



PRESS RELEASE

## McGraw named RUSSELL ATHLETIC/WBCA NCAA Division I National Coach of the Year

NEW ORLEANS (April 8, 2013) – University of Notre Dame head coach Muffet McGraw is the 2013 RUSSELL ATHLETIC/WBCA NCAA Division I National Coach of the Year, the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) announced tonight during the third annual WBCA Awards Show.

The WBCA also announced the RUSSELL ATHLETIC/WBCA National Coaches of the Year in other collegiate divisions. Barbara Stevens of Bentley University was named NCAA Division II national coach of the year, Kris Huffman of DePauw University was named NCAA Division III national coach of the year, George Wilson of College of the Ozarks was named NAIA national coach of the year, and Kate Lynch of Community College of Rhode Island was named junior/community college national coach of the year.

"The WBCA is delighted to name Muffet as the 2013 RUSSELL ATHLETIC/WBCA NCAA Division I National Coach of the Year," said WBCA CEO Beth Bass. "Muffet had a banner year and is deserving of this honor after an impressive season. I believe this award will be extra special for Muffet because she was chosen by her peers and they respect her coaching mentality."

"We would like to congratulate these coaches for receiving the Russell Athletic WBCA Coach-of-the-Year Award," said Senior Vice President of Russell Athletic, Gary Barfield. "All five of these coaches embody the team concept we model our business after, and we are pleased to honor them for a fantastic season."

McGraw, the 2013 BIG EAST Coach of the Year, helped guide the Fighting Irish to their first BIG EAST tournament championship. She last captured the BIG EAST Coach of the Year honor in 2001. McGraw is a five-time conference Coach of the Year. The University of Notre Dame also won their third BIG EAST Conference regular-season championship after going 16-0 in league play.

Heading into the 2013 NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament the Fighting Irish were on a 26 game win streak including pulling off a win in three overtimes to rival Connecticut. The University of Notre Dame entered the tournament 31-1 overall with their only loss coming against Baylor on December 5th.

McGraw has led Notre Dame to four NCAA Division I national championship games, five trips to the NCAA Women's Final Four, 11 NCAA Sweet Sixteen appearances while having made it to 20 NCAA tournament appearances including 18 in a row.

Stevens, who is in her 27th year as head coach at Bentley, has been named the WBCA

Division II National Coach of the Year for the fourth time, earning the honor in 1992, 1999 and 2001. She led the Falcons to their third consecutive Northeast-10 Conference Women's Basketball Championship earlier this season. The Falcons also won the regular season conference championship with a 21-1 record. Bentley entered the 2013 NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Tournament for the 30th time overall and for the 26th time in Stevens' 27 seasons with the Falcons. The Falcons have posted at least 20 wins in 25 of Steven's 27 years at the helm of the program, including 11 seasons of at least 30 wins. Steven guided the Falcons to a 30-2 overall record this season and to the NCAA Division II East Regional Semifinals.

Huffman led the DePauw University Tigers to their second NCAA Division III national championship. DePauw became the only team to win 34 games in a season when they went undefeated this year to claim the national championship. In her 20 years as the head women's basketball coach Huffman is the program's winningest coach with a 466-102 career record and a 249-31 conference mark. The Tigers made the NCAA Division III Championship for a 10th straight time after winning its second straight North Coast Athletic Conference Tournament championship. DePauw currently has a regular season win streak of 53 and they have the program's longest win streak at 34.

Wilson, who retired at the conclusion of this season, coached for 16 years at College of the Ozarks. During his final season College of the Ozarks made it to the second round of the NAIA Division II Women's Basketball Tournament capping off its season at 30-5 overall and 14-2 in conference action, finishing second in the conference standings. Wilson earned his 1,000 win this season with wins coming in both his high school and collegiate career. He was also inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame this year. The Lady Bobcats won the "What's Right in the Sport" award this season and Buffalo Funds Champions of Character award.

Lynch, in her second year as the head coach of the Knights, led Community College of Rhode Island to a 24-5 overall record as they reached the 2013 Junior College/Community College District N Championship. They captured their 10th consecutive Region XXI title.

RUSSELL ATHLETIC and the WBCA present the national coach of the year award annually in each of the five WBCA membership divisions (NCAA Divisions I, II and III; NAIA; junior/community college and high school). This marks the 31st year the awards have been given in the junior/community college and NCAA divisions, while the WBCA has honored an NAIA coach of the year for 29 years.

#### About RUSSELL ATHLETIC:

For more than 100 years, Russell Brands, LLC, has supplied America's athletes and teams with the latest innovations to help them perform at their best and is a leading supplier of apparel and team uniforms at the high school, college and professional levels. Russell's collegiate licensed products and athletic wear are broadly distributed and marketed through department stores, sports specialty stores, retail chains and college bookstores. For more information, please visit [www.RussellAthletic.com](http://www.RussellAthletic.com), [facebook.com/russellathletic](https://facebook.com/russellathletic), [Twitter.com/RussellAthletic](https://Twitter.com/RussellAthletic).

#### 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](http://wbca.org).