



Donna Bender Moir
Head Basketball Coach/Athletic Director
Sacred Heart Academy
3175 Lexington Rd.
Louisville, Ky. 40206

KHSSA
Hall of Fame Committee
2280 Executive Dr.
Lexington, Ky. 40505

To Whom It May Concern,

As a former Coach of Crystal Kelly, I support the nomination of Crystal Kelly for the inclusion in an upcoming class of the KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Crystal Kelly was the epitome of a student athlete at Sacred Heart Academy. She excelled in the classroom, in athletics and most importantly in life. She is one of those people that everyone would love to have as a daughter. She is highly stable and totally grounded. She is very humble and cared about winning only. Personal accolades were only important to her if her teammates were recognized as well. She is a very giving person and is still involved at Sacred Heart today.

As a basketball player, Crystal Kelly would be considered as the greatest player in the history of Sacred Heart Academy. She was named 2004 Kentucky Ms. Basketball, she led Sacred Heart to 3 state championships and during her 4 year varsity basketball career Sacred Heart won 139-9 games. Crystal Kelly holds just about every basketball record at Sacred Heart Academy.

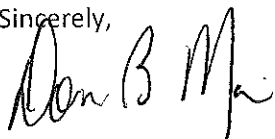
Records Held:

All-Time Leading Scorer	2,377
All-Time Leading Rebounder	1,478
Games Played	148
Field Goal Percent	64.76%
Free Throw Made/Att	524/716
Steals	370
Blocked Shots	366

I was reading through a goal sheet that Crystal wrote for NIKE Camp – what is your main goal in life? Her response was: “my main goal in life would have to be being a good role model, someone positive for people to look up to and besides that I just want to live a happy life.”

It was an honor to have the privilege to coach Crystal Kelly, she currently is an assistant coach at Bellarmine University.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donna Bender Moir". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and "M".

Donna Bender Moir
Head Coach
Sacred Heart Academy

Western Kentucky University



Athletic Media Relations



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / April 22, 2004

Women's Basketball / Contact: Chris Glowacki, Assistant Athletic Media Relations Director

2004 KENTUCKY MISS BASKETBALL CRYSTAL KELLY SIGNS WITH WESTERN KENTUCKY

Sacred Heart standout becomes fourth member of 2004-05 recruiting class.

Bowling Green, Ky. — Reigning Kentucky Miss Basketball **Crystal Kelly** signed a National Letter-of-Intent on Thursday to continue her career at Western Kentucky University. Kelly becomes the 11th Kentucky Miss Basketball to sign with the Lady Topper program, and the first since **Rachel Byars** in 1997.

"What a great day for Western Kentucky University and Lady Topper Basketball! We are all extremely excited about Crystal's decision to attend Western Kentucky," said Lady Topper head coach **Mary Taylor Cowles**, who is 42-25 in two seasons at the helm of the program and is one of those former Miss Basketballs to don a WKU uniform. "Everyone in our program has worked extremely hard over the last two years to bring back what Lady Topper Basketball is all about. Having Crystal join our family helps us take huge strides in getting back to national prominence. I'm confident Crystal's presence on our team will have a dominant effect both on and off the court."

Kelly is no stranger to a winning tradition, having led Louisville's Sacred Heart Academy to three straight KHSAA state championships, winning all three titles at WKU's E.A. Diddle Arena. During her four years under coach **Donna Moir**, the Valkyries went 139-9 (.939), and finished 2003-04 ranked seventh in *USA Today's* Super 25 poll after a 37-1 season.

The 6-foot,3-inch Kelly finished her senior season averaging 14.2 points and 9.3 rebounds per game. She also recorded 106 blocks, 133 assists and 91 steals. The two-time Kentucky Gatorade Player of the Year and 2004 Associated Press Player of the Year finished her prep career with 2,377 points, 1,478 rebounds, 370 steals, 366 blocks and 349 assists. She also recorded a career 64.8 field-goal percentage. She is Sacred Heart's all-time leader in all those categories except assists, ranking fourth.

Along with her Miss Basketball and Player-of-the-Year honors, Kelly was also named All-America by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association, *Street & Smith* and *Parade*. She is also a three-time *Courier-Journal* first-team all-state selection and was twice named to the AP all-state first team.

"I'm very relieved to now be committed to Western Kentucky, it's such a weight off my shoulders to now be able to tell people where I'm going," said Kelly. "I'm completely comfortable with the coaching staff and the rest of the girls at Western. It's a very family oriented program, and it's amazing that I get to be a Lady Topper."

"The main reason I chose Western was because of the great photojournalism department," continued Kelly. "But the basketball program is on the rise once again with some great recruits. I'm very comfortable at Western and I love the facilities. I just look forward to playing four more years there."

Kelly joins **Bridgette Brown** (Columbus, Ohio / Beechcroft HS), **Ashley Butler** (Louisville, Ky. / St. Catharine College) and **Raquel Mattis** (Coral Springs, Fla. / Coral Springs HS) and as players that have signed to start their Lady Topper careers in 2004-05.

The announcement of Kelly's signing has already brought an increased interest in the purchase of season tickets for the 2004-05 Lady Topper season.

"We've already seen a lot of action today by fans wanting to purchase Lady Topper season tickets for the first time," said Western Kentucky Ticket Manager **Jim Cope**. "We expect that interest to increase over the next few days, and encourage fans to contact our office soon to reserve seats for next year."

Fans that are not currently Lady Topper season ticket holders can contact the WKU ticket office (270-745-5222 or 1-800-5-BIG RED) to get on a priority seating list for the 2004-05 season, and will be contacted about seating in the fall when the schedule is set. Current season ticket holders will receive renewal forms from the ticket office in September.

The Lady Toppers return all but one player from the 2003-04 team that finished 20-14 and captured its second straight Sun Belt Conference East Division championship. After advancing to the Sun Belt Tournament championship game for the second consecutive season, Western made a run to the quarterfinals of the National Women's Invitation Tournament for the second time in school history.

— WKU —

Office of Athletic Media Relations / Room 1140 / E.A. Diddle Arena
Western Kentucky University / 1 Big Red Way / Bowling Green, Ky. 42101
Telephone — (270) 745-4298 / FAX — (270) 745-3444 / e-mail — sports.information@wku.edu
Hilltopper Athletics on the World Wide Web — www.wkusports.com



Home · News · Sports · Business · Features · Scene · Velocity · Classifieds · Jobs · Cars · Homes · Marketplace · Conta

Sports » Kentucky High School » News

Thursday, April 22, 2004

SPORTS UPDATE

Sacred Heart's Kelly chooses Western



Mail this page

Subsc Click h get the deliver your d

By JODY DEMLING
jdemling@courier-journal.com
The Courier-Journal

After months of speculation and intense pitches from three in-state schools, Sacred Heart Academy's Crystal Kelly will sign with Western Kentucky University.

The newly crowned Kentucky Miss Basketball told The Courier-Journal this morning that she will sign a letter of intent with the Lady Toppers tonight at 6 p.m. during a ceremony at the school.

"It's going to be Western," Kelly said.

The announcement ends one of the fiercest recruitments of any in-state player in recent memory by Western, Kentucky and Louisville. Florida was also on her list, but she recently dropped the Gators because of the distance from home.

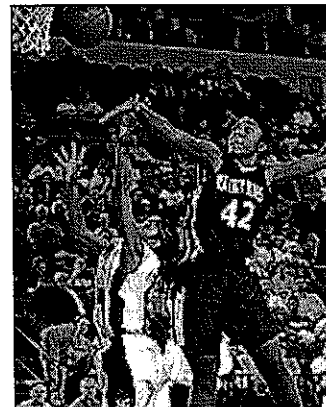
During the recruiting process, Kelly was bombarded with calls and letters from all the schools. Louisville sent men's coach Rick Pitino to a Sacred Heart game, and Kelly had a one-hour meeting with Pitino last fall. She also met UK coach Tubby Smith on one visit to Kentucky, and the UK fans chanted her name at the men's Midnight Madness.

"It's so tough, and I have gotten to know these coaches so well," Kelly said in a recent interview. "I just don't want to tell anyone no."

In the end, Kelly said Western coach Mary Taylor Cowles and academics were the reasons she picked the Lady Toppers. She will major in photo journalism, and Western has one of the top departments in the country.

The 6-foot-3 Kelly was the leading vote-getter on The C-J's All-State team as a senior and finished her career as one of the state's all-time best players.

Kelly helped guide the Valkyries to a 139-9 record during her



Sacred Heart's Crystal Kelly had 12 points and nine rebounds in the state championship game against Lexington Catholic. (Associated Press)

Top Jobs
courier-journal.com
POWERED BY
careerbuilder*

Trainee
System Supervisor Trainee
Big...

PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS
NEEDED
PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS
NEEDED ...

Senior Operations
Management

Professional Services
Marketing Position A
manufacturing...

career, including 111-3 the past three years when Sacred Heart has won the state title. The Valkyries ended this season with a 95-game winning streak against in-state opponents.

"She has raised the bar for Kentucky girls' basketball," coach Donna Moir said.

As a senior, Kelly averaged 14.2 points and 9.3 rebounds and led the team with 106 blocked shots and 91 steals. She was second on the team with 133 assists.

Kelly has been named Gatorade Player of the Year in Kentucky each of the past two seasons, was the Associated Press Player of the Year and was named an All-American by Student Sports and Parade Magazine. She recently was one of just 20 players in the nation to compete in the Women's Basketball Coaches Association All-American game and was a preseason member of the USA Today Super 25 team.

For her career, Kelly finished with 2,377 points, 1,478 rebounds, 370 steals, 366 blocked shots, 349 assists, 926 field goals and 524 free throws and shot 64.76 percent from the field in 148 career games. She's the school's all-time leader in every one of those categories except assists, where she ranks fifth.

^^ Back to top

[Home](#) · [News](#) · [Sports](#) · [Business](#) · [Features](#) · [Scene](#) · [Velocity](#) · [Classifieds](#) · [Jobs](#) · [Cars](#) · [Homes](#) · [Marketplace](#) · [Conta](#)

Copyright 2004 The Courier-Journal.
Use of this site signifies your agreement to the Terms of Service (updated 12/18/2003).
Send questions and comments to The Webmaster.

Healthcare Opportunities
A commitment to excellence.
A...

All Top Jobs

About Top Jobs

4/17/04

Lofton, Kelly named Mr., Miss Basketball

By NATHAN CHAMBERS
nchambers@courier-journal.com
The Courier-Journal

FRANKFORT, Ky. — To no one's surprise, Mason County High School's Chris Lofton and Sacred-Heart Academy's Crystal Kelly were named Mr. and Miss Basketball, respectively, yesterday inside the Capitol rotunda. Chosen as Kentucky's top senior

players by a vote of the state's coaches, Lofton and Kelly will wear the No. 1 jerseys in the annual Kentucky-Indiana All-Star Games this summer. They earned automatic roster spots but are attending the tryouts that end today at Georgetown College.

The awards confirmed Lofton's season-long status as the front-runner and Kelly's emergence from the pack as the Valkyries' top third straight

state championship

But they did nothing to erase the uncertainty surrounding the players' college decisions.

Kelly hinted at her intentions when she stood at the podium and told a small crowd, including her teammates, that "I hope to see you all out at

See LOFTON
Page 5, col. 1, this section



Kelly



Lofton

Lofton, Kelly named top players

Continued from Page E1

my games next year."

"I think I'm leaning in-state," she said a short time later, noting Kentucky, Louisville, Western Kentucky and Florida as her options. "I've just thought about seeing my family and friends. If I went to Florida, that just wouldn't happen very often. I'm just trying to stay close to home."

Lofton indicated he has narrowed his choices to Cincinnati, Notre Dame and Tennessee. He said he will visit Tennessee on Monday.

"I should know after I get back from there," the 6-foot-3 guard said.

There was one small surprise, as Kentucky Lions Eye Foundation representative Jim Sandidge allowed Mason County coach Kelly Wells to present Lofton with the No. 1 jersey. Sandidge presented Kelly's jersey.

Wells has Berger's Disease, a kidney disorder, and will receive a transplant at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center on Wednesday. His wife, Shawne, is the donor.

Wells, who will coach his star player once more on the All-Star team, described Lofton's Mr. Basketball award "as a culmination of what he's done throughout his career."

"It's a great accomplishment for

me, my teammates and my school," Lofton said. "I've wanted this award forever, and I've finally got it."

He averaged team highs of 26.7 points, 7.4 rebounds, 3.4 assists and 3.2 steals this season, leading the Royals to a 33-3 record and their second straight Sweet 16 final. They beat Ballard in last year's championship game but lost to Warren Central this year.

"That loss is going to stick with me forever," he said. "This award is a great accomplishment, but I'd rather have that state title."

Lofton finished his career with a school-record 2,763 points.

"I've always said that he deserves to be in the top echelon of anyone who's played in the state of Kentucky," Wells said. "He's put himself in that position by winning a state championship and now winning Mr. Basketball."

Kelly, a 6-3 center, became Sacred Heart's first Miss Basketball winner.

"It's a good ending," she said. "It's nice to be rewarded for your hard work."

Kelly averaged 14.2 points and 9.3 rebounds; she also had 106 blocks and 91 steals. The Valkyries finished 37-1 for the third year in a row.

Sacred Heart went 139-9 during her four-year career.

4-19-04

Kelly delays

Miss Basketball puts off signing; expected to choose between WKU, UK, Louisville

By MICHEAL COMPTON
The Daily News
mcompton@bgdailynews.com/783-3247

Today is the day that a Sacred Heart basketball player signs a letter of intent to play collegiate basketball — but it won't be Crystal Kelly.

Kelly's teammate Connie Ferch is expected to announce her decision this afternoon, but

Kelly continues to weigh her options — despite hinting Friday that she would make a decision today.

While Kelly's plans remain cloudy, there are several knowns at this point.

First, Florida appears to be out of the picture.

When accepting her Miss Basketball award Friday, Kelly said she is down to Western Kentucky, Louisville, Kentucky and Florida, but added she is leaning toward going in



CRYSTAL KELLY
Miss Basketball

state. "I've just thought about seeing my family and friends," Kelly told the Associated Press Friday. "If I went to Florida, that just wouldn't happen very often. I'm just trying to stay close to home."

Sacred Heart coach Donna Moir all but confirmed that Kelly has eliminated Florida from her list.

"I don't know for sure, but I feel pretty confident in saying she is going to stay in state."

college decision

Moir said.

Kelly was in Bowling Green on Sunday, which only added to speculation.

The 6-foot-3-inch center is considered the best player in a talented senior class. She averaged 14.2 points and 9.3 rebounds, with 106 blocks and 91 steals. She was a key component in leading Sacred Heart to three straight state championships. The Valkyries went 139-9 during her four-year career.

This is Moir's first experience with a high-profile recruit.

"It's been very interesting," Moir said. "The coaches have all

been very professional and want the best for Crystal. We've come to the point that the coaches just want to know."

Moir added she has been impressed with Kelly's ability to handle the whole process.

"The only thing we ever did was in mid-February," Moir said. "We asked her to not talk about it until after the Sweet 16, because it would be a distraction, and she did. It helped that she was able to focus on Sacred Heart and it gave her a breather."

Kelly avoided questions about college during the Sweet 16, but did make an offhand comment

right after the Valkyries' win over Christian County in the semifinals.

When talking about taking the floor for the last time with Sacred Heart later that night, Kelly said she was going to miss playing with juniors Taylor Kopple and Carly Ormerod — who were also in the media room at the time.

"It's going to be bittersweet because this will be the last game I play with these girls, at least for a year," she said.

Western is believed to be the only school that has offered all three players a scholarship.

Kelly still weighing college decision

3-30-04

By JODY DEMILING
jdemiling@courier-journal.com
The Courier-Journal

Crystal Kelly has gone to Florida. No, the coaching staffs at Western Kentucky, Louisville and Kentucky don't have to fret about the Sacred Heart Academy star having made a commitment to the University of Florida. The 6-foot-3 Kelly simply is spending a few days in the Sunshine State before heading to New Orleans later this week for the Women's Basketball Coaches Association All-American game.

"I'm just taking it easy and relaxing," Kelly said Sunday. "My goal the whole time was to win a state title, then go on spring break and then make a college decision." Kelly helped the Valkyries win their third straight title, 43-34 over Lexington Catholic in Saturday's final at Bowling Green's E.A. Diddle Arena. Now it's time to relax, then make that college decision.

Kelly, the front-runner for Miss Basketball, is considered by many recruiting analysts to be the top player in the country who hasn't made a commitment. She will pick among Florida, Western, Louisville and Kentucky. "I've never really been too concerned about college the whole time," she said. "I didn't want it to affect my play, but now I have to make a decision. I'll take a lot of time after I get back to

think about it and then sit down and talk with my parents."

Kelly, who has been named Kentucky's Gatorade Player of the Year for the second straight season, finished her career with 2,379 points, 1,475 rebounds, 371 steals, 366 blocked shots, 348 assists, 927 field goals and 712 free throws. She's the school's all-time leader in every category except assists, where she ranks fourth.

"It's been a fun ride," Kelly said. "I just started to take everything in (Sunday), and it just hit me that we won again. It's really unbelievable to win three in a row. I'm just glad I was a part of it."

Making history

Sacred Heart joined Laurel County (1977-79) as the only girls' teams to win three straight championships.

One thing that never had been done in the state tournament was someone winning two MVP awards. But junior guard Carly Ormerod collected her second trophy after also taking it as a freshman.

"I remember talking with Carly's mom after the freshman year and telling her that, 'Winning a state championship and being named the MVP as a freshman, I don't think it can get any better than this,'" coach Donna Moir said. "It has gotten better."

The Valkyries (37-1) finished the season on a 35-game winning streak and have won 95 straight against in-state opponents. They last lost to Co-

vington Holmes' in the Prime Time Classic 811 days ago.

Kelly was the lone senior playing in the state tournament for the Valkyries, who saw senior guard Connie Ferch miss the last month with an injury. "It's been an awesome run," Moir said. "But we'll have nine juniors' back next year and a couple of really good freshmen. These kids have seen all these other kids leave here as champions, and I think they'll work hard to try and do the same."

Sweet 16 records

■ Sacred Heart has won 12 straight games in the state tournament and has a 16-1 record.

■ The Valkyries scored 255 points in four games, the fourth-most in tournament history. They allowed just 155, which is third lowest.

Butler scored 267 points in winning the 1980 title, and Mercy allowed just 139 points when it won in '92.

■ Kelly and Ormerod became just the seventh and eighth players to combine the seventh and eight players to combine in 12 games at the state tournament. No one has played in more.

■ Kelly and Muhlenberg North's Jade Perry finished their careers with 183 tournament points, ranking them fifth. Laurel County's Sharon Garland leads with 231 points. Ormerod ranks eighth with 177.

■ Ormerod is second in three-pointers with 16. West Carter's Kandis Brown leads with 20.

■ Kelly moved to fourth with 107 re-

bounds, while Perry finished 10th with 90. Butler's Valerie Owens tops the list with 144.

■ Ormerod is fourth with 47 assists, 19 behind leader Lisa House of Laurel County.

All-State team

Kelly and Ormerod were two of 10 players picked on the high.com All-State team, which was released on the Web site yesterday.

Leading the boys' team were Mason County's Chris Lofton and Lohmell Dewalt, who helped Warren Central to the state title.

Moir and Seneca's Tony Branch were named Coach of the Year.

The complete teams:
Girls: Kelly, Ormerod; Sarah Elliott, Jackson County; Arnie Brown, Christian County; Jade Perry, Muhlenberg North; Campbell, Highland; Mariah Paige Guffey, Clinton County; Johnna Abney, Rockcastle County; Patricia Bellows, Barren County; Megan Gray, Harrison County; Hopea, Lyon County; Terri Miller, Pleasure Ridge Park; William Glavin, Lexington; Caitlin Diermuth, Green; Leavitt, Catholic; Maria Orulla, East Creek; Richard Long, Apollo; Aaron Cash, Rockcastle County.

Quote of the week

When talking about suiting up for her last game at Sacred Heart, Kelly, who was sitting in the media room between Taylor Kopple and Ormerod, said:

"I'm going to miss this. It's going to be bittersweet because this will be the last game I play with these girls, at least for a year. Western is the only school to offer all three players a scholarship."

HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

Lofton, Kelly top list of

By **JODY DEMLING**
jdemling@courier-journal.com
The Courier-Journal

Seven boys' and eight girls' high school basketball players from the Louisville area have been invited to try out for the Kentucky All-Star teams.

The Kentucky Lions Eye Foundation released the list of 35 boys and 33 girls who were invited to the April 16-17 tryouts at Georgetown College.

Among the boys on the list are Mr. Basketball front-runner Chris Lofton of Mason County and Sweet 16 MVP Brock Whitney of Warren Central.

The locals who will try out: Iroquois' Melvin Beasley, Eastern's Jermaine Bentley, DeSales' Thomas Britt, Trini-

ty's Blake Nix, South Oldham's Brad Cofer, Pleasure Ridge Park's Terrance Farley and Western's Parfait Bitee.

The list of girls includes Sacred Heart's Crystal Kelly, Jackson County's Sarah Elliott and Muhlenberg North's Jade Perry. Other locals to try out include Butler's Ashley Lewallen, South Oldham's Ashley Trosper, Manual's Candyce Bingham, Assumption's Trish Todd, Mercy's Katie Willinger, PRP's Anitha Smith-Williams and Butler's Megan McGrath.

The coaches for the All-Star team will be announced next Tuesday.

The complete list:

GIRLS: Patika Barlow, Barren County; Heather Benton, Leslie County; Elliott, Stephanie Fields, Marshall County; Megan Gray, Harrison County; Kelly; Lewallen; Whitney;

Lykens, Betsy Layne, Amanda Miller, Central Hardin; Perry; Tangle Sellers, Boone County; Kim Stapleton, East Carter; Corkey Stuger, Christian County; Olivia Terry, Madison Central; Trosper; Courtney Watts, Mercer County; Bingham; Todd; Willinger; Katie Smith, Owen County; Santana McKee, Anderson County; Nicole Chiodi, Newport Central Catholic; Polly Sebastian, Perry County Central; Shaleea Petty, Christian County; Rachael Howard, Owensboro Catholic; Cary Bell, Bowling Green; Aaron Richmond, Warren Central; Terran Duncan, Metcalfe County; Tamara Shelton, LaRue County; Smith-Williams; Sarah Combs, Pulaski County; McGrath; Johanna Lewis-Carlisle, Henry Clay.

BOYS: Zack Allender, Nelson County; Marcus Barron, Lafayette; Beasley; Bentley; Bitee; Britt; David Byrd, Barren County; Tyler Clark, Lewis County; Cofer, Darrill Drals, Lafayette; Farley; Demetrius Green, Lexington Catholic; Tyrone Green, Wayne County; Brian Griffin, Clay County; Demetrius Guions, North Hardin; Bo Harris, Clark County; Tony Harris, Scott County; Tyler Hicks, Scott County; Al Holland Jr., Perry County Central; Brent Hoskins, Carlisle County; Jamie Jackson, Butler County; Jarrod Litzinger, Mason County; Lofton; Richard Long, Apollo; Chase Lyons, Pike County Central; Matt Maresca, Warren Central; Eric McKee, Anderson County; Harrison Morton, Lexington Catholic; Matt Nestheide, Covington Catholic; Nix; Ty Rogers, Lyon County; Bonis Siakam.

All-Star tryout invitees

Caverna; Justin Taylor, Tates Creek; Jonathan True, Lincoln County; Brock Whitney, Warren Central.

Baughn resigns

Owensboro Apollo boys' coach Greg Baughn, who led his alma mater to the Sweet 16 earlier this month, has resigned after five seasons.

Baughn, 36, told The Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer he was stepping down for family considerations and long-range health issues.

"My two grandfathers died of heart attacks, and my father died of a heart attack," Baughn told the paper. "Coaching at this level is very intense, and I didn't think making a long-range commitment to being a head coach would be

the best thing for me to do."

After going 5-21 and 10-17 in his first two seasons, Apollo has finished 18-9, 27-4 and 22-10 in the final three years. The Eagles have won the past two King of the Bluegrass Holiday Classic titles.

Baughn graduated from Apollo in 1986. He was a teammate and still a close friend of former University of Kentucky star Rex Chapman.

Pres in California

Presentation's softball team hasn't headed south for spring break, but instead quite a bit west. The Toppers are scheduled to play four games this week in California on a trip that will include stops in Lake Tahoe, San Francisco and

Pebble Beach.

"This trip has been in the works for five years," said coach Bill Wine, who believes his softball team is the first from Kentucky to play in California.

"...With 12 seniors and an experienced team this year was the selected year, and we expect the overall benefits of this trip to last a lifetime."

Wine said the team has been fundraising for a year, including car washes, selling flowers and working at Churchill Downs during the week of the Kentucky Derby.

The Toppers played Presentation (Calif.) on Monday and also have games scheduled against Sacred Heart Prep, Santa Catalina and Carmel.

3-31-04



Search:

Articles-last 7 days for

News | Business | Sports | Entertainment | Living | Shopping | Classifieds | Jobs | Cars | Homes

careerbuild

LEXINGTON **HERALD-LEADER**

Back to Home > Lexington Herald-Leader >

Mon

News

- City & Region
- Corrections
- State
- Nation
- World
- Obituaries
- Frontiers
- Essential Bluegrass
- Sports
- FanFare
- Outdoors
- Business
- Technology
- Features
- Arts & Life
- Health & Family
- Communities
- Free Time
- Weekender
- Inside & Out
- Faith & Values
- Anniversaries
- Engagements
- Weddings
- A La Carte
- Opinions
- Books
- Letters To The Editor
- Special Reports
- Columnists

LEXINGTON **HERALD-LEADER**

Posted on Sat, Apr. 17, 2004

MR. AND MISS BASKETBALL

TWO OF A KIND

Lofton, Kelly have more in common than their talent

By Jennifer Smith
HERALD-LEADER STAFF WRITER

email this print this license this

Sponsored Links

FRANKFORT - The similarities were uncanny as the pair stood there, holding their identical Kentucky Mr. and Miss Basketball trophies, in the Capitol Rotunda.

Both Mason County's Chris Lofton and Sacred Heart's Crystal Kelly stand 6-foot-3, they both led their teams to Sweet Sixteen championships and both won Most Valuable Player trophies as juniors.

Both, sporting No. 1 jerseys, will be coached by their former high school coaches in the annual basketball series between Kentucky and Indiana this summer.

"This is great," said Lofton, stoically.

"This is great," mirrored Kelly, beaming.

The similarities don't end there. Both Lofton and Kelly, standing just 2 feet apart and surrounded by cameras and reporters yesterday, were peppered with questions about their future colleges.

High School Swimming
Find swim teams and clubs near y
Masters, High School, College
clubswim.com



MARK CO

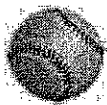
Mason County's Chris Lofton, left, laughed with Crystal Kelly during the ceremony naming them Mr. and Miss Basketball.

Neither player has made a decision, but both said they have narrowed their choices.

Kentucky.com

Contests

CATCH FREE LEGENDS TICKETS



Enter to win 2 free tickets to any Lexington Legends home game.

• Legends Contest

Horsemen Tickets



Enter to win 2 free tickets to a Lexington Horsemen home game.
 • Enter Horsemen Contest

"I'm still looking," Lofton said. "I'm down to Tennessee and Cincinnati right now."

Lofton, the first Mr. Basketball from the 10th Region since the award's inception in 19 to visit UT on Monday and Tuesday.

He plans to make the decision sometime shortly thereafter. Asked why he'd narrowed he said: "I feel like they've got a spot for me on the rosters there."

Several schools have been saving spots on their rosters for Kelly, who led the Valkyri straight Sweet Sixteen titles and set school records in scoring, rebounds, blocked sho

Kelly has narrowed her list to Kentucky, Louisville and Western Kentucky.

"My family and friends being able to watch me play is important," said Kelly, who had announcement scheduled for early next week, but said she might postpone that again

For now, both players seemed happy to accept the state's top high school basketball prepare for All-Star tryouts, which started yesterday in Georgetown.

"Miss Basketball?" Kelly said aloud.

"It's a nice title to have. ... All the hard work, all the practices, all the early mornings, it."

Lofton, who finished as Mason County's all-time leading scorer, agreed.

"This is a great moment," he said. "Mr. Basketball is such a big thing and I've always myself, 'I want to be that.' Now I am."

And now, both players will get a chance to play for their high school coaches, who als this year's respective All-Star coaches.

It was especially emotional for the Royals' Kelly Wells, who is scheduled to have a kid Wednesday. Wells was happy to share another big moment with his shooting star.

"He's everything we ask our student-athletes to be," Wells said. "He's a good athlete, I feel thrilled he's representing our school and our state."

What does it mean that he gets to coach Lofton one last time?

"Everything," Wells said. "It means everything."

SHA Coach Donna Moir said she decided to head up the All-Star team to coach Kelly o will be special," Moir said.

Jim Sandidge, director of the Kentucky side of the All-Star game, said there were five Mr. Basketball and six for Miss Basketball. Sandidge said the girls' voting was close.

Moir wasn't surprised. This class of seniors is thought to be the best in history.

"Any one of those candidates could have won it any year," Moir said of the other nomi

competition for this year's class was outstanding and any of those other girls would h Basketball at any other time."

Kelly is the first player from Sacred Heart to receive the top honor and the first to ma team in 18 years, when Susan Yates played.

Lofton is the first All-Star from Mason County since Tim Myrick in 1994.

- This year's All-Star games will be played in Owensboro on June 19 and in Indianapo



email this



print this



license this



© 2004 The Real Cities Network
All rights reserved.
Real Cities Network

News | Business | Sports | Entertainment | Living | Shopping | Classifieds | Jobs | Cars | Home
About Kentucky.com | About the Real Cities Network | Terms of Use & Privacy Statement | Ab
Ridder | Copyright

Sacred Heart celebrates another state title

By CHRIS KENNING

ckennin@courier-journal.com

The Courier-Journal

It's been more than a week since Sacred Heart Academy's girls' basketball team won its third consecutive state championship.

But time didn't diminish the cheers and chants of hundreds of students, teachers and parents when the Valkyries swept into a packed school gymnasium for a celebration yesterday.

Wearing matching blue and white sweatsuits, the girls high-fived classmates and pumped their fists in the air as they made their way past popping flashbulbs and chants of "S-H-A."

"It's a tremendous feat," coach Donna Mott said of the three-peat achieved with the team's 43-34 victory over Lexington Catholic in the Sweet 16 final on

March 27. She credited a lot of hard work in the off-season, and talented players.

Sacred Heart became only the second team in the tournament's 30-year history to win three consecutive titles. Laurel County captured three in a row in the late 1970s.

The Valkyries, 37-1 this season, have become a Kentucky powerhouse, posting a 11-3 record over the past three seasons and winning 93 games in a row against state opponents. They have been No. 1 in The Courier-Journal's Lickenous Ratings every week for three years.

The winning streak has bolstered students' pride in their school, said 16-year-old junior Alex Voss, who attended yesterday's rally to cheer the team.

Louisville Metro Mayor Jerry Abramson also was on hand to declare April 6 as "Go Valkyries

Day." The team's first state title came in 1977, and the first of the team held up against Omerod in the state basketball trophy.

Omerod, who scored 18 in the championship game and won her second Sweet 16 MVP award, called the state title "pretty amazing" and attributed it to the team's cohesion.

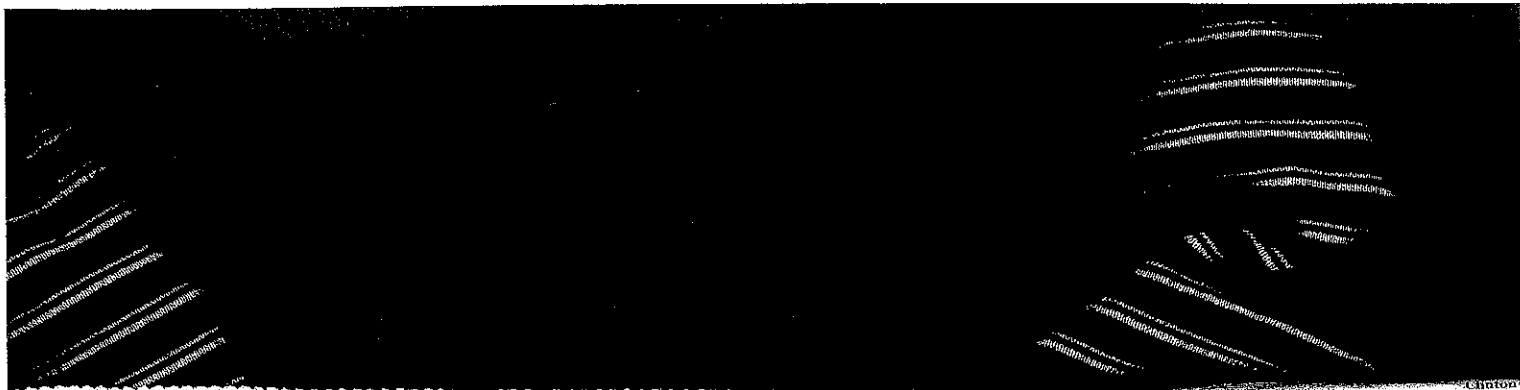
Kelly, a 6-foot-3 All-American who is the front-runner for Miss Basketball and is considered a top national prospect, told the crowd that she was sad knowing that the title marked the end of her career at Sacred Heart. School officials

at the college level are all attending the game, and Kelly said "I don't want to leave, but I have to."

Principal Beverly McCalliffe congratulated the team and cautioned students to "never take victory for granted — ever."



Principal Beverly McCalliffe applauded the team and told students to "never take victory for granted — ever."



rows to put the Valkyries up 41-32. See SACRED HEART, 3B Sacred Heart's Taylor Kopple (from left) and Kristen Barrow celebrate their 43-34 win Saturday night in E.A. Diddle Arena over Lexington Catholic their third straight state championship.

Girls' Sweet 16 Notebook

Kelly ends career on winning r

By MICHEAL COMPTON
The Daily News
mcompton@bgdailynews.com/783-3247

For the last three seasons, Sacred Heart senior center Crystal Kelly has been part of a trio of talented collegiate prospects — along with Jackson County center Sarah Elliott and Muhlenberg North center Jade Perry — that has been collectively known as the “Big Three.”

Elliott and Perry have never had the distinction of ending a season on a winning note. Kelly, on the other hand, now has three straight championships following Sacred Heart’s 43-34 win over Lexington Catholic in the Houchens Industries Sweet 16.

“It’s amazing,” Kelly said. “So many people thought we couldn’t do it, but this right here proved that we beat the odds. It’s been a fun ride and I’m glad I was part of it.”

Kelly’s line in Saturday’s game — 12 points and nine rebounds — doesn’t stand out, but it was a case of stepping up at the right time.

Kelly had four key defensive rebounds in the final quarter, all stopping critical offensive series in which Lexington Catholic was

on the verge of making a charge at the champions.

Most impressive was the 6-foot-3-inch senior’s ability to bring the ball down the floor and run the offense, forcing Lexington Catholic to come out and defend her. In one sequence, Kelly blew by the defense with the grace of Allen Iverson — gliding to the basket for a crucial layup.

“The one drive to the basket is moves that we see every day in practice,” Sacred Heart coach Donna Moir said. “I was glad to see her put on a show here. I think Crystal has to go down as one of the best players in Kentucky basketball history. Nobody has done what she has done.”

Saturday’s victory was the final chapter in Kelly’s high school career, and much of her last season has been filled with the burning question, “Where are you going to college?”

Despite the distractions, Kelly said she tried to keep it out of her mind.

“I didn’t think about it too much, because I always said I’ll think about college when I’m

through with (high school) basketball,” Kelly said. “I didn’t want me thinking about college to get in the way of what I had to do.”

She added that now that the season is over she’ll take about two weeks to decide. Western Kentucky, Florida, Louisville and Kentucky have all been mentioned as possibilities. Saturday’s win gave Kelly a 12-0 record at E.A. Diddle Arena, and Kelly admitted that it would be fun to continue her career on the same floor next fall.

“Western is definitely in the running, so we’ll see,” she said.

One last bow

Sacred Heart’s Connie Ferch’s season and career appeared to be over when she injured her knee late in the season.

She got one final opportunity to play, when Moir called a timeout with 1.2 seconds remaining and put the senior guard into the game.

“I told Crystal to stand next to her and not let anything happen,” Moir said. “I can’t tell you what a champion Connie is.”

Ferch said she was surprised to

get into the game.

“It was something I didn’t expect to happen, but it would happen anyway,” she said. “I was so excited.”

Her excitement was palpable.

“When she got me going down, I was a little bit down, but it was all worth it, especially the final game.”

All-Tournament

For the second season, Sacred Heart’s Ornerod was selected as the tournament MVP.

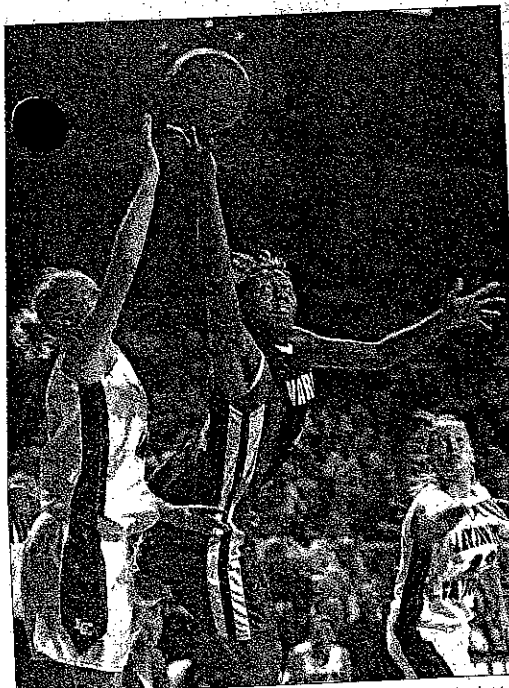
Other players named to the all-tournament team include Kelly and Taylor Kopple.

Other players named to the all-tournament team include Kelly and Taylor Kopple.

Other players named to the all-tournament team include Kelly and Taylor Kopple.

Other players named to the all-tournament team include Kelly and Taylor Kopple.

Other players named to the all-tournament team include Kelly and Taylor Kopple.



Clinton Lewis/Daily News

Sacred Heart senior Crystal Kelly drives in for a basket against Lexington Catholic’s Shannon Novosel during the Sweet 16 championship game Saturday in E.A. Diddle Arena. Kelly finished the game with 12 points and nine rebounds.

Oklahoma State headed to Final Four | Great f

3/27/04

Sacred Heart's Kelly has a Sweet tea party

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — The 2½-minute mark of the fourth quarter is when Crystal Kelly goes to work.

Not on the court. Please. By then, almost without fail, Sacred Heart Academy basketball coach Donna Moir has put away the good Crystal for the night. The 6-foot-3 center usually is reclining on the bench watching the end of another Valkyries blowout.



PAT FORDE

gar.

"I'm such a goofball," Kelly said. The self-admitted goofball also happens to be one of the finest high school girls' players in the nation, and some experts consider her the best female player ever in Kentucky — at the very least, she's in the argument. Not coincidentally, she's the leader of a Sacred Heart team many rank as the best in commonwealth history.

The Valkyries were three victories from a state-title threepeat after crushing Marshall County 60-25 Thursday night in the first round of the state tournament. It was their 92nd straight victory over Kentucky competition, and it was so authoritative that Kelly could have served tea at 2:30 of the first quarter — which ended with the score 17-2.

By then she had made the first three baskets of the game, two on perimeter shots and one on a putback. She'd played the point on the press, deflecting balls with her long arms, and she'd rejected shots under the basket, discouraging Marshall County from entering the paint.

Her final play before heading to the bench late in the third quarter was a steal and 40-foot pass to Ormerod for a runout layup. Kelly totaled 12 points, 10

rebounds, four assists, four steals and four blocks in just 18½ minutes.

She's quick, she's strong, she's got good hands, she can play both ends of the court," longtime Marshall County coach Howard Beth said. "She throws the outlet pass probably as well as any girl I've ever seen. She complements her teammates well. And she plays hard. I've seen a lot of big girls that don't play hard."

Kelly plays hard, but she's hardly consumed by the sport. Ask her what player she grew up emulating, and she smiles and says nobody. She doesn't watch hoops on television.

"I watch the reality shows," she said. "And the Dave Chappelle Show."

About this Greatest Player in Kentucky History stuff? That gets a laugh.

"It's so weird hearing that," she said. "I don't think seriously about that. It's my teammates that make me look good. I just kind of go with the flow, I guess."


Said Moir: "She doesn't get caught up in all that. Basketball is just one part of her life. She has a 3.8 GPA, she takes school seriously. Crystal is not all basketball. If she wasn't playing basketball, she'd be fine."

But this weekend is about basketball. Unless a surprisingly powerful force stops Kelly's flow, it likely will take her to another state title tonight. Then comes a Spring Break trip to Panama City, Fla. (with the rest of Greater Louisville). Then comes the Big Decision.

When she gets home, Kelly must pick a university: Louisville, Kentucky, Western Kentucky or Florida. Gators coach Carolyn Peck, UK coach Mickie DeMoss and Western coach Mary Taylor Cowles all were in the E.A. Diddle Arena lower seats last night. U of L assistant Greg Collins also was believed to be in the house.

All four would love to have a player with that much size and that many skills. And they'd be getting an accomplished tea-party hostess in the deal, too.

You can reach Pat Forde at (502) 582-4373 or pforde@courier-journal.com. Submit questions at courier-journal.com/forde.


**WNBA :20 SECOND TIME OUT
with WNBA Rookies**
Time Out With... Crystal Kelly

After being named to the All-Sun Belt team all four years, Crystal Kelly finished her career at Western Kentucky by being named the 2008 Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year. The 6-2, 21-year-old was taken by the Houston Comets in the third round of the 2008 draft, but she was cut shortly thereafter and signed with the Monarchs, with whom she has played a pivotal role in the team's recent success. Let's get to know Kelly a bit better in this version of "Time Out."

• Time Out Index



What is your full name?	"Crystal Cymone Kelly."
Do you have any nicknames?	"CK."
When and where were you born?	"September 15, 1986, in Louisville, Kentucky."
What high school did you attend?	"Sacred Heart Academy."
What college did you attend?	"Western Kentucky."
What was your major in school?	"Public Relations, and I minored in Sociology."
What do you parents do?	"My mom, Henrietta, is an insurance agent, and my dad, Clarence, is in airport management."
Do you have any brothers or sisters?	"Nope, I'm an only child."
What are your hobbies outside of basketball?	"Sleeping! :)"
How do you think people would describe you?	"They would probably say I am outgoing and silly."
What are your plans professionally when your playing career is over?	"I think I could see myself as a coach."
What is your favorite food?	"Mexican."
What is you favorite color?	"Red."
With what organizations were you involved when you were growing up?	"The Boys and Girls Club and also the YMCA."
Do you have a myspace page?	"I have a myspace page, of course."
Do you have any postgraduate academic plans?	"Yes, I would actually like to go back and get my masters."
What is your favorite movie?	"Anchorman."
What is your favorite book?	"Promises I Can Keep."
What is your favorite TV show?	"Law and Order, SVU."
Who is your favorite actor?	"Will Ferrell."
Are there any magazines that you like to read?	"Cosmo."

(Photos: David Sherman/Rocky Widner/NBAE/Getty Images)

Kelly looking like a keeper

Sacred Heart star was cut by Houston

By Michael Grant
mgrant@courier-journal.com
The Courier-Journal

Crystal Kelly found herself in an unusual position: not good enough to make a basketball team.

This was a first, and the rejection stung. It didn't take long, however, for Kelly to prove that she belonged in the WNBA.

After being cut by the Houston Comets in May, the Sacred Heart and Western Kentucky University graduate is a promising rookie for the Sacramento Monarchs.

Kelly is helping the Monarchs (17-14) make a playoff push as a key reserve. She is seventh among WNBA rookies in scoring (7.6

points per game) and fifth on the team. She had 10 points Sunday in a 78-71 victory over the Minnesota Lynx. Her season high of 18 points came against the Lynx on June 12.

It's quite a turnaround from when she was waived on the eve of the regular season.

"Yeah, it was devastating to be cut," Kelly said. "But I think it worked out in the long run. I'm in a really good place right now."

Kelly has always been a star. She won three straight high school state championships in a career that culminated in her being named Miss Basketball in 2004. She became Western's career scoring and rebounding leader and ranks 12th in NCAA Division I in career points (2,803). In April, the 6-foot-3 Kelly was a third-round draft choice by Houston.

See **KELLY**, C2, col. 5

in Sacramento

9/10/08

She knew it would be a challenge to hang on with the Comets, one of the WNBA's premier franchises since its inaugural 1997 season.

Still, it was a shock to the system Kelly found out about her release. Head coach and general manager Tom Thompson assured Kelly that she would be picked up by another team. It didn't ease the sting.

"I had to brace myself because as training camp goes you can kind of get an idea of what the coaches are thinking," Kelly said. "But you never know what way the team is leaning toward, really. When you hear words that, 'You're going to be let go,' it hurts. You have a sense of, 'I

falling out of the team.' Sacramento contacted her the day she was released. After missing the Monarchs' season opener, she joined the team on a three-day trip. Kelly worked her way into the rotation and has gotten better.

She averaged 9.7 points over the past few games, scoring in double digits several times. She tallied 12 points and five rebounds against Houston two weeks ago. It's thanks to starting forward Rebekkah Brunson's right leg have allowed Kelly to earn significant minutes. She has even started twice.

"I've had my rookie year so far," Kelly said. "I think it's been a really good experience. I've been playing a lot of minutes. The difference is the competition. Even in a single game you're playing against a bunch of All-Stars. You have to be playing your best every game."

Team manager Scholanda Robinson told SacramentoMonarchs.com that Kelly has played well all season.

"I think she's a great player, super smart, and she just plays really well for a rookie," Robinson said. "She's really composed, and she goes out there and works hard."

When the Monarchs' season ends, she'll return to Louisville for about 10 days before going to play in Barcelona, Spain, for seven months.

But plenty of basketball remains in the WNBA season. The Monarchs are close to clinching the fourth playoff spot in the Western Conference.

"I'm just trying to do any little thing I can to help us win," Kelly said. "I knew I could play in this league. For the first year, I think I'm doing all right."

Western Kentucky University

Athletic Media Relations



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Dec. 15, 2006

Women's Basketball / Contact: Chris Glowacki, Assistant Athletic Media Relations Director

LADY TOPPER ALL-TIME CENTENNIAL BASKETBALL TEAM ANNOUNCED

Bowling Green, Ky. — As a part of Western Kentucky University's 2006 Centennial Celebration, the Department of Athletics invited fans to vote on their favorites to select All-Time Hilltopper and Lady Topper Teams in football, men's basketball and women's basketball.

The ballots have been counted and 15 former Lady Topper standouts have been selected — by popular vote — for berths on the WKU All-Time Centennial Women's Basketball Team.

All 44 nominees on the ballot received votes and an additional dozen attracted attention, winning write-in votes. Included on the team are nine Topper All-Americans, thirteen 1,000-point scorers, eight WKU Female Athlete-of-the-Year winners and five former Kentucky High School Miss Basketball honorees. The Honorary Captain is leading vote-getter Clemette Haskins ('84-87).

Here's a rundown (in alphabetical order) of the former Lady Toppers — some of the greatest women's basketball athletes in school history along with some of the most popular women who wore the Red and White:

- Jamie Britt ('97-00) — All-Sun Belt; 142 games (42 starts), 943 points (7.9 ppg), 418 rebounds (3.5 rpg), 178 assists, 83 steals
- Brenda Chapman ('75-78) — 94+ games, 1,436 points (15.3 ppg), 81.3 FT% / note: complete stats not available
- Gwen Doyle ('94-95) — All-American, All-Sun Belt, WKU Athlete-of-the-Year; 62 games (60 starts), 908 points (14.6 ppg), 481 rebounds (7.8 rpg), 149 assists, 154 steals
- Tandreia Green ('87-90) — All-American, All-Sun Belt, SBC Tourney MVP, WKU Athlete-of-the-Year; 125 games (94 starts), 1,781 points (14.3 ppg), 875 rebounds (7.0 rpg), 215 blocks, 203 steals
- Clemette Haskins ('84-87) — All-American, All-Sun Belt, WKU Athlete-of-the-Year; 128 games (114 starts), 1,762 points (13.8 ppg), 484 rebounds (3.8 rpg), 731 assists, 235 steals
- Leslie Johnson ('97-98) — All-American, All-Sun Belt; 64 games (60 starts), 1,079 points (16.9 ppg), 472 rebounds (7.4 rpg), 57.6 FG%, 189 blocks
- Crystal Kelly ('05-to date) — All-American, All-Sun Belt; 72 games (72 starts), 1,443 points (20.0 ppg), 672 rebounds (9.8 rpg), 60.7 FG%, 67 blocks, 89 steals / note: stats through Dec. 9, 2006
- ShaRae Mansfield ('98-01) — All-American, All-Sun Belt, WKU Athlete-of-the-Year; 127 games (91 starts), 1,804 points (14.2 ppg), 1,000 rebounds (7.9 rpg), 53.6 FG%, 140 assists, 133 blocks, 130 steals
- Lillie Mason ('82-83, '85-86) — All-American, All-Sun Belt, SBC Tourney MVP; 125 games (121 starts), 2,262 points (18.1 ppg), 1,012 rebounds (8.1 rpg), 55.8 FG%, 118 assists, 243 blocks, 134 steals
- Laura Ogles ('84-87) — 134 games (23 starts), 759 points (5.7 ppg), 378 rebounds (2.8 rpg), 50.1 FG%, 80.8 FT%
- Kim Pehlke ('89-92) — All-Sun Belt, SBC Tourney MVP, WKU Athlete-of-the-Year; 127 games (97 starts), 1,487 points (11.7 ppg), 332 rebounds (2.7 rpg), 41.6 3-PT%, 374 assists, 153 steals
- Tiffany Porter-Talbert ('03-06) — All-American, All-Sun Belt, WKU Athlete-of-the-Year; 127 games (125 starts), 2,028 points (16.0 ppg), 995 rebounds (7.8 rpg), 378 assists, 257 steals
- Mary Taylor ('88-91) — SBC Tourney MVP, WKU Athlete-of-the-Year; 125 games (74 starts), 1,072 points (8.6 ppg), 600 rebounds (4.8 rpg), 125 assists, 140 steals
- Kami Thomas ('83-86) — All-American, All-Sun Belt, WKU Athlete-of-the-Year; 128 games (120 starts), 1,796 points (14.0 ppg), 510 rebounds (4.0 rpg), 70.7 FT%, 335 assists
- Renee Westmoreland ('90-93) — All-Sun Belt; 125 games (86 starts), 1,258 points (10.1 ppg), 366 rebounds (2.9 rpg), 40.9 3-PT%, 80.3 FT%, 477 assists, 203 steals

-WKU-

Office of Athletic Media Relations / Room 1140 / E.A. Diddle Arena
Western Kentucky University / 1605 Avenue of Champions / Bowling Green, Ky. 42101-6412
Telephone — (270) 745-4298 / FAX — (270) 745-3444 / e-mail — sports.information@wku.edu
Hilltopper Athletics on the World Wide Web — www.wkusports.com

ALUMNI NOTES

New York Liberty Sign Crystal Kelly

May 16, 2011 - Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) New York Liberty

New York Liberty NEW YORK, NY - May 16, 2011 - The New York Liberty has signed fourth year player Crystal Kelly, it was announced today by Head Coach and General Manager John Whisenant. As per team policy, terms of the contract were not disclosed.

"Crystal is a tough player that will provide us with additional rebounding strength," Whisenant said. "Having coached her in Sacramento, she knows the system we will be playing this season and can quickly step in and make a difference."

Kelly was most recently on the San Antonio Silver Stars who renounced their exclusive negotiating rights with her last week. The 6-2 forward was selected by the Houston Comets as the No. 31 overall pick in the 2008 WNBA Draft . The Comets waived Kelly in 2008 but she was quickly picked up by the Sacramento Monarchs . In her rookie year, Kelly registered 7.4 ppg while grabbing 3.3 rpg. She was later traded to the Detroit Shock for one season and then moved on to the San Antonio Silver Stars in 2010. Kelly currently owns a career 4.8 ppg and 2.1 rpg.

At Western Kentucky University, Kelly broke the WKU women's basketball program record for career rebounds, and placed in the top 25 career scorers with 2,600 points. Kelly was named to the all-Sun Belt Conference team during each of her four collegiate seasons, and was named the 2008 Sun Belt Player of the Year.

Liberty fans will be able to watch the team in action at the regular season home-opener against the Indiana Fever at Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey on Saturday, June 11 at 7pm. The team also has preseason games on Wednesday, May 25 against the Washington Mystics at the Prudential Center and on Friday, May 27 against the China National Team at the Times Union Center in Albany, New York. Individual game tickets are available for purchase at the Prudential Center Box Office, Madison Square Garden Box Office, on-line at NYLiberty.com, through the WNBA Ticketmaster charge-by-phone number 877-WNBA-TIX, all Ticketmaster outlets and at Ticketmaster.com.

New York Liberty home games will be played at Prudential Center for the 2011, 2012, and 2013 seasons while Madison Square Garden undergoes a comprehensive, top-to-bottom Transformation. Prudential Center is a convenient 15 minutes away from The Garden by train.



WKU ATHLETIC MEDIA RELATIONS

E.A. Diddle Arena, Room 1140

1605 Avenue of Champions

Bowling Green, Ky. 42101-6412

Telephone — 270-745-4298 • FAX — 270-745-3444 • www.wkusports.com

Todd Stewart, Associate AD • Brian Fremund, Director • Chris Glowacki, Assistant • Ann Handy, Administrative Assistant

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / July 22, 2008

Miscellaneous / Contact: Brian Fremund, Director of Athletic Media Relations

WKU BASKETBALL STARS EARN SCHOOL'S HIGHEST HONOR

Bowling Green, Ky. — Western Kentucky University announced Tuesday that All-America basketball players **Crystal Kelly** and **Courtney Lee** have been selected the John O. Oldham Student-Athletes of the Year.

It's the second year in a row that Kelly, who hails from Louisville, Ky., has claimed the award. The Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year, she also picked up All-America accolades from the coaches' association, Associated Press and *cbssportsline.com* after averaging 22.6 points and 10.5 rebounds per game in her final year on the Hill. In addition to leading the nation with a school-record .644 field-goal percentage, she ended the year ranked sixth nationally in scoring and eighth in rebounding.

Kelly, one of 17 finalists for the John R. Wooden Women's Player-of-the-Year Award, also earned first-team all-Sun Belt honors for the fourth straight year, and was named to the all-Sun Belt Tournament team after leading the Lady Toppers to their league-record ninth conference tournament title. She was a four-time winner of the league's Player-of-the-Week award as well.

She's the first WKU female student-athlete to win the honor in back to back years since **ShaRae Mansfield** — also a women's basketball player — achieved the feat in 2000 and '01, and just the third to earn that distinction since the award's inception in 1973.

Lee, an Indianapolis, Ind., native, was the 22nd overall selection in this summer's National Basketball Association Draft after also picking up All-America honors from the *Basketball Times* and Associated Press. He was voted the SBC Player of the Year, was a first-team all-league selection and made the all-tournament team as well after averaging 20.4 points and 4.9 rebounds per outing while helping the Hilltoppers to a 29-7 finish on the way to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament.

He also paced the squad with 65 steals and 69 three-point field goals, adding 75 assists and 28 blocked shots as well. Additionally, Lee shot a career-best 47.7 percent overall from the field, making 39.7 percent from three-point range, and sank 82.2 percent at the foul line to wrap up his final collegiate season ranked in the top 20 in the SBC in eight different statistical categories.

A three-time league Player of the Week, he ended the season in the top 100 in the country in scoring (28th), free-throw percentage (89th) and steals (92nd).

Kelly and Lee emerged from a field that included 11 total candidates — six male and five female — in voting conducted among the school's head coaches and athletic administrators.

Other women who turned in individual performances worthy of consideration for the school's top honor include volleyball All-American **Megan Argabright**; **Claire Donahue**, a swimmer who won two individual titles and was part of two victorious relay teams at the Sun Belt championships; **Janet Jesang**, who placed 47th at the NCAA cross country championships and was named the Outstanding Track Performer at the Sun Belt indoor championships; and, Sun Belt women's soccer Player of the Year and third-team all-region selection **Morgan Thomas**.

The men's ballot included **Wes Brown**, an NCAA postgraduate scholarship award winner who also was named first-team *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-District IV; All-American designated hitter **Chad Cregar**, who was also chosen the Sun Belt Conference Newcomer of the Year and first-team all-league; placekicker **Chris James**, who ended his career as the football program's all-time leader in both total scoring and field goals; **Brent Long**, a participant in the NCAA men's golf championships who was selected both all-region and all-conference; and **Gavin Smellie**, a member of WKU's All-America 4x400-meter relay team that finished eighth at the NCAA indoor championships who was also named the Outstanding Track Performer at the Sun Belt's outdoor meet.

— WKU —

WKU BRIEFS

Kelly, Lee take high honors

By the Daily News

Western Kentucky announced Tuesday that All-America basketball players Crystal Kelly and Courtney Lee have been selected the John O. Oldham Student-Athletes of the Year.

It's the second year in a row that Kelly has claimed the award. The Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year, she also picked up All-America accolades from the coaches association, The Associated Press and cbssportsline.com after averaging 22.6 points and 10.5 rebounds a game in her final year on the Hill. In addition to leading the nation with a school-record .644 field-goal percentage, she ended the year ranked sixth nationally in scoring and eighth in rebounding.

Kelly, one of 17 finalists for the John R. Wooden Women's Player-of-the-Year Award, also earned first-team all-Sun Belt honors for the fourth straight year, and was named to the all-Sun Belt Tournament team after

leading the Lady Toppers to their league-record ninth conference tournament title. She was a four-time winner of the league's Player-of-the-Week award as well.

She's the first WKU female student-athlete to win the honor in back-to-back years since ShaRae Mansfield — also a women's basketball player — achieved the feat in 2000 and '01, and just the third to earn that distinction since the award's inception in 1973.

Lee was the 22nd overall selection in this summer's National Basketball Association draft after also picking up All-America honors from the Basketball Times and The Associated Press. He was voted the SBC Player of the Year, was a first-team all-league selection and made the all-tournament team as well after averaging 20.4 points and 4.9 rebounds an outing while helping the Hilltoppers to a 29-7 finish on the way to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament.



7/23/08



CANDACE PARKER, SYLVIA FOWLES AND CANDICE WIGGINS SELECTED AS TOP THREE PICKS IN THE 2008 WNBA DRAFT PRESENTED BY ADIDAS

PALM HARBOR, Fla. (April 9, 2008) – Candace Parker, Sylvia Fowles and Candice Wiggins were selected today as the top three overall picks in the 2008 WNBA Draft presented by adidas, held today at Innisbrook Resort and Golf Club in Palm Harbor, Fla.

The Los Angeles Sparks picked Parker with the top overall selection while the Chicago Sky chose Fowles with the second pick and the Minnesota Lynx took Candice Wiggins with the third pick. Alexis Hornbuckle, also from Tennessee, and Matee Ajavon of Rutgers were selected by the Detroit Shock and Houston Comets, respectively, to round out the top five picks.

Parker joins the WNBA fresh after winning back-to-back NCAA Championships and the 2008 Naismith Trophy. After renouncing her fifth year of intercollegiate eligibility and declaring for the WNBA Draft, Parker became the second Lady Vol to be selected as the top pick, joining Chamique Holdsclaw who was selected by the Washington Mystics in 1999.

“Lisa Leslie has been one of my idols ever since I was younger – obviously, watching the USA teams growing up and watching her win championships with Los Angeles,” said Parker. “I’ve never had the opportunity to play alongside her yet, but, I’m really looking forward to it. Obviously, she’s a great role model and I’m just looking to take in whatever she tells me.”

“I think this class is incredible. I grew up playing with them, with Candace, Sylvia and Alexis and everybody. I think it’s going to be fun,” said Wiggins. “It’s just so crazy for all of us because we are so happy to start this.”

The Atlanta Dream - the WNBA’s newest team - selected Tamera Young of James Madison with their first round pick. The Dream finished their first-ever draft by selecting Morenike Atrunase of Texas A&M in the second round (24th overall) and Danielle Hood of Hartford in the third round (32nd overall).

The starting five players from the Lady Vols’ championship team capped their week in Tampa by being selected in today’s draft. Parker and Hornbuckle were joined by teammates Shannon Bobbitt (Los Angeles Sparks -15th overall, Nicky Anosike (Minnesota Lynx - 16th overall) and Alberta Augustine (New York Liberty - 35th overall). The five players composed Tennessee’s starting five from last night’s NCAA Championship game.

Other collegiate teammates selected in the first round were Ajavon and Essence Carson from Rutgers, Crystal Langhorne and Laura Harper from Maryland, and Erlana Larkins and LaToya Pringle from North Carolina.

The complete draft order follows.

(more)

About the WNBA

Comprised of 14 teams and entering its 12th season, the WNBA is the longest-running and most successful women's professional team sports league in America. The 2008 season tips off May 17 with ESPN2 again providing appointment viewing in the form of its "WNBA Tuesdays" telecasts. Combined coverage on ABC and ESPN2 will include 21 national telecasts, while NBA TV, the league's 24-hour television network, will offer 70 regular-season contests.

The WNBA is deeply committed to WNBA CARES programs that improve the quality of life for all people, with a special emphasis on promoting health and fitness, breast health awareness, reading and youth basketball programs. For more information on the WNBA, log on to www.wnba.com.

###

Contact: Kären Kase, (704) 756-9223, kkase@nba.com
 Peter Axtman, (212) 407-8542, paxtman@nba.com

**2008 WNBA DRAFT RESULTS
FIRST ROUND**

1)	Los Angeles Sparks	Candace Parker
2)	Chicago Sky	Sylvia Fowles
3)	Minnesota Lynx	Candice Wiggins
4)	Detroit Shock (from Atlanta via Seattle)	Alexis Hornbuckle
5)	Houston Comets	Matee Ajavon
6)	Washington Mystics	Crystal Langhorne
7)	New York Liberty	Essence Carson
8)	Atlanta Dream	Tamera Young
9)	Connecticut Sun	Amber Holt
10)	Sacramento Monarchs	Laura Harper
11)	Detroit Shock (from San Antonio)	Tasha Humphrey
12)	Connecticut Sun (from Indiana)	Ketia Swanier
13)	Phoenix Mercury	LaToya Pringle
14)	New York Liberty (from Detroit)	Erlana Larkins

SECOND ROUND

15)	Los Angeles Sparks	Shannon Bobbitt
16)	Minnesota Lynx	Nicky Anosike
17)	Houston Comets	Erica White
18)	Detroit Shock (from Atlanta)	Olayinka Sanni
19)	Chicago Sky	Quianna Chaney
20)	Washington Mystics	Lindsey Pluimer
21)	San Antonio Silver Stars (from New York)	Chioma Nnamaka
22)	Seattle Storm	Allie Quigley
23)	Connecticut Sun	Jolene Anderson
24)	Atlanta Dream (from Indiana)	Morenike Atunrase
25)	Phoenix Mercury (from San Antonio)	Leilani Mitchell
26)	Indiana Fever	Khadijah Whittington
27)	New York Liberty (from Phoenix)	Wanisha Smith
28)	Detroit Shock	Natasha Lacy

THIRD ROUND

29)	Los Angeles Sparks	Sharnae' Zoll
30)	Minnesota Lynx	Charde Houston
31)	Houston Comets	Crystal Kelly
32)	Atlanta Dream	Danielle Hood
33)	Chicago Sky	Angela Tisdale
34)	Washington Mystics	Krystal Vaughn
35)	New York Liberty	Alberta Auguste
36)	Seattle Storm	Kimberly Beck
37)	Connecticut Sun	Lauren Ervin
38)	Sacramento Monarchs	A'Quonesia Franklin
39)	San Antonio Silver Stars	Alex Anderson
40)	Sacramento Monarchs (from Indiana)	Izabela Piekarska
41)	Phoenix Mercury	Marscilla Packer
42)	Detroit Shock	Valeriya Berezhyńska
43)^	Sacramento Monarchs	Charel Alien

^ Sacramento was granted an additional third round pick at the end of the third round



THE LOS ANGELES ATHLETIC CLUB

John R. Wooden Award

January 31, 2008

Crystal Kelly
c/o Women's Basketball Office
Western Kentucky
Room 1140, E.A. Diddle Arena,
1605 Avenue of Champions
Bowling Green, KY 42101-6412

Dear Crystal:

The 2007-2008 collegiate basketball season has been one of the most exciting in recent memory. Your contributions to the game as a team player and individual performer have met with much acclaim. In that, you have been recognized by the Wooden Award committee at the midseason mark as one of the Top 20 players in contention for college basketball's most coveted trophy, the John R. Wooden Award.

In early March the Wooden Award will release the names of the players selected by our National Advisory Board to the 2008 National Ballot. Players selected to the ballot must meet the Award's candidate criteria and qualify academically as certified by their university (a cumulative GPA of 2.00 or higher at their current institution and making normal progress toward graduation). The Wooden Award ballot is sent to over 300 sports media officials and former winners for their selection of the Wooden Award Player of the Year and All-American Team. The Wooden Award is the only Player of the Year and All-American Team honor that allows voters to take into account a player's entire season, including post-season play through the elite eight weekend.

The 2008 Wooden Award All-American Team Presentation Gala will take place on Friday, April 11th in downtown Los Angeles. The following day, on Saturday, April 12th, the 2008 Player of the Year announcement and trophy presentation will be broadcast live during a televised event from the Los Angeles Athletic Club.

This year the Wooden Award race is wide open. Your selection to the Wooden Award Midseason Top 20 candidate list is a fine accomplishment. Christin Maxwell and I extend to you our best wishes and heartfelt congratulations!

Sincerely,

Richard "Duke" Llewellyn
Chairman

Christin G. Maxwell
Manager

cc: Mary Taylor Cowles, Head Basketball Coach
Chris Glowacki, Sports Information Director





WKU ATHLETIC MEDIA RELATIONS

**E.A. Diddle Arena, Room 1140
1605 Avenue of Champions
Bowling Green, Ky. 42101-6412
Telephone — 270-745-4298 • FAX — 270-745-3444 • www.wkusports.com**

Brian Fremund, Director • Chris Glowacki, Assistant • Ann Handy, Administrative Assistant

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Feb. 19, 2008

Women's Basketball / Contact: Chris Glowacki, Assistant Athletic Media Relations Director

WKU TO RETIRE CRYSTAL KELLY'S JERSEY ON SATURDAY

Bowling Green, Ky. — Following the Western Kentucky University women's basketball team's final home game of the season Saturday against Louisiana-Monroe, WKU will hold a ceremony to honor senior **Crystal Kelly** by retiring a jersey bearing her number 42.

Kelly will become the first WKU athlete to ever have her jersey retired while still being an active player. She will become the third Lady Topper to have a jersey hanging in her honor above the E.A. Diddle Arena floor. **Clemette Haskins** received the honor in 2007, and **Lillie Mason** was the first to be honored in 2000.

Kelly is the all-time leading scorer in the history of WKU basketball — men or women — as she has amassed 2,629 points through the first 122 games of her career. Over the span of two games in mid December, she became the all-time leading scorer in both Lady Topper and Sun Belt Conference history. Kelly broke Mason's WKU record of 2,226 points in a game against North Carolina, then two days later eclipsed the conference record of 2,285 points held by South Alabama's Adrian Vickers.

Just last week, Kelly — who is the nation's active career scoring leader — etched her name into the NCAA Record Books as she became one of the top 25 scorers in Division I history. She currently sits 23rd on the NCAA list, and is just 13 points away from moving into the top 20.

In addition to her scoring accolades, Kelly has also set new Lady Topper career records for field goals (895), free throws made (828), free throws attempted (1071) and rebounds (1,167).

Accomplishments have been numerous throughout Kelly's three-plus seasons on the Hill. She has been a first-team all-Sun Belt Conference selection in each of her first three seasons, and was selected as the league's Freshman of the Year in 2005. Following her junior season, she earned both WBCA/Kodak and Associated Press All-America honors, and has been a candidate for three of the most prestigious awards in the country — the WBCA Wade Trophy, the Naismith Award and the John R. Wooden Award — each of the past two seasons.

The 6-foot-3 forward was named the 2007 WKU Female Student-Athlete of the Year, and was one of 15 players named to the WKU all-time women's basketball team as part of the University's centennial celebration in 2006. Kelly is one of 12 former Kentucky Miss Basketballs to go on to play for the Lady Toppers after winning the award in 2004 at Sacred Heart Academy in Louisville.

Kelly is poised to lead the Lady Toppers to a fourth straight 20-win season, and has helped put WKU in a position to win the Sun Belt Conference East Division championship for the third time in her four seasons. In fact, with Kelly in uniform the Lady Toppers have posted a record of 89-33 (73.0%).

Her jersey will be the ninth retired to hang in Diddle Arena in honor of former WKU basketball greats, joining Mason and Haskins from the women's game. Additional jerseys for coach **E.A. Diddle**, **Clem Haskins**, **Tom Marshall**, **Jim McDaniels**, **John Oldham** and **Carlisle Towery** honor some of the best in WKU men's basketball history.

Saturday's matchup with Louisiana-Monroe will be the first game of a split doubleheader at Diddle Arena to close out the home portion of the regular season for both the Lady Toppers and Hilltoppers. Kelly — along with fellow seniors **Charlotte Marshall** and **Nadege Muna** — will be honored prior to the Lady Toppers' 3 p.m. (CST) tipoff with the Warhawks

— WKU —



Val Ackerman, President

Jim Tooley, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 24, 2007

TO: 2007 USA Basketball Women's U21 World Championship & Pan American Games Team Trials Participants

FROM: Jenny Maag
Manager, Communications

SUBJECT: 2007 USA Basketball Women's U21 World Championship & Pan American Games Team Trials photo

On behalf of everyone here at USA Basketball, congratulations once again on being selected to participate in the 2007 USA Basketball Women's U21 World Championship & Pan American Games Team Trials. Enclosed is a copy of the trials photo that was taken in Colorado Springs, Colo. We hope you had an enjoyable experience and that this photo will serve as a valuable memento. Good luck in the upcoming season, and please feel free to call if we can assist you in any way.

cc: College Coaches
Sports Information Directors

MEMBER



ACTIVE MEMBERS

AAU ★ CBA ★ NABC ★ NAIA ★ NBA ★ NBDL ★ NCAA ★ NFHS ★ NJCAA ★ NPACLA ★ NWBA ★ U.S. ARMED FORCES ★ USADSF ★ WBCA ★ WNBA

Western Kentucky University

Athletic Media Relations



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / May 14, 2007

Women's Basketball / Contact: Chris Glowacki, Assistant Athletic Media Relations Director

WKU'S CRYSTAL KELLY TO ATTEND USA BASKETBALL NATIONAL TEAM TRIALS

Bowling Green, Ky. — Western Kentucky University forward **Crystal Kelly** has been selected as one of 46 players to participate in the 2007 USA Basketball Women's National Team Trials, to be held May 17-20 at the U.S. Olympic Training Center (USOTC) in Colorado Springs, Colo. The four-day trials will be used to narrow down the finalists for the 2007 USA U21 World Championships team and the 2007 USA Pan American Games team.

Kelly is the first Lady Topper to try out for a USA Basketball team since **Natalie Powers** took part in the 2001 trials.

Kelly, who was named an Associated Press and a WBCA/Kodak honorable mention All-American in 2007, finished second in the nation in scoring at 24.1 points per game this past season, and posted the country's second-best field-goal percentage (.611). The 6-foot-3 junior became the fastest player in school history to reach 2,000 career points, and broke the WKU single-season scoring mark with 770 point last season. A first-team all-Sun Belt Conference selection for the third straight year, Kelly nearly averaged a double-double as she pulled down 9.4 rebounds per contest. She also broke the WKU single-season free throws record as she went 257-for-332 at the stripe, while also finishing with 41 assists, 21 blocked shots and 40 steals.

The 2007 U.S. U21 World Championships team will be coached by Duke University head coach **Joanne McCallie**, as the United States will look it world title in this age group at the 2007 FIBA U21 World Championships, held June 29-July 8 in Moscow, Russia. The Pan American Games women's basketball tournament takes place July 20-24 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and will feature eight national teams from the FIBA Americas. Temple University head coach and former Olympic gold medalist **Dawn Staley** will lead that squad.

Should Kelly be selected to one of the two rosters, she will be the second Lady Topper to represent her country in international competition. **Danielle McCulley** (1997-98) was a member of the 1999 US. Pan American Games squad which claimed the silver medal in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

— WKU —

Note: The complete list of USA Basketball trial invitees, as well as a complete schedule of events can be found at www.usabasketball.com.

Office of Athletic Media Relations / Room 1140 / E.A. Diddle Arena
Western Kentucky University / 1605 Avenue of Champions / Bowling Green, Ky. 42101-6412
Telephone — (270) 745-4298 / FAX — (270) 745-3444 / e-mail — sports.information@wku.edu
Hilltopper Athletics on the World Wide Web — www.wkusports.com



News Release

5465 Mark Dabling Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO 80918-3842
<http://www.usabasketball.com>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / May 14, 2007

For further information contact Craig Miller, Caroline Williams or Jenny Maag at USA Basketball (719) 590-4800.

*This release is also available on USA Basketball's World Wide Web homepage - <http://www.usabasketball.com>.

Eight Returning 2006 USA Basketball Gold Medalists Among 47 Elite Athletes Under Consideration For 2007 USA Women's U21 And Pan Am Games Teams

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (May 14, 2007) – Highlighted by eight athletes who won a gold medal at the 2006 FIBA Americas U20 Championship and qualified the U.S. for the 2007 FIBA U21 World Championship, 47 of the nation's elite athletes have accepted invitations to the 2007 USA Basketball Women's National Team Trials, slated to be held May 17-20 at the U.S. Olympic Training Center (USOTC) in Colorado Springs, Colo. The invitations were issued by the USA Basketball Women's Collegiate Committee, which is chaired by Sue Donohue, the NCAA's vice president of Division I women's basketball. The Committee is expected to announce finalists for the 2007 USA U21 World Championship Team and the 2007 USA Pan American Games Team on May 20.

The eight returning players from last summer's USA Basketball U20 National Team that qualified the USA for the 2007 U21 Worlds include: **Jolene Anderson** (Wisconsin / Port Wing, Wis.); **DeWanna Bonner** (Auburn / Fairfield, Ala.); **Essence Carson** (Rutgers / Paterson, N.J.); **Erlana Larkins** (North Carolina / Riviera Beach, Fla.); **Marscilla Packer** (Ohio State / Pickerington, Ohio); **Courtney Paris** (Oklahoma / Piedmont, Calif.); **Kia Vaughn** (Rutgers / Bronx, N.Y.) and **Lindsay Wisdom-Hylton** (Purdue / Naperville, Ill.).

Also vying to represent the United States this summer at either the FIBA U21 World Championship or Pan American Games are: **Jessica Adair** (George Washington / Washington, D.C.); **Demetress Adams** (South Carolina / Bishopville, S.C.); **Matee Ajavon** (Rutgers / Newark, N.J.); **Charel Allen** (Notre Dame / Monessen, Pa.); **Alex Anderson** (Chattanooga / Stone Mountain, Ga.); **Nicky Anosike** (Tennessee / Staten Island, N.Y.); **Marissa Coleman** (Maryland / Cheltenham, Md.); **Tanae Davis-Cain** (Florida State / Dawson, Ga.); **Krystal Ellis** (Marquette / Racine, Wis.); **Emily Fox** (Minnesota / Highlands Ranch, Colo.); **Mercedes Fox-Griffin** (Oregon State / La Jolla, Calif.); **A'Quonesia Franklin** (Texas A&M / Tyler, Texas); **Megan Frazee** (Liberty / Xenia, Ohio); **Laura Harper** (Maryland / Elkins Park, Pa.); **Amber Holt** (Middle Tennessee / Duluth, Ga.); **Alexis Hornbuckle** (Tennessee / Charleston, W.Va.); **Charde Houston** (Connecticut / San Diego, Calif.); **Ashley Houts** (Georgia / Trenton, Ga.); **Tasha Humphrey** (Georgia / Gainesville, Ga.); **Briann January** (Arizona State / Spokane, Wash.); **T.J. Jordan** (Old Dominion / Portsmouth, Va.); **Crystal Kelly** (Western Kentucky / Louisville, Ky.); **Crystal Langhorne** (Maryland / Willingboro, N.J.); **Rashanda McCants** (North Carolina / Asheville, N.C.); **Angel McCoughtry** (Louisville / Baltimore, Md.); **Nicole Michael** (Syracuse / Queens, N.Y.); **Britany Miller** (Florida State / Tallapoosa, Ga.); **Ashley Paris** (Oklahoma / Piedmont, Calif.); **Allie Quigley** (DePaul / Joliet, Ill.); **Angel Robinson** (Georgia / Marietta, Ga.); **Dominic Seals** (South Plains / Dallas, Texas); **Takia Starks** (Texas A&M / Houston, Texas); **Mel Thomas** (Connecticut / Cincinnati, Ohio); **Kirsten Thompson** (Arizona State / Monroe, Wash.); **Kristi Toliver** (Maryland / Harrisonburg, Va.); **Ashley Walker** (California / Modesto, Calif.); **Abby Waner** (Duke / Highlands Ranch, Colo.); **Candice Wiggins** (Stanford / San Diego, Calif.); and **Earnesia Williams** (Texas / Sapulpa, Okla.).

Courtney Paris, a member of the 2007-08 USA Basketball Women's Senior National Team, as well as January and

Thompson will not attend Trials and their waivers are under consideration by the Committee.

Franklin, Holt, Hornbuckle, Humphrey and Thomas, who are all over 21, are eligible only for the USA Pan American Games Team.

The USA will look to defend its world title in this age group, open to athletes 21-years-old or younger (born on or after Jan. 1, 1986), at the 2007 FIBA U21 World Championship, held this year June 29-Aug. 8 in Moscow, Russia. Duke University (N.C.) head coach **Joanne McCallie** returns as the USA's head coach after piloting the 2006 USA U20 National Team to a gold medal at the 2006 FIBA Americas U20 Championship. She will be assisted by collegiate head coaches **Sam Dixon** of Furman University (S.C.), an assistant to McCallie last summer, and Arizona State University's **Charli Turner Thorne**. The USA U21 finalists, named following the USA Trials will reconvene in Colorado Springs June 12 to begin training for the tournament, and the eventual 12-member team will be named prior to the squad departing for Europe on June 16. The United States was placed in Group B in the 12-nation tournament along with Australia, Brazil, Hungary, Japan and Spain. Group A includes Belgium, Canada, China, Mali, France and Russia.

The Pan American Games women's basketball tournament will be held July 20-24 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and will feature eight national teams from FIBA Americas. Coaching the USA squad will be Temple University head coach **Dawn Staley**, a 2007-08 USA Basketball Women's Senior National Team assistant coach. Assisting Staley will be collegiate head coaches **Kathy Delaney-Smith** of Harvard University (Mass.) and **Bill Gibbons** of College of the Holy Cross (Mass.). The USA Pan Ams finalists named following the USA Trials will reconvene on July 6 in Washington, D.C., and the eventual 12-member squad will be named prior to the team departing for Brazil on July 16.

Jacques Curtis of Shaw University (N.C.), **Donnita Drain** of Langston University (Okla.) and **Narleski Wyrick** of Southwestern Christian College (Texas) will serve as court coaches for the 2007 Women's National and Junior National Teams Trials.

Trials will feature an opening session on May 17 beginning at 6:30 p.m. (all times MDT), followed by two-a-days May 18-19 with the morning session tipping-off at 10:00 a.m. and the evening session at 5:30 p.m. USA Basketball is expected to announce finalists for each team following the morning session on May 20. The 2007 USA U19 National Team Trials will also take place May 17-20 at the USOTC, however, the U19 sessions will take place at different times during the weekend.

In all 24 of the 46 under consideration for a spot on one of the teams have been a member of a past USA Basketball squad. Eight athletes return from the 2006 USA U20 National Team that captured the gold medal in Mexico City, Mexico, including Jolene Anderson, Bonner, Carson, Larkins, Packer, Courtney Paris, Vaughn and Wisdom-Hylton. In 2005 Jolene Anderson, Anosike, Carson, Coleman, Langhorne, Larkins, Courtney Paris, Waner and Wiggins captured the gold medal at the FIBA U19 World Championship. Prior to the U19 Worlds, that group, along with USA U19 National Team finalist Williams, won the 2005 International Sports Invitational gold medal. In 2004 Carson, Coleman, Harper, Houston, Larkins, Courtney Paris, Robins, Waner and Wiggins started their age group off on the right foot by sweeping the competition at the 2004 FIBA Americas U18 Championship to collect the gold medal.

Getting their start in a USA Basketball uniform at the 2004 USA Youth Development Festival were Coleman, McCants, Ashley Paris, Courtney Paris, Robinson, Thompson, Vaughn and Waner; while Ajavon, Anosike, Carson, Harper, Hornbuckle, Houston, Humphrey, Langhorne, Packer, Thomas, Wiggins and Wisdom-Hylton all competed in the 2003 USA Youth Development Festival.

No fewer than 16 athletes earned 2007 All-America honors, including the lone underclassman on the 2007 Associated Press (A.P.) All-America first team and the A.P. National Player of the Year Courtney Paris. Langhorne, McCoughtry and Wiggins were named 2007 A.P. All-America second team, while Humphrey and Larkins were on the A.P. All-America third team. McCoughtry, Courtney Paris and Wiggins all three were Wade Trophy finalists and were joined on the Kodak/WBCA All-America squad by Langhorne. Earning 2007 Kodak/WBCA All-America honorable mention were Allen, Jolene Anderson, Carson, Humphrey, Kelly, Larkins, Vaughn and Wisdom-Hylton; while Ajavon, Carson, Coleman, Ellis, Franklin, Hornbuckle, Houston, Kelly, Quigley, Walker, Waner and Wisdom-Hylton were 2007 A.P. All-America honorable mentions. Seals, the 2007 State Farm/WBCA Junior College/Community College Player of the Year and a member of the 2007 Kodak/WBCA

JC/CC All-America Team, also earned 2007 All-America second team honors from the NJCAA.

Eighteen athletes shone during tournament time. Ajavon, Anosike and Vaughn were named 2007 All-Final Four; Ajavon was MVP of the Greensboro Regional; Larkins was MVP of the Dallas Regional; and Carson, Courtney Paris, Vaughn and Wisdom-Hylton earned 2007 NCAA All-Region honors. During conference tournaments, Ajavon (Big East Conference), Alex Anderson (Southern Conference), Jordan (Colonial Athletic Association), Courtney Paris (Big 12 Conference) and Wiggins (Pacific-10 Conference) earned conference tournament MVP awards. Joining them on conference all-tournament teams across the nation were: Carson (Big East), Coleman (Atlantic Coast Conference), Ellis (Big East), Frazee (Big South Conference), Holt (Sun Belt Conference), Hornbuckle (Southeastern Conference), Houston (Big East), Langhorne (ACC), Larkins (ACC), Vaughn (Big East), Waner (ACC) and Wisdom-Hylton (Big Ten Conference).

The 46 athletes under consideration for the two USA squads represent 32 schools from 11 NCAA Division I conferences and one junior college. Maryland, Georgia and Rutgers lead the universities with three representatives each. The Big East tops the list of conferences with 10 representatives, while the ACC and SEC are represented by eight and seven athletes, respectively.

In all, 35 athletes were honored by their respective conference for their play throughout the 2006-07 season, highlighted by conference Player of the Year honorees Alex Anderson (SoCon), McCoughtry (Big East) and Courtney Paris (Big 12); Holt (Sunbelt) and Houts (SEC) were named Freshman/Newcomer of the Year in their leagues; while Carson (Big East) and Courtney Paris (Big 12) collected conference Defensive Player of the Year accolades.

FIBA U21 World Championship

Held just once four years ago (2003) when it was known as the FIBA World Championship For Young Women, the USA captured the 2003 gold medal with a 7-1 record in Sibenik, Croatia. In the gold medal contest the U.S. avenged a 73-60 preliminary round loss to Brazil with a dominating 71-55 rout as tournament MVP Seimone Augustus paced the U.S. to the gold with 18 points. Augustus was joined on the five-member 2003 All-FIBA World Championship For Young Women Team by the USA's Alana Beard and Christi Thomas. FIBA changed the names of its age-based World Championships in 2005 to reflect the age athletes must be to be eligible for the event.

Pan American Games

The Pan American Games, held every four years in the year prior to the Olympics and organized by the Pan American Sports Organization (PASO), is a multi-sport competition open to men and women representing countries from North, South and Central America and the Caribbean.

This summer the Pan American Games will be held July 13-30, with the women's basketball competition slated for July 20-24, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Started in 1951 for men and 1955 for women, the Pan American Games are held every four years in the year preceding the Olympics. Only countries from FIBA Americas are eligible to compete. The USA women have won six of 12 gold medals and rolled up a 67-12 record. Competing against national teams from the Americas, the 2003 USA Pan Ams squad featured 12 collegians who banded together to come away with the silver medal.

USA Basketball Women's Collegiate Committee

In addition to Donohoe, members of the USA Basketball Women's Collegiate Committee include: athlete representatives Beth Cunningham (Virginia Commonwealth University), a member of the 1999 USA Pan American Games Team, and 1996 Olympic gold medalist Carla McGhee (WNBA Director of Player Personnel); from the NAIA is Martha Gore-Algeron (University of Mobile); NCAA appointees include Sherri Coale (University of Oklahoma), Jim Foster (Ohio State University), Trina Patterson (University at Albany) and Tara VanDerveer (Stanford University); Mary "Roonie" Scovel (Gulf Coast Community College) represents the NJCAA; and Wendy Larry (Old Dominion University) was appointed to the Committee by the WBCA.

2007 USA Basketball Women's National Team Trials Schedule

Thursday, May 17

6:30-8:15 p.m. Session I

Friday, May 18

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Session II

5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Session III

Saturday, May 19

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Session IV

5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Session V

Sunday, May 20

8:30 - 10:00 a.m. Session VI

TBD Announcement of USA team finalists

NOTE: All USA Trials sessions will be held at the U.S. Olympic Training Center's Sports Center II and are open to credentialed media only. All times listed are MDT.

***** MEDIA ADVISORY *****

Athletes and coaches will be available for interviews following each session. If you are unable to attend trials, but would like to schedule an interview, please contact Craig Miller, Caroline Williams or Jenny Maag in the USA Basketball Communications Department at 719-590-4800 or Williams at 719-330-3310.

2007 USA Women's U21 National Team & Pan American Games Team Trials Roster

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POS</u>	<u>HGT</u>	<u>WGT</u>	<u>DOB</u>	<u>YOG</u>	<u>SCHOOOL</u>	<u>HOMETOWN</u>
Jessica Adair	C/F	6-4	220	12/19/86	2009	George Washington	Washington, DC
Demetress Adams	C	6-3	175	03/10/87	2009	South Carolina	Bishopville, SC
Matee Ajavon	G	5-8	150	05/07/86	2008	Rutgers	Newark, NJ
Charel Allen	G	5-11	134	07/23/86	2008	Notre Dame	Monessen, PA
Alex Anderson	G/F	6-1			2008	Chattanooga	Stone Mountain, GA
Jolene Anderson	G	5-8	165	07/22/86	2008	Wisconsin	Port Wing, WI
Nicky Anosike	F/C	6-4	190	02/27/86	2008	Tennessee	Staten Island, NY
DeWanna Bonner	G	6-4	136	08/21/87	2009	Auburn	Fairfield, AL
Essence Carson	G	6-0	155	07/28/86	2008	Rutgers	Paterson, NJ
Marissa Coleman	G/F	6-1	185	01/04/87	2009	Maryland	Cheltenham, MD
Tanae Davis-Cain	G	5-10	157	06/07/87	2009	Florida State	Dawson, GA
Krystal Ellis	G	5-9	150	06/06/87	2009	Marquette	Racine, WI
Emily Fox	G	5-9	153	04/23/87	2009	Minnesota	Highlands Ranch, CO
Mercedes Fox-Griffin	G	5-5	140	02/07/87	2009	Oregon State	La Jolla, CA
*A'Quonesia Franklin	G	5-3	153	09/29/85	2008	Texas A&M	Tyler, TX
Megan Frazee	G/F	6-3	180	03/29/87	2009	Liberty	Xenia, OH
Laura Harper	F/C	6-4	180	04/11/86	2008	Maryland	Elkins Park, PA
*Amber Holt	F	6-0	168	06/07/85	2008	Middle Tennessee	Duluth, GA
*Alexis Hornbuckle	G	5-11		10/16/85	2008	Tennessee	Charleston, WV
Charde Houston	F	6-0	187	04/10/86	2008	Connecticut	San Diego, CA
Ashley Houts	G	5-6	144	12/31/87	2010	Georgia	Trenton, GA
*Tasha Humphrey	F	6-3		12/29/85	2008	Georgia	Gainesville, GA
#Briann January	G	5-8		01/11/87	2009	Arizona State	Spokane, WA
T.J. Jordan	G	5-7	145	03/16/86	2008	Old Dominion	Portsmouth, VA
Crystal Kelly	F	6-2	194	09/15/86	2008	Western Kentucky	Louisville, KY
Crystal Langhorne	C/F	6-2	194	10/27/86	2008	Maryland	Willingboro, NJ
Erlana Larkins	F/C	6-2	205	04/02/86	2008	North Carolina	Riviera Beach, FL
Rashanda McCants	F	6-1	150	11/17/86	2009	North Carolina	Asheville, NC
Angel McCoughtry	F	6-1	160	09/10/86	2009	Louisville	Baltimore, MD
Nicole Michael	G/F	6-2	160	06/26/87	2010	Syracuse	Queens, NY
Britany Miller	C	6-4	225	08/10/87	2009	Florida State	Tallapoosa, GA
Marscilla Packer	G	5-9	165	06/01/86	2008	Ohio State	Pickerington, OH
Ashley Paris	F	6-2	185	09/21/87	2009	Oklahoma	Piedmont, CA
#Courtney Paris	C	6-3	250	09/21/87	2009	Oklahoma	Piedmont, CA
Allie Quigley	G	5-11	145	06/20/86	2009	DePaul	Joliet, IL
Angel Robinson	F	6-5	188	04/20/87	2010	Georgia	Marietta, GA
Dominic Seals	F	6-2	155	04/17/87	2009	South Plains	Dallas, TX
Takia Starks	G	5-8		01/16/87	2009	Texas A&M	Houston, TX
*Mel Thomas	G	5-9	160	08/26/85	2008	Connecticut	Cincinnati, OH
#Kirsten Thompson	C	6-6	109	03/18/87	2009	Arizona State	Monroe, WA
Kristi Toliver	G	5-7	125	01/02/87	2009	Maryland	Harrisonburg, VA
Kia Vaughn	C	6-4	198	01/24/87	2009	Rutgers	Bronx, NY
Ashley Walker	F	6-0	185	02/24/87	2009	California	Modesto, CA
Abby Waner	G	5-11	155	10/31/86	2009	Duke	Highlands Ranch, CO
Candice Wiggins	G	5-11	150	02/14/87	2008	Stanford	San Diego, CA
Earnesia Williams	F	6-0	170	04/26/87	2010	Texas	Sapulpa, OK
Lindsay Wisdom-Hylton	F	6-2	190	05/26/86	2008	Purdue	Naperville, IL

* Eligible for the USA Pan American Games Team only.

Will not attend trials, waiver considered by the USA Basketball Women's Collegiate Committee.

THE LOS ANGELES ATHLETIC CLUB

John R. Wooden Award SM

February 5, 2007

Crystal Kelly
Western Kentucky
1605 Avenue of Champions
Bowling Green, KY 42101

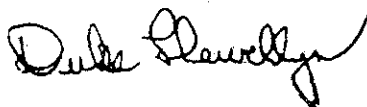
Dear Crystal:

The 2006-2007 collegiate basketball season has been the most exciting in recent memory. Your contributions to the game as a team player and individual performer have met with much acclaim. In that, you have been recognized by the Wooden Award committee at the midseason mark as one of the Top 20 players in contention for college basketball's most coveted trophy, the John R. Wooden Award.

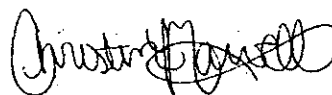
In early March the Wooden Award will release the names of the women selected by our National Advisory Board to the 2007 John R. Wooden Award National Ballot. Players selected to the ballot must qualify academically as certified by their university (a cumulative grade point average of 2.00 or higher at their current institution and making normal progress toward graduation). This ballot will be sent to over 300 media writers, sportscasters and former winners for their selection of the John R. Wooden Award Player of the Year and All-American Team. The Wooden Award is the only Player of the Year and All-American Team presentation that allows voters to take into account a players entire season.

The 2007 John R. Wooden Award Player of the Year and All-American Team will be presented live during a CBS televised event from The Los Angeles Athletic Club on Saturday, April 8, 2007. This year the Wooden Award race is wide open. Your selection to the Wooden Award Midseason Top 20 candidate list is a fine accomplishment. Christin Maxwell and I extend to you our best wishes and heartfelt congratulations!

Sincerely,



Richard "Duke" Llewellyn
Chairman



Christin Maxwell
Director

cc: Mary Taylor Cowles, Women's Head Basketball Coach
Chris Glowacki, Sports Information Director

John R. Wooden Award SM

Wooden Women's Award Midseason All-American Team - Top 20 Candidates *(Players listed alphabetically)*

Marissa	Coleman	6'1"	So.	G/F	Maryland
Jessica	Davenport	6'5"	Sr.	C	Ohio State
Jessica	Dickson	5'11"	Sr.	F	South Florida
Sylvia	Fowles	6'6"	Jr.	C	LSU
Katie	Gearlds	6'1"	Sr.	G/F	Purdue
Chrissy	Givens	5'11"	Sr.	G	Middle Tennessee
Lindsey	Harding	5'8"	Sr.	G	Duke
Tasha	Humphrey	6'3"	Jr.	F	Georgia
Tiffany	Jackson	6'3"	Sr.	F	Texas
Crystal	Kelly	6'3"	Jr.	F	Western Kentucky
Crystal	Langhorne	6'2"	Jr.	C/F	Maryland
Erlana	Larkins	6'1"	Jr.	F	North Carolina
Ivory	Latta*	5'6"	Sr.	G	North Carolina
Angel	McCoughtry	6'1"	So.	F	Louisville
Bernice	Mosby	6'1"	Sr.	F	Baylor
Courtney	Paris*	6'4"	So.	C	Oklahoma
Candace	Parker	6'4"	So.	F/C/G	Tennessee
Armintie	Price	5'9"	Sr.	G	Mississippi
Abby	Waner	5'10"	So.	G	Duke
Candice	Wiggins	5'11"	Jr.	G	Stanford

**Indicates player was a 2005-2006 Wooden Award All-American*

John R. Wooden Award – 431 West Seventh Street, Los Angeles, California 90014

RICHARD "DUKE" LLEWELLYN - CHAIRMAN
T: 213-630-5252 F: 213-892-0646

MICHAEL C. SOLUM - DIRECTOR
T: 213-630-5231 F: 213-892-0646 E: woodenaward@laac.net

WoodenAward.com