



PRESS RELEASE

Green Bay, Drury, Northland, Northwestern, Salt Lake sit atop 2012 WBCA Academic Team Honor Rolls

ATLANTA (July 17, 2012) – University of Wisconsin, Green Bay; Drury University; Northland College; Northwestern College and Salt Lake Community College are the top honorees in their respective divisions on the WBCA Academic Top 25 Team Honor Rolls for the 2011–12 season, the Women's Basketball Coaches Association announced today.

The WBCA Academic Top 25 annually recognizes NCAA Divisions I, II and III; NAIA; and junior/community college women's basketball teams across the nation that carry the highest combined grade point averages (GPAs) inclusive of all student-athletes on their rosters for the entire season. The 2011–12 season is the 17th in which the WBCA has produced the honor rolls.

Here are the top honorees by division, their head coaches and combined GPAs:

Division	Institution	2011–12 Head Coach	Team GPA
NCAA Division I	Green Bay	Matt Bollant	3.616
NCAA Division II	Drury	Steve Harold	3.709
NCAA Division III	Northland	Bill Wilson	3.706
NAIA	Northwestern (Iowa)	Chris Yaw	3.657
Junior/Community College	Salt Lake	Betsy Specketer	3.379

Drury and Salt Lake are No. 1 on the NCAA Division II and junior/community college honor rolls respectively for the third time. It is Drury's eighth appearance on the NCAA Division II honor roll; and its first since a No. 2 ranking in 2006. The Lady Panthers finished atop the Division II standings in 2004 and 2005. Salt Lake is making its 10th appearance on the junior/community college honor. The Bruins were No. 1 in the junior/community college standings in 2000 and 2003. This season marks Green Bay's second No. 1 finish on the NCAA Division I honor roll; its first occurring in 2001. Meanwhile, Northland and Northwestern (Iowa) finish atop the NCAA Division III and NAIA standings respectively for the first time.

"I look forward to the release of the Academic Top 25 each summer," said WBCA CEO Beth Bass. "Because our society places so much emphasis on winning games and championships, it is a refreshing change of pace when we recognize those teams that

excel in the classroom.

"Like winning on the court, academic success on a team level does not happen by accident. It requires a group of student-athletes who realize the importance of education and earning their degrees, coaches who expect and encourage their players to attend class and study, and administrators who provide strong academic support programs for their athletes," said Bass.

"The teams composing the Academic Top 25 each year are always the real winners in women's college basketball."

A team's GPA is calculated by dividing the total number of quality points earned by the total number of hours attempted by all team members in the academic terms (semesters or quarters) that the season spans. Weighted grades are converted to a 4.0 scale. The GPAs are rounded to the nearest thousandth of a point. Teams are nominated for the honor by a WBCA-member head coach. A team must have a 3.000 or better GPA to be nominated.

NCAA Division I

Green Bay leads the 2012 NCAA Division I honor roll with a 3.616 GPA. It is the 10th appearance on the Division I honor roll for the Phoenix and their third under former head coach Matt Bollant, who left after five seasons to become head coach at the University of Illinois. The Horizon League champions finished the season with a 33-2 record, losing to Kentucky, 65-62, in the second round of the NCAA Kingston Regional.

Five of the top 25 teams on the Division I honor roll earned a berth in the 2012 NCAA tournament.

Here is the complete 2012 WBCA Academic Top 25 for NCAA Division I (**-NCAA tournament; *-left after season):

Rank	Institution	2011-12 Head Coach	Team GPA
1	Green Bay**	Matt Bollant*	3.616
2	South Dakota State**	Aaron Johnston	3.61
3	DePaul**	Douglas Bruno	3.604
4	South Dakota	Ryun Williams*	3.595
5	American	Matt Corkery	3.563
6	Youngstown State	Robert Boldon	3.55
7	Utah Valley	Cathy Nixon	3.524
8	North Dakota	Gene Roebuck*	3.505
9	Florida Gulf Coast**	Karl Smesko	3.474
10	St. Francis (N.Y.)	Brenda Milano*	3.456
11	Montana State	Tricia Binford	3.435
12	Northern Colorado	Jaime White	3.421
13	Western Carolina	Karen Middleton	3.406
14 (tie)	New Mexico	Yvonne Sanchez	3.403
14 (tie)	Northern Iowa	Tanya Warren	3.403
16	North Dakota State	Carolyn DeHoff	3.402

17	Montana	Robin Selvig	3.399
18	Indiana–Purdue, Fort Wayne	Chris Paul	3.398
19	Bradley	Paula Buscher*	3.396
20	Denver	Erik Johnson*	3.387
21	Bucknell	Kathy Fedorjaka*	3.382
22	Yale	Chris Gobrecht	3.352
23	Sacred Heart**	Edward Swanson	3.349
24	Bowling Green	Curt Miller*	3.347
25	Eastern Washington	Wendy Schuller	3.337

NCAA Division II

Drury University, coached by Steve Harold, not only finishes atop the Division II honor roll, but its 3.709 team GPA is the highest of any team in all five divisional honor rolls. The Panthers finished the season with a 20–8 record. They lost to Ferris State in the first round of the NCAA Division II Midwest Regional.

Eleven of the 26 teams making the honor roll earned postseason berths in the NCAA Division II tournament, with No. 18 Ashland advancing to the national championship game.

Here is the complete 2012 WBCA Academic Top 25 for NCAA Division II (**–NCAA tournament; *–left after season):

Rank	Institution	2011–12 Head Coach	Team GPA
1	Drury**	Steve Harold	3.709
2	King (Tenn.)	Josh Thompson	3.692
3	Lake Erie	Robert Booher	3.684
4	Fort Hays State	Tony Hobson	3.628
5	Rockhurst	Larry Park	3.586
6	Seton Hill	Ferne Labati	3.58
7	Lindenwood	James Francis	3.567
8	Fort Lewis**	Mark Kellogg*	3.562
9	Holy Family**	Mark Miller	3.558
10	Michigan Tech	Kimberly Cameron	3.547
11	Minnesota State Mankato**	Pam Gohl*	3.538
12	Merrimack	Monique LeBlanc	3.532
13	Minnesota State Moorhead	Karla Nelson	3.527
14	Gannon**	Cleve Wright	3.526
15	Winona State	Scott Ballard	3.513
16	Maryville (Mo.)**	Chris Ellis	3.507
17	Wisconsin–Parkside**	Jennifer Knight–Kenesie	3.498
18	Ashland**	Sue Ramsey	3.481
19	Montana State Billings	Kevin Woodin	3.476
20	Seattle Pacific	Julie Van Beek	3.448

21 (tie)	Franklin Pierce**	Stephen Hancock	3.446
21 (tie)	Wayne State**	Chris Kielsmeier	3.446
23	Concordia–St. Paul	Paul Fessler	3.44
24	Cal State East Bay	Suzy Barcomb	3.427
25 (tie)	St. Thomas Aquinas	Kim Lusk	3.415
25 (tie)	Minnesota Duluth**	Annette Wiles	3.415

NCAA Division III

Northland College, with a division–best 3.706 GPA, is making its fourth appearance on the NCAA Division III honor roll; its first at No. 1. Coached by Bill Wilson, the Lumberjills finished the season with a 12–13 record.

Seven of the top 25 teams earned a berth in the NCAA Division III tournament.

Here is the complete 2012 WBCA Academic Top 25 for NCAA Division III (**–NCAA tournament; *–left after season):

Rank	Institution	2011–12 Head Coach	Team GPA
1	Northland	Bill Wilson	3.706
2	Case Western Reserve	Jennifer Reimer	3.641
3	Hope	Brian Morehouse	3.62
4	Messiah**	Michael Miller	3.589
5	Gustavus Adolphus	Mickey Haller*	3.577
6	Ithaca**	Dan Raymond	3.568
7	St. Lawrence	Dan Roiger	3.549
8	Simpson**	Brian Niemuth	3.539
9	Emerson	Bill Gould	3.531
10	Centenary (N.J.)	Justin Phoenix*	3.522
11	Calvin	John Ross	3.518
12	Virginia Wesleyan	Stephany Dunmyer	3.513
13	Westminster (Mo.)**	Tracey Braden	3.503
14 (tie)	Northwestern (Minn.)	Aaron Kahl	3.487
14 (tie)	Westminster (Pa.)	Rosanne Scott	3.487
16	Luther	Amanda Bailey	3.485
17	Carnegie Mellon	Jacquie Hullah	3.479
18	Grinnell	Kate Gluckman	3.473
19	Saint Mary's (Ind.)	Jennifer Henley	3.464
20	Central (Iowa)	Michael Jacobsma	3.463
21	Gallaudet	Brendan Stern	3.461
22	Elms**	Laura Habacker	3.452
23	Wisconsin–Stevens Point**	Shirley Egner	3.45
24	Immaculata	Patricia Canterino	3.44
25	King's (Pa.)**	Brian Donoghue	3.418

NAIA

Three-time NAIA Division II national champion Northwestern College (Iowa) makes its ninth appearance and first atop the NAIA honor roll with a 3.657 team GPA. The Raiders, under the direction of first-year head coach Chris Yaw, finished their championship season with a 28-7 record.

Seventeen of the top 25 teams – seven in NAIA Division I and ten in NAIA Division II – earned berths in the NAIA national tournaments in their respective divisions.

Here is the complete 2012 WBCA Academic Top 25 for NAIA (***-NAIA Division I tournament; **-NAIA Division II tournament; *-left after season):

Rank	Institution	2011-12 Head Coach	Team GPA
1	Northwestern (Iowa)**	Chris Yaw	3.657
2	Shorter***	Vic Mitchell	3.601
3	Trevecca Nazarene	Gary Van Atta	3.549
4	Cornerstone	Carla Fles*	3.544
5	Campbellsville***	Ginger Colvin	3.525
6	Davenport**	Mike Williams	3.507
7	Indiana Wesleyan**	Steve Brooks	3.496
8 (tie)	Corban**	Terry Williams	3.489
8 (tie)	Saint Xavier***	Robert Hallberg	3.489
10	Union (Ky.)**	Tim Curry	3.476
11	Bethel College (Ind.)**	Jody Martinez	3.449
12	Great Falls	Bill Himmelberg	3.447
13	Mount Marty	Tom Schlimgen	3.432
14	Saint Ambrose	Krista Van Hauen	3.424
15	Ashford	Amy Eagan	3.417
16	William Woods***	Dan Chapla	3.401
17	Warner Pacific	Matt Gregg	3.393
18 (tie)	Concordia (Neb.)**	Drew Olson	3.37
18 (tie)	Grand View**	Garey Smith	3.37
20	Point Park**	Tony Grenek	3.367
21	Georgetown (Ky.)***	Andrea McCloskey	3.363
22	Saint Mary (Kan.)**	Michael Basler	3.36
23	Indiana-South Bend	Steve Bruce	3.352
24	Freed-Hardeman***	Dale Neal	3.32
25	Lee***	Marty Rowe	3.318

Junior/Community College

Salt Lake Community College is making its 10th appearance, and third at No. 1, in the junior/community honor roll, which features only 12 teams due to the limited number of eligible nominations received. The Bruins, coached by Betsy Specketer, ended the season with a 24-5 record after losing in the NJCAA Region 18 finals.

Three of the 12 teams making the honor roll earned berths in the NJCAA Division II national tournament.

Here is the complete 2012 WBCA Academic Top 25 for junior/community colleges

(**–NJCAA Division II tournament; *–California Community College Athletic Association tournament):

Rank	Institution	2011–12 Head Coach	Team GPA
1	Salt Lake (Utah)	Betsy Specketer	3.379
2	Northwest (Wyo.)	Janis Beal	3.363
3	Minnesota West	Michael Fury	3.359
4	Mesa (Ariz.)**	Kori Stephenson	3.276
5	Lon Morris (Texas)	Brenita Williams	3.233
6	Seward County (Kan.)	Toby Wynn	3.164
7	Sheridan College (Wyo.)	Frank McCarthy	3.161
8	Kishwaukee (Ill.)**	Karen Wiley	3.133
9	Ventura (Calif.)*	Ned Mircetic	3.128
10	Cypress (Calif.)*	Margaret Mohr	3.115
11	Johnson County (Kan.)**	Benjamin Conrad	3.079
12	Ellsworth (Iowa)	Ed Geitz	3.061

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, visit wbca.org.