



PRESS RELEASE

Game official June Courteau receives 2013 Jostens–Berenson Lifetime Achievement Award

ATLANTA (March 21, 2013) – June Courteau, a long-time collegiate and WNBA game official, will receive the 2013 Jostens–Berenson Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her lifelong commitment of service to women's basketball, the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) announced today.

"This award is one that was created to say thank you to those people who have put in an extraordinary amount of time to the game of women's basketball and have made it better," said WBCA CEO Beth Bass. "June is a super example of someone who took on their career with diligence. I am pleased to present her with the Jostens–Berenson Lifetime Achievement Award."

Courteau has been an NCAA Division I basketball official for more than 30 years and a WNBA referee since the league's inaugural season in 1997. During her career she has officiated the NCAA® Women's Final Four® seven times and the WNBA Finals 12 times. She has also officiated in the Olympics, Pan American Games, the World Championship Tournament and the Jones Cup.

In 1989 Courteau was the recipient of the 1989 Naismith Official of the Year Award and in 1990 she was honored as the Atlantic Coast Conference Official of the Year.

Courteau has been involved with officiating off the court as well. She has served as director of the Referee's Camp, interpreter of basketball rules for women, served on the national ranking team for officials, supervisor of officials for women's basketball in the Southern Conference and was an NCAA clinician at regional and national events.

The Winona State University alumnae and hall of fame member was a four-year participant on the Warriors' women's basketball, volleyball and softball teams. Following her graduation from WSU, Courteau attended the University of Northern Iowa where she earned a master's degree in speech communication.

"Jostens is thrilled to recognize June Courteau with the Jostens–Berenson Lifetime Achievement Award," said Chris Poitras, national director, College & Sports Sales and Marketing, Jostens. "It's an honor to help recognize an individual with a career filled with amazing accomplishments and contributions in women's basketball and sports."

Courteau will be formally recognized during the WBCA Awards Show, which will be

held at 5 p.m. CT Monday, April 8, in the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center's New Orleans Theater. This event is part of the WBCA National Convention and is held in conjunction with the NCAA® Women's Final Four®.

The award, sponsored by Jostens, is named in honor of the late Senda Berenson, who in her role as a physical education instructor at Smith College in Northampton, Mass., introduced "basketball" to her female gym students in 1892. This introduction marked the birth of the women's game, which occurred the year following basketball's invention by Dr. James Naismith in Springfield, Mass.

Courteau joins a distinguished group of recipients which includes: Kay James, University of Southern Mississippi (2012); Donna Wise, Campbellsville University (2011); Marsha Sharp, Texas Tech (2010); the late Kay Yow, North Carolina State (2009); Cherri Mankenberg, University of Nebraska at Omaha (2008); Brenda Byrd, Darlington County Public Schools and Darlington Recreation Center (2007); the late Sue Gunter, Louisiana State University (2006); Charles Heatly, Lindsay High School (2005); Louise O'Neal, Wellesley College (2004); Dr. Charlotte West, Southern Illinois University (2003); Dr. Jill Hutchison, Illinois State University (2002); Bob Spencer, Fresno State (2001); the late Dr. Brenda Reilly, Central Connecticut State University (2000); Betty Wiseman, Belmont University (1999); Dr. Rose Marie Battaglia, Paramus High School and Paramus Community College (1998); Lea Plarski, Saint Louis Community College (1997); Carole Baumgarten, Drake University (1996); Billie Moore, California State – Fullerton (1995); Marcy Weston, Central Michigan University (1994); Patsy Neal, Brevard College (1993); Harley Redin, Wayland Baptist University (1992); Alberta Lee Cox, AAU (1991); Bertha Frank Teague, Byng High School (1990); Pat Summitt, University of Tennessee (1989); Hunter Low, Eastman Kodak Company (1988); Cathy Rush, Immaculata College (1987); Mildred Barnes, Central Missouri State University (1986); the late Carol Eckman, Lock Haven University (1985); and the late Margaret Wade, Delta State University (1984).

About Jostens:

Minneapolis-based Jostens is a provider of products, programs and services that help people tell their stories, celebrate important traditions and recognize achievements. The company's products include school yearbooks and other memory book products, scholastic products such as class rings and graduation products, and products for athletic champions and their fans. Jostens is a subsidiary of Visant Corporation, a marketing and publishing services enterprise servicing the school affinity, direct marketing, fragrance and cosmetics sampling and educational and trade publishing segments.

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. For more information on the WBCA, please visit wbca.org.