



PRESS RELEASE

WBCA announces finalists for 2015 Wade Trophy

ATLANTA (March 26, 2015) – The Wade Trophy Committee, along with the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) and SHAPE America – the Society of Health and Physical Educators, announced today the 12 finalists in contention for The Wade Trophy, which is presented annually to the nation's most outstanding NCAA® Division I women's basketball player.

The candidates were selected by a vote of committee members consisting of leading basketball coaches, journalists and administrators. The committee will select the winner of The Wade Trophy from among these 12 finalists who also are named to the 10-member WBCA NCAA Division I Coaches' All-America Team when it is chosen in April. The winner will be announced during the WBCA Awards Show, which will be held at 5:30 p.m. ET Monday, April 6, in the Grand Ballroom at the Tampa Marriott Waterside. The event is part of the WBCA National Convention and is held in conjunction with the NCAA® Women's Final Four®.

"The WBCA congratulates these outstanding student-athletes for being named finalists for women's basketball's highest honor, the Wade Trophy," said WBCA Executive Director Danielle Donehew. "These finalists have demonstrated excellence on the basketball court, in addition to a commitment to academics, sportsmanship, and ethical conduct. They captivated national audiences with their talent throughout the season and have left their mark on our game. We celebrate these individuals, their teams, and coaches."

The Wade Trophy Finalists are as follows:

Player Name	Institution	Year	Position
Brittany Boyd	California	Senior	Guard
Nina Davis	Baylor	Sophomore	Forward
Reshanda Gray	California	Senior	Forward
Dearica Hamby	Wake Forest	Senior	Forward
Brittany Hrynko	DePaul	Senior	Guard
Jewell Loyd	Notre Dame	Junior	Guard
Tiffany Mitchell	South Carolina	Junior	Guard
Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis	Connecticut	Senior	Forward
Breanna Stewart	Connecticut	Junior	Forward
Courtney Williams	South Florida	Junior	Guard
Elizabeth Williams	Duke	Senior	Center
Amanda Zahui B.	Minnesota	Sophomore	Center

The Wade Trophy, now in its 38th year, is named after the late, legendary three-time national champion Delta State University coach, Lily Margaret Wade. This most esteemed award, regarded as “The Heisman of Women’s Basketball”, debuted in 1978 as the first-ever women’s national player of the year award in college basketball.

Last year, Baylor’s Odyssey Sims received the prestigious award. Connecticut’s Maya Moore was the first student-athlete to win the award three consecutive years (2009, 2010 and 2011). 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 WNBA standouts such as 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) and Brittney Griner (2012 & 2013).

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About SHAPE America:

SHAPE America – Society of Health and Physical Educators is committed to ensuring all children have the opportunity to lead healthy, physically active lives. As the nation’s largest membership organization of health and physical education professionals, SHAPE America works with its 50 state affiliates and national partners to support the Presidential Youth Fitness Program, Let’s Move! Active Schools and the Jump Rope For Heart/Hoops For Heart programs. Since its founding in 1885, the organization has defined excellence in physical education, and our resources provide the leadership, professional development and advocacy that support health and physical educators at every level — from pre-school to university graduate programs. For more information, visit www.shapeamerica.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.

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