



Wizards' Eric Waters named 2009-2010 Joe O'Toole NBA Athletic Trainer of the Year

Eric Waters, the Head Athletic Trainer of the Washington Wizards, was named the 2009-2010 recipient of the Joe O'Toole NBA Athletic Trainer of the Year. The award was given at the NBATA Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL on May 20, 2010 at the NBATA/Gatorade Reception.

Waters, who completed his sixth year with the Wizards, has developed into one of the leaders within the NBATA. He currently serves as the Eastern Conference Head Athletic Trainer representative to the NBATA Executive Board. He recently lectured at the National Athletic Trainers Association Annual Meeting in Philadelphia in June, 2010.

The award is named after Joe O'Toole, the longtime athletic trainer of the Atlanta Hawks, who is generally regarded as the father of the NBATA.

Waters Bio

Eric Waters begins his seventh season as head athletic trainer for the Washington Wizards after serving as assistant athletic trainer for the Chicago Bulls for four seasons. Waters has a well-rounded athletic training background, including athletic healthcare experience with Olympic athletes, professional football and various collegiate teams.

Waters was assistant athletic trainer for Northwestern University's football, wrestling and field hockey teams from 1999-2000. He provided athletic healthcare coverage to several sports team athletes at the United States Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo., in 1999. Waters worked with the National Football League's developmental summer league (NFL Europe) as head athletic trainer for the London Monarchs in 1998 and assistant athletic trainer for the Rhein Fire in 1997. He was assistant athletic trainer for the University of Iowa football team from 1998-99. Eric also served as an intern athletic trainer for the NFL's Carolina Panthers during summer training camp in 1997. Recently, he has travelled internationally to Beijing, China as part of the NBA's Basketball without Borders. In 2001, he travelled to Moscow, Russia with an NBPA retired players goodwill tour.

The native of Belle Plaine, Iowa, received undergraduate degrees in athletic training/exercise science and psychology from the University of Iowa in 1995, and a master's degree in exercise science from Boise State University in 1998.

Past recipients of the Joe O'Toole NBA Athletic Trainer of the Year:

JOE O'TOOLE NBA ATHLETIC TRAINER OF THE YEAR AWARD

RECIPIENTS OF THE JOE O'TOOLE NBA ATHLETIC TRAINER OF THE YEAR AWARD		
Year	Athletic Trainer	Team
2008-09	Aaron Nelson	Phoenix Suns
2007-08	Jim Gillen	Denver
2006-07	Fred Tedeschi	Chicago Bulls
2005-06	Ron Culp	Miami Heat
2004-05	Mike Saunders	New York Knicks
2003-04	Tim Walsh	New Jersey Nets
2002-03	Jim Gillen	Denver
2001-02	David Craig	Indiana Pacers
2000-01	Keith Jones	Houston Rockets
1999-00	Mark Pfeil	Milwaukee Bucks
1998-99	Gary Briggs	Cleveland Cavaliers
1997-98	Frank Furtado	Seattle SuperSonics
1996-97	Joe O'Toole	Atlanta Hawks
1995-96	Ron Culp	Miami Heat
1994-95	Bill Jones	Sacramento Kings
1993-94	Mike Saunders	New York Knicks
1992-93	Ed Lacerte	Boston Celtics
1991-92	Doug Atkinson	Dallas Mavericks
1990-91	Gary Vitti	Los Angeles Lakers
1989-90	Tom Abdenour	Golden State Warriors
1988-89	Frank Furtado	Seattle SuperSonics
1987-88	Joe Proski	Phoenix Suns
1986-87	Ron Culp	Portland Trailblazers
1985-86	Fritz Massmann	New Jersey Nets
1984-85	Dick D'Oliva	Golden State Warriors
1983-84	Don Sparks	Utah Jazz
1982-83	Dick Vandervoort	Houston Rockets
1981-82	Joe O'Toole	Atlanta Hawks
