



PRESS RELEASE

United States Marine Corps partners with WBCA Coach of the Year awards program

ATLANTA (March 5, 2015) – The United States Marine Corps is the new title partner of the WBCA Coach of the Year awards program, the Women's Basketball Coaches Association announced today.

The United States Marine Corps and the WBCA will continue to recognize regional coaches of the year in the five collegiate membership divisions (NCAA Divisions I, II and III; NAIA; and junior/community college) and district coaches of the year in the high school membership division. These regional and district coaches of the year will then become finalists for The Pat Summitt Trophy, which is presented annually to the United States Marine Corps/WBCA National Coach of the Year in each of the six divisions.

Summitt, the legendary former University of Tennessee head coach, was the recipient of the WBCA's first National Coach of the Year award in 1983. She also received the honor in 1995 and 1998. Summitt stepped down as head coach of the Lady Vols in 2013, ending her career as the all-time winningest coach in NCAA basketball history, women's and men's, with 1,098 wins.

The United States Marine Corps presented the WBCA NCAA Division I Defensive Player of the Year Award for the past two years and has conducted special events such as the Marines Workout session during the 2014 WBCA National Convention and the Marines Leadership Training Workshop this past summer.

"The WBCA is proud to further develop our relationship with the United States Marine Corps and celebrates their new marketing partnership for our most prestigious coaching honor," said WBCA Executive Director Danielle Donehew. "The coaches who are nominated for this award by their peers have reached the pinnacle of success within the game, exemplifying their commitment and dedication to not only their student-athletes, but also for the betterment of the sport.

"These coaches embody the guiding principles of leadership and discipline that serve as the core foundational values of the United States Marine Corps," added Donehew. "We appreciate the support of the United States Marine Corps and their continued endeavors with the organization."

"The Marine Corps is excited to continue its partnership with the WBCA and we look forward to the opportunity of honoring the coaches," said Major Gen. Mark A. Brilakis, Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruiting Command. "These coaches exhibit excellence in leadership and exemplify our core values of honor, courage, and

commitment.”

Any WBCA member coach, head or assistant, may nominate a WBCA member head coach in their respective division for coach of the year. The regional/district coach of the year is then selected by a vote of the member coaches within the region/district. A committee composed of member coaches within the division selects from the regional/district coaches of the year the national coach of the year using the following criteria: (1) team success during the current season; (2) team improvement from the previous season; (3) fulfillment of team potential; and (4) the professional manner and attitude of the coach.

The 2015 United States Marine Corps/WBCA Regional/District Coaches of the Year will be announced over the next few weeks. The 2015 United States Marine Corps/WBCA National Coaches of the Year will be announced during the Fifth Annual WBCA Awards Show, which will be held on Monday, April 6, at the Tampa Marriott Waterside in Tampa. This event is part of the WBCA National Convention and is held in conjunction with the NCAA® Women's Final Four®.

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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.