



www.TheMWC.com

Mountain West Conference NEWS

Craig Thompson, Commissioner (719) 488-4040

Bob Burda, Assistant Commissioner for Communications (719) 488-4046

Javan Hedlund, Director of Communications (719) 488-4051

Ron Christian, Assistant Director of Communications (719) 488-4050

Brett Lowder, Asst. Director of Communications/Webmaster (719) 488-4049

Marlon Edge, Asst. Director of Communications (719) 488-4052

Air Force • BYU • Colorado State • New Mexico • San Diego State • UNLV • Utah • Wyoming

For Immediate Use:

Monday, Mar. 10, 2003

Contact:

Ron Christian (719) 488-4050

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

Kim Smith Earns Player and Newcomer of the Year Honors

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – The Mountain West Conference announced the 2002-03 all-conference team as selected by head coaches. Utah freshman Kim Smith became the first student-athlete to capture MWC Player of the Year and Newcomer of the Year honors, while Utah head coach Elaine Elliott was named Coach of the Year, marking her third honor in four years. UNLV senior Julia Gray was Defensive Player of the Year.

Smith is the second Ute player in three years to earn individual honors (Amy Ewert co-Player of the Year in 2001). UNLV has earned individual honors four straight years.

Eleven seniors, three sophomores and a freshman made up this year's all-conference team. Colorado State and New Mexico led the way with three selections each, while BYU, UNLV, Utah and Wyoming had two honorees. San Diego State had an all-conference and honorable mention selection, and Air Force had an honorable mention performer as well.

Kim Smith joined four four-time honorees on the MWC first team, including Erin Thorn (BYU), Jordan Adams (UNM), Constance Jinks (UNLV) and Ashley Augspurger (CSU). Three-time MWC all-conference honoree Carrie Bacon (Wyoming) joined four first-time selections on the second team in Chelsea Gear (UNM), Shona Thorburn (Utah), Danielle Cheesman (BYU) and Shannon Strecker (CSU). Jamey Cox (SDSU), Sherry McCracklin (UNLV), Mandi Moore (UNM), Ann McColl (Wyoming) and Katie Borton (CSU) rounded out the third team.

Elliott was named Mountain West Conference Coach of the Year after leading the Utes to their third league title in the last four years. In 20 years with Utah, Elliott has amassed a 411-169 and produced 14 20-win seasons, while taking the Utes to the NCAA six of the last eight years.

- more -

First Team All-Mountain West Conference

*Erin Thorn, BYU, Sr., 5-10, G
Kim Smith, Utah, Fr., 6-1, F
*Jordan Adams, New Mexico, Sr., 6-3, C
*Constance Jinks, UNLV, Sr., 5-7, G
*Ashley Augspurger, Colorado State, Sr., 6-1, F

Second Team All-Mountain West Conference

*Carrie Bacon, Wyoming, Sr., 6-0, F
Chelsea Grear, New Mexico, Sr., 5-10, F/G
Shona Thorburn, Utah, So., 5-10, G
Danielle Cheesman, BYU, So., 6-2, F
Shannon Strecker, Colorado State, Sr., 6-2, C

Third Team All-Mountain West Conference

*Jamey Cox, San Diego State, Sr., 5-7, G
Sherry McCracklin, UNLV, Sr., 6-2, F/C
*Mandi Moore, New Mexico, So., 5-7, G
Ann McColl, Wyoming, Sr., 6-2, C
Katie Borton, Colorado State, Sr., 6-0, F

Honorable Mention All-Mountain West Conference

Shawna Neff, Air Force, Jr., 5-10, F
Joy Jenkins, Colorado State, Jr., 6-3, F/C
Ashlee Dunlap, San Diego State, Fr., 6-1, F
Julia Gray, UNLV, Sr., 5-6, G
Carley Marshall, Utah, Jr., 6-2, F/C
Ashley Elliott, Wyoming, So., 5-7, G

Player of the Year: Kim Smith, Utah

Defensive Player of the Year: Julia Gray, UNLV

Newcomer of the Year: Kim Smith, Utah

Coach of the Year: Elaine Elliott, Utah

*notes repeat selection

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

Smith set an MWC record by scoring in double figures in every game this season (27 straight games), while setting a new mark in freshman scoring in both overall (459 points) and league games (232). She ranks third in the MWC for scoring at 17 points per game and third in conference rebounding at 6.6 boards per contest.

Julia Gray (UNLV) - Defensive Player of the Year

Gray has earned a reputation as one of best defenders in the MWC. She led the MWC in steals with 3.37 per game and holds the MWC single season senior record steals with 91 and the conference games only steals record with 52.

Erin Thorn – First Team All-MWC

Thorn is a four-time All-MWC honoree and ranked second in conference scoring at 18.4 points per game. Thorn leads the MWC in free throw percentage (90.1 percent) and ranks second in three-point shooting percentage (42.7 percent) and assists (5.78 apg). She is currently fifth in the nation with 3.3 made treys per game and has a streak of 35 straight games with a three-pointer.

Constance Jinks - First Team All-MWC

Also a four-time All-MWC selection, Jinks has led the MWC in scoring all season and currently averages 20.7 points per game. She currently ranks third on the UNLV all-time scoring list with 1,791 points. She has scored in double figures in all but one game this season and set the MWC single-game scoring record with 40 points (vs. Cal Poly and vs. Air Force).

Jordan Adams - First Team All-MWC

A four-time All-MWC honoree, Adams owns the MWC single-game and single-season block records. She ranks fourth in the MWC in scoring (15.6 ppg), fifth in rebounding (6.4 rpg), fifth in field goal percentage (.484 percent) and leads the league in blocks (2.3 bpg).

Ashley Augspurger - First Team All-MWC

Another four-time All-MWC award winner, Augspurger ranks seventh in league scoring at 13.5 points per game and scored double figures in six of her last eight games down the stretch. She is the fifth all-time leading scorer at Colorado State with 1,414 career points.