



PRESS RELEASE

2014 marks 40th anniversary of WBCA Coaches' All-America program

ATLANTA (Feb. 20, 2014) – The 2013–14 season marks the 40th anniversary of the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Coaches' All-America program, which each year recognizes the top women's and girls' basketball players in the nation.

Over the next two months the WBCA will announce Coaches' All-America teams in NCAA Divisions I, II and III, as well as the NAIA, junior/community college and high school levels.

Each team, with the exception of high school, is composed of the 10 best players on that level regardless of position, class or geography as selected by a committee of coaches from nominations submitted by their peers. The High School All-America Team is composed of the 10 best high school seniors.

One member of each team is named the WBCA Player of the Year – the highest honor the WBCA can bestow on a student-athlete.

"The Coaches' All-America program is the WBCA's oldest and most prized awards platform," said WBCA CEO Beth Bass. "In fact, it's actually older than the WBCA itself by seven years."

The inaugural Kodak Coaches' All-America women's basketball team was selected during the 1974–75 season. The following year, the late Betty Jaynes, future executive director and CEO of the WBCA, was named chair of the selection committee and took the program under her wing. Jaynes served as chair from 1976 through 1982. She brought the program into the WBCA fold when she was named the association's first executive director in 1981.

Kodak remained the sponsor of the Coaches' All-America program through 2007. State Farm sponsored the program from 2008 through 2011.

The Coaches' All-America program expanded to include Coaches' All-America Teams in NCAA Division II, NCAA Division III, NAIA and junior/community colleges in 1983. The first WBCA High School All-America Team was named in 1992.

Each year the WBCA invites and, at its expense, brings the Coaches' All-America Team in NCAA Division I to the WBCA National Convention where the team is unveiled to the public. So far, through 39 seasons, all 390 NCAA Division I Coaches' All-Americans have been present to accept the honor.

"It's so exciting to see the best players in the game walk out and accept their plaques as they are announced as Coaches' All-Americans," said Bass. "It's the WBCA's oldest tradition," said Bass.

The WBCA High School All-America Team will be announced later this month. The WBCA Coaches' All-America Teams in NCAA Divisions II and III, NAIA and junior/community colleges will be announced in mid to late March.

The 40th annual WBCA NCAA Division I Coaches' All-America Team will be announced during the NCAA's Super Saturday festivities held at part of the 2014 NCAA® Women's Final Four® on April 5 in Nashville's Bridgestone Arena.

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.