

For Immediate Release
Women's Basketball

March 8, 2004

Idaho Sweeps Big West Conference Awards

IRVINE, Calif. – The 2003-04 Big West Women's Basketball All-Conference Team was announced today, and headlining the group was Idaho sophomore **Emily Faurholt** (Kennewick, Wash.) as the Big West Player of the Year. Idaho's **Leilani Mitchell** (Kennewick, Wash.) and **Mike Divilbiss** were honored as the conference's Freshman and Coach of the Year, respectively.

Faurholt, a 5-11 post player, currently ranks first in the nation in scoring with a 26.1 ppg average. She ranks in the top-10 in four categories in the Big West; first in points, sixth in rebounding (7.0 rpg), fourth in field-goal percentage (49.6) and second in three-point percentage (41.0). Twice she earned Big West Player of the Week honors, Jan. 6 and Feb. 23. Faurholt scored 30 or more points in a game seven times, including 39 against Cal State Fullerton (Feb. 29).

Mitchell, a 5-5 guard, finished fifth in the league in scoring (15.7 ppg), first in steals (3.08 spg) and assists (6.0 apg). The Kennewick, Wash., native ranked seventh in the Big West in field goal percentage (47.8) and third in three-point shooting percentage (40.2). Mitchell is just one of two Big West players to record a double-double with points and assists this season. Against Portland State (Nov. 21), she dished out 16 assists and scored 11 points.

Divilbiss, in his fourth season at the Vandal helm, earns his first Big West Coach of the Year award. Divilbiss guided Idaho to 13 conference victories, which was the most in 19 years. His squad's 21 victories thus far are the most since the 1985-86 season. Idaho becomes only the second school ever to sweep the Big West awards since 1987 when the Freshman of the Year started. The first was UC Santa Barbara in 1998 when Erin Buescher was Player and Freshman of the Year and Mark French was Coach of the Year.

A total of two juniors, two sophomores, a senior and a freshman were selected to the All-Big West First Team. UC Santa Barbara and Idaho had two selections each. Senior **Lindsay Taylor** (Chandler, Ariz.), junior **Kristen Mann** (Santa Ana, Calif.), UC Riverside junior **Cassandra Reeves** (Apple Valley, Calif.) and Cal State Northridge sophomore **Ofa Tulikihihifo** (Hawthorne, Calif.) each make the First Team for the second year in a row.

The complete 2003-04 Big West All-Conference Team is on the following page.

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2003-04 Big West Women's Basketball All-Conference Teams

First Team

<u>Player</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Emily Faurholt	Idaho	5-11	So.	Post	Kennewick, Wash.
Kristen Mann	UC Santa Barbara	6-2	Jr.	F	Santa Ana, Calif.
Leilani Mitchell	Idaho	5-5	Fr.	G	Kennewick, Wash.
Casandra Reeves	UC Riverside	5-7	Jr.	G	Apple Valley, Calif.
Lindsay Taylor	UC Santa Barbara	6-7	Sr.	C	Chandler, Ariz.
Ofa Tulikihihifo	Cal State Northridge	5-11	So.	F	Hawthorne, Calif.

Second Team

<u>Player</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Gillian d'Hondt	Pacific	6-3	Sr.	F/C	Seattle, Wash.
Petra Gläser	Long Beach State	6-3	Jr.	C	Amtsberg, Germany
Kristen Green	UC Irvine	5-8	Sr.	G	Lafayette, Calif.
Crystal Harris	UC Riverside	6-0	Sr.	G/F	Vista, Calif.
Tamara Quinn	Cal State Fullerton	5-7	Sr.	G	Lomita, Calif.

Honorable Mention

<u>Player</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Ali Aird	Utah State	6-3	So.	C	Bountiful, Utah
Christina Callaway	UC Irvine	6-0	Sr.	F	Shingle Springs, Calif.
Jayne Connors	Long Beach State	6-3	So.	C	Las Vegas, Nev.
Nancy Dinges	Pacific	5-10	Sr.	G	San Mateo, Calif.
Mia Fisher	UC Santa Barbara	5-9	Jr.	G	Pleasanton, Calif.
April McDivitt	UC Santa Barbara	5-7	Sr.	G	Connersville, Ind.
Andrea Nederostek	Pacific	6-2	Sr.	F	Lodi, Calif.
Katy Paterson	Cal Poly	5-11	Jr.	F	Calgary, Alberta
Brezya Rhodes	Cal State Northridge	5-9	Sr.	F	Concord, Calif.
Brandy Richardson	UC Santa Barbara	6-0	Jr.	F	Aiea, Hawaii
Heather Thoelke	Idaho	6-0	Jr.	Wing	Kennewick, Wash.
Candice Wilson	Long Beach State	5-6	Jr.	G	Sacramento, Calif.
Corrine Wong	Pacific	5-7	Sr.	G	Clackamas, Ore.
Christina Zdenek	Utah State	5-8	Fr.	G	West Hills, Calif.

All-Freshman Team

<u>Player</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Sparkle Anderson	Cal Poly	5-2	G	San Diego, Calif.
Jenna Green	UC Santa Barbara	6-4	F/C	San Jose, Calif.
Leilani Mitchell	Idaho	5-5	G	Kennewick, Wash.
Jessie Menkens	Pacific	5-9	G	Vancouver, Wash.
Charlee Underwood	Cal State Fullerton	5-10	G	San Francisco, Calif.

2003-04 Big West Player of the Year

Emily Faurholt, Idaho

2003-04 Big West Freshman of the Year

Leilani Mitchell, Idaho

2003-04 Big West Coach of the Year

Mike Divilbiss