



## Missouri Valley Conference Recognizes MVC Women's Basketball '35 Greatest' Players

ST. LOUIS -- In 2006-07, the Missouri Valley Conference celebrates a century of excellence as the nation's second-oldest NCAA Division I conference begins its second centennial as a leader in college athletics. As a part of the Centennial Celebration, The Valley is naming all-centennial teams for each of the Valley's sponsored sports, including women's basketball.

The list of women's basketball players recognized as the greatest to play in the league tops out at 35 student athletes, while an all-time greatest coach was also voted on. The team was determined through an on-line fan vote ([www.mvc100.org](http://www.mvc100.org)), in-arena ballots and a centennial committee. Over 3,500 votes were cast for women's basketball while all ten schools have at least one representative on the team.

Jackie Stiles of Missouri State, the all-time leading scorer in the history of Division I Women's Basketball, was the top vote getter and therefore earns the title of all-time greatest player in the Missouri Valley Conference. Her coach during her tenure as a Lady Bear, Cheryl Burnett, was voted as the all-time greatest coach in the league, with both honors highlighted by the team's historic run to the Women's Final Four in 2001.

In the league's first 99 seasons, inclusive of all MVC-sponsored sports, 32 members combined for 27 national championships, while 55 Valley student-athletes captured NCAA individual titles. In addition, Valley student-athletes and coaches earned 48 National Player or Coach of the Year honors in their respective sports. And the league had a myriad of student-athletes who collected All-America honors and earned national academic distinction in The Valley's first century.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL (sponsored 1983 to present and encompasses the merge between the Gateway Conference and Missouri Valley Conference in July, 1992): Twelve different programs have sponsored women's basketball in the Gateway/Missouri Valley Conference era. These members include Bradley, Creighton, Drake, Eastern Illinois, Evansville, Illinois State, Indiana State, Missouri State, Northern Iowa, Southern Illinois, Wichita State and Western Illinois.

### MISSOURI VALLEY CONFERENCE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ALL-CENTENNIAL - 35 GREATEST PLAYERS

*As Selected by Valley Fans*

**Amy Amstutz, Indiana State - 1996-99**

3-time First Team in three years at Indiana State; 3-time Defensive Team pick; 1999 Defensive Player of the Year; 1997 Newcomer of the Year.

**Tonya Baucom - Missouri State - 1992-93**

2-time First Team in just two years played at Missouri State

**Lorri Bauman, Drake - 1980-84**

2-time First Team; Wade Trophy Finalist; 1st in MVC history in career scoring average; all-time leading scorer at Drake.

**Carla Bennett, Drake - 1999-03**

4-time First Team; No. 6 in rebounding and blocks in conference history; No. 7 in scoring.

**Tammi Blackstone, Drake - 1996-00**

2-time First Team; 1999 AP HM All-American; 1997 Freshman of the Year; 1998 Tournament MVP; all-time leading shot blocker at Drake; No. 3 in Valley history.

**Melanie Boeglin, Indiana State - 2002-06**

4-time First Team; 4-time All-Defensive; 2006 MVP; 2005 Defensive MVP; 3-time All-Tournament; one of only two players to win both MVP and Defensive MVP in career; Academic All-American; AP All-American.

**Bridgett Bonds, Southern Illinois - 1985-88**

1-time First Team; 1987 MVP; led SIU to only two unbeaten regular-season championships in league history 1986 & 1987.

**Cathy Boswell, Illinois State - 1979-83**

1983 All-American; 1983 First Team Pick; Led Illinois State to league's first championship; 1984 USA Olympian.

**Michelle Braud, Bradley - 1984-88**

2-time First Team; Second Team; Bradley's second all-time leading scorer.

**Angela Buckner, Wichita State - 2000-04**

3-time First Team; one of only five players all time to record over 1,000 career points and 1,000 career rebounds; 2001 Freshman of the Year.

**Alex Cook, UNI - 2002-05**

3-time First Team; 3-time All-Defensive Team; UNI's all-time leading rebounder; one of only five players all time to record over 1,000 points and 1,000 rebounds.

**Lisa Davies, Missouri State - 1995-98**

2-time First Team; 1998 Defensive MVP; 3-time All-Defensive Team; 1998 USWBA Scholar-Athlete of the Year; 2-time Academic All-American.

**Wanda Ford, Drake - 1982-86**

3-time First Team; MVC Hall of Fame member; 1985 and 1986 Wade Trphy Finalist; NCAA's all-time leading rebounder; only player in league history to record over 2,000 career points and 1,000 career rebounds; 1986 Consensus First Team All-American; 1986 Women's Sports Federation Player of the Year; 2nd in league history in scoring.

**Cassie Hager, UNI - 2003-06**

2-time First Team; 2006 Defensive Player of the Year; ranks first in the league in career blocked shots.

**Amy Hile, Indiana State - 1983-87**

3-time First Team; No. 1 scorer and rebounder in school history.

**Melody Howard, Missouri State - 1991-94**

3-time First Team; 1994 Player of the Year; MVC Hall of Fame; 2-time HM Kodak All-American; played in 1992 NCAA Women's Final Four; 2-time Academic All-American; No. 3 at Missouri State in career scoring, fifth in the Valley.

**Jan Jensen, Drake - 1987-91**

2-time First Team; 1991 Player of the Year; 1991 HM Kodak All-American; 1991 National Academic All-America Player of the Year; 2-time Academic All-American; No. 4 at Drake in career points; No. 4 in Valley history in career scoring.

**Jennifer Kaczka, Wichita State - 1998-02**

3-time First Team; one of five players in league history to record over 1,000 career points and 1,000 career rebounds; second all-time leading scorer at Wichita State; 2002 All-Defensive Team.

**Cindy Kaufmann, Illinois State - 1987-91**

3-time First Team; Illinois State's second all-time leading scorer.

**Kari Koch, Missouri State - 2003-06**

4-time First Team; 2004 Player of the Year; 2004 HM All-American; 2003 Freshman of the Year; 2-time Tournament MVP; 2-time defensive team pick; ranks No. 2 all-time in Missouri State history in scoring; holds MSU record for career steals and No. 2 in school history in career assists; one of only three players all-time to score over 2,000 career points while a member of the MVC; second in MVC in career three-point field goals made.

**Jenni Lingor, Missouri State - 2002-05**

3-time First Team; 2005 Player of the Year; 2002 Freshman of the Year; 2004 Tournament MVP; ranks fourth all-time in Missouri State history in career scoring; ranks eighth all-time in MVC history in career scoring; also ranks third in league history in career three-point field goals made.

**Shyla McKibbin-Puelston, Evansville - 1998-02**

2-time First Team; 1999 Tournament MVP; limited to basically three seasons of play due to back-to-back season-ending knee injuries in 2001 and 2002; second all-time in UE history in career scoring; also ranks second all-time in UE history in rebounding with 833 career rebounds; ranks third in school history in career steals with 177.

**Kourtney Mennen, Indiana State - 1999-03**

2-time First Team; second all-time leading scorer in Indiana State women's basketball history; ranks 10th all-time in MVC history in career scoring.

**Christy Neneman, Creighton - 2000-04**

3-time First Team; 2002 and 2003 MVC Player of the Year; one of only three players all-time in MVC history to win multiple MVC Player of the Year awards; 2004 Postseason WNIT Most Valuable Player after helping Creighton to the WNIT title; 2002 MVC Tournament MVP; ranks fourth all-time in Creighton history in career scoring.

**Amy Rakers, Southern Illinois - 1988-91**

2-time First Team; Gateway Conference's All-Decade Team; SIU Athletic Hall of Fame; all-time leading scorer in SIU history.

**Tina Robbins, Missouri State - 1991-94**

1-time First Team; Missouri State's all-time career leader in assists with 657; 1994 HM Kodak All-American; 1994 Tournament MVP; ranks second all-time in Lady Bear history with 316 career steals.

**Jenny Schmidt, Illinois State - 1995-99**

3-time First Team; fourth all-time leading scorer in Illinois State history; ranks third all-time in Redbird history with 249 steals and fourth all-time in career assists with 522.

**Laura Spanheimer, Creighton - 2001-05**

2-time First Team; 2-time Defensive Player of the Year (2003 and 2004); one of only two players in league history to be a four-year member of the all-defensive team; seventh all-time in Creighton history in career scoring; CU's all-time career leader in steals; the second all-time steals leader in MVC history.

**Allison Starr, UNI - 1997-00**

3-time First Team; 2000 Defensive Player of the Year; 3-time all-defensive team; ranks third all-time in UNI history in career scoring; ranks second all-time in school history in career steals with 274.

**\*Jackie Stiles, Missouri State - 1998-01**

4-time First Team; NCAA's all-time leading scorer with 3,393 career points; only player in MVC history to earn three MVC Player of the Year awards (1999, 2000, 2001); 2001 NCAA Women's Final Four; 2001 Wade Trophy Award Winner; 3-time consensus All-American; MVC Freshman of the Year honors and Freshman All-America honors in 1998; MVC Hall of Fame; all-time leading scorer in both Missouri State and MVC play; holds MVC records for FGs made and FTs Made; Ranks second all-time in Valley history in career scoring average and career three-point field goal percentage.

**Amy Swisher, UNI - 2001-04**

3-time First Team; all-time leading scorer in Northern Iowa women's basketball history; ranks fourth all-time in UNI history in career rebounding; ninth all-time in MVC history in career scoring; tied for fifth place all-time in Valley history in career field goals made.

**Jeanette Tendai, Missouri State - 1983-86**

2-time First Team; fourth all-time leading scorer in Missouri State history; third all-time leading rebounder in Lady Bears history.

**Tricia Wakely, Drake - 1992-96**

2-time First Team; 1996 HM Kodak All-American; 1996 National Academic All-American Co-Player of the Year; Two-time Academic All-America selection; 1995 Tournament MVP; 1996 MVC Player of the Year; ninth all-time in Drake history in career scoring; sixth all-time in school history in career rebounding.

**Carrie Welle, Creighton - 1994-98**

3-time First Team; 1997 Player of the Year; 1988 Second-Team Academic All-American; sixth all-time in Creighton history in career scoring; second all-time in MVC history in career free throws made.

**Secelia Winkfield, Missouri State - 1990-93**

2-time First Team; only player MVC history to earn league MVP and Defensive Player of the Year honors in the same year, as she earned both awards in 1993; 1993 HM Kodak All-American; 1990 Co-Freshman of the Year; ranks third all-time in Lady Bear history in career assists and career steals; ranks seventh all-time in Valley history in career steals.

*\*top vote getter*

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**All-Time Greatest Coach**

**Cheryl Burnett, Missouri State - 1987-02**

319-136 Overall Record; 201-65 conference mark; 10 20-win seasons; 10 NCAA berths; 2nd all-time winningest coach in league history; 3-time Coach of the Year (1991, 1992, 1994), 2 NCAA Final Four appearances