

Boston Celtics' Trainer Ed Lacerte Recognized by the National Basketball Athletic Trainers Association with the Ed Lacerte Service Award

BOSTON (July 10, 2009) – The National Basketball Athletic Trainers Association (NBATA) has recognized Boston Celtics Athletic Trainer Ed Lacerte by creating and awarding him the Ed Lacerte Service Award. Lacerte was honored at an awards ceremony held in Chicago in May for his contributions and exceptional service and assistance to the NBATA.

This honor is given out to a member of the NBATA every two years by the outgoing chairman. Lacerte has been extremely involved with the NBATA having served as the treasurer and executive committee member for the past 21 years.

Lacerte enters his 23rd season with the Celtics in 2009-10, making him the longest-serving athletic trainer in the club's history. In addition to his responsibilities as Athletic Trainer, Lacerte has acted as the team's Physical Therapist and Strength and Conditioning coach for eight of those 23 seasons.

“Ed Lacerte embodies the definition of Service, his selfless and tireless dedication to the Boston Celtics, as well as the National Basketball Athletic Trainers Association is unmatched by any of his peers. He is the model example of what our organization has strived to portray since its inception over 35 years ago,” NBATA Chairman Wally Blase remarked. “It is only fitting that an award for exemplary service be named in his honor, as well as bestowed to him in its inaugural year. To give an idea on how much dedication and service Ed has shown to the NBATA, the longest tenure that one can have to the executive committee is 6 continuous years, while serving as chairman elect, chairman, and past chairmen, upon the completion of the 6th year that member is relieved of his service to the executive committee. Ed has now served 21 continuous years and is still serving! This is type of service will never be duplicated again by another member. On behalf of the NBATA we say thank you Ed.”

Lacerte is the only athletic trainer in the league who is a licensed physical therapist, a certified and licensed athletic trainer, a certified strength and conditioning specialist and a board certified sports clinical specialist.

In 1993, Lacerte was recognized as NBA Athletic Trainer of the Year, one of countless other awards he has received throughout his career. He also served as the trainer for the 1992 gold medal-winning U.S. Olympic Basketball “Dream Team.”

A native of Lowell, Massachusetts, Lacerte has stayed close to home throughout his career. He graduated in 1982 from Boston University with a degree in Physical Therapy and earned a Master's in Education in 1987 from the same institution. Lacerte worked as Head Athletic Trainer for the Boston University hockey and football teams from 1982 to 1985.