Washington Named Outstanding Woman

Marian E. Washington, KU women's basketball coach, is this year’s recipient of the William I. Koch Outstanding Kansas Woman of the Year Award. Washington was honored at a dinner in Topeka Dec. 4.

The award was established by Wichita native William I. Koch in 1995 to recognize a Kansas woman who has achieved success locally and nationally. "Marian Washington is a profile in excellence and achievement," said Koch, "a woman who has broken barriers, a woman who has inspired athletes and a master strategist who embodies a winning attitude. Marian is the quintessential coach."

A native of West Chester, Pa., Washington was very athletic and competitive in high school, participating in seven sports. At West Chester State College, she was a member of the first women's national championship basketball team, which won the Women's National Invitational Tournament, the WNIT, in 1969. That year, she earned the distinction of being one of the first two black women to make a U.S. national team.

After graduating from college, Washington taught junior high school physical education in Kansas City, Mo. Her career at KU began in 1972, when she became a graduate assistant and earned a master's degree in biodynamics and administration. In addition to her teaching assignment, she started coaching women's basketball in 1973.

As the Jayhawks' coach, she has compiled an impressive record and has consistently coached winning teams. The 1995 team, with a 20-11 record, earned the team a berth in the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament.

In her 23-year career, she has a record of 435-253. Her winning totals rank among the top 30 in victories for an active Division I intercollegiate coach. In conference play, Washington has posted a 123-73 career record. She has led the Jayhawks to five NCAA tournaments, two WNIT appearances and the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women national tournament. Last year, the Kansas women went to the Sweet 16, a first-time event in Kansas women's basketball history.

This summer, Washington was an assistant coach to the U.S. women's Olympic team, which won a gold medal. Earlier in her career, she served on the selection committee for the 1984 and 1988 Olympic women's teams.

She is a member of the national officiating committee. She also has been a member of the Kodak All-American Selection Committee and the Women's Basketball Coaches Association board of directors. She served as regional chair for the Wade Trophy and as commissioner of the Kansas AIAW. She was president of the Black Coaches Association for four years.

Over the years, Washington has received national and international recognition for her coaching abilities. She has received a number of honors, including being named Giant Steps Award Black Coaches Association Women's...

She has received the Carol Eckman Award and the Ebony Magazine Outstanding Black Women in Sports Award. She also is a member of the West Chester State College Hall of Fame and the KU Hall of Fame.