



## Player of the Year Finalists headline the 2014 WBCA Division III Coaches' All-America Team

ATLANTA (March 20, 2014)– The Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) announced today the finalists for the 2014 WBCA Division III Player of the Year award.

They are:

- Lauren Avant, 5'10", Senior, Guard, Rhodes College
- Sydney Moss, 5'10", Sophomore, Guard/Forward, Thomas More College
- Melissa Spahar, 5'10", Senior, Forward, John Carroll University

The WBCA presents 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 Division III Player of the Year award," said WBCA CEO Beth Bass. "These players 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 eight geographical regions and a chairperson. The members of the 2014 WBCA Division III Coaches' All-America Team are as follows:

Name	Institution	Year	Position	Height
Lauren Avant	Rhodes College	Senior	Guard	5'10"
Heather Johns	Whitman College	Junior	Guard	5'7"
Kayla Johnson	Whitworth University	Senior	Guard	5'7"
Stephanie Kuzmanic	Carthage College	Senior	Guard	5'8"
Katie Lytle	Swarthmore College	Senior	Guard	5'9"
Cyndi Matsuoka	Vassar College	Senior	Guard	5'5"
Sydney Moss	Thomas More College	Sophomore	Guard	5'10"
Melissa				

Spahar	John Carroll University	Senior	Forward	5'10"
Kaitlyn Thill	University of Wisconsin–Whitewater	Senior	Guard	5'5"
Melissa Tobie	Montclair State University	Junior	Forward	6'1"

“Congratulations to the 10 student–athletes named to the 2014 Division III Coaches’ All–America Team,” said WBCA CEO Beth Bass. “These young women added a step to their game that was above the rest and helped their team become better in all aspects.”

The following have been recognized as WBCA Division III Coaches’ All–America Team Honorable Mentions:

Name	Institution	Year	Position	Height
Katie Anderson	Randolph–Macon College	Sophomore	Forward	5’11”
Paige Baechle	Centre College	Senior	Forward	5'11"
Sara Binkhorst	Bowdoin College	Junior	Guard	5'7"
Floriana Borova	William Paterson University	Senior	Guard	5'9"
Kaitlyn Bovee	Roger Williams University	Senior	Forward	5'7"
Shannon Brady	Bowdoin College	Sophomore	Center	6'0"
Ellen Cook	Williams College	Junior	Guard	5'11"
Jennifer Egee	Widener University	Senior	Guard	5'9"
Katelyn Fischer	Marymount University	Senior	Guard	5'7"
Maria Foglia	Hartwick College	Senior	Guard	5'8"
Alex Gasaway	DePauw University	Senior	Forward	5'10"
Melissa Gilkey	Washington University	Junior	Forward	6’1”
Becky Hebert	State University College at Fredonia	Senior	Guard	5'9"
Brittany Hicks	York College	Senior	Forward	5'10"
Morgan Kilgore	University of Texas – Dallas	Senior	Forward	5'8"
Stefanie Lang	Olivet College	Junior	Center	6'4"
Sally Linzmeier	University of Wisconsin – Superior	Junior	Guard	5'7"
Amy Mandrell	University of Wisconsin – Whitewater	Senior	Forward	6'0"
Maura McAfee	Hope College	Sophomore	Forward	6'0"
Meredith Mesaris	University of Scranton	Junior	Forward	6’1”
Olivia Murphy	University of Massachusetts – Boston	Sophomore	Forward	6'1"
Katie O'Rourke	Moravian College	Senior	Guard	5'7"
Brittany Oster	University of Redlands	Senior	Forward	5'10"
Kathleen Payne	Plattsburgh State University of New York	Senior	Guard	5'9"
Tia Perry	Christopher Newport University	Senior	Forward	5'9"
Mackenzie Puckett	Maryville College	Sophomore	Guard	5'9"
Kimi Takaoka	Chapman University	Senior	Guard	5'6"

Mary Kate Tierney	Ithaca College	Senior	Guard	5'10"
Nina Voith	Haverford College	Senior	Guard	5'8"
Maggie Weiers	University of St Thomas	Junior	Center	6'1"

**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).