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# Mountain West Conference BASKETBALL NEWS

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## MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE ANNOUNCES WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

**Kim Smith Earns Player of the Year Honors, RanDee Henry Named Newcomer of the Year**

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** – The Mountain West Conference announced the 2003-04 all-conference team as selected by head coaches. Utah sophomore Kim Smith repeated as MWC Player of the Year, while Newcomer of the Year honors went to UNLV junior RanDee Henry. Wyoming senior Brenda Pickup and UNLV junior Sherry McCracklin shared Defensive Player of the Year honors, and Wyoming head coach Joe Legerski, in his first year with the Cowgirls, was named Coach of the Year.

Smith is the second player to repeat as MWC Player of the Year as UNLV's Linda Fröhlich was a three-time honoree. This year marks the third time a Utah student-athlete earned Player of the Year honors (Amy Ewert was co-Player of the Year in 2001). UNLV garnered individual honors for the fifth straight year and joined Utah as the only teams in the MWC to have earned a Player of the Year, Newcomer of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year since the league was formed.

Three seniors, six juniors, six sophomores and a freshman made up this year's all-conference team. Colorado State, New Mexico, UNLV and Utah each had three selections. Wyoming had two selections and BYU and San Diego State each had one. Three BYU players were named honorable mention, while Air Force and Colorado State each had two honorable mention honorees. San Diego State and Utah each added an honorable mention selection as well.

Kim Smith, a two-time first-team selection, joined four first-time honorees on the MWC first team, including RanDee Henry and Sherry McCracklin (UNLV), Ashley Elliott (Wyoming) and Lindsey Arndt (New Mexico). Three-time MWC all-conference honoree Mandi Moore (New Mexico) joined two-time selection Shona Thorburn (Utah) on the second team along with first-time award winners Sheena Moore (UNLV), Vanessa Espinoza (Colorado State) and Julie Sullivan (BYU). A tie in the balloting accounted for a six-member third team, all of which were first-time all-conference selections: Melissa Dennett and Lindsay Thomas (Colorado State), Melissa Forest (New Mexico), Kelsy Stireman (Utah), Michelle Elliott (San Diego State) and Brenda Pickup (Wyoming).

Legerski led the Cowgirls to a 6-8 MWC finish in his first year as head coach.

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**First Team All-Mountain West Conference**

\*Kim Smith, Utah, So., 6-1, F  
RanDee Henry, UNLV, Jr., 6-1, F/C  
Sherry McCracklin, UNLV, Jr., 6-2, F/C  
Ashley Elliott, Wyoming, Jr., 5-7, G  
Lindsey Arndt, New Mexico, Jr., 6-1, F

**Second Team All-Mountain West Conference**

\*Mandi Moore, New Mexico, Jr., 5-7, G  
\*Shona Thorburn, Utah, So., 5-10, G  
Sheena Moore, UNLV, So., 5-7, G  
Vanessa Espinoza, Colorado State, So., 5-3, G  
Julie Sullivan, BYU, Jr., 5-8, G

**Third Team All-Mountain West Conference**

Melissa Dennett, Colorado State, So., 6-2, F  
Melissa Forest, New Mexico, Sr., 6-2, F  
Lindsay Thomas, Colorado State, So., 6-3, C  
Kelsy Stireman, Utah, Sr., 5-7, G  
Brenda Pickup, Wyoming, Sr., 5-7, G  
Michelle Elliott, San Diego State, Fr., 5-11, G

**Honorable Mention All-Mountain West Conference**

Amoy Jackson, Air Force, Sr., 5-10, G  
Letricia Castillo, Air Force, Fr., 5-8, G  
Danielle Cheesman, BYU, Jr., 6-2, F  
Ashleigh Chamberlain, BYU, Sr., 6-4, C  
Ambrosia Anderson, BYU, So., 6-2, F  
Jasai Ferrucho, Colorado State, Sr., 5-7, G  
Joy Jenkins, Colorado State, Sr., 6-3, F  
Courtney Fritz, San Diego State, Fr., 5-8, G  
\*Carley Marshall, Utah, Jr., 6-2, F/C

**Player of the Year:** Kim Smith, Utah

**Newcomer of the Year:** RanDee Henry, UNLV

**Co-Defensive Player of the Year:**

Sherry McCracklin, UNLV

Brenda Pickup, Wyoming

**Coach of the Year:** Joe Legerski, Wyoming

\*notes repeat selection

**Kim Smith (Utah) – Player of the Year, First Team All-MWC**

Smith repeated as MWC Player of the Year after leading the Utes to a second straight regular season conference championship. Smith ranked fourth in league scoring (14.3 ppg) and second in league rebounding (7.9 rpg). She needs just 30 points to become only the second MWC player (Linda Fröhlich, UNLV) to reach 1,000 career points during her sophomore season.

**RanDee Henry (UNLV) - Newcomer of the Year, First Team All-MWC**

Henry is one of only two players in MWC history (Linda Fröhlich, UNLV) to lead the MWC in scoring and rebounding in the same season. Henry averaged 17.8 points and 9.3 rebounds per game in MWC contests. She is also one of only two players (Linda Fröhlich, UNLV) in MWC history to record 20 points and 20 rebounds in a game, doing so vs. BYU Feb. 5, 2004.

**Sherry McCracklin (UNLV) – Co-Defensive Player of the Year, First Team All-MWC**

McCracklin ranked in the MWC top 10 for rebounds (3<sup>rd</sup> 7.9 rpg), steals (T-6<sup>th</sup> 1.71 spg) and blocked shots (2<sup>nd</sup> 1.14 bpg) this season in addition to ranking sixth in scoring with 13.4 points per game. A third-team All-MWC selection last season, McCracklin leads the MWC with 12 double-doubles this season.

**Brenda Pickup (Wyoming) – Co-Defensive Player of the Year, Third Team All-MWC**

A first-time All-MWC selection, Pickup led the MWC in steals this season with 2.93 per game, while also ranking 12<sup>th</sup> in scoring (10.9 ppg) and second in assists (5.57 apg). She is second on the Wyoming career steals list with 205.

**Ashley Elliott (Wyoming) - First Team All-MWC**

An honorable mention All-MWC honoree last season, Elliott led the Cowgirls and ranked second in MWC scoring this season (17.1 ppg) and leads the MWC with 2.5 made three-pointers per game. Elliott is averaging over 20 points per contest in her last five games, and she ranks third all-time on the Wyoming career list with 136 made treys.

**Lindsey Arndt (New Mexico) - First Team All-MWC**

An honorable mention All-MWC selection in 2002, Arndt helped the Lobos to their first-ever MWC regular season title and a No. 1 seed in the MWC Tournament. Arndt ranked seventh in rebounding (6.4 rpg) and 15<sup>th</sup> in scoring (9.9 ppg) in the MWC this season.