



PRESS RELEASE

## Baylor's Brittney Griner Named 2011 WBCA National Defensive Player of the Year

DENVER (April 2, 2012) – Brittney Griner of Baylor is the 2012 WBCA National Defensive Player of the Year, the Women's Basketball Coaches Association announced at the second annual WBCA Awards Show Monday night. The event is part of the WBCA National Convention, held in conjunction with the Women's Final Four.

The WBCA Defensive Player of the Year award honors the best defensive collegiate Division I women's basketball player. All Division I Conference Defensive Player's of the Year are eligible to be nominated for the award and the 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 select one player to be considered.

"The age-old adage, 'defense wins games', still rings true and I think Brittney has taken that to heart as this year's Defensive Player of the Year," said WBCA Beth Bass. "I am happy to honor Brittney with this award for her defensive efforts this season."

Griner has led the Baylor Lady Bears' defense throughout the 2011-12 season, averaging a team-leading 9.4 rebounds per game. Most impressively, the 6-foot-8 junior has denied 201 shots – 594 in her career – and has scored over 900 points this season. The towering center and her teammates are heading to the NCAA Women's National Championship game for the second time in program history, and will face Notre Dame in pursuit of the coveted 40-0 season they set their sights on at the start of the season.

The Houston, Texas native was named a 2012 WBCA Coaches' All-American for the second time in her career, and this is the second year in a row Griner has taken home the WBCA's Defensive Player of the Year Award. Additionally, Griner was honored with most outstanding player accolades from the Des Moines Regional and the Big 12 Championship. Griner was the 2012 Big 12 Player and Defensive Player of the Year.

### 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).

