

# John R. Wooden Award®

**FOR RELEASE**

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## **WOMEN'S PRESEASON TOP 30 LIST ANNOUNCED TODAY BY JOHN R. WOODEN AWARD**

*UConn's Breanna Stewart sole returning All-American*

**Los Angeles (November 24, 2014)**— The John R. Wooden Award announced the Women's Preseason Top 30 today. The list is comprised of 30 student-athletes who are the early front-runners for college basketball's most prestigious honor. The list is chosen by a preseason poll of national women's college basketball media members.

Defending NCAA champion Connecticut boasts three players on the preseason Top 30 list: Moriah Jefferson, Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis, and Breanna Stewart, who finished third in the voting as a sophomore a year ago after averaging 19.4 ppg and 8.1 rebounds. Three more teams put a pair of players on the list, 14th-ranked California (Brittany Boyd, Rashanda Gray); No. 1 South Carolina (Aleighsa Welch, Tiffany Mitchell); and No. 4 Tennessee, (Bashaara Graves, Isabelle Harrison).

Other players of note nationally on the Top 30 list include Duke's Elizabeth Williams, a three-time ACC Defensive Player of the Year pick; Stanford point guard Amber Orange, who led the Cardinal to a win over UConn last week; and a trio of players who won the three-on-three world championship last summer: Louisville senior Sara Hammond, Notre Dame junior Jewell Loyd; and Mitchell.

Players not chosen to the preseason list are eligible for both the midseason list and the National Ballot. The National Ballot consists of 20 top players who have proven to their universities that they are also making progress toward graduation and maintaining at least a cumulative 2.0 GPA. The Wooden Award All American Team, consisting of the nation's top five players, will be announced the week of the Final Four.

The power conferences lead the way this preseason. The ACC led all leagues with six selections, followed by the Big Ten, Pac-12 and SEC with five apiece. The American Athletic Conference followed with four selections, the Big 12 three, and two more conferences had one pick, the MAC and Big East. Nearly half of the players chosen, 14 out of 30, are seniors.

(more)

## *Wooden Award 2-2-2-2*

The 39th annual Wooden Award ceremony will honor the Men's and Women's Wooden Award winners, and will include the presentation of the Wooden Award All American Teams and the Legends of Coaching Award, which in 2015 will go to San Diego State Head Men's Basketball Coach Steve Fisher. The event will take place the weekend of April 10-12, 2015.

Created in 1976, the John R. Wooden Award is the most prestigious individual honor in college basketball. It is bestowed upon the nation's best player at an institution of higher education who has proven to his or her university that he or she is making progress toward graduation and maintaining a minimum cumulative 2.0 GPA. Previous winners include such notables as Larry Bird ('79), Michael Jordan ('84), Tim Duncan ('97), Candace Parker ('07 and '08), Kevin Durant ('09) and Maya Moore of Connecticut ('09 and '11). Stanford's Chiney Ogumike won the 2014 Wooden Award.

Since its inception, the John R. Wooden Award has contributed close to a million dollars to universities' general scholarship fund in the names of the All American recipients. The Award has also sent more than 1,000 underprivileged children to week-long college basketball camps in the Award's name. Additionally, the John R. Wooden Award partners with Special Olympics Southern California (SOSC) each year to host the Wooden Award Special Olympics Southern California Basketball Tournament. The day-long tournament, which brings together Special Olympic athletes and the All Americans, takes place at The Los Angeles Athletic Club the weekend of the John R. Wooden Award Ceremony.

Follow the candidates and get the latest news throughout the season by going to the Wooden Award facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/WoodenAward> or twitter feed @WoodenAward. For more information on the John R. Wooden Award, please contact the Wooden Award staff at 213-630-5231 or via email at [woodenaward@laac.net](mailto:woodenaward@laac.net).

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# John R. Wooden Award<sup>®</sup>

## 2014-15 John R. Wooden Award Preseason Top 30 List, Women

<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Conference</b>	<b>Ht.</b>	<b>Yr.</b>	<b>Pos.</b>
Jillian Alleyne	Oregon	Pac-12	6-3	Jr.	F
Rachel Banham	Minnesota	Big Ten	5-9	Sr.	G
Brittany Boyd	California	Pac-12	5-9	Sr.	G
Crystal Bradford	Central Michigan	MAC	6-0	Sr.	G
Lexie Brown	Maryland	Big Ten	5-9	So.	G
Nina Davis	Baylor	Big 12	5-11	So.	F
Kaela Davis	Georgia Tech	ACC	6-2	So.	G
Nneka Enemkpali	Texas	Big 12	6-1	Sr.	F
Bashaara Graves	Tennessee	SEC	6-2	Jr.	F
Reshanda Gray	California	Pac-12	6-3	Sr.	F
Allisha Gray	North Carolina	ACC	6-0	So.	G
Dearica Hamby	Wake Forest	ACC	6-3	Sr.	F
Sara Hammond	Louisville	ACC	6-2	Sr.	F
Isabelle Harrison	Tennessee	SEC	6-3	Sr.	C
Bria Holmes	West Virginia	Big 12	6-1	Jr.	G
Brittany Hrynko	DePaul	Big East	5-8	Sr.	G
Moriah Jefferson	UConn	The American	5-7	Jr.	G
Samantha Logic	Iowa	Big Ten	5-9	Sr.	G
Jewell Loyd	Notre Dame	ACC	5-10	Jr.	G
Tiffany Mitchell	South Carolina	SEC	5-9	Jr.	G
Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis	UConn	The American	5-11	Sr.	F
Amber Orrange	Stanford	Pac-12	5-7	Sr.	G
Kelsey Plum	Washington	Pac-12	5-8	So.	G
Aerial Powers	Michigan State	Big Ten	6-0	So.	F
Breanna Stewart*	UConn	The American	6-4	Jr.	F
Rachel Theriot	Nebraska	Big Ten	6-0	Jr.	G
Courtney Walker	Texas A&M	SEC	5-8	Jr.	G
Aleighsa Welch	South Carolina	SEC	6-0	Sr.	F
Elizabeth Williams	Duke	ACC	6-3	Sr.	C/F
Courtney Williams	USF	The American	5-8	Jr.	G

(Based on a preseason poll. Players listed alphabetically.)

\* 2014 Wooden All American