



PRESS RELEASE

Odyssey Sims of Baylor University wins 2014 Wade Trophy

NASHVILLE (April 7, 2014) – Odyssey Sims of Baylor University is the winner of the 2014 Wade Trophy, the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) announced tonight during the fourth annual WBCA Awards Show. The prestigious award, regarded as "The Heisman of Women's Basketball," is presented annually to the NCAA Division I Player of the Year by the WBCA and the Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE America).

The WBCA also announced the WBCA Players of the Year in the other collegiate divisions. Lauren Battista of Bentley University was named NCAA Division II player of the year, Sydney Moss of Thomas More College was named NCAA Division III player of the year, Nicole Ballestero of Vanguard University was named NAIA player of the year and Adut Bulgak of Trinity Valley Community College was named the Junior/Community College player of the year.

"On behalf of the WBCA and the NAGWS I am honored to present Odyssey with the State Farm Wade Trophy – women's basketball's highest honor," said WBCA CEO Beth Bass. "Odyssey was a force to be reckoned with this season and was a pleasure to watch."

Earlier this week Sims was named a WBCA All American for the third consecutive season (2012, 2013, 2014). She was also named a USBWA All American for the third time and to the AP All American first team for the second consecutive year (2013, 2014). Sims was named the Frances Pomeroy Naismith winner, collected Big 12 Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year honors earlier this season. She was also a finalist for the 2014 WBCA Division I Defensive Player of the Year presented by the United States Marine Corps.

Sims set a Big 12 Conference single season scoring record with 1,054 points. She became just the second player to ever score over 1,000 points in a single season, and was just eight points shy of Jackie Stiles' record (1,062 points).

Sims set new career records at Baylor University for most assists (572) and most three point field goals made (223). In her senior season she averaged 28.4 ppg., 4.6 apg., 4.6 rpg. and 2.0 spg. while shooting 45% from the floor, 39% from behind the arc and 80.4% from the free throw line.

The Wade Trophy, now in its 37th year, is named after the late, legendary three-time national champion Delta State University coach, Lily Margaret Wade. The award debuted in 1978 as the first-ever women's national player of the year award in college

basketball.

The first recipient of the Wade Trophy was Carol Blazejowski of Montclair State in 1978. Other Wade Trophy/NCAA Division I Player of the Year recipients include many standouts such as Nancy Lieberman (1979 & 1980), Teresa Weatherspoon (1988), DeLisha Milton-Jones (1997), Candace Parker (2007), Ticha Penicheiro (1998), Sue Bird (2002), Diana Taurasi (2003), Seimone Augustus (2005 & 2006), Maya Moore (2009–2011) Brittney Griner (2012 & 2013).

The Wade Trophy Coalition was established in June 2000 when the WBCA partnered with The National Association of Girls and Women in Sport (NAGWS), now known as the Society of Health and Physical Educators, doing business as SHAPE America. For the past 11 years the two have worked together to present The Wade Trophy player of the year award. A committee composed of coaches, administrators and media from across the United States selects the winner.

WBCA collegiate players of the year:

Lauren Battista, Bentley University, NCAA Division II

Battista helped lead number one-ranked Bentley to a perfect 35–0 record and the program's first ever National Championship. She is the Falcons' all-time leading scorer and was recently named the Capital One Academic All-America of the Year for Division II.

During her four seasons, Battista helped Bentley amass a 124–11 record with three trips to the Elite Eight, three 30-win seasons, four Northeast–10 regular season titles and four conference tournament championships. The two-time NE–10 Player of the Year earned All-Conference recognition all four years, was the conference championship MVP during each of her four seasons, and received WBCA All-America honors during her sophomore, junior and senior seasons.

Last summer, Battista earned a gold medal while playing for Team USA at the Maccabiah Games.

Sydney Moss of Thomas More College NCAA Division III

Sophomore guard/forward Sydney Moss helped lead Thomas More College to one of its best seasons in program history. The Saints went 31–1 on the season and appeared in the program's first-ever NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Championship round of eight.

Moss led the nation in scoring at 27.8 point per game as she tied the NCAA Division III single-season scoring record with 891 points. She broke the NCAA Division III single-game scoring record with 63 points against Waynesburg University in the semifinal game of the Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) Championship Tournament. Moss was seventh in the country in field goals percentage at 60.6 percent and eighth in assist-turnover ratio at 2.72. She pulled down 8.4 rebounds per game and recorded 15 double-doubles.

Nicole Ballestero, Vanguard University, NAIA

Senior Nicole Ballestero led the No. 1 Vanguard Lions to a 26–1 overall. She was selected as the Player of the Year in the competitive Golden State Athletic Conference.

Ballestero lead the GSAC in scoring at 22.9 ppg this season and ranks second nationwide. She scored a school-record 53 points on March 7th, 2014 against Hope International. Ballestero scored 20-plus points in 16 games and 30-plus points in seven of the Lions' 27 games.

Ballestero joined the 1,000-point club this season after recording 619 points.

During her junior campaign, Ballestero was a 2012-13 NAIA First Team All-American.

Adut Bulgak, Trinity Valley Junior/Community College

Adut Bulgak averaged 15.8 pts., 11.6 rebs. and 2.5 blocks per game for Trinity Valley and helped guide Trinity Valley to its third consecutive National Championship.

Adut has been named a first team WBCA NJCAA All-American two consecutive years. She was a 2014 NJCAA Player of the Week twice, two-time Region XIV champion, 2014 Region XIV Tournament MVP, two-time All Region XIV Team, two-time Conference Champion and two-time first team All-Conference.

In 2013, Adut helped guide Trinity Valley to a NJCAA National Championship, she was a member of the 2013 National Championship All-Tournament Team, and she was also considered a Finalist for the WBCA Junior College/Community College Player of the Year.

The WBCA Players of the Year are selected by committees composed of WBCA-member coaches within the respective membership divisions.

About the Society of Health and Physical Educators:

The Society of Health and Physical Educators, doing business as SHAPE America, is headquartered in Reston, VA, 25 miles west of Washington, D.C. Its vision is "Healthy People – Physically Educated and Physically Active!" SHAPE America is the largest organization of professionals involved in physical education, physical activity, and school health--all specialties related to achieving an active, healthy lifestyle. Its mission is to advance professional practice and promote research related to health and physical education, physical activity, dance and sport by providing its members with a comprehensive and coordinated array of resources, support and programs to help practitioners improve their skills to further the health and well-being of the American public. For more information, visit www.aahperd.org.

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.