

For Immediate Release

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Lady Flames National Basketball Champions

NASHVILLE, TN—The Free Will Baptist Bible College Lady Flames basketball team made history March 3 when they won the Association of Christian College Athletics (ACCA) Division II national tournament in Bethany, Oklahoma, according to Athletic Director Mike Phillips. This marks the first time that any FWBBC team has won a national championship.

Mr. Phillips said, "I am so happy for our women's team and Coach Nathan Willhite. I congratulate them for what they did this year for our program and college. Most important, I thank them for their Christ-like attitudes this season."

The Lady Flames came back from a 31-28 halftime deficit to defeat Emmaus Bible College in the championship game 56-51. They opened the second half with a 10-0 run and never lost the lead.

Freshman forward Lindsay Wolf, who led all scorers with 30 points, was named ACCA Division II National Player of the Year and National Tournament MVP. Freshman guard Katy Cobb was named to the National All-Tournament Team.

Coach Willhite, now in his fourth year, knew that this was a special team even though they only had eight players on the squad. "They never quit. We were a young team, and we had our frustrating moments, but we came together and worked through it. Win or lose, we remained a team.

Willhite continued, "I am excited about the national championship, and what it means to our team, program, and college. My sister Elizabeth is our only senior and four-year starter, and she went out on top. I'm thankful not only for the players but for their parents who encouraged them to attend FWBBC."

Women's basketball at FWBBC is in its 10th year of competition. The college joined ACCA two years. ACCA was established in 1983 to promote the education and development of students through intercollegiate athletic participation.

Photo: (L) Assistant Coach Emily Edwards, Coach Nathan Willhite, Amanda Fretter, Jacquelyn Jackson, Amanda Ellison, Katy Cobb, Elizabeth Willhite, Lindsay Wolf, Kristyn Baumann, Mary-Catherine Thompson.