



PRESS RELEASE

WBCA announces finalists for Division I Defensive Player of the Year

ATLANTA (March 26, 2012) – Brittney Griner of Baylor, Glory Johnson of Tennessee, Chiney Ogumike of Stanford, Devereaux Peters of Notre Dame and Elizabeth Williams of Duke are finalists for 2012 WBCA Division I Defensive Player of the Year, the Women's Basketball Coaches Association announced today.

The WBCA Division I Defensive Player of the Year award honors the best defensive collegiate Division I women's basketball player. All Division I conference defensive players of the year are eligible to be nominated for the award. A selection committee makes the final decision on the winner. If a conference does not select a defensive player of the year, the conference representative can nominate one player to be considered.

"The age-old adage, 'defense wins games,' still rings true and I think each of these women have taken that to heart as a finalist for this year's Defensive Player of the Year award," said WBCA Beth Bass. "I wish each of these ladies the best of luck at the WBCA Awards Show in Denver!"

Griner, a 6-foot-8 center, has led the Baylor Lady Bears, the overall No. 1 seed in the NCAA® Division I Women's Basketball Championship, to an undefeated 37-0 season so far, averaging 23.4 points and 9.2 rebounds per game. The junior also leads the nation in blocked shots with 190 (5.14 per game) and has recorded 16 double-doubles this season. Baylor plays Tennessee at 7 p.m. EDT today in the Des Moines Regional Final for a berth in the NCAA® Women's Final Four.

Johnson, a 6-foot-3 forward, leads the 27-8 Tennessee Lady Vols in rebounding (9.7 per game) and blocked shots (1.2 per game). The graduate student hits 3.9 free throws each contest and is the team's second leading scorer with an average of 14.1 points a game.

Ogumike, a 6-foot-3 forward, is Stanford's second leading scorer and rebounder, notching 15.4 points and 10.1 rebounds a game. The sophomore has earned double-doubles in more than half of the games she has played this season. The Cardinal (34-1) play Duke at 9 p.m. EDT today in the Fresno Regional Final.

Peters, a 6-foot-2 forward, leads 33-3 Notre Dame in rebounds, pulling down 9.4 each contest. The graduate student adds 11.9 points per game to the Fighting Irish's offense and has blocked 72 of her opponent's shots.

Williams, a 6-foot-3 center, has started every game of the season for Duke, tallying

14 points and 8 rebounds per game – both team leading marks. During her freshman campaign, Williams has recorded 115 blocks and snatched 50 steals for the 27–5 Blue Devils.

The winner will be announced during the WBCA Awards Show, which will be held at 5 p.m. MT 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®.

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.