



PRESS RELEASE

WBCA announces 2014 Academic Top 25 Team Honor Rolls

ATLANTA (July 24, 2014) – The University of Missouri–Kansas City, Upper Iowa University, Westminster College, Mount Marty College and Snow College are the top honorees in their respective divisions on the WBCA Academic Top 25 Team Honor Rolls for the 2013–14 season, the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association announced today.

The WBCA Academic Top 25 annually recognizes NCAA Division I, II and III; NAIA; and junior/community college women’s basketball teams across the nation that carry the highest combined grade point average (GPA) inclusive of all student–athletes on their rosters for the entire season. The 2013–14 season is the 19th in which the WBCA has compiled the honor rolls.

Here are the top honorees by division, their head coaches and combined GPAs:

Division	Institution	2013–14 Head Coach	Team GPA
NCAA Division I	University of Missouri–Kansas City	Marsha Frese	3.628
NCAA Division II	Upper Iowa University	Carol Russell	3.801
NCAA Division III	Westminster College (Mo.)	Tracey Braden	3.642
NAIA	Mount Marty College	Tom Schlimgen	3.746
Jr/Comm College	Snow College	Natalie Visger	3.584

The University of Missouri–Kansas City returns to the Academic Top 25 Honor Roll for the second time in program history and for the first time since 1998. Upper Iowa makes the list for the second consecutive year and for the fourth time overall. Westminster College (Mo.) took the top spot for NCAA Division III for the first time in program history. Mount Marty College made the list for the 17th time in the award’s 19 year history. Snow College leads the Junior/Community College division for the second straight year.

“Being a student–athlete is a challenging feat, but at the same time it is also very rewarding and to see the GPA’s that these institutions have collected is impressive,” said WBCA COO Shannon Reynolds. “The WBCA congratulates all of these student–athletes and their coaches for their hard work and dedication.”

A team’s GPA is calculated by dividing the total number of quality points earned by the total number of hours attempted by all team members in the academic terms (semesters or quarters) that the season spans. Weighted grades are converted to a 4.0 scale. The GPA’s are rounded to the nearest thousandth of a point. Teams are

nominated for the honor by a WBCA-member head coach. A team must have a 3.000 or better GPA to be nominated.

NCAA Division I

University of Missouri-Kansas City led NCAA Division I with a 3.628 GPA and was one of two institutions from the Western Athletic Conference to make the Academic Top 25 Honor Roll. UMKC finished the season with an 11-19 mark. The Kangaroos' season ended following an 81-76 loss to Seattle in the quarterfinals of the WAC Championship.

Three of the top 25 teams on the Division I WBCA Academic Top 25 honor roll earned a berth in the 2014 NCAA tournament.

Here is the complete 2013-14 WBCA Academic Top 25 for NCAA Division I (**NCAA tournament; *-left after season):

Rank	Institution	2013-14 Head Coach	Team GPA
1	University of Missouri-Kansas City	Marsha Frese	3.628
2	Eastern Washington University	Wendy Schuller	3.615
3	University of Northern Colorado	Jaime White	3.614
4	St. Francis College (NY)	John Thurston	3.608
5	Western Illinois University	JD Gravina	3.607
6	Drake University	Jennie Baranczyk	3.571
7	University of Northern Iowa	Tanya Warren	3.565
8	DePaul University**	Douglas Bruno	3.559
9	Illinois State University	Barb Smith	3.549
10	Utah Valley University	Cathy Nixon	3.543
11	Florida Gulf Coast University**	Karl Smesko	3.521
12	Houston Baptist University	Donna Finnie	3.514
13	American University	Megan Gebbia	3.510
14	University of Denver	Kerry Cremeans	3.498
15	Northern Kentucky University	Dawn Plitzuweit	3.484
16	Austin Peay State University	Carrie Daniels	3.465
17	Lehigh University	Susan Troyan	3.451
18	Belmont University	Cameron Newbauer	3.433
19	South Dakota State University	Aaron Johnston	3.421
20	Cornell University	Dayna Smith	3.420
21	Arizona State University**	Charli Turner Thorne	3.412
22	Colorado State University	Ryun Williams	3.399
23	Yale University	Chris Gobrecht	3.397
24	Brown University	Jean Marie Burr*	3.394
25	Bowling Green State University	Jennifer Roos	3.384

NCAA Division II

Upper Iowa University posted a GPA of 3.801 to lead all NCAA Division II programs. The Peacocks ended the season with a 74-73 loss to Minot State University in the NSIC/Sanford Health Basketball Tournament to close the season with a 5-22 record.

Five of the 25 teams that earned a spot on the honor roll advanced to the NCAA

Division II tournament.

Below is the complete 2013–14 WBCA Academic Top 25 for NCAA Division II (** – NCAA tournament; * – left after season):

Rank	Institution	2013–14 Head Coach	Team GPA
1	Upper Iowa University	Carol Russell	3.801
2	Ohio Dominican University	Lynsey Warren	3.793
3	Lindenwood University	James "Tony" Francis	3.759
4	Colorado Mesa University**	Taylor Wagner	3.699
5	University of Indianapolis**	Constantin Popa	3.657
6	Montana State University Billings**	Kevin Woodin	3.656
7	Lubbock Christian University	Steve Gomez	3.648
8	Saginaw Valley State University	Jamie Pewinski	3.610
9	Ashland University	Sue Ramsey	3.605
10	Minnesota State University Moorhead	Karla Nelson	3.604
11	Drury University**	Steve Huber*	3.599
12	Winona State University	Scott Ballard	3.593
13	Southwest Baptist University	Todd Voss*	3.584
14	Northwood University	Jeff Curtis	3.582
15	Seattle Pacific University	Julie Heisey	3.572
16	Southern New Hampshire University	Karen Pinkos	3.569
17	University of Minnesota Duluth	Annette Wiles	3.563
18	Lee University	Marty Rowe	3.559
19	Merrimack College	Monique LeBlanc	3.552
20	Gannon University**	Jim Brunelli	3.550
21	Minnesota State University, Mankato	Emilee Thiesse	3.540
22	University of Findlay	James Wiedie	3.531
23	Rockhurst University	Larry Park	3.523
24	Michigan Technological University	Kimberly Cameron	3.522
25	Trevecca Nazarene University	Gary Van Atta	3.521

Division III

Westminster College (Mo.), the only team from the St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference to be ranked in the WBCA Academic Top 25 Poll recorded a 3.642 GPA to top the list. After starting the season 2–6 the Blue Jays finished the season 13–12, falling to Spalding 70–64 in the semifinals of the SLIAC Tournament.

Eight programs participated in the NCAA Division III tournament.

Below is the complete 2014 WBCA Academic Top 25 for NCAA Division III (** – NCAA tournament; * – left after season):

Rank	Institution	2013–14 Head Coach	Team GPA
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1	Westminster College	Tracey Braden	3.642
2	Chatham University	Sandra Rectenwald	3.631
3	University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point	Shirley Egner	3.608
4	The College of New Jersey	Dawn Henderson	3.607
5	Emerson College	Bill Gould	3.602
6	Elmira College	Shannon Howley	3.593
7	Waynesburg University	Sam Jones	3.585
8	Ithaca College**	Dan Raymond	3.562
9	Martin Luther College	Larry Czer*	3.561
10	Beloit College	Jennifer McCormick	3.541
11	Kalamazoo College	Katie Miller	3.535
12	Castleton State College**	Tim Barrett	3.532
T13	Hope College	Brian Morehouse	3.527
T13	University of Minnesota, Morris	Tim Grove	3.527
15	Cabrini College**	Kate Pearson	3.521
T16	Haverford College**	Bobbi Cabrey–Morgan	3.520
T16	University of Northwestern**	Aaron Kahl	3.520
18	Hardin–Simmons University	Melanie Chonko	3.513
19	Washington University in St. Louis**	Nancy Fahey	3.505
20	University of Pittsburgh–Bradford	Patrick Daniel	3.495
21	Carthage College**	Tim Bernero	3.491
22	King's College	Brian Donoghue	3.478
23	University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh**	Brad Fischer	3.476
24	Utica College	Michele Davis	3.471
25	University of Redlands	Rich Murphy	3.452

NAIA

Mount Marty College, which has appeared in the Academic Top 25 list in the NAIA 16 previous years, comes in at No. 1 for the first time this year with a 3.746 GPA. The Lancers' highest ranking on the list prior to this year was third in 2005. Mount Marty College won three of its final four games including a 76–63 win against Nebraska Wesleyan to close out the season with a 13–17 overall record.

Thirteen of the 25 programs that made the 2014 Academic Top 25 also played in either the NAIA Division I or Division II tournament.

Below is the complete 2014 WBCA Academic Top 25 for the NAIA (** – NAIA tournament; * – left after season):

Rank	Institution	2013–14 Head Coach	Team GPA
1	Mount Marty College	Tom Schlimgen	3.746
2	Northwestern College**	Chris Yaw	3.679

3	Cardinal Stritch University**	John Pfaffl	3.631
4	Westminster College**	Shelley Jarrard	3.607
5	Indiana University South Bend	Steve Bruce	3.584
6	Bethel College (Fla.)	Jody Martinez*	3.555
7	Clarke University	Don Adams	3.535
8	Huntington University**	Lori Culler	3.523
9	Concordia University (Neb.)**	Drew Olson	3.493
10	St. Ambrose University**	Krista Van Hauen	3.490
11	Point Park University**	Tony Grenek	3.467
12	Lewis-Clark State College**	Brian Orr	3.464
13	Saint Xavier University**	Bob Hallberg	3.448
14	University of Great Falls	Bill Himmelberg	3.446
15	Bethel College (Kan.)	Mark Fox	3.434
16	Roosevelt University**	Robyn Scherr-Wells	3.416
17	Grand View University	Garey Smith	3.382
18	University of St. Francis	Samantha Quigley	3.379
19	Indiana Wesleyan University**	Steve Brooks	3.373
20	Central Methodist University	James Arnold	3.366
21	Dillard University	Norbert Rome	3.355
22	University Rio Grande	David Smalley	3.348
23	Vanguard University**	Russ Davis	3.347
24	Ottawa University	Bruce Tate	3.316
25	William Woods University**	Dan Chapla	3.208

Junior/Community College

Snow College went 10-4 at home on the season, while finishing with a 13-15 record. The Snow Badgers beat Utah State University Eastern in two of the three regular season meetings, including a 95-93 win in the final game of the season.

One team advanced to the NJCAA Tournament that qualified for the Academic Top 25.

Below is the complete 2014 WBCA Academic Top 25 for Junior/Community College (** - NJCAA Division I *** - NJCAA Division II tournament):

Rank	Institution	2013-14 Head Coach	Team GPA
1	Snow College	Natalie Visger	3.584
2	Frank Phillips College	Eric Rodewald	3.531
3	Sheridan College	Frank McCarthy	3.497
	Minnesota West	Michael Fury	3.407
4	Community & Technical College		
5	Ellsworth Community College	Ed Geitz	3.401

6	Lincoln College	Carol Wilson	3.359
7	Northwest College	Janis Beal	3.326
8	Mesa Community College***	Kori Stephenson	3.280
9	Santa Fe College	Chanda Stebbins	3.112
10	John Wood Community College	Norman Rodriguez	3.051

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, visit wbca.org.

- Visit www.wbca.org/pages/NEWS_downloads for WBCA logo and WBCA Academic Top 25 logo.

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