



## PRESS RELEASE

# Player of the Year A'ja Wilson headlines 2014 WBCA High School All-America Team

ATLANTA (February 26, 2014) – A'ja Wilson of Heathwood Hall Episcopal School in Columbia, S.C., is the 2014 WBCA High School Player of the Year and headlines the 2014 WBCA High School All-America Team, the Women's Basketball Coaches Association announced today.

Wilson, a 6-foot-4 senior forward who is averaging 35 points per game, remains undecided on where she will play collegiately, but has narrowed her choices to Connecticut, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. She plans to pursue a degree in psychology.

"Congratulations to A'ja for earning the top award for high school basketball players," said WBCA CEO Beth Bass. "She has set high standards for current and future high school student-athletes to pursue greatness in a game that is rapidly excelling. The WBCA wishes A'ja the best on her future in college and in the game of women's basketball, as several potential college programs are hoping that she will be a part of their team."

Here are the 10 players selected to the 2014 WBCA High School All-America Team:

Name	School	Hometown	Signed
Ariel Atkins	Duncanville High School	Duncanville, TX	Texas
Sierra Calhoun	Christ the King High School	Brooklyn, NY	Duke
Jordin Canada	Winward School	Los Angeles, CA	UCLA
Gabby Green	Saint Mary's College High School	Oakland, CA	California
Alexis Jennings	Sparkman High School	Madison, AL	Kentucky
Alexa Middleton	Riverdale High School	Murfreesboro, TN	Tennessee
Kelsey Mitchell	Princeton High School	Cincinnati, OH	Ohio State
Brianna Turner	Manvel High School	Pearland, TX	Notre Dame
Jatarie White	Providence Day School	Charlotte, NC	South Carolina
A'ja Wilson	Heathwood Hall Episcopal School	Hopkins, SC	Undeclared

“The 10 members of this year’s High School All–America Team have been great leaders for their teams and for the game of girls’ and women’s basketball as it continues to grow,” said Bass.

The WBCA also announced that the WBCA High School All–America Game will not be played this year. Declining sponsorship revenue and the rising cost of operating the game was going to make it necessary for the WBCA to fund the game by redirecting money from services the association’s membership rate more highly. With the suspension of the game the WBCA decided to name 10 rather than 20 players as High School All–Americans to be consistent with the Coaches’ All–America teams in the collegiate divisions.

“The decision to suspend the game, although difficult, was financially responsible and necessary,” said Bass. “We will explore the feasibility of reinstating the game in future years if new sponsorship revenues are made available.”

Any graduating senior can be nominated for the WBCA High School All–America Team by a high school or AAU coach who is an active WBCA member. College coaches are not eligible to nominate a player for consideration. The 10–player All–America team and a 20–player honorable mention team are selected from the nominees by a selection committee composed of WBCA–member girls’ high school basketball coaches who represent nine geographical districts across the country.

The 2014 selection committee is also composed of Brian Robinson (chair), Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School (N.C.); Eric Smith, Cicero–North Syracuse High School (N.Y.) Jody Patrick, Flint Hill School (Va.); Anthony Smith, Homewood–Flossmoor High School (Ill.); Jill Nagel, Rock Bridge High School (Mo.); Todd Monsey, Waco Midway High School (Texas); Carl Mattei, Regis Jesuit High School (Colo.); Kevin Kiernan, Mater Dei High School (Calif.); Angie Hembree, Nocross High School (Ga.); and Gary Glasscock, Metro High School (Mo.) who is past chair. Daniella Trujillo, WBCA manager of events, awards & office administration, is staff liaison to the committee.

Here are the 20 players receiving 2014 WBCA High School All–America honorable mention:

Name	School	Hometown	Signed
Diani Akibogun	Regis Jesuit High School	Aurora, CO	Texas
Nakiah Bell	Incarinate Word Academy HS	Florissant, MO	Iowa State
McKenzie Calvert	Byron P. Steele II High School	Schertz, TX	USC
Amarah Coleman	Homewood–Flossmoor High School	Bolingbrook, IL	Illinois
Mikayla Cowling	Saint Mary’s College High School	Benicia, CA	California
Kaydra Duckett	Dreher High School	Columbia, SC	South Carolina
Sadie Edwards	Blair Academy High School	Meriden, CT	Connecticut
Justine Hall	Regis Jesuit High School	Centennial, CO	Purdue

Kelli Hayes	Archbishop Mitty High School	San Jose, CA	UCLA
Chloe Jackson	Riverdale Baptist High School	Waldorf, MD	N.C. State
Kaylee Johnson	Natrona County High School	Casper, WY	Stanford
Haley Lorenzen	Iowa City High School	Iowa City, IA	Florida
Erin Mathias	Fox Chapel High School	Pittsburgh, PA	Duke
Brooke McCarty	Clear Springs High School	League City, TX	Texas
Mariya Moore	Salesian High School	Pleasant Hill, CA	Louisville
Alyssa Rice	Reynoldsburg High School	Reynoldsburg, OH	Kentucky
Taylor Rooks	Gill St. Bernard's School	Warren, NJ	Stanford
Azura Stevens	Cary High School	Raleigh, NC	Duke
Shakayla Thomas	Sylacauga High School	Sylacauga, AL	Florida State
Victoria Vivians	Scott Central High School	Forest, MS	Miss. State

#### 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).