



PRESS RELEASE

WBCA announces finalists for 2015 Spalding Maggie Dixon Division I Rookie Coach of the Year

ATLANTA (March 31, 2015) – The Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) announced today the finalists for the 2015 Spalding Maggie Dixon Division I Rookie Coach of the Year award, which 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.

The finalists are:

- Jimmy Dykes, University of Arkansas
- Lisa Fortier, Gonzaga University

The winner will be honored during the Fifth Annual WBCA Awards Show on Monday, April 6, in the Grand Ballroom at the Tampa Marriott Waterside in Tampa, Fla. This event is part of the WBCA National Convention, which is held in conjunction with the NCAA® Women's Final Four®.

"Jimmy and Lisa have done a terrific job making an immediate impact at their respective institution. They will not only continue to make a difference in the coaching ranks, but also with the student-athletes that they deal with day in and day out," said WBCA Executive Director Danielle Donehew. "I wish them both the best of luck at the WBCA Awards Show."

"We are privileged to continue to honor the memory of Maggie Dixon while recognizing the best rookie coach in NCAA Division I women's basketball," said Paul Sullivan, Senior Vice President of Spalding US. "Maggie will always be a shining example to so many who share a love for the game. Congratulations to this year's finalists for the Spalding Maggie Dixon Division I Rookie Coach of the Year."

The Maggie Dixon Rookie Coach of the Year award is presented 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 the Black Knights' appearance in the NCAA Tournament.

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About Spalding:

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basketball of the National Basketball Association (NBA) and Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA), the official basketball 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](http://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.

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