

State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Contact: Billy
505.476.2299

GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON HONORS LOBO BASKETBALL STARS

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson hosted a post-season ceremony for the Lady Lobos basketball players and men's star Ruben Douglas at the Governor's residence.

Governor Richardson delivered the following remarks about the Lady Lobos and Ruben Douglas:

Today, I am proud to honor the Lady Lobos and the exceptional basketball career of UNM star Ruben Douglas.

I join with every New Mexican in thanking these fine athletes for their outstanding play.

Let's hear it for the Lady Lobos. What a season. The Lady Lobos won the Mountain West Conference Tournament title, made their third appearance in the NCAA Tournament and advanced to the NCAA sweet sixteen for the first time.

Twenty-four victories and 9 defeats, the Lady Lobos 25th season is one we will always remember. This was the fifth consecutive 20-win season and their first tournament championship.

Ranked 23rd in the final USA Today/ESPN national poll, the Lady Lobos put women's basketball in New Mexico back on the map.

I want to congratulate Coach Don Flanagan for a great season, for his continued outstanding leadership and for his dedication to UNM and to New Mexico.

I want to especially congratulate Jordan Adams who was unable to attend here today for her four years at UNM.

Jordan Adams was named to the Mountain West Conference All Conference team for the forth-straight year. She was selected as the Mountain West Conference Tournament MVP and was named to the NCAA Midwest All-Regional Team.

Jordan Adams was the 18th overall pick in the Women's National Basketball Association draft by the Minnesota Lynx.

Other lobo stars, defensive player of the year Cristal Garcia. Most improved player, freshman, Abbie Letz. Community Lobo award to Junior Lauren McLeod and the Reaching for the stars award to Mandi Moore, who was also named to the third team all conference.

Knowing what a competitor Ruben Douglas is, I'm sure he'd rather be here today celebrating a Mountain West championship. Hopefully the men's team will benefit from the example that Ruben set, and challenge for that title next season.

But today, I think it's important to give Ruben the recognition he deserves - both his individual accomplishments and his contributions as a leader during his successful career as a Lobo.

First, let's give a big hand to the Lobo who led the nation in scoring with 28 points a game.

And let's not forget, Ruben is the Mountain West Conference Player of the Year. That's quite an honor.

I was reading one of the pre-draft profiles of Ruben, and the quality I think best described him was not necessarily his jump shot or his outstanding free-throw percentage. This profile described Ruben as a "mature person on and off the court." The writer emphasized Ruben's "great work ethic and positive attitude." That's the kind of student-athlete that Coach Ritchie McKay and the University of New Mexico should be proud of.

But let's not play down Ruben's athletic prowess. I remember someone describing Ruben as the Number-1, Number-2 and Number-3 scoring option for the Lobos. And while the opponents all knew that, they still couldn't stop him.

I'm glad to see that Ruben is getting a serious look from NBA scouts. He deserves it, and the team that drafts him will get a top-notch talent. I look forward to the day when New Mexicans can brag about the fact that NBA star - Ruben Douglas -- is one of us.

Congratulations, Ruben, and good luck on draft day.

