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WeCOACH Announces 2024-25 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients

February 5, 2025 – On National Girls & Women in Sports Day, WeCOACH is proud to announce five recipients of the 2024-25 Lifetime Achievement Award presented by Jostens. The prestigious WeCOACH Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to women in sports who succeed at the highest levels in their respective careers, while also displaying an unwavering commitment, pioneering spirit, and trailblazing leadership to empower and pave the way for girls and women in all sports and levels to breakthrough for many generations to come. This year's class boasts over 200 years of coaching experience (and counting), over 5,000 wins, and over 50 national & state championships.

This year's recipients include **Coach Jan Hutchinson**, Bloomsburg University Head Field Hockey & Softball Coach (retired); **Coach Carmen Jackson**, Miami Northwestern Senior High School Head Track & Field Coach; **Dr. Ann Lebedeff**, Pomona-Pitzer Colleges Emerita Professor of Physical Education & Head Tennis Coach (retired); **Coach Pat Summitt**, University of Tennessee Head Women's Basketball Coach (posthumous); and **Coach Tara VanDerveer**, Stanford University Head Women's Basketball Coach (retired).

"The Lifetime Achievement Award honors those who have not only excelled in their field but have also paved the way for future generations of leaders. This year's winners are true pioneers—individuals whose advocacy for women in coaching has broken barriers, records and created lasting change. Their unwavering dedication to excellence, empowerment, and inclusion is a beacon of inspiration. We are proud to celebrate their extraordinary contributions and the legacy they continue to build. WeCOACH could not be more thrilled to bestow upon them our highest honor, the Lifetime Achievement Award," said WeCOACH CEO Vanessa Fuchs.

Past Lifetime Achievement Award recipients include Jill Ellis, Muffet McGraw, Violet Palmer, Dr. Nikki Franke, Carol Hutchins, Jodi Manore, Missy Foote, Dr. Christine Grant, Bev Kearney, C. Vivian Stringer and Sister Lynn Winsor. The 2024-25 honorees will receive their custom-designed awards by Jostens on

May 19 in Denver, Colorado in conjunction with the WeCOACH-NCAA Women Coaches Academies. To learn more about the WeCOACH Lifetime Achievement Awards presented by Jostens, click [here](#).



About Coach Jan Hutchinson

A true NCAA coaching legend, Jan Hutchinson spent 32 ½ years as the head coach of field hockey and softball at Bloomsburg University where she won an astonishing 17 total National Championships. As head field hockey coach, she led the program to 16 National Championships and nine runner-up finishes. She won 16 Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) Field Hockey Championships and was eight-time conference runner-up. Hutchinson compiled a field hockey record of 591-75-20 and is the NCAA Division II all-time leader in career wins. As head softball coach, she is the all-time leader in Division II career wins with a record of 1,215-288-2 and made an NCAA-record 28 consecutive trips to the

NCAA Division II Softball Championships (31 including AIAW and NCAA Division III). Bloomsburg won the 1982 AIAW National Championship, twice finished as NCAA Division II National runner-up and had six 3rd place showings. Bloomsburg also won 15 PSAC Softball Championships. Hutchinson is the winningest woman college coach in any division with 1,806 combined wins in field hockey and softball. She was the field hockey Division II National Coach of the Year seven times and has been honored with induction into both the National Fastpitch Coaches Association and the National Field Hockey Coaches Association Halls of Fame and was awarded the C. Vivian Stringer Award from the United States Sports Academy in 2006. During her impressive legacy, every class of student-athletes she recruited in both sports played in the national tournament at least once and most competed two or more times. Read more about Coach Hutchinson [here](#).



About Coach Carmen Jackson

Coach Carmen Jackson has set the example by leading her alma mater where she won the first girls varsity state championship in the state of Florida in Track and Field in 1975. Her coaching career began in 1980, when she became an assistant coach under her high school coach. In 1991-92, she became the head girl's track and field coach at Miami Northwestern Senior High School. She has won an incredible 19 State Championships including 11 consecutive titles from 2009-2019 (1999, 2001, 2005-2007, 2009-2019, 2021-2023), 18 Regional Titles, 29 District Titles, and 17 GMAC Conference Titles. Coach Jackson believes high school coaching may be the most special and important profession anyone can choose, using sport as a vehicle to enrich the lives and futures of the athletes should be our

ultimate goal. She was named Florida Interscholastic Athletic Association Coach of the Year four times, Florida Dairy Farmers Coach of the Year 10 times, Florida Athletic Coaches Association Coach of the Year (2001-2005), and Miami Herald Coach of the Year (2001), Miami Herald Track Coach of the Year 19 times, National High School Athletic Association Coach of the Year Regional winner (2001, 2010), National High School Athletic Association Coach of the Year (2014-15), U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) 2015 National Coach of the Year, 2015 Bob Hayes Hall of Fame, 2016 Miami Northwestern Senior High School Hall of Fame, 2018 Miami Jackson High School Hall of Fame, 2022 Jackson State University Hall of Fame and the 2023 FHSAA Hall of Fame. Read more about Coach Jackson [here](#).



About Dr. Ann Lebedeff

Dr. Ann Lebedeff is a nationally recognized collegiate tennis coach and teacher. Her coaching career began at the University of Arizona from 1977-1984, where she was honored as the Western Collegiate Coach of the Year in 1985. Professor Lebedeff coached both the men's and women's programs at Cal Poly Pomona from 1989-1998, winning national titles with both programs. After earning her doctorate in Physical Education from USC, in 1998 Dr. Lebedeff became Professor and Head Women's Tennis Coach at Pomona-Pitzer Colleges. The Sagehens reached the NCAA Division III Quarterfinals seven times under Lebedeff (2001-03, 2007-10), including a semifinals appearance in 2008. In 2000 her doubles team won the

NCAA Division III Doubles Championship, while in 2008, Siobhan Finicane won the NCAA Division III Singles Championship. Dr. Lebedeff maintains five national Wilson ITA Coach of the Year Awards, and Wilson ITA Coach of the Decade (1990s) for Division II Women's tennis. The International Tennis Hall of Fame honored her in 1999 with the Tennis Educational Merit Award. In that same year, Dr. Lebedeff was presented with the ITA Rolex Meritorious Service Award. In 2019, she was inducted into the ITA Women's Collegiate Tennis Hall of Fame. Her legacy was set in stone in 2018 when her friend, tennis legend, and sports icon, Billie Jean King, endowed the ITA Ann Lebedeff Leadership Award, honoring recent college tennis graduates who demonstrate a passion and perseverance towards long-term goals, a commitment to social justice and equality, and push others to be leaders. Read more about Dr. Lebedeff [here](#).



About Coach Pat Summitt

A coach whose accolades and legacy precede her, the legendary Coach Pat Summitt became the winningest coach in NCAA Division I basketball history with 1,098 career wins, a record she held at the time of her retirement in 2012. During her 38-year tenure leading the Lady Vol Basketball dynasty, she won eight NCAA Championships, five second-place finishes, as well as a combined 32 Southeastern Conference tournament and regular season championships. Tennessee made an unprecedented 31 consecutive appearances in the NCAA Tournament and boasted 14 Olympic Team members, 39 WNBA players, 21 WBCA/Kodak/State Farm All-Americans earning 36 honors, and 39 All-SEC players earning 82 recognitions.

Along with the success on the court, Summitt's student-athletes had tremendous productivity in the classroom. Coach Summitt held a 100 percent graduation rate for all Lady Vols who completed their eligibility at Tennessee. A total of 62 players mentored by Summitt in the UT program went on to basketball coaching or administrative positions. Her incredible body of work earned her Naismith Women's Collegiate Coach of the Century for the 1990s, National Coach of the Year honors seven times, SEC coach of the year eight times, along with induction into numerous halls of fame. Following her 2011 diagnosis of early-onset dementia, Alzheimer's type, she devoted her time to raising awareness worldwide about Alzheimer's disease through the Pat Summitt Foundation. The valor Summitt demonstrated while facing her toughest foe earned her even greater admiration than she had attained as a hall of fame coach. President Barack Obama honored her with the Presidential Medal of Freedom and she received the Arthur Ashe Courage Award. As a coach, mentor, mother-figure, ambassador, trailblazer and role model, Pat Summitt was a living torchbearer. Hers is a light that also cannot be extinguished. Read more about Coach Summitt [here](#).



About Coach Tara VanDerveer

The second-winningest coach in NCAA basketball history, Tara VanDerveer cemented herself as one of the top coaches in the sport, both collegiately and internationally, and is a member of both the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame (2011) and the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame (2002). In her 38 storied seasons leading the Stanford Cardinal, her teams brought back to The Farm three NCAA National Championships (1990, 1992, 2021). An ambassador for both Stanford University and the sport of college basketball, VanDerveer enjoyed an unprecedented level of success through an energetic and positive approach to the game. A five-time national coach of the year and 18-time Pac-12 Coach of the Year, VanDerveer, who prior to coming to Stanford served as head coach for a combined seven seasons at Idaho (1978-80) and Ohio State (1980-85), accumulated an impressive 1,216-271 (.818) record in her 45 years as a collegiate head coach, and a 1,064-220 (.829) record at Stanford. VanDerveer guided her players to two Wade Trophy Player of the Year honors, two Naismith Player of the Year honors, a WBCA Defensive Player of the Year and Naismith Defensive Player of the Year, 38 first-team All-America honors (WBCA and Associated Press), 20 Pac-12 Player of the Year awards, 88 first team All-Pac-12 selections, nearly 40 appointments to USA Basketball teams and 34 went on to play in the WNBA. VanDerveer won her 1,000th career game on Feb. 3, 2017, passed Pat Summitt (1,098) to become the then-winningest coach in women's college basketball history on Dec. 15, 2020, and surpassed Mike Krzyzewski (1,202) to become the then-winningest coach in NCAA basketball history on Jan. 21, 2024. Coach VanDerveer is a long-time supporter of WeCOACH and authored a chapter in the 2022 book, *Winning Ways of Women Coaches*. Read more about Coach VanDerveer [here](#).

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ABOUT JOSTENS

Jostens, a trusted partner within the academic and achievement space, provides products and services that help its customers celebrate meaningful milestones. The company's product assortment includes yearbooks, publications, custom-crafted jewelry and consumer goods that serve the K-12, collegiate and professional sports markets. Jostens was founded in 1897 and is headquartered in Minneapolis, Minn. Visit jostens.com for more information.

ABOUT WeCOACH

Founded in 2011, WeCOACH is a one-of-a-kind 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to recruiting, advancing, and retaining women coaches in all sports and levels through year-round professional growth & leadership development programs. Prior to Title IX, over 90% of women's collegiate sports teams were coached by women. Today, over 50 years later, the data indicates that number has decreased to 41% across all three NCAA Divisions, with only 7% women head coaches of color. Only 5% women coach men's teams. At the youth level, the data is hard to estimate, approximately less than 20% of teams are coached by women. WeCOACH launched MOVE the NUMBERS in 2022 to help change the landscape for women coaches and the student-athletes they lead. If she can see her, she can be her. For more information visit [MOVE the NUMBERS](#).

ABOUT THE WeCOACH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The prestigious WeCOACH Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to women in sports who succeed at the highest levels in their respective careers, while also displaying an unwavering commitment, pioneering spirit, and trailblazing leadership to empower and pave the way for girls and women in all sports and levels to breakthrough for many generations to come. Jostens, as our official WeCELEBRATE Moments Partner, provides each honoree with a custom designed award to commemorate their lifetime achievements. To view past recipients, or to learn more about the WeCOACH Lifetime Achievement Awards presented by Jostens, click [here](#).

WeTEACH. WeINSPIRE. WeMOTIVATE. WeLEAD. WeCOACH!