1993

UA11/2 Lady Toppers Basketball Press Releases

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE/Nov. 11, 1992
Women's Basketball/Contact: Sally Raque

RUSSELLVILLE'S GAMBLE BECOMES LADY TOPS' FIRST SIGNEE

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Lady Topper Basketball Coach Paul Sanderford has announced his first signee of the early fall signing period, inking Russellville High School standout Stacie Gamble.

Gamble, a 5-11 guard/forward, announced a verbal commitment to Western Kentucky Monday, and followed up with the signing of a national letter-of-intent earlier today. Gamble averaged 18 points, five rebounds and three assists per game for the Panthers last season.

"We feel Stacie Gamble is one of the best athletes in the state of Kentucky," Sanderford said. "We have followed her progress since the 7th grade. She has great skills and excellent quickness, but we feel her best basketball is ahead of her. We'll probably move Stacie to the perimeter, to give us that big guard I always want to play with."

"Stacie's best assets are her ability to handle the ball, to see the open player and her shooting ability from the three-point range," commented Russellville High School Coach Bob Matthews. "Stacie is a super student, and our team leader. Coaches, if they are really lucky, get a player like Stacie once in a lifetime."

Russellville was in the midst of a 44-game losing streak when Matthews took the job, and immediately elevated Gamble from the 8th grade squad to the varsity team. The Panthers won three games that year, then improved each season with winning records of 14-12, 19-5 and 17-7.

Gamble has also met with success in the classroom, and plans to follow a pre-med major while on the Hill. Both her parents, Clarence and Marie Gamble of Olmstead, earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from Western. Marie Gamble also served on Western's National Alumni Association Board of Directors.

"Her family has definite Western ties," Sanderford said. "The fact that Stacie is a distant cousin of Lillie Mason is not a bad recommendation, either! Mason is WKU's all-time career scoring leader and was a 1986 Kodak All-American."
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 12, 1992
Women's Basketball/Contact: Sally Raque

LADY TOPS SIGN FINLAND'S JAANA HEIKKILÄ

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Lady Topper Basketball Coach Paul Sanderford has announced the signing of his first International recruit, as Finland's Jaana Heikkilä (Yawn-a HEY-e-ka-la) has signed a national letter-of-intent to play for Western Kentucky University.

Heikkilä is a 5-10 guard, and the youngest member of the Finnish National Team that will begin a two-week tour of exhibition games with American universities November 15th, including stops at Michigan, Michigan State, Dayton and Toledo, to name a few.

"Jaana has played all over the world against some of the best players in the world," noted Sanderford. "She will bring international experience to the backcourt that will pay immediate dividends. Jaana is a smart player, and the fact that her father is her coach is exciting to me."

Jaakko Heikkilä, an engineering consultant and coach of the Espoo Akilles, Jaana's club team, said his daughter began playing intensive basketball at age six. "It has been easy to coach her from the very beginning, because she has high goals in basketball," Jaakko said. "Jaana has always been the most important player at the most difficult times. She has a good understanding of the game and good technical skills."

Heikkilä played on six Junior All-Star teams in Finland, winning the team championship four times and earning MVP honors on three of those squads. She set several records on her 18 & Under Junior National Team, including most points in a game and most three-pointers in a game, also picking up tournament MVP honors. She averaged 21 points and 10 rebounds per game over the 1990-91 season, and 14 points and 10 rebounds last year.

A native of Espoo, Finland, Heikkilä attended the Lady Tops' summer camp last year, and has also attended summer camps at Tennessee and Kentucky. Several other schools were interested in Heikkilä, but she had narrowed her choices to WKU and the University of Kentucky.

Heikkilä joins Russellville High's Stacie Gamble, a 5-11 guard, on the list of Lady Topper early signees. Gamble inked with Western yesterday.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE/Nov. 13, 1992
Women's Basketball/Contact: Sally Raque

LADY TOPS INK WEBSTER COUNTY'S BRANDI ASHBY

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Lady Topper Basketball Coach Paul Sanderford has confirmed his third signee of the early signing period, as Webster County's Brandi Ashby made it official today, signing a national letter-of-intent to play for Western Kentucky University.

Ashby, a 6-2 forward and a second team All-Stater as a junior, is considered to be a leading candidate for Kentucky's coveted "Miss Basketball" title this year. She averaged 21 points, 14 rebounds, five blocks and four steals per outing for the Trojans last season.

"Brandi Ashby has extremely good quickness and agility for her size," commented Sanderford. "Fundamentally, she's as ready to play as any freshman we've recruited in some time. She can play both inside and on the perimeter -- I think she will be a big-time player for us."

Ashby led Webster County to a 20-8 record last season, and an 18-8 mark as a sophomore. A five-year starter for Coach Phil Gibson, she has picked up All-District honors since her freshman year. USA Today ranked Ashby 31st in the country on its list of top high school prospects.

"Brandi has great versatility for her size," Gibson said. "She can run the floor, she has great inside moves and good quickness. I don't think there is a player in the state that can match Brandi's qualities and talents on the basketball floor."

Ashby joins Russellville High's Stacie Gamble, a 5-11 guard, and Finnish National Team member Jaana Halikka, a 5-11 guard, on the list of Lady Topper early signees. "Brandi's signing wraps up our fall recruiting," Sanderford noted. "We're very pleased with our three signees; we certainly feel we have once again landed the premier players in the state. Now our needs for the spring signing period will be a big post player."

-30-
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Nov. 10, 1992
Men's/Women's Basketball / Contact: Paul Just, SID

FAN BUSES SCHEDULED FOR WKU BASKETBALL GAMES

Bowling Green, Ky. - Southern Kentucky Bus Lines will provide transportation to a number of Western Kentucky University men's and women's basketball games during the 1992-93 season.

Men's basketball games included on the bus schedule are (prices listed are transportation only – game admission not included):

* Tennessee Tech at Cookeville, Tenn. (Saturday, Dec. 5) / $18 per person;

* Louisville at Freedom Hall (Tuesday, Feb. 16) / $13 (note: trip is based on ticket availability);

* and the Sun Belt Conference Tournament in the Mississippi Coast Coliseum at Biloxi, Miss. (Saturday-Monday, March 6-8) / $200 (includes three room nights).

Women's basketball trips on the schedule are:

* Krystal Holiday Classic at Tennessee Tech in Cookeville (Friday-Saturday, Dec. 11-12) / $13 per day;

* Middle Tennessee at Murfreesboro (Friday, Jan. 15) / $10;

* Kentucky at Lexington (Tuesday, Jan. 19) / $15;

* New Orleans and Southwestern Louisiana road trip (Jan. 30-Feb. 1) / $175 (includes two room nights);

* Vanderbilt at Nashville (Thursday, Feb. 4) / $8;

* Louisiana Tech at Ruston, La. (Saturday, Feb. 13) / $115 (includes one room night);

* Arkansas State at Jonesboro, Ark. (Saturday, March 6) / $70 (includes one room night);

* and the Sun Belt Tournament at Louisiana Tech in Ruston, La. (Thursday-Saturday, March 11-13) / $200 (includes three room nights).

The rates for the overnight trips are based on double occupancy in rooms. For more information, contact Mike Whitaker at Southern Kentucky Bus Lines in Bowling Green (502-781-0020).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE/Jan. 6, 1993
Women’s Basketball/Contact: Sally Raque

Sophomore Stephanie Minor has left the Western Kentucky Lady Topper basketball team for personal reasons.

Minor, a 5-11 forward from Nebo, Ky., has not been with the team since the holiday break. She played in three of WKU’s four games before the break, totaling five points and five rebounds in 11 minutes of play.

Head Coach Paul Sanderford acknowledged that Minor’s decision was a personal one, not related to basketball. “We are disappointed that Stephanie will no longer be a part of our program, but we understand her decision and certainly wish her the best.”

Minor has indicated that she will return to the university to continue her studies next semester.
LADY TOPPER BASKETBALL UPDATE
Friday, Jan. 22, 1993

BUZZER-BEATER BLUES!
Take away 14 seconds and two measly field goal attempts, and the Western Kentucky Lady Toppers would be 11-3 today instead of 9-4. WKU has been the victim of unbelievable buzzer-beater shots TWICE this season. Southwest Missouri State's Melody Howard connected on the first Hall Mary on New Year's Day in Diddle Arena, a 13-footer from a Topper triple team defense to give the Bears a 61-60 win and avenged last year's loss to the Toppers in the NCAA Final Four. Then, Topper fans agonized when Kentucky's Stacey Reed hit a 30-footer at the horn despite a double team defense to give #23 Kentucky a 62-60 win over Western in Lexington last Tuesday (Jan. 19th).
WKU Coach Paul Sanderford on the buzzer-beaters... "Those two shots really hurt, but what can you say? Both times we had the girl defended as well as we possibly could. The basketball gods will give them back to us, though. Our luck will change."

THE BATTLE OF THE BOARDS
The Lady Toppers' +10.8 rebound margin going into this week's action ranked as the 4th best in the nation. Western is currently averaging 49.0 boards per outing, while opponents are being limited to 33.4, and the Toppers have won the battle of the boards in 12 of 13 games.

TOPS AMONG NATION'S BEST SHOOTERS
The Lady Toppers' 49.9% field goal accuracy rate ranked as the 4th best field goal percentage in the nation, going into this week's action. Six Lady Toppers are shooting 50% or better from the field, led by reserve forward Debbie Houb's 78.9% (15-19). Western's season-opening game at Minnesota, which saw the Toppers' connect on 62.1% from the field (30-48), ranks as the 9th best accuracy rate for an NCAA women's game this season.

THE WESTMORELAND WATCH
Senior guard Renee Westmoreland became the 16th member of the Lady Topper 1,000-Point Club in front of the home fans New Years Day against Southwest Missouri State. The former Indiana "Miss Basketball" is now 25 points behind #15 Mary Taylor (1,072) on the Lady Topper all-time scoring ladder...ALSO, Westmoreland has passed #2 Kelly Smith on the Lady Tops all-time assists ladder. Renee has twice equaled her career-best of nine assists in a game this season (in back-to-back road games) and now has 4-3 scoring passes to her credit. Smith totaled 398 from '87-91. Who's number one? Former All-American Cerrone Haskins, now an assistant coach at Arizona, died out an amazing 731 assists at Western from 1983-87, which ranks #1 for both men and women at WKU!!

UP AHEAD
The Lady Toppers have three conference games next week. Western will take its' 3-0 record in Sun Belt Conference action into Monday night's home game with Texas Pan American, then hit the road for league games at New Orleans (Jan. 30) and at Southwestern Louisiana (Feb. 1). On the horizon...a showdown with undefeated and #1-ranked Vanderbilt February 4th at Vandy's Memorial Gym in Nashville.
### Western Kentucky Lady Toppers Basketball 1992-93 Season Team Cumulatives

**Record (W-L):** 9-4 Home (4-1) Away (4-3) Neutral (1-0)

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**Team Totals**

- **FGM-POA:** 489
- **PPA:** 50-141
- **PPG:** 355
- **FGM-PTA:** 574
- **PPG:** 620
- **REBOUNDS:** 205
- **AST:** 364
- **FT:** 56/63
- **AST:** 204
- **TO:** 65
- **BLK:** 267

**Opponents**

- **FGM-POA:** 373
- **PPA:** 55-176
- **PPG:** 313
- **FGM-PTA:** 197
- **PPG:** 626
- **REBOUNDS:** 173
- **AST:** 361
- **FT:** 43/43
- **AST:** 241
- **TO:** 796
- **BLK:** 145
- **Stl:** 101

**Deadball Rebounds (Western Kentucky Lady Toppers-47, Opponents-43)**

**Average Per Game**

- **MIN:** 88
- **AST:** 11
- **STL:** 17
- **PPG:** 13

**Average Per 40 Minutes**

- **MIN:** 88
- **AST:** 11
- **STL:** 17
- **PPG:** 13

Produced by STATMAN II[1] Cumulative Reports System Ver. 3.00C
### Western Kentucky Lady Toppers Basketball 1992-93 Season Results

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<th>High Rebounds</th>
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<td>Shullick-24</td>
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Produced by SEXTMAN II(tm) Cumulative Reports System Ver. 3.00.0
LADY TOPPER BASKETBALL UPDATE
Monday, March 1, 1993

SUN BELT SHOWDOWN SATURDAY AT ARKANSAS STATE – Western has one game remaining in its regular season, and it's a big one. Saturday, the Lady Tops travel to Arkansas State for a must-win game with the Lady Indians and All-America candidate Sonja Tate. A Western win would give the Tops a share of the Sun Belt Conference crown with Louisiana Tech, while a loss would give Tech the title outright. Western was co-champion last year with Lamar, and won the coin toss to receive the #1 seed for the league tournament, which the Tops won. Western won the first meeting of the year with State, 77-67 in Diddle Arena February 21st, despite a record-setting 42-point performance by Tate. "We used every defense I know on Tate, and she got 42 points," Sanderford admitted after yesterday's 63-52 win over #7 Louisiana Tech. "I think Saturday we'll just lay off her and see what she does!"

The Toppers, winners of 17 of their last 18 conference games, were tripped up in Jonesboro last season, losing 63-53.

GOING FOR #20 – Lady Topper Head Coach Paul Sanderford could nail down his 10th 20+ victory season Saturday at Arkansas State. The Lady Toppers go into the game with a 19-6 overall mark. Sanderford has won 20-or-more games in nine of his ten seasons on the Hill.

CONFERENCE WINS TOUGH TO COME BY IN DIDDLE ARENA – For the second year in a row, the Lady Toppers went undefeated in home conference games, keeping their record intact with yesterday's 63-52 win over #7 Arkansas State. The 1992 Sun Belt Champions have won 17 conference games in a row in Diddle Arena. Sanderford's squad owns a 40-2 mark (95%) in Sun Belt action in the Diddle "Den of Doom," and have not dropped a home conference game since Alabama Birmingham broke the Lady Topper 21-game winning streak with a 70-65 win on February 24, 1991.

THE WESTMORELAND WATCH -- Senior guard Renee Westmoreland is just three points from catching #11 Akola Poislon (1978-81) on the Lady Toppers all-time scoring ladder...The All-American candidate also continues to move up the Sun Belt Conference career leader for both assists and steals, ranking #7 in assists with 255 and #10 in steals with 199.

COOK HEATING UP – Sophomore forward Veronica Cook has been turning it up a notch as the Lady Toppers head into the final stretch of the season. After breaking into the starting rotation 12 games ago, she has been particularly impressive in her last seven games. Over that 7-game stretch, Cook is shooting 55% from the field (22-40), 58% from long distance (14-24) and 92% from the line (12-14)!! The Franklin, Ky. native is averaging 12.0 points and 4.3 rebounds over the past seven games, and has recorded 13 assists, eight steals and a block, while only committing eight turnovers in 188 minutes of action (24.8 mpg)!

THE FIRST FIVE – Coach Paul Sanderford used 13th different starting combination of the season against Tech Sunday, starting all four seniors together in the Diddle Arena finale. Twelve Lady Toppers have now started at least one game this season, and no five-person combination has teamed together more than three times! Speaking of depth, nine of the 13 Lady Tops average double digits in minutes played, 12 see at least eight minutes of action per game!

BENCH STRENGTH – The Lady Toppers reserves have outscored their opponents in 24 of 25 games this season, and own an impressive +18.8 advantage in bench scoring. Western's deep bench accounts for 31.3 of WKU's 78.5 average (40% of the offense)!

TOPS WIN A TIGHT ONE – The ballhogs have not been in the Lady Tops favor all season, as Western has suffered through three losses by three points or less -- until Sunday. Western won its first close game of the season with its 63-62 win over #7 Louisiana Tech. Prior to that, Western had won by an average margin of 20.0 points, while the six losses have been close -- an average of 6.6 points.
### Western Kentucky Lady Topper Basketball 1982-83 Season Team Composite

#### 3 Point Rebounds

| NO | PLAYER | GP-GB | FG%-PCA | FG%-PCA | FG%-PCA | FT%-FTA | FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FTA | OPP FT%-FT
### Western Kentucky Lady Toppers Basketball 1992-93 Scoring Results

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / March 11, 1993

Women's Basketball / Contact: Paul Just, SID

NCAA TICKET SALES SET FOR LADY TOPPER FANS

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Plans have been finalized in the event that Western Kentucky University would serve as the host of first and/or second-round game(s) in the 1993 Women's NCAA Tournament, which will get underway Wednesday, March 17.

The WKU Ticket Office in E.A. Diddle Arena is accepting applications for first and/or second-round tickets from Lady Topper season ticket holders, who will have a priority for the purchase of their regular season seats in the event Western hosts a home game. Those applications will be accepted through Monday, March 15, at the Ticket Office and payment ($6.00 per reserved seat) will be required with the application.

Remaining reserved seats will go on sale to the general public Wednesday, March 17, at 8:00 a.m., at the Ticket Office in the Arena. General admission seating will be available at the door only ($5.00 adult; $3.00 for age 2 through college).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE/April 21, 1993
Women's Basketball/Contact: Sally Raque

IUCO ALL-AMERICAN INKS WITH LADY TOPPERS

Bowling Green, Ky. --- Michelle Reed, a 5-10 guard from Sullivan Junior College in Lexington, Ky., has signed a national letter-of-intent to play for Western Kentucky University.

A first-team Kodak JuCo All-American, Reed averaged 16.1 points and 7.4 rebounds per game this season for Sullivan, leading the team to an undefeated 30-0 mark during the regular season and a #2 national ranking.

"Michelle Reed is a tremendous athlete," commented Lady Topper Head Coach Paul Sanderford. "She can play both inside and outside. I think Michelle can provide instant help for us at the number two guard."

Reed shot 56% from the field and 71% from the line as a freshman last season. She will have three years of eligibility at Western.

"Michelle is just scratching the surface of what she can do," said Sullivan Junior College Athletic Director Corbett Grigsby. "She has explosive speed. She had a pretty good year for a freshman, and with our team as strong as it was, she only averaged about 22 minutes of playing time per game."

Sullivan led the nation in scoring (98.6 ppg) for the second year in a row, and finished the year with a 31-1 record. Reed was a member of the Region VII All-Region and All-Tournament teams, and was selected MVP of the Kentucky Junior College Athletic Conference (KJCAC), and the Illinois Central Classic tournament.

"I chose Western because I liked the chemistry of the program," Reed said. "I felt very comfortable around the players and the staff and I was impressed with the academic area, too." Reed, who is interested in studying Computer Information Systems, chose Western after narrowing her decision to WKU and Maryland.

The daughter of Ms. Marlene Reed of Jamaica, N.Y., Reed played her high school ball at August Martin High in Jamaica, the same school that sent 6-4 Trina Wilson to Western five years ago.

Reed is WKU's first signee of the spring signing period. Sanderford inked three athletes during the fall: 5-11 guard Stacie Gamble of Russellville High; 5-11 guard Jaana Heikila, a member of the Finnish National Team from Espoo, Finland and 6-2 forward Brandi Ashby of Webster County High.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE/April 22, 1993
Women's Basketball/Contact: Sally Raque

LADY TOPPERS SIGN 6'3" COSBY

Bowling Green, Ky. --- Western Kentucky University has signed their fifth recruit of the year to a national-letter-of-intent, inking 6'3" Tara Cosby out of Conners State College in Warner, Oklahoma.

A native of Springfield, Ohio, Cosby led her junior college team to a 26-5 record this past season, averaging 19 points and nine rebounds per game. As a freshman, Cosby played for the University of Georgia, leading the Bulldogs in rebounding with 6.2 boards per game, while averaging 8.7 points per outing. Cosby logged over 19 minutes a game at Georgia, getting the starting nod four times as a rookie.

"Tara Cosby was one of the top 50 players in the country coming out of high school," commented Lady Topper Head Coach Paul Sandford. "She's done nothing but improve since then. She's a tremendous offensive player with experience. She has a good chance to come right in and start for us."

As a senior at Kenton Ridge High, Cosby recorded averages of 21.5 points and 14 rebounds, earning fourth team All-America honors by Parade Magazine.

"Tara is tough on the block, but she can shoot it from 15 feet out, too," said Warner College Coach Monte Madewell. "She's a very talented power forward, and I think she'll fit in well with Western Kentucky's program."

Cosby joins Michelle Reed, a 5-10 JuCo All-American from Sullivan Junior College in Lexington, Ky., on the list of spring signees. The Lady Toppers inked three athletes during the fall: 5-11 guard Stacie Gamble of Russellville High, 5-11 guard Jaana Heikkila, a member of the Finnish National Team from Espoo, Finland and 5-8 forward Brandi Ashby of Webster County High, recently named Kentucky's "Miss Basketball".
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE/April 20, 1993
Women's Basketball/Contact: Sally Raque

JACKSON, REED LAND SPOT ON OLYMPIC FEST TEAM

Bowling Green, Ky. — Missy Jackson, a 5-6 senior guard on the 1992-93 Lady Topper basketball team, has earned a spot on the roster of USA Basketball's South Team for the 1993 U.S. Olympic Festival. Lady Topper signee Michelle Reed, a 5-11 guard out of Sullivan Junior College, was named an alternate for the South squad.

The two were selected at this weekend's South team trials held at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. Tryouts were open to players 20-years old or younger during the 1993 calendar year, with over 150 athletes vying for a spot on the South squad. The South Team will be coached by Amy Ruley, head coach at North Dakota State University.

"I understand both Missy and Michelle played well this weekend," commented WKU Head Coach Paul Sanderford. Sanderford was unable to attend the tryouts, because he spent the weekend in Nebraska, where he was selecting players for the North squad, which he will coach in the upcoming Olympic Festival. "Michelle has a great chance of moving up and making the travel roster, because some of the players selected for the South Team could be placed on the U.S. National Team when it's selected next month."

The Olympic Festival runs July 23-August 1 in San Antonio, Texas, with the basketball competition slated for July 24-27.

Up next for Lady Toppers Renee Westmoreland, Paulette Monroe, Trina Wilson, Denise Hill and Gwen Doyle will be the U.S. National Team tryouts May 20-23 at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. The trials are open to players born on or before December 31, 1972.

Two national teams will be selected. One will compete in the 1993 World Championships Qualifying Tournament June 26-July 4 in Sao Paulo, Brazil and the other in the World University Games scheduled for July 8-18 in Buffalo, New York.

Also, sophomore forward Veronica Cook is one of only 15 players invited by USA Basketball to attend the 1993 USA Junior National Team Trials, which will be held May 22-27, also at the Olympic Training Center.

Cook, a member of last year's Junior Select Team, will be trying for a spot on one of two teams at the trials. The Junior National Team, coached by Vanderbilt's Jim Foster, will compete in the World Junior Championships in Seoul, Korea August 1-8. The Junior Select Team, led by Florida State Head Coach Marvunn Meadors, will participate in the R. William Jones Cup June 26-July 4 in Taipei Taiwan.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 19, 1993

MCKINNEY ACCEPTS HEAD COACHING POSITION AT RICE

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Long-time Lady Topper assistant Coach Cristy McKinney has announced that she will leave the Western Kentucky coaching staff to accept a head coaching position at Rice University. McKinney will assume her duties as head women's basketball coach at Rice beginning July 1.

"I'm tickled to death for Cristy to get the opportunity to be a head coach - she's certainly ready for it," commented WKU Head Coach Paul Sanderford. "It's a great tribute to Cristy to be a head coach at a Division I program in the Southwest Conference."

"But, she's going to be awfully hard to replace," Sanderford continued. "Cristy's the one I brought with me over 10 years ago to build this program and she's done a great job for us."

McKinney first came to Western in 1983 when Sanderford took over the coaching reins at WKU. She later took a head coaching position at NAIA Montevallo for two years, but returned to the Hill in 1986, and has been with the Lady Topper program ever since. In her nine years of working with the WKU women, the Lady Toppers have compiled a 202-74 record -- a 73% success rate! During her tenure, the Western women have won five Sun Belt Conference titles, competed in eight NCAA tournaments (including three Sweet 16 appearances) and advanced all the way to the NCAA Championship game in 1992.

"Being a part of the Lady Topper basketball program has been a great experience for me, but the opportunity to become a head coach at a great school like Rice has been a goal of mine for some time," McKinney said. "It was a tough decision because of the great people here at Western Kentucky University, the fans of the Lady Topper program and my friends in Bowling Green, but I'm excited about the opportunity to be a head coach and run a Division I program."