Wolf Pack senior guard Tahnee Robinson named finalist for prestigious Sullivan Award

Wolf Pack senior guard Tahnee Robinson was named one of five finalists for the 81st annual Sullivan Award, the country’s most prestigious award for amateur athletes.

Known as the “Oscar” of sports awards, and older than the Heisman Trophy, the Amateur Athletic Union’s Sullivan Award honors the outstanding amateur athlete in the United States. The award has been presented annually since 1930 as a salute to founder and past president of the Amateur Athletic Union and pioneer in amateur sports, James E. Sullivan. Based on the qualities of leadership, character, sportsmanship and the ideals of amateurism, the AAU Sullivan Award goes far beyond athletic accomplishments and honors those who have shown strong moral character.

“Making it all the way to the finals for something like the Sullivan Award is really amazing,” Robinson says. “Seeing the talent and accomplishments of the other finalists makes it mean so much to me just to get as far as I did. I had an amazing time in New York City, and the trip gave me many memories I will cherish forever.”

Robinson was first selected as one of the 12 semifinalists and made the Sullivan Award top five after a vote of representatives from national athletic organizations, in combination with an online poll conducted by USA Today. She joined Olympic gold medalist figure skater Evan Lysacek, water skier Regina Jaquess, Arkansas football player DJ Williams and baton twirler Karissa Wimberley as finalists. Lysacek won this year’s Sullivan Award, announced at a ceremony held at the New York Athletic Club on March 14, joining past winners gymnast Sean Johnson, quarterback Tim Tebow, basketball player J.J. Redick and swimmer Michael Phelps, among others.

Robinson grew up on the Wind River Reservation in Fort Washakie, Wyo. where she was a McDonald’s and Gatorade All-American and excelled in her two seasons at the University of Nevada. The team co-captain became just the 10th player in school history to score 1,000 career points, doing it in just two seasons, and led the Wolf Pack to back-to-back Women’s National Invitation Tournament postseason appearances.

A two-time All-Western Athletic Conference first-team selection and the 2010 WAC Newcomer of the Year, Robinson ranked in the national top 10 in scoring in each of her two seasons at Nevada and finished in the Wolf Pack’s career top 10 in five categories.

In addition to her on-court performance, Robinson has diligently worked through personal hardship throughout her career and held herself to high academic standards. She has had to carry a significant academic load since transferring to Nevada from Sheridan College prior to the 2009-10 season. She is on course to graduate this summer and hopes to pursue professional basketball in the WNBA.

One of the few Native American women playing NCAA Division I basketball in the United States today, Robinson has dedicated countless hours of service to the local Native American community, speaking to groups about the importance of education, battling personal addiction and making good life choices.

Robinson was recognized for her service when she received a Pendleton blanket from the Pyramid Lake Veteran’s and Warriors Association prior to Nevada’s Native American Appreciation game in February, a traditional honor. Nevada’s women’s basketball program also partnered with Nike N7, the company’s commitment to bring sport and all of its benefits to Native American and Aboriginal communities in North America, by wearing shoes and warm-up shirts from the Nike N7 collection during that game to show support for Native American groups in northern Nevada. The game, Nevada’s second annual Native American Appreciation Night, also featured traditional dances performed by representatives from local-area reservations.

“Tahnee’s biggest achievements have been off the court,” Nevada head women’s basketball coach Jane Albright says. “She has learned to discipline herself as an athlete, student and person. She has worked so hard to graduate this summer and has spent so much of her personal time to serve as a role model for the Native American community in northern Nevada. She is truly one of the most impressive people I’ve ever coached in my 26 years of coaching.”

—Aaron DeWall, assistant director of media services/publications coordinator
Message from the 2010/2011 AAUN President

What a year it has been for the AAUN and Wolf Pack Athletics! We saw unprecedented support as more than 25,000 Wolf Pack fans traveled to San Francisco for the Kraft Fight Hunger Bowl. Perhaps more importantly, this support provided close to 50,000 meals for the hungry in our community. In addition, Wolf Pack Athletics raised just more than $5 million in scholarship and programmatic support. None of this would have been possible without the wonderful support of our alumni and fans.

In 2012, Wolf Pack Athletics will make a historic move to the Mountain West Conference. In April of this year, we will launch the largest capital campaign in Wolf Pack history. This five-year campaign will provide us with the much-needed funds to compete in the Mountain West Conference. We are asking everyone in our community to be a part of this monumental campaign and move us into the next chapter of Wolf Pack Athletics.

In the coming months, you will see a wealth of information about this campaign, and I urge you to become involved. We experienced such a sense of pride and uplifted spirit in our community during the 2010 season, and especially leading up to the Kraft Fight Hunger Bowl. Your participation in this campaign will provide Wolf Pack Athletics with the means to sustain this continued success. For more information on the campaign, visit www.movingtothemountain.com or contact one of the Athletics Development staff, (775) 682-6902. GO PACK!

Joseph S. Bradley ’78

Nevada Athletics Financial Information for Fiscal Year 2010

Revenues

- $3,406,368 (17%) Ticket Sales/Sky Box
- $3,218,025 (16%) Development
- $2,368,895 (11%) Conference/ NCAA
- $1,173,115 (6%) Student Fees
- $1,231,920 (6%) Conference/NCAA
- $5,859,695 (29%) State Appropriation
- $1,160,000 (6%) Institutional Support
- $836,000 (4%) Game Guarantees
- $859,355 (4%) Game Expenses
- $386,050 (2%) Concessions/Misc.

Expenditures

- $7,735,817 (37%) Salaries
- $4,518,003 (21%) Financial Aid
- $2,749,890 (13%) Operations
- $1,537,878 (7%) Loan Repayment
- $443,450 (2%) Equipment
- $1,182,318 (6%) Facility Debt Service
- $859,355 (4%) Game Expenses
- $1,160,000 (6%) Institutional Support
- $836,000 (4%) Game Guarantees
- $386,050 (2%) Concessions/Misc.

$600,000 (3%) Endowment
$1,173,115 (6%) Student Fees
$2,037,672 (11%) Team Travel