

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM RANKED NO. 1 IN DIII NEWS PRESEASON TOP-25 POLL

ST. LOUIS, Mo., OCTOBER 7, 2009 – THE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS 2009 NATIONAL RUNNER-UP WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM WERE BOTH VOTED TO THE TOP SPOT OF THE *DIII NEWS* PRESEASON TOP-25 POLL, AS ANNOUNCED BY THE PUBLICATION ON WEDNESDAY.

THE WASHINGTON U. WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM POSTED A 26-5 OVERALL RECORD IN 2008-09, AND ADVANCED TO THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME WHERE THEY FELL TO GEORGE FOX UNIVERSITY, 60-53; IT WAS THE SECOND NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP GAME APPEARANCE IN THREE SEASONS FOR THE BEARS. WASHINGTON U. WAS ALSO 13-1 IN UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (UAA) ACTION, CLAIMING ITS 18TH CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP IN SCHOOL HISTORY.

GEORGE FOX IS RANKED NO. 2 IN THE PRESEASON TOP-25, WITH HOPE COLLEGE, AMHERST COLLEGE AND SCRANTON COLLEGE ROUNDING OUT THE TOP-FIVE. FELLOW UAA MEMBERS BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY (NO. 10) AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO (NO. 16) ALSO LANDED IN THE POLL.

THE BEARS RETURN FOUR STARTERS AND 14 LETTERWINNERS FROM LAST YEAR'S SQUAD, INCLUDING GRADUATE STUDENT JAIMIE MCFARLIN AND SENIOR JANICE EVANS, BOTH OF WHOM EARNED NCAA FINAL FOUR ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM HONORS. EVANS WAS SECOND ON THE TEAM IN SCORING (8.5 PPG) AND REBOUNDING (5.2 RPG), WHILE MCFARLIN WAS THIRD IN SCORING (7.8 PPG) AND LED THE TEAM IN REBOUNDING (7.6 RPG).

STARTING GUARD/FORWARD ZOË UNRUH (8.9 PPG, 3.9 RPG) AND POINT GUARD ALEX HOOVER (5.1 PPG, 3.7 APG) JOIN EVANS AND MCFARLIN AS RETURNING STARTERS FOR THE 2009-10 SEASON.

THE WU WOMEN'S TEAM OPENS THE NEW SEASON ON SUNDAY, NOV. 15, WHEN IT HOSTS AUGUSTANA COLLEGE IN THE WU FIELD HOUSE IN ST. LOUIS, MO., AT 1 P.M.