



PRESS RELEASE

Billi Godsey named 2014 Spalding Maggie Dixon NCAA Division I Rookie Coach of the Year

NASHVILLE (April 7, 2014) – Iona College's Billi Godsey is the 2014 recipient of the Spalding Maggie Dixon Division I Rookie Coach of the Year Award, the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) announced tonight at the fourth annual WBCA Awards Show. This distinguished award honors a WBCA Division I head coach who has led his or her team to a successful season during his or her first year at the helm.

"It can be overwhelming during a head coach's rookie season, but Billi has done a tremendous job at the helm of the Iona College program and will continue to have success," said WBCA CEO Beth Bass. "We are proud to present Billi with the Maggie Dixon Rookie Coach of the Year award."

"Coach Godsey's stellar inaugural season at Iona and her smooth transition at the helm of a Division I program represent what the award and Coach Dixon embody," said Paul Sullivan, Senior Vice President of Spalding, who sponsors the award. "Coach Godsey's hard work, passion for the game and successful coaching have rightly earned her the Spalding Maggie Dixon Division I Rookie Coach of the Year."

Godsey became Iona College's seventh head coach of the women's basketball program in May of 2013. In her first season, Godsey led Iona to a program record 26 victories, and its fifth 20-win season. The Gaels competed in postseason play for the second consecutive year, with back-to-back WNIT appearances. Godsey was named the Mid-Major Coach of the Year by College Sports Madness after helping guide Iona to its first ever Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Regular Season Championship. She was also selected as the MAAC Coach of the Year, the first rookie head coach to win the honor in over two decades.

Prior to coming to Iona College, Godsey spent the previous two seasons as an assistant at Virginia Tech. During her tenure there the Hokies improved their Atlantic Coast Conference mark in both seasons.

Before joining Virginia Tech's staff, she spent three years at UMBC as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator; two years at Molloy College in Rockville Centre, N.Y. as an assistant and the Associate Director of Athletics, Senior Woman Administrator and Compliance Officer. While at Molloy, Godsey helped guide the program to its first-ever East Coast Conference title.

The Maggie Dixon Rookie Coach of the Year Award is named in honor of the late Maggie Dixon, former Army head coach, whose success during her inaugural year at the Army helm was remarkable. The Black Knights won the Patriot League title in

2006 and Dixon was named the Patriot League Coach of the Year after leading Army to the NCAA Tournament for the first time at the NCAA Division I level. Coach Dixon passed away on April 6, 2006, just a few weeks following their appearance in the NCAA Tournament.

About Spalding:

A Division of Russell Brands, LLC, Spalding is the largest basketball equipment supplier in the world, and America's first baseball company. Spalding is the official basketball of the National Basketball Association (NBA) and Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA), the official backboard of the NBA and NCAA, and the official baseball of the Little League World Series. In addition to being a leading producer and marketer of basketballs, footballs, volleyballs and soccer balls, Spalding produces softballs under the Dudley brand. The SPALDING® and DUDLEY® trademarks are owned by Russell Brands, LLC. For more information, visit www.spalding.com.

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.