



PRESS RELEASE

Player of the Year Finalists headline the 2014 NAIA Coaches' All-America Team

ATLANTA (March 18, 2014) – The Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) announced today the finalists for the 2014 WBCA NAIA Player of the Year award.

They are:

- Nicole Ballestero, 5'7", Senior, Guard, Vanguard University
- Deonica McCormick, 5,8", Senior, Guard, University of Mobile
- Morgan Stuu, 5'10", Junior, Forward, Saint Xavier University

The WBCA present the player of the year award annually to the top player in each of the five WBCA membership divisions (NCAA Divisions II, III, NAIA, junior/community college and high school). The winner will be announced during the fourth annual WBCA Awards Show on Monday, April 7, in the Omni Nashville Hotel's Broadway Ballroom. This event is part of the WBCA National Convention and is held in conjunction with the NCAA® Women's Final Four®.

"The WBCA congratulates these student-athletes on being named finalists for the 2014 WBCA NAIA Player of the Year award," said WBCA CEO Beth Bass. "Nicole, Denoica and Morgan have helped guide their teams to exceptional seasons and are seeing their hard work and dedication to the game pay off. I wish each of these women good luck at the WBCA Awards Show in Nashville."

The 10-member team was selected by a vote of the selection committee. The committee is composed of one representative from each of the nine geographical regions and a chairperson. The members of the 2014 WBCA NAIA Coaches' All-America Team are as follows:

Name	Institution	Year	Pos.	Height
Nicole Ballestero	Vanguard University	Senior	Guard	5'7"
Casey Davis	Roosevelt University	Senior	Guard	5'8"
Alli Engebretson	Northwestern College	Senior	Guard	5'9"
Tayla Foster	Bethel University (TN)	Junior	Forward	5'10"
Deonica McCormick	University Of Mobile	Senior	Guard	5'8"
Hayley Newby	Freed-Hardeman University	Junior	Forward	6'0"
Kelsie Sampson	Westmont College	Senior	Forward	6'1"
Sierra Shipley	John Brown University	Senior	Guard	5'9"

Morgan Stuit	Saint Xavier University	Junior	Forward	5'10"
Kourtney Tyra	Georgetown College	Senior	Guard	5'5"

“The 10 members of the 2014 WBCA NAIA Coaches’ All–America Team are well deserving of this honor and the WBCA congratulates them for their efforts this season,” said WBCA CEO Beth Bass.

“These young women have done an exceptional job of pushing the women’s game to a new standard.” The following have been recognized as Coaches’ All–America Team Honorable Mentions in the NAIA division:

Name	Institution	Year	Pos.	Height
Adijat Adams	Biola University	Senior	Center	6'2"
Grace Alonso de Armino	Freed–Hardeman University	Junior	Forward	6'1"
Allison Blake	Westminster College	Senior	Forward	5'11"
Jasmine Brewer	Loyola University	Senior	Forward	5'9"
Lauren Cash	Saint Ambrose University	Senior	Guard	5'7"
Jamie Cummings	Lindsey Wilson College	Freshman	Forward	5'11"
Chelsea Davis	University of St. Thomas	Senior	Center	6'2"
Shakata Elder	Lindsey Wilson College	Sophomore	Guard	5'8"
Katie Gonnering	University of St. Francis	Junior	Forward	5'10"
Christina Hayes	Faulkner University	Senior	Forward	5'11"
Grace Howrigan	Siena Heights University	Senior	Guard	5'8"
Karen Hutson	Northwestern College	Junior	Guard	5'8"
Daizah Kimberland	Campbellsville University	Junior	Guard	5'10"
Samantha Kleinsasser	Northwestern College	Senior	Center	6'0"
Brittany Lehner	Valley City State University	Senior	Forward	5'10"
Jaquelyn Marshall	The Master's College	Senior	Forward	6'2"
Bailey Morris	Concordia University (NE)	Junior	Guard	5'4"
Anna Brooke Page	Blue Mountain College	Senior	Forward	6'0"
Chanel Roberts	Lindsey Wilson College	Freshman	Forward	5'10"
Morgan Vetter	Central Methodist University	Junior	Guard	5'6"

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.