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**LONGHORNS' FRESHMAN DURANT NAMED
NABC DIVISION I PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

KANSAS CITY, MO. (March 21, 2007) – University of Texas freshman **Kevin Durant** has been selected as the Division I Player of the Year by the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC).

The 6-9 guard/forward from Suitland, Md., is the first freshman to win the NABC Player of the Year award.

Durant will receive his award on Sunday, April 1, at the annual NABC Awards Show presented by AT & T at the Sydney Marcus Auditorium at the Georgia World Congress Center at 6 p.m.

Durant made a meteoric entrance into college basketball this season, helping Coach Rick Barnes' Longhorns to a 25-10 record. He led Texas in scoring (25.8 ppg) and rebounding (11.1 rpg) this season and ranks fourth in both categories nationally. He also averaged 35.9 minutes per game, hit on 47 percent of his field goal attempts, 40 percent from three-point range and 82 percent of his free throws. Durant registered 20 double-doubles this season and set UT and Big 12 records with eleven 30-point performances.

In five postseason games, three in the Big 12 tournament and two in the NCAA championships, the Big 12 Player and Freshman of the Year averaged 28.5 points and 9.6 rebounds with 12 blocks and 12 steals.

A member of the NABC All-America first team, Durant has also been named National Player of the Year by SI.com, ESPN.com and the Sporting News. He is one of five finalists for the Oscar Robertson Trophy (USBWA Player of the Year) and one of four finalists for the Naismith Award.

About the National Association of Basketball Coaches

Located in Kansas City, MO, the NABC was founded in 1927 by Phog Allen, the legendary basketball coach at the University of Kansas. Allen, a student of James Naismith, the inventor of basketball, organized coaches into this collective group to serve as Guardians of the Game. The NABC currently claims nearly 5,000 members consisting primarily of university and college men's basketball coaches. All members of the NABC are expected to uphold the core values of being a Guardian of the Game by bringing attention to the positive aspects of the sport of basketball and the role coaches play in the academic and athletic lives of today's student-athletes. The four core values of being a Guardian of the Game are advocacy, leadership, service and education. Additional information about the NABC, its programs and membership, can be found at www.nabc.com.

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