



PRESS RELEASE

Sue Semrau named 2015 United States Marine Corps/WBCA NCAA Division I National Coach of the Year

WBCA also announces national coaches of the year in other collegiate divisions

TAMPA BAY, Florida (April 6, 2015) – Florida State University head coach Sue Semrau was presented the Pat Summitt Trophy as the 2015 United States Marine Corps/WBCA NCAA Division I National Coach of the Year, the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) announced tonight during the Fifth Annual WBCA Awards Show.

Also receiving the Pat Summitt Trophy as the 2015 United States Marine Corps/WBCA National Coaches of the Year in the other WBCA membership divisions were:

- NCAA Division II – Lisa Carlsen, Lewis University
- NCAA Division III – Carla Berube, Tufts University
- NAIA – Dale Neal, Freed-Hardeman University
- Junior/Community College – Greg Franklin, Chipola Junior College
- High School – Scott Allen, Paul VI Catholic High School

"The WBCA congratulates these distinguished coaches for receiving the United States Marine Corps/WBCA Coach of the Year award," said WBCA Executive Director Danielle Donehew. "This award is uniquely profound as these coaches have been chosen by their respective peers to receive the WBCA's highest honor for the profession. These impressive leaders have left their mark on the game and their student-athletes for all time. Our women's basketball family celebrates their success and their example propelling the sport of women's basketball to the highest level."

This is the second year the physical award presented to the six United States Marine Corps/WBCA National Coaches of the Year has borne Summitt's name. It is the only national coach of the year award to do so. The legendary University of Tennessee head coach, who stepped down in April 2012, is the winningest basketball coach (men's or women's) in NCAA Division I history with 1,098 career victories. Summitt led the Lady Vols to eight NCAA Division I national championships and was named the United States Marine Corps/WBCA NCAA Division I National Coach of the Year three times in her career.

"The WBCA is proud to name Sue Semrau as the 2015 United States Marine Corps/WBCA NCAA Division I National Coach of the Year," said WBCA Executive Director Danielle Donehew. "Sue had a tremendous season teaching, mentoring, and inspiring her student-athletes on and off the court, as evidenced by the vote from her respective peers and is very deserving of the WBCA's highest honor for the coaching profession."

"Sue has not only had a fantastic year at FSU leading her team, she has also served the family of women's basketball coaches as President of the WBCA. I can attest to Sue's countless hours, leadership, commitment, and vision to lift the organization," said Donehew. "We are extremely grateful to have such a passionate and talented individual as Sue serving the game in all facets. Our women's basketball family applauds Sue on a remarkable year and shares our profound thanks for her investment into our game, for the betterment of the coaching profession and her impact on the Florida State campus through her service to her student-athletes."

Semrau has put forth one of her best efforts in guiding Florida State this year, picking up Atlantic Coast Conference Coach of the Year, Associated Press National Coach of the Year and ESPNW National Coach of the Year honors. After entering the season unranked, Florida State rose all the way to No. 6 in the USA TODAY Sports poll and earned a second seed in the NCAA Tournament, the program's highest seed ever. Additionally, the Seminoles broke a school record with six AP Top 25 wins this season and set a school record with 14 wins in conference play. Florida State finished the season 32-5, its first ever 30-win season, and advanced to the Elite Eight.

At Lewis University, Carlsen has been at the forefront of a historic season for the Flyers. Under Carlsen's guidance, Lewis posted the program's first No. 1 national ranking and earned a two seed in the NCAA Midwest Regional, where it won its first-ever NCAA regional championship to advance to Division II's Elite Eight. On the year, the Flyers posted a 31-3 mark, surpassing the previous single-season school record of 28 wins.

In the Division III ranks, Berube and Tufts University had to overcome some adversity en route to the program's second consecutive NCAA Regional title. Despite the losses of starters Kelsey Morehead and Hannah Foley during the course of the season, the Jumbos did not miss a beat. Tufts went a perfect 10-0 in league play with a 20-point average margin of victory and finished the year with the nation's top defense, allowing just 46.7 points per game. The Jumbos finished the year 30-3, losing in the Division III Final Four.

Neal guided Freed-Hardeman to NAIA's No. 1 overall seed after taking home the American Midwest Conference Tournament Championship. Neal's championship season was rewarded by the AMC with his seventh conference coach of the year award at Freed-Hardeman. The Lady Lions advanced to their second consecutive NAIA Final Four and finished the year with a 35-2 record overall.

A year after finishing third place in the NJCAA Tournament, Franklin guided his Chipola Junior College squad right back to the Final Four. Franklin led the Lady Indians to a second-straight FCSAA title, doing so for the first time since the 2006 and 2007 campaigns. Chipola finished the year with a 34-1 record and captured its first-ever NJCAA National Championship.

A long-time coach at Paul VI Catholic High School, Allen guided his Lady Panthers to a 32-2 record, winning the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference title for the second consecutive year and the Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association state title for the ninth consecutive season. The 32-2 record is the best mark in school history, which has won the VISAA state title 11 times overall with Allen at the helm. The Lady Panthers finished the year ranked No. 7 nationally by ESPN.

The WBCA presents the national coach of the year award annually in each of the six WBCA membership divisions (NCAA Divisions I, II and III; NAIA; junior/community college and high school). This marks the 33rd year the awards have been given in the junior/community college and NCAA divisions, while the WBCA has honored an NAIA coach of the year for 31 years.

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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.

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