



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### U.S. Women's Soccer Champion Abby Wambach Comes to Kansas City

*WIN for KC will host annual Women's Sports Awards Celebration on Feb. 3*

KANSAS CITY, MO – The Women's Intersport Network (WIN for KC) is proud to announce that women's sports icon Abby Wambach will be the keynote speaker for the 18th annual Women's Sports Awards Celebration set for 11:30 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 3, 2012, at the Sheraton Crown Center (formerly the Hyatt Regency Crown Center).

Abby Wambach has been called the most dangerous striker in the world, and she certainly proved that in the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup. In leading her team to a silver medal, she was selected sportswoman of the Year by the Women's Sports Foundation in 2011. Wambach has competed in three FIFA World Cups and took home a gold medal from the 2004 Olympics in Athens. As of July 2011, Wambach's International career goals stand at 120, making her the fourth all-time leading soccer scorer in international soccer history. She is currently training for the 2012 Olympic Games.

The celebration will feature not only Wambach, but also female athletes and high school state champions from the greater Kansas City area. Nine area women will be recognized for their tremendous achievements in sports, fitness and physical activity.

The award winners are as follows: Evelyn Gates Award Committee: Melinda Minks, Maureen Dahnke, Dianne Schmidt, and Betty Seale all of the Kansas City area (BKD WOW Award), Judy Swofford of Prairie Village (UMB Senior Sportswoman Award), Beth Savidge of Independence (Sprint Spirit Award), Kelly Pfannenstiel of Olathe (Hallmark Cards Outstanding Mentor Award), Monica Steiner of Olathe (DST Systems Adversity Award), and Frances Neunuebel of Leawood (Price Chopper Youth Sports Girl Award).

"The award winners are a special part of the luncheon because they are so inspirational in their accomplishments," said Kathy Nelson, President and CEO of the Greater Kansas City Sports Commission and WIN for KC. "Our goal at the event is to ultimately motivate more people in the room to get moving."

The annual Awards Celebration takes place in conjunction with National Girls & Women in Sports Day (Feb. 1). It is the largest luncheon celebrating the day and is an annual sold-out event with more than 1,400 participants. National Girls & Women in Sports Day was organized by the Women's Sports Foundation in 1987 and is a nationwide celebration of community-based events to honor achievements and encourage female participation in sports.

More information can be found at [www.winforkc.org](http://www.winforkc.org).

The Women's Intersport Network for Kansas City (WIN for KC), advocates and promotes the lifetime value of sports and fitness, while providing opportunities for participation and for leadership development. Our mission is to improve the health, confidence and leadership skills of girls and women in our community. WIN for KC was established in 1994 as a division of the Kansas City Sports Commission and Foundation. For more information, visit [www.winforkc.org](http://www.winforkc.org) or call (816) 474-GOKC.

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