



February 28, 2006

**TRIO OF HAWKEYES EARN ALL-BIG TEN HONORS; SKOUBY NAMED FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR**

**PARK RIDGE, IL** – The Big Ten Conference announced its 2006 All-Big Ten women's basketball teams Tuesday, and it included Iowa senior **Crystal Smith**, sophomore **Krista VandeVenter** and freshman **Megan Skouby**.

Skouby was named Big Ten Freshman of the Year, earned all-freshman team recognition and was named to the all-Big Ten second team by the media and third team by the coaches. Smith earned all-conference first team accolades by both the media and coaches and was also named to the all-defensive team. VandeVenter earned honorable mention laurels by the media and is Iowa's women's basketball nominee for the Big Ten Sportsmanship Award.

Skouby becomes the third Hawkeye to earn Big Ten Freshman of the Year honors, joining Franthea Price (1987) and Tiffany Gooden (1995). The 6-6 center is also the sixth Big Ten post-player to earn the award since 1983 and the first since Ohio State's Jessica Davenport in 2004. Skouby was honored by both the coaches and the media after finishing fourth in scoring with 16.8 points per game in conference play. She ranked fourth with 1.69 blocks per game, sixth with a field-goal percentage of .523, and placed near the top 15 in rebounding with 5.8 boards per game. In all games this year, she ranks fourth in the league with a .553 field goal percentage.

Skouby shined during conference play, starting all 16 contests after teammate Stacy Schlapkohl suffered a season-ending injury in late December. The tallest player in Iowa women's basketball history netted double figures 21 times, including the last 14 contests. She currently ranks second in Iowa's single-season freshman scoring (382) and blocks (45) chart. The native of Mentor, OH, becomes Iowa's third honoree to the all-Big Ten Freshman team in four years (Johanna Solverson, 2003; Krista VandeVenter, 2005).

Smith ranks third in league scoring (17.5), second in steals (2.44), fifth in assist/turnover ratio (1.42), seventh in free throw percentage (.849) and 11<sup>th</sup> in assists (3.37). The native of Haughton, LA, earned third team recognition by the coaches and was an honorable mention honoree by the media last season.

Smith, who was named to the Odwalla Classic and Hawkeye Challenge all-tournament teams, has led the Hawkeyes in scoring 15 times this season. She has scored double figures in all but two games this year, including netting 20 points or more nine times. The 5-6 guard scored a 2005-06 NCAA single-game high 46 points at Louisiana Tech on Nov. 22. Smith was named Big Ten Player of the Week on Nov. 28, after establishing school single-game records in points (46) and free throws attempted (19) and matching records in free throws made (15) and field goal percentage (9-9, 1.000) in two road games over Thanksgiving break.

VandeVenter, who has started every game as a Hawkeye (60), ranks third in Big Ten rebounding (8.4), second in defensive rebounds (6.04), fifth in steals (2.19), ninth in offensive rebounds (2.33) and 10<sup>th</sup> in assist/turnover ratio (1.17). The 6-2 forward posted a team-best three double-doubles this season and led the team in rebounding 20 times. She was named to the all-Big Ten Freshman team last season.

VandeVenter, who was named to the Hawkeye Challenge all-Tournament team, is Iowa's single-season sophomore steals leader (59) and ranks fourth in rebounding (226). She currently ranks 18<sup>th</sup> in Iowa's career rebounding annals (478). VandeVenter had double digit rebounds nine times this season.

The native of Osseo, MN, joins 10 other honorees from each of the league's 11 women's basketball squads for the Big Ten Sportsmanship Award. The student-athletes chosen are individuals who have distinguished themselves through sportsmanship and ethical behavior. In addition, the student-athletes must be in good academic standing and have demonstrated good citizenship outside of the sports-competition setting.

Davenport was named the Big Ten Player of the Year by both the media and coaches for the second consecutive year. Her coach, Jim Foster, was recognized as Coach of the Year by both the coaches and media. The coaches also named Buckeye senior Kim Wilburn as the Defensive Player of the Year. Both the coaches and media had identical first team selections.

Fifth-seeded Iowa (17-10, 10-6) opens Big Ten Tournament competition when it plays fourth-seeded Michigan State (21-8, 11-5) Friday at approximately 1:10 p.m. (CST) at Consecro Fieldhouse in Indianapolis, IN. The game will be televised on Comcast SportsNet Chicago.





**2005-06 All-Big Ten Women's Basketball Team**

***As Selected by the Coaches***

**First Team**

Cyndi Valentin, Indiana  
Crystal Smith, Iowa  
Liz Shimek, Michigan State  
JESSICA DAVENPORT, Ohio State  
Katie Gearlds, Purdue

**Second Team\***

Jenny DeMuth, Indiana  
Lindsay Bowen, Michigan State  
Jamie Broback, Minnesota  
Amanda Brown, Penn State  
Aya Traore, Purdue  
Jolene Anderson, Wisconsin

**Third Team**

Megan Skouby, Iowa  
Debbie Merrill, Ohio State  
Marscilla Packer, Ohio State  
Lindsay Wisdom-Hylton, Purdue

**HONORABLE MENTION:** Janelle Hughes, **ILLINOIS**; Cyndi Valentin, **INDIANA**; Victoria Lucas-Perry, **MICHIGAN STATE**; Ifeoma Okonkwo, **NORTHWESTERN**; Brandie Hoskins, **OHIO STATE**; Kamela Gissendanner, **PENN STATE**

**COACHES' ALL-FRESHMAN TEAM:** Lori Bjork, **ILLINOIS**; Megan Skouby, **IOWA**; Whitney Thomas, **INDIANA**; Aisha Jefferson, **MICHIGAN STATE**; Brianne O'Rourke, **PENN STATE**

**COACHES' ALL-DEFENSIVE TEAM:** Crystal Smith, **IOWA**; Shannon Bolden, **MINNESOTA**; Kim Wilburn, Jessica Davenport, **OHIO STATE**; Lindsay Wisdom-Hylton, **PURDUE**

**PLAYER OF THE YEAR:** Jessica Davenport, Ohio State

**FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR:** Megan Skouby, Iowa

**DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:** Kim Wilburn, Ohio State

**SIXTH PLAYER:** Cherelle George, Purdue

**COACH OF THE YEAR:** Jim Foster, Ohio State

\* - six players named due to tie

**2005-06 All-Big Ten Women's Basketball Team**

***As Selected by the Media***

**First Team**

Cyndi Valentin, Indiana  
Crystal Smith, Iowa  
Liz Shimek, Michigan State  
JESSICA DAVENPORT, Ohio State  
Katie Gearlds, Purdue

**Second Team**

Megan Skouby, Iowa  
Lindsay Bowen, Michigan State  
Jamie Broback, Minnesota  
Aya Traore, Purdue  
Jolene Anderson, Wisconsin

**Third Team**

Jenny DeMuth, Indiana  
Brandie Hoskins, Ohio State  
Marscilla Packer, Ohio State  
Amanda Brown, Penn State  
Lindsay Wisdom-Hylton, Purdue

**HONORABLE MENTION:** Janelle Hughes, Erin Wigley, **ILLINOIS**; Krista VandeVenter, **IOWA**; Victoria Lucas-Perry, **MICHIGAN STATE**; Ifeoma Okonkwo, **NORTHWESTERN**; Debbie Merrill, **OHIO STATE**; Kamela Gissendanner, Brianne O'Rourke, **PENN STATE**; Erin Lawless, **PURDUE**; Janese Banks; **WISCONSIN**

**PLAYER OF THE YEAR:** JESSICA DAVENPORT, Ohio State

**FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR:** Megan Skouby, Iowa

**COACH OF THE YEAR:** Jim Foster, Ohio State

UNANIMOUS SELECTIONS IN ALL CAPS

