2012 State Farm®/WBCA Division II 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/community 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 Kari, Ashley and Veronica as the finalists for the State Farm/WBCA Division II 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."

Daugherty, a 6-foot-1 junior guard, paces the Ashland Eagles with 21.1 points per game. The Fresno, Ohio, native is 50 percent from the field and boasts a 34.8 three-point percentage. Daugherty leads the nation in rebounds – 13.8 per contest – and double-doubles with 24. She is also one of 18 NCAA Division II women's basketball players to record a triple-double this season. Daugherty led her team to the NCAA Division Elite Eight for the first time in program history.

Arlen, a 6-foot-2 senior forward, led her team to its first appearance in the NCAA Division II Elite Eight after posting 12 points in the Sweet Sixteen matchup. The Central Region Tournament's Most Valuable Player averages 18 points and 9.3 rebounds per game – both team leading marks. Arlen and the Wayne State Wildcats (30-3) claimed a Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Tournament Championship before advancing to the NCAA Division II National Tournament.

Walker, a 6-foot-1 senior forward, nabbed NCAA Division II South Region Player of the Year honors, as well as the 2012 C Spire Gillom Trophy, which is presented annual

to the best collegiate women's basketball player in Mississippi. The Gulf South Conference Player of the Year led Delta State to a GSC regular-season title, averaging 18 points and 8.7 rebounds per game. Both numbers are team highs, while her scoring mark ranks among the nation's top 30.

The State Farm/WBCA Player of the Year Award is selected by the nine-member WBCA Player of the Year Committee, which consists of one WBCA-member coach from each of the eight WBCA NCAA Division II 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.