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Big Sky Announces Women's Basketball All-Conference Team and Award Winners

OGDEN, Utah (March 10, 2014) - The Big Sky Conference has announced the Women's Basketball All-Conference team and individual award winners for the 2013-14 season. The awards were decided by a vote of the league's 11 head coaches.

Madi Buck became North Dakota's first player to earn the league's Most Valuable Player Award. The senior was an unanimous First-Team selection.

Buck helped her team to a share of the regular-season title and the right to host the Big Sky Conference Championship on March 13-15. She averaged 16.3 points and 7.5 rebounds a game. Buck, a senior from Bismarck, N.D., has seven 20 plus-point games and nine 10 plus-rebound games. The forward also recorded eight double-doubles this season.

Montana's Carly Selvig was selected as the league's Defensive Player of the Year. Selvig, a junior from Glendive, Mont., averaged 5.9 points, 5.8 rebounds and 2.8 blocks a game.

Northern Arizona's Brittani Lusain was named the league's Outstanding Freshman, and UND's Kelsey Knox was named Top Newcomer. Lusain, from San Diego, Calif., averaged 13.0 points a game and 4.9 assists per game. NAU hadn't had a player named Outstanding Freshman since the 2009-10 season, when Vickie Toney was named. Knox, a sophomore from Platte City, Mo., and transfer from Johnson Country CC, averaged 3.4 assists per game and 2.3 rebounds. She has started 23 games for North Dakota and scored 153 points.

This season, a Top Reserve was awarded. This award was discontinued following the 1999-2000 season. North Dakota's Emily Evers and Southern Utah's Andrea Jones shared the honor. Evers is a junior from Grand Forks, N.D., and Jones is a senior from Mesa, Ariz. Evers started just one game for UND. She averaged 7.9 points and 5.9 rebounds a game. Jones started 16 game for SUU and averaged 8.8 points and 3.8 assists per game.

Others named to the first team were Lexie Nelson, Eastern Washington; Lindsey Reed, Idaho State; Kellie Cole, Montana; Amanda Frost, Northern Arizona and Hailey Mandelko, Southern Utah. This is the second time Nelson has been named to the First Team.

The Big Sky Conference tournament will be March 13-15 in Grand Forks, N. D., The three quarterfinal games will be played on Thursday starting at 2:30 p.m. Central. The winners of the quarterfinals will advance to the semifinals played on Friday starting at 5 p.m. And the championship will be played at 3 p.m. Central on Saturday. All games can be seen for Free on Watch Big Sky.

2013-14 Big Sky Women's All-Conference Team

First Team

<u>Player, School</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Madi Buck, North Dakota# MVP	Sr.	Forward	Bismarck, N.D.
Lexie Nelson, Eastern Washington*	Jr.	Guard	Butte, Mont.
Lindsey Reed, Idaho State	Sr.	Guard	Kingman, Ariz.
Kellie Cole, Montana	Jr.	Guard	Bozeman, Mont.
Amanda Frost, Northern Arizona	Sr.	Guard	Riverside, Calif.
Hailey Mandelko, Southern Utah	Jr.	Guard	Lexington, Neb.

Second Team

<u>Player, School</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Jordan Sullivan, Montana	Sr.	Forward	Sidney, Mont.
Ashley Brumwell, Montana State	Sr.	Forward	Hamilton, Mont.
Mia Loyd, North Dakota	So.	Forward	Minneapolis, Minn.
Stephanie Lee, Northern Colorado	Jr.	Center	Casper, Wyo.
Lori Parkinson, Southern Utah	So.	Forward	West Valley, Utah

#Unanimous First Team selection; & Three-time First Team; * Two-time First Team

Honorable Mention: Hayley Hodgins, Eastern Washington; Jessica Tingey, Idaho State; Torry Hill, Montana; Jasmine Hommes, Montana State; Erikka Banks, Northern Arizona; Emily Easom, Portland State; Fantasia Hilliard, Sacramento State and Amanda Hughes, Weber State

Most Valuable Player: Madi Buck, Sr., North Dakota

Defensive Player of the Year: Carly Selvig, Jr., Montana

Top Newcomer: Kelsey Knox, So., North Dakota

Outstanding Freshman: Brittani Lusain, Northern Arizona

Sixth Player of the Year: Emily Evers, North Dakota & Andrea Jones, Southern Utah

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