



News Release

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All-Americans Alana Beard, Nicole Ohlde Highlight 12-Member USA World Championship For Young Women Team's Roster

– Three-Time USA Medalist Cappie Pondexter Among U.S. Team Roster –

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (May 22, 2003) -- Containing a plethora of All-Americans and five with USA Basketball experience, the 12-member 2003 USA Basketball World Championship For Young Women Team was announced today by USA Basketball. The announcement, as well as the naming of the 12-member 2003 USA Pan American Games Team, was made following the May 22-25 USA Basketball Women's National Team Trials, which featured 58 of the nation's top collegians and was held at the U.S. Olympic Training Center (USOTC) in Colorado Springs, Colo. The USA Young Women's squad was selected by the USA Basketball Women's Senior National Team Committee, chaired by University of Texas Senior Associate Athletics Director for Men's and Women's Athletics Chris Plonsky.

The USA Young Women National Team will train July 7-24 in Colorado Springs, New York and Boston, before competing in the inaugural FIBA World Championship For Young Women in Sibenik, Croatia, July 25 - Aug. 3.

Named to the 12-member USA World Championship For Young Team, which is comprised of athletes 21-years-old and younger (born on or after Jan. 1, 1982), were: **Seimone Augustus** (LSU / Baton Rouge, La.); **Alana Beard** (Duke / Shreveport, La.); **Ebony Hoffman** (Southern California / Harbor City, Calif.); **Kristen Mann** (UC Santa Barbara / Santa Ana, Calif.); **Caity Matter** (Ohio State / Bluffton, Ohio); **Nicole Ohlde** (Kansas State / Clay Center, Kan.); **Shawntinice Polk** (Arizona / Hanford, Calif.); **Cappie Pondexter** (Rutgers / Chicago, Ill.); **Christi Thomas** (Georgia / Buford, Ga.); **Kendra Wecker** (Kansas State / Marysville, Kan.); **Lindsay Whalen** (Minnesota / Hutchinson, Minn.) and **Tanisha Wright** (Penn State / West Mifflin, Pa.).

"It's a much bigger and stronger team in the post area than (the 2001 USA Junior World Championship Team) and I think that's important in a World Championship," said USA and Ohio State University head coach **Jim Foster**. "We've got some internationally experienced players, both on the perimeter and in the post, and I think that bodes well too. So that eases the burden of responsibility a little for the first-year players, knowing there's a frame of reference and they can talk to the people who have been there. Also, just the little blip that we did this morning in teaching one thing, how quickly they picked it up and how responsive they were, gives you an indication that this will be a good group to work with."

The Committee also named six alternates who could be called upon to join the team in case of an injury before or during the USA's training camp. Those six alternates are: **Amber Jacobs** (Boston College / Clarks Summit, Pa.); **Temeka Johnson** (Louisiana State / Kenner, La.); **Amber Obaze** (Louisiana Tech / Dallas, Texas); **Heather Schreiber** (Texas / Windthorst, Texas); **Stacy Stephens** (Texas / Winnsboro, Texas) and **Ruby Vaden** (Arkansas / Osceola, Ark.).

Included among the U.S. 21-and-under team are five previous USA Basketball medalists, and three more who have participated in USA Basketball Trials. There are also 11 All-Americans, while all 12 players collected all-conference accolades following the 2002-03 season.

Highlighting the U.S. squad are Beard and Ohlde, both of whom have USA Basketball experience and were named 2003 All-America first team by the Associated Press (A.P.), U.S. Basketball Writers Association (USBWA), *Basketball Times* and Kodak/Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA). Adding to the USA's firepower is Pondexter, the most experienced USA Basketball player at this age level, who has been a member of three U.S. squads in as many summers.

Hoffman, Ohlde, Pondexter and Whalen teamed up last summer to capture a gold medal in Brazil and helped the United States qualify for the 2003 FIBA World Championship For Young Women. The previous summer at the 2001 FIBA Junior World Championship, Beard and Pondexter were members of the U.S. squad that posted a 6-1 record, fell to host Czech Republic in the semifinal contest, but rebounded to return with the Junior Worlds bronze medal. Competing on the first of three USA Basketball squads, Pondexter, along with Beard and Hoffman, collected the gold medal and a 5-0 record at the 2000 Junior World Championship Qualifying Tournament in Mexico. Additionally, Augustus, Thomas and Wecker have all participated in at least one USA Basketball Trials.

Augustus was selected the 2003 National Freshman of the Year by *Basketball Times* and was named All-America second team by *Basketball Times* and All-America third team by A.P. Included on the USBWA All-America team were Wecker and Whalen; the A.P. named Whalen to its All-America second team, Wecker was an A.P. third team selection and Polk, Pondexter and Wright received All-America honorable mention by A.P.; Kodak/WBCA listed Whalen on its All-America first team, while earning honorable mention were Hoffman, Polk, Pondexter and Wecker; and *Basketball Times'* All-America second team included Whalen, while Wecker was named All-America third team and Matter, Pondexter, Thomas and Wright collected All-America honorable mention.

All 12 earned post-season conference accolades in their respective leagues this season, topped by Atlantic Coast Conference Player of the Year Beard, conference Rookie of the Year recipients Augustus (SEC), Polk (Pac-10) and Pondexter (Big East), and Big Ten Conference Defensive Player of the Year Wright. Further, named to their all-conference first team were Beard, Hoffman (Pac-10), Mann (Big West), Ohlde (Big 12), Polk, Pondexter, Wecker (Big 12) and Whalen (Big Ten); while Augustus, Matter, Thomas and Wright were named all-conference second team.

The U.S. squad will return to Colorado Springs on July 7, where it will train at the USOTC through July 11 (times TBD). The USA Young Women will then train at the New York Athletic Club (N.Y.) July 12-14 (times TBD), before traveling to Boston for the final stages of its FIBA World Championship For Young Women preparation.

While in Boston, the USA Young Women will be joined by the Australia and Brazil young women national teams, as well as the USA Pan American Games Team for a series of friendly games. The 'friendlies' get started on July 15 with the USA Young Women facing Brazil at 1:00 p.m. (all times EDT) at Northeastern University's Matthews Arena. The following afternoon will see the USA Young Women and Australia competing at 1:00 p.m. at Matthews Arena, and on July 17 Australia and Brazil are scheduled to compete at 1:00 p.m. at Matthews Arena, followed by a USA Young Women National Team practice session. With the arrival of the USA Pan Am Games Team on July 17, the two USA squads are slated to scrimmage on July 18 at 1:00 p.m. at the Reebok Campus (Canton, Mass.). July 19 - 20 will see a pair of double-headers beginning at 1:00 p.m. each day at Matthews Arena. On July 19 the USA Young Women will play Brazil in the first game, followed by the USA Pan Am squad versus Australia at approximately 3:00 p.m.; while the July 20 double-header will feature the USA Pan Am Games Team competing against Brazil, followed by the USA Young Women against Australia.

"I think you can talk and talk and talk about the different styles in international play," said Foster. "But those who haven't had the experience, it's a great opportunity to get it. Brazil and Australia have two distinct styles of play and that helps you get the attention of the players before we start playing in Croatia."

Assisting Foster and the 2003 USA Basketball World Championship For Young Women Team are collegiate head coaches Kathy Delaney-Smith of Harvard University (Mass.) and Felisha Legette-Jack of Hofstra University (N.Y.).

The USA Basketball Women's Collegiate Committee, in addition to Plonsky, is comprised of NAIA designee Stephanie Findley (head coach, Oklahoma Christian University); NCAA appointees Elaine Elliott (head coach, University of Utah), Gail Goestenkors (head coach, Duke University, N.C.), Donna Noonan (Vice President, Women's Basketball Championship, NCAA) and Willette White (head coach, Northeastern University, Mass.); representing the NJCAA is Mary Ellen Leicht (Assistant Executive Director, NJCAA); Muffet McGraw (head coach, University of Notre Dame, Ind.) was appointed by the WBCA; and Teresa Edwards (2000, 1996, 1992, 1988 and 1984 Olympian, 1994, 1990 and 1986 World Championship teams / Smyrna, Ga.) and Vickie Orr-Wiley (1992 Olympic bronze medalist, 1990 World Championship gold medalist / Birmingham, Ala.) are the athlete representatives.

2003 USA World Championship For Young Women Team

NAME	POS	HGT	WGT	DOB	YOG	SCHOOL / HOMETOWN
Seimone Augustus	F	6-1	170	04/30/84	2006	Louisiana State / Baton Rouge, LA
Alana Beard	G	5-11	158	05/14/82	2004	Duke / Shreveport, LA
Ebony Hoffman	F/C	6-2	200	08/27/82	2004	Southern California / Harbor City, CA
Kristen Mann	G/F	6-2	185	08/10/83	2005	UC Santa Barbara / Santa Ana, CA
Caity Matter	G	5-8	165	08/22/82	2005	Ohio State / Bluffton, OH
Nicole Ohlde	C	6-4	175	03/13/82	2004	Kansas State / Clay Center, KS
Shawntinice Polk	C	6-5	225	03/27/83	2006	Arizona / Hanford, CA
Cappie Pondexter	G	5-9	153	01/07/83	2005	Rutgers / Chicago, IL
Christi Thomas	F/C	6-5	185	08/14/82	2004	Georgia / Buford, GA
Kendra Wecker	F	5-11	170	12/16/82	2005	Kansas State / Marysville, KS
Lindsay Whalen	G	5-8	145	05/09/82	2004	Minnesota / Hutchinson, MN
Tanisha Wright	G	5-10	160	11/29/83	2005	Penn State / West Mifflin, PA

Alternates:

Amber Jacobs	G	5-8	150	06/29/82	2004	Boston College / Clarks Summit, PA
Temeka Johnson	G	5-3	130	09/06/82	2004	Louisiana State / Kenner, LA
Amber Obaze	G	5-9	155	06/28/82	2004	Louisiana Tech / Dallas, TX
Heather Schreiber	F	6-2	168	01/07/83	2005	Texas / Windthorst, TX
Stacy Stephens	F	6-1	210	01/21/82	2004	Texas / Winnsboro, TX
Ruby Vaden	C	6-2	187	01/27/84	2006	Arkansas / Osceola, AR

Head Coach: Jim Foster, The Ohio State University

Assistant Coach: Kathy Delaney-Smith, Harvard University (Mass.)

Assistant Coach: Felisha Legette-Jack, Hofstra University (N.Y.)

USA World Championship For Young Women Team Training Capsule

July 7-11	Training Camp	USOTC, Colorado Springs, Colo.
July 12-13	Training Camp	New York Athletic Club, N.Y.
July 15-20	Training Camp / Friendly Games	Boston, Mass.
July 22-24	Training Camp	Sibenik, Croatia
July 25-Aug. 3	World Championship For Young Women	Sibenik, Croatia