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--March 3, 2009-- **Midwest Conference Women's Basketball**

***Ripon's Johnson, Beloit's Brown Win Coach and Player of the Year Awards***

RIPON, WIS. -- Ripon Head Coach **Julie Johnson** added to her team's remarkable season by being tabbed the MWC Coach of the Year. This marks the fourth time Johnson has earned the honor ('96, '04, '05) in her 19 years at the helm of the Red Hawks. Johnson's squad saw one of the conference's most impressive one-year improvements as the team flipped last season's 4-12 conference mark around to 12-4 earning them the third seed in the MWC tournament. From there, Ripon was able to knock off the conference's top two seeds - including handing defending champion St. Norbert its first home loss of the year - en route to the school's fourth Championship, all of which are under Johnson. Johnson continues to add to her current status as the Red Hawks' all-time winningest coach and has the opportunity to continue that this season as Ripon will represent the MWC in the 2009 NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Tournament.

Beloit senior guard **Christine Brown** tops off her impressive career by being voted the 2009 Midwest Conference Player of the Year. Brown's honor marks the first time a Buccaneer has won the award since its inception after the 1995-96 season. The senior guard not only established herself as Beloit's top offensive threat but as one of the conference's best all-around players as she finished the 2008-09 campaign in the top eight in five statistical categories within the conference including points per game (13.0), rebounds per game (9.0), and field goal percentage (.527). Brown finished the season with seven double-doubles including a February 11th match-up against Carroll in which she scored a season-high 32 points while snagging 12 rebounds. Brown, along with fellow All-MWC First-Teamer **Mary Parker** (10.2 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 4.1 apg), teamed up to create a backcourt that led the Buccaneers to a number two seed in the conference tournament, but was knocked off by eventual MWC-Champion Ripon in the first round.

After St. Norbert's league-best 15-1 conference record, a trio of Green Knight guards have earned First-Team honors. Senior **Morgan Strasser** (10.8 ppg), junior **Denise Heuser** (10.8 ppg), and sophomore **Stefanie Bunday** (7.9 ppg, 4.2 apg, 3.4 rpg) were all recognized after leading St. Norbert to the number one seed and the honor of hosting the Conference Championship Tournament. Another pair of guards earned their first trip to the First-Team as Monmouth senior **Melissa Gorski** (16.0 ppg, 8.5 rpg) and Illinois College junior **Candace Norville** (15.2 ppg, 4 rpg) were both honored. Lake Forest junior **Lisa Nassin** (15.0 ppg, 5.6 rpg) was the First-Team's lone center while a pair of freshmen forwards rounded out the squad in Ripon's **Erin Lind** (12.4 ppg, 6.5 rpg) and Carroll's **Karen Hoewisch** (16.0 ppg, 4.0 rpg).

--2008-09 MWC ALL-CONFERENCE--

**MWC PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

Christine Brown, Senior, Guard, Beloit College

**MWC COACH OF THE YEAR**

Julie Johnson, Ripon College

**FIRST TEAM**

Player	Pos.	Yr.	School
Christine Brown	G	Sr.	Beloit College
Mary Parker	G	Jr.	Beloit College
Karen Hoewisch	F	Fr.	Carroll University
Candace Norville	G	Jr.	Illinois College
Lisa Nassin	C	Jr.	Lake Forest College
Melissa Gorski	G	Sr.	Monmouth College
Erin Lind	F	Fr.	Ripon College
Stefanie Bunday	G	So.	St. Norbert College
Denise Heuser	G	Jr.	St. Norbert College
Morgan Strasser	G	Sr.	St. Norbert College

**SECOND TEAM**

Player	Pos.	Yr.	School
Leah Lemke	G	Jr.	Carroll University
Rachel Macon	C	So.	Illinois College
Erin Navolio	F	Jr.	Knox College
Claire Schmidt	F	Jr.	Lake Forest College
Erin Henzi	F	Sr.	Lawrence University
Emily Meyer	G	So.	Ripon College
Lynsey Barnard	G	Jr.	Monmouth College
Tanasha Hughes	F	Sr.	Monmouth College

By: Ryan Andersen

