



STAFF

2008-09 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



Contents

Head Coach Dawn Staley	46
Assistant Coach Lisa Boyer	49
Assistant Coach Carla McGhee	50
Assistant Coach Nikki McCray	51
Women's Basketball Support Staff	52
Administrative Leadership	54

THE GOLD STANDARD



Dawn Staley

Head Coach :: 1st Year at South Carolina :: Virginia, 1992



Three-time Olympic gold medalist Dawn Staley took the reins of the University of South Carolina women's basketball program on May 10, 2008, instantly raising the Gamecocks' presence in both the Southeastern Conference and the national stage. One of the most decorated participants in United States women's basketball history, Staley joined the Gamecocks after eight seasons at Temple University where she led the Owls to four Atlantic 10 Tournament titles, six NCAA Tournament appearances and the program's first national ranking.

"Athletic Director Eric Hyman has put the University of South Carolina in a position to compete on a national level because of the people he has brought into the department," Staley said. "We are going to have the resources to compete at the highest level from the practice facility to the Colonial Center. But, the biggest asset we have is the people. I got a great feel for everyone here, and they are excited about becoming winners. It's a platform on which we can be successful."

Staley is no stranger to success in her career whether she's directing the game with the ball in her hand or from the sideline. In her first coaching position, she helped Temple reach the postseason seven times in her eight seasons on the bench. The Owls posted 20 or more wins in a season six times and collected the first A-10 Tournament title in school history in Staley's second season (2002). The program became just the second in A-10 history to collect three straight conference tournament titles, winning the event in 2004, 2005 and 2006, as well.

With a 172-80 record, Staley left Temple as the winningest coach in its women's basketball history and was the fastest to reach 100 victories. En route to that .683 winning percentage, Staley earned WBCA Region 1 Coach of the Year honors in 2005, was twice named A-10 Coach of the Year (2004, 2005), and guided the team to a share of the regular-season A-10 title in 2007-08. She built that success on a foundation of discipline and caring.

"A lot of people think that X's and O's are the biggest part of coaching, but it's actually very little," Staley said. "It's about relationships and discipline. I truly believe that the disciplined person can do anything, so I try to set up a platform on which

student-athletes can be disciplined. With that, I want to build a family atmosphere that includes both the staff and the student-athletes. Once those things are in place, the basketball part becomes very easy because everyone wants to win for each other. We want to work for one another; we want to prepare people to be successful."

Staley is carrying that philosophy to USA Basketball as well where she has been a member of the women's staff since February 2006 and helped the United States to its fourth-straight Olympic gold medal in 2008. She helped the team to a gold medal at the 2007 FIBA Americas Championship in Chile to qualify for the 2008 Olympics after the team won bronze at the FIBA World Championship in 2006. Staley served as the head coach at the 2007 Pan American Games where the U.S. won its first gold medal since 1987 and served as an assistant coach for the silver medal winning team in the Good Luck Beijing Tournament, held in Beijing, China in April 2008.

"USA basketball has always been like utopia for me because it creates an environment where it doesn't really matter what you've done personally in your career," Staley said. "You set all of that aside for one common goal, and that is to win a gold medal. To be part of the coaching staff there now feels like the natural progression for me. I've given a lot to USA Basketball, and USA Basketball has given a lot back to me. I would do anything to ensure that our country is successful, because other countries are catching up. It's in my blood to be part of USA Basketball."

As a player, success came early in Staley's career, beginning with being named *USA Today's* National High School Player of the year in 1988 as a senior at Dobbins Tech. She went on to a four-year career at the University of Virginia that featured three trips to the NCAA Final Four, including a championship game appearance in 1991 after which she was named Most Outstanding Player. A two-time National Player of the Year (1991, 1992) and three-time Kodak All-American (1990, 1991, 1992), Staley was the ACC Player of the Year in 1991 and 1992 and the league's Rookie of the Year in 1989. Finishing her career as the only player in ACC history to record more than 2,000 points, 700 rebounds, 700 assists and 400 steals, Staley is one

of three players at Virginia to have her jersey retired. She was named to the ACC's 50th Anniversary Women's Basketball Team in 2002 and earned a spot on ESPN.com's "Top Players of the Past 25 Years." In April 2008, she was inducted into the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame.

On the international scene, Staley made her first appearance in a USA Basketball uniform as a member of the 1989 Junior World Championship Team and 15 years later played her final international game after helping the organization to a 196-10 record. Her collection of 10 gold medals and one bronze on the world stage is highlighted by Olympic gold medals in 1996, 2000 and 2004.

"When I was standing on the podium receiving my gold medal, I got a vision of young people who are less driven, who think that their opportunities to succeed are bleak," Staley said. "I try to equate it to the things I've gone through growing up in the housing projects of Philadelphia. I want those young people to feel what I'm feeling, because it's an incredible feeling to be able to realize your dream. There is no better feeling in the world than to accomplish something you worked so hard for and the people told you that you couldn't do just because of the color of your skin or the place you grew up or maybe just bad luck."

Staley was also on two FIBA World Championship gold-medal teams (1998, 2002). Twice named USA Basketball's Female Athlete of the Year (1994, 2004), Staley counts carrying the U.S. flag in front of the United States delegation in the 2004 Olympic Games Opening Ceremony among her most gratifying moments on the international stage.

"Being asked to carry the flag into the opening ceremony caught me off guard," Staley admitted. "It's not something I ever dreamt of or aspired to do, but it was so meaningful. It was such a prestigious thing to be able to do. I believe that if you live right and try to do the right things, things will happen to you that will catch you off guard but that are so gratifying for you. Being chosen to carry the flag for the whole United States team is one of those moments in the story of my life."

Staley Capsule

Coaching Experience

South Carolina, head coach, 2008-present

Temple University, head coach, 2000-08

- 172-80 (.683) — eight seasons
- Six seasons of 20 or more wins
- Four Atlantic 10 Tournament titles
- Six NCAA Tournament appearances, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
- WBCA Region 1 Coach of the Year, 2005
- Two-time Atlantic 10 Conference Coach of the Year, 2004, 2005

USA Basketball, senior national team assistant coach, 2006-present

- Beijing Olympic Games gold medal, 2008
- FIBA Americas Champ. gold medal, 2007
- FIBA World Champs. bronze medal, 2006

Playing Experience

Houston Comets, WNBA, 2005-06

- Two-time All Star, 2005, 2006
- WNBA Kim Perrot Sportsmanship Award, 2006
- Charlotte Sting, WNBA, 1999-2005*
- Three-time All-Star, 2001, 2002, 2003
- WNBA All-Decade Team
- WNBA Entrepreneurial Spirit Award, 1999
- WNBA Kim Perrot Sportsmanship Award, 1999
- Richmond/Philadelphia Rage, ABL, 1997-98*
- Two-time All-Star, 1997, 1998

Various international teams, 1992-94

USA Basketball, 1994-2004

- Three-time Olympic gold medalist, 1996, 2000, 2004
- Two-time USA Basketball Female Athlete of the Year, 1994, 2004
- Flag bearer for the United States in Olympic Games Opening Ceremony, 2004
- Goodwill Games Most Valuable Player, 1994
- University of Virginia, 1989-92*
- Three-time Kodak All-American, 1990, 1991, 1992
- Honda-Broderick Cup Award for Collegiate Female Athlete of the Year, 1991
- *Sports Illustrated* Player of the Year, 1991
- Two-time ACC Player of the Year, 1991, 1992
- NCAA Tournament Most Outstanding Player, 1991
- ACC Rookie of the Year, 1989
- One of three UVa players to have her jersey retired
- Dobbins Tech, 1985-89*
- *USA Today* HS Player of the Year, 1988



Other Notables

- Virginia Sports Hall of Fame inductee, 2008
- Two-time Wanamaker Award, 1997, 2005
- Henry P. Iba Citizenship Award, 2007
- NCAA Division I "Top Players of the Past 25 Years" selection by ESPN.com
- Institute for International Sport "The 100 Most Influential Sports Educators in America"

Education

Bachelor of arts, rhetoric and communication studies, University of Virginia, 1992

Intro

Players

Staff

Opponents

Review

Records

History

Head Coach Dawn Staley

Staley Year-by-Year

Year	School	Record	Conf. Rec./Finish	Postseason
2000-01	Temple	19-11	11-5/2nd East	WNIT
2001-02	Temple	20-11	12-4/2nd East	A-10 Tourn. Champ./NCAA
2002-03	Temple	14-15	9-7/2nd East	—
2003-04	Temple	21-10	14-2/1st East	A-10 Tourn. Champ./NCAA
2004-05	Temple	28-4	16-0/1st East*	A-10 Tourn. Champ./NCAA
2005-06	Temple	24-8	12-4/3rd	A-10 Tourn. Champ./NCAA
2006-07	Temple	25-8	13-1/2nd	NCAA
2007-08	Temple	21-13	12-2/T-1st	NCAA

Career 172-80 99-25
* indicates final season of divisional play

Following the 1996 Olympic Games, Staley joined the Richmond Rage of the ABL, one of two women's basketball professional leagues started in the wake of USA Basketball's success on the world stage. After two all-star seasons with the organization, she switched leagues, signing with the WNBA's Charlotte Sting in 1999. Including the 2005 and 2006 seasons with the Houston Comets, Staley played in the WNBA All-Star game five times and was the first player in league history to represent both the East and West teams during her career. A member of the WNBA's All-Decade Team, as selected by a panel of national and WNBA-market media as well as the league's players and coaches, Staley twice earned the Kim Perrot Sportsmanship Award (1999, 2006) and won the WNBA Entrepreneurial Spirit Award in 1999. Following her retirement from the league, the WNBA began awarding the Dawn Staley Community Leadership Award in 2007, honoring the player who best exemplifies the characteristics of a leader in the community in which she works or lives.

Staley lives that mantra daily through individual appearances, the work of The Dawn Staley Foundation and in encouraging her teams to pursue community services



opportunities. A spokesperson for the American Health Association, Staley directs a bulk of her service commitments through The Dawn Staley Foundation, which is aimed at giving inner-city children positive input. In the after-school programs sponsored by the foundation, participants experience a three-hour focus on academics and athletics at the Hank Gathers Recreation Center. The foundation also organizes summer leagues as well as fund-raising activities.

"It is important for me to give back because I have been given so much," Staley said. "I am blessed, and I want to share my vision. I want to share my hope with people who are under-privileged and think they can't be successful with what they have. I was given some God-given talent to play basketball, but I think everyone has God-given talent to do something. It is important to help young people figure out what that is."

Local and national organizations have recognized her commitment to giving back. She has twice been presented the Wanamaker Award (1997, 2005), presented annually to the athlete, team or organization that has done the most to reflect credit upon Philadelphia and to the team or sport in which he/she excels. She is the only individual woman to ever win the award and joins Joe Frazier and Steve Carlton as the only individuals to capture the honor twice. In 2007, the Rotary Club of Tulsa named Staley its female recipient of the Henry P. Iba Citizenship Award, which is presented annually to the male and female athlete who has excelled in both their sport and their service to others.

Staley vs. Opponents

Arizona State	0-1	George Washington	5-9	Maryland-Eastern Shore	3-0	Rutgers	3-5
Ball State	1-0	Georgia	1-1	Massachusetts	11-2	Saint Joseph's	16-4
Boise State	1-0	Georgia State	1-0	Miami (Ohio)	1-1	Saint Louis	3-0
Boston College	0-1	Georgia Tech	1-1	Michigan	1-0	Santa Clara	1-1
Bowling Green	0-1	Hampton	2-0	Michigan State	0-1	Seton Hall	1-1
Brown	2-0	Hartford	0-1	Mississippi	1-1	South Carolina	0-2
Central Michigan	1-0	Iona	1-0	Morgan State	1-0	St. Bonaventure	12-1
Charlotte	3-0	Iowa State	0-1	Nebraska	1-0	Stanford	0-1
Dayton	8-3	James Madison	0-1	New Mexico	0-1	Stony Brook	1-1
Drexel	2-0	Kansas State	0-1	North Carolina State	0-3	TCU	0-1
Duke	0-2	Kent State	1-0	Notre Dame	0-1	Tennessee	0-2
Duquesne	10-0	Kentucky	1-1	Oregon	1-0	Toledo	1-0
East Tennessee State	2-0	La Salle	10-0	Penn	7-1	Vanderbilt	0-2
Evansville	0-1	Lehigh	1-0	Princeton	1-0	Villanova	5-3
Fairleigh Dickinson	1-0	Louisiana Tech	1-0	Purdue	1-0	Virginia	0-2
Florida	1-4	LSU	0-2	Rhode Island	9-3	Western Michigan	2-0
Florida International	1-0	Marist	1-0	Richmond	9-2	Xavier	7-4
Fordham	13-1	Maryland	0-2	Rider	1-0		

Lisa Boyer

Assistant Coach :: 1st Year at South Carolina :: Ithaca, 1972

Lisa Boyer joined the South Carolina staff in May 2008, shortly after head coach Dawn Staley announced her intention to join the Gamecocks. Boyer has been the lead assistant on Staley's staff since the 2002-03 season when she returned to the college ranks after five seasons coaching at the professional level. She is the Gamecocks' recruiting coordinator and liaison for strength and conditioning and compliance. Additionally, she will work directly with South Carolina's guards.

"Having Lisa on our staff says a lot because she could be a head coach in her own right," Staley said. "I strive for perfection. If you don't have the knowledge to accomplish perfection, then you get somebody who has that knowledge to pass it along to you. When I started in coaching, Lisa was that person for me. I wore her down because I knew I needed her. I trust her with my life, and I knew I could trust her with my career, not just as a coach, but as an administrator, a manager and overall as a person."

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to get South Carolina women's basketball where it needs to be, which is among the top teams in the SEC," Boyer said. "With the conference we are in, the facility, the location and the fact that it's a state university, there is no reason we can't put South Carolina on the women's basketball map. People want this program to succeed, and we look forward to the challenge."

In six seasons at Temple, Boyer helped Staley lead the Owls to five NCAA Tournaments and three Atlantic 10 Tournament titles. She also keyed the recruitment of two players that would go on to be Temple's first WNBA first-round draft picks. In 2005, the Owls became the first team in A-10 history to go undefeated in the regular season when they posted a 16-0 mark in league play. That team went on to capture its second-straight A-10 Tournament championship and finished the season in the second round of the NCAA Tournament with a school-record 28 wins. Prior to falling in the second-round game against Rutgers, Temple had rattled off 25 consecutive victories, the nation's longest winning streak of any men's or women's team that season.

Prior to her stint at Temple, Boyer spent five seasons coaching in first the ABL and then the WNBA. She began her career at the professional level in 1996 as the head coach of the Richmond Rage, which became the Philadelphia Rage the following season. After guiding her first team to a 21-19

record, Boyer welcomed the arrival of Staley to the squad in 1997, during which Staley earned All-Star honors. Boyer left the Rage to take an assistant coach position with the Cleveland Rockers of the WNBA for the 1998 season. During her five years with the club, the Rockers advanced to the WNBA semifinals (1998) and the conference final (2000). As part of her work with the Rockers, Boyer had the opportunity to serve on John Lucas' Cleveland Cavaliers' staff in 2001-02, becoming the first woman on an NBA coaching staff.

Boyer took the position with the Rage after 10 seasons as Bradley University's head coach. With a 100 percent graduation rate throughout her tenure, she guided the Braves to a 15-13 record in her first season (1986-87). Boyer also posted winning records in 1989-90 (16-12) and 1991-92 (17-11) before leaving the program following the 1995-96 seasons. In her final four seasons at Bradley, she also served as the department's senior women's administrator and compliance coordinator.

Bradley was not Boyer's first head coaching stop, however. She led Converse in 1982-83, just one year after getting her start in coaching as an assistant at Davidson. Following her single season at Converse, Boyer served as an assistant coach for one season at East Carolina, Miami (Ohio) and Virginia Tech, respectively.

Having both coached Staley as a player and coached with her, Boyer enjoys a symbiotic relationship with her head coach where her perspective and experience propel both forward in their shared goal of team success.

"We view the game similarly, and our philosophies around how players should practice and approach the game are parallel," Boyer said of her relationship with Staley. "We're both driven and competitive and thrive around other people with those qualities. When she first got into coaching, I had the experience to help her through the off-the-court details, especially when she was still playing in the WNBA and coaching. Those years helped us build a trust that we have each other's back and are working toward a common goal."

A native of Ogdensburg, N.Y., Boyer was a standout forward for Ithaca College, from which she graduated with a bachelor of science degree in 1979. She also earned a master of education degree from UNC Greensboro in 1982.



Boyer Capsule

Coaching Experience

South Carolina, assistant coach, 2008-present
 Temple, assistant coach, 2002-08
 Cleveland Rockers, WNBA, assistant coach, 1998-2002
 Cleveland Cavaliers, NBA, assistant coach, 2001-02
 Richmond/Philadelphia Rage, ABL, head coach, 1996-97
 Bradley University, head coach, 1986-1996
 Virginia Tech, assistant coach, 1985-86
 University of Miami (Ohio), assistant coach, 1984-85
 East Carolina, assistant coach, 1983-84
 Converse College, head coach, 1982-83
 Davidson College, assistant coach, 1981-82

Playing Experience

Ithaca College, 1975-79

Education

Bachelor of science, Ithaca College, 1972
 Master of education, UNC Greensboro, 1982

Intro

Players

Staff

Opponents

Review

Records

History

Carla McGhee

Assistant Coach :: 1st Year at South Carolina :: Tennessee, 1990

A women's basketball coach, administrator and elite player, Carla McGhee joined the Gamecock staff in May 2008, lured back to college coaching by South Carolina head coach Dawn Staley after more than two years in the WNBA office. Following a 13-year professional playing career that saw her win a gold medal at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games, she worked in the WNBA league office and spent three seasons as a college assistant coach. For the Gamecocks, McGhee will oversee the team's academic progress and work with the post players.

"Carla is energetic, and she is in coaching for the young people," Staley said. "She is in it to ensure that young people experience the success she has had in her career, from Tennessee to the WNBA to the Olympics. After everything we went through together getting to the 1996 Olympics, for us to be standing on our own two legs says a lot. We grew up together, and we matured together as young women. She knows deep down that our hearts are always in the same place when it comes to young people and being competitive. When you have those things in mind, you are going to be successful."

"When I looked at what to do next in my career, it came down to the fact that I love two things – basketball and kids," McGhee said. "I thrive on being a mentor and role model for young people. Dawn always told me that if she ever took the job at a place that was a good fit for me family-wise that she wanted me back on her staff."

"South Carolina is a place that fits my needs personally and is also a great place to coach. As a product of the SEC, I'm ready to be part of a program that adds to the SEC's dominance of women's basketball. South Carolina has the resources to be one of those programs. We will have our work cut out for us, but the University already has been extremely supportive of what we need to get the job done."

Prior to her return to coaching, McGhee served as a consultant and ambassador for the Atlanta Dream, a new WNBA franchise. As the face of the franchise pending the team's first draft pick, she was charged with raising awareness about the team in the city and stimulating ticket sales, making speeches and appearances throughout the community.

McGhee joined the Dream after spending nearly two years in her "dream job." As the director of player personnel for the WNBA, she was involved in nearly every facet of player presentation within the league. From working with elite level players to ensure their needs were being met to coordinating player appearances in advertisements and sponsor events on behalf of the league, McGhee was the link between the players and the league office. She fostered good communication and

relationships between the two parties in addition to overseeing the team of scouts charged with scouring the globe for new talent. McGhee traveled to each arena in the league to ensure teams and players complied with league regulations governing everything from signage to dress codes.

"I loved coaching, but when (WNBA vice president of player personnel) Reneé Brown called to offer me a position in corporate America, working on 5th Avenue with the title and perks that came with it, I could not turn down the opportunity," McGhee said. "After a lifetime as a basketball player, to be able to take on that challenge in that environment was what I needed to do."

That "dream job" lured McGhee away from her assistant coach position at Auburn following the 2005-06 season. In addition to her recruiting responsibilities and developing the post players, she was the Tigers' liaison with the academic advisors and compliance office in her two seasons at Auburn. Among the recruits she helped sign was two-time All-SEC selection and honorable mention All-America forward DeWanna Bonner.

McGhee got her coaching start with Staley at Temple during the 2003-04 season when she helped the Owls to an Atlantic 10 Tournament championship and an NCAA Tournament appearance. She played an integral role in developing Candace Dupree into a first-round pick in the 2006 WNBA Draft, the first such selection in Temple's history.

Following a four-year career at Tennessee, during which the Lady Vols collected national championships in 1987 and 1989, McGhee played professionally for teams in Germany, France, Turkey, South Korea, Spain, Italy and Greece for six years. With the start of professional leagues in the United States, she earned a spot on the Atlanta Glory of the ABL where she played from 1996 to 1998. From there, she went on to spend five years with the WNBA's Orlando Miracle.

McGhee's playing experience includes a lengthy stint in the USA Basketball organization, beginning with the 1987 Sports Festival. She went on to participate in the 1993 World Qualifying, 1994 World Championship and Goodwill Games, the 1995 Pan American Games and the 1996 Olympics. Her association with Staley dates back to the early days of USA Basketball when Staley joined the program in the early 1990s.

In addition to her coaching and playing experience, McGhee has worked as a material supervisor for General Motors, a substitute teacher and a motivational speaker. She earned her bachelor's degree in sport management from Tennessee in 1990 and has a 10-year-old son, Chancellor.



McGhee Capsule

Coaching Experience

South Carolina, assistant coach, 2008-present
Auburn, assistant coach, 2004-06
Temple, assistant coach, 2003-04

Other Experience

Atlanta Dream, WNBA, consultant/ambassador, 2008
WNBA, director of player personnel, 2006-07

Playing Experience

Orlando Miracle, WNBA, 1999-2003
Atlanta Glory, ABL, 1996-98
USA Basketball, 1987-96
• Olympic Gold Medal, 1996
• Pan American Games, 1995
• Goodwill Games, 1994
• World Championship, 1994
• World Qualifying Team, 1993
• Sports Festival, 1987
Various international teams, 1990-96
• Played in Germany, France, Turkey, South Korea, Spain, Italy and Greece
Tennessee, 1986-90
• National championship, 1987, 1989

Education

Bachelor of science in sport management, Tennessee, 1995

Nikki McCray

Assistant Coach :: 1st Year at South Carolina :: Tennessee, 1995

Two-time Olympic gold medal winner Nikki McCray reunited with two former teammates when she joined head coach Dawn Staley's South Carolina staff in May 2008. Following an 11-year professional playing career, McCray moved into the coaching ranks in 2006, spending two seasons on the bench at Western Kentucky. A three-time WNBA All-Star and the 1996-97 ABL Most Valuable Player, McCray will play a key role in recruiting for the Gamecocks in addition to working with the guards.

"Nikki is hungry for success, and that comes from playing at Tennessee, where the coach never settles for anything less than being number one at whatever she's doing," Staley said. "That mentality is instilled in Nikki, and I want people around me like that. She is energetic, confident and engaging – all qualities that you need when you're coaching and recruiting. We spent two Olympic Games together and have shared being successful in the very best arena there is to test yourself."

"I am excited about coming to South Carolina and getting back into the SEC, a league that is known as the best in women's basketball," McCray said. "Anytime you have an opportunity to grow in this business, you have to take advantage of it. After talking to Dawn and knowing who else was on her staff, I knew I could learn a lot here. Dawn always surrounds herself with people who have been in the trenches with her. You want to do this job with people that you trust and that have your back. This group of coaches is exactly that. I am grateful to be around such strong women who do it the right way and are in coaching for the right reasons."

McCray got her start in coaching at Western Kentucky where she helped the Lady Toppers to a 49-17 record, which included a WNIT semifinal appearance in 2006-07 and a Sun Belt Tournament title and a berth in the NCAA Tournament in 2007-08. She played a key role in recruiting, especially in drawing players from her hometown of Memphis, Tenn., including last season's freshman point guard Amy McNear.

"I am a competitor, and I am going to bring my 'A' game to everything I do," McCray said. "I will not be satisfied with anything less than my best – in recruiting, in scheduling, in whatever Coach Staley asks me to do. I'm committed to doing everything the right way and to doing it right away. In recruiting, I identify the players I want to sign, and I won't stop until I get those players to sign."

Prior to moving into the coaching world, McCray enjoyed a nine-year career in the WNBA, following a two-year stint in the ABL. She signed her first professional playing contract with

the ABL's Columbus Quest in 1996 and proceeded to lead the team to the league championship, earning league MVP honors along the way. Joining the WNBA's Washington Mystics in 1998, McCray was the team's leading scorer in each of her first two seasons and played in the WNBA All-Star game three times in her four years in Washington. She earned a starting spot in the league's inaugural All-Star game in 1999 and was the leading vote-getter among Eastern Conference guards in 2000.

McCray went on to play five more seasons in the WNBA, spending two with the Indiana Fever and one each with the Phoenix Mercury, the San Antonio Silver Stars and the Chicago Sky prior to her retirement at the end of the 2006 season. With 2,528 points, she finished her career ranked 24th on the WNBA's career scoring list. Averaging 10.1 points per game, she was a career 41.3 percent shooter.

A veteran of international basketball as well, McCray was part of the USA Basketball program on three separate occasions. Those stints were highlighted by trips to the Olympic Games in 1996 and 2000, both of which resulted in gold medals for the United States. She was a key element on the 1995-96 team that spent more than a year together in residency for the first time in USA Basketball's history. The effort helped the group to 60-0 record in international competition and sparked two professional women's basketball leagues in the United States.

"There is nothing like putting that USA jersey on your shoulders," McCray said. "Not only are you working for yourself and your family, but now you're working for your country. When you beat other countries and stand up there on that podium and hear your national anthem, that is an unbelievable feeling. I feel very fortunate and blessed to have done it several times."

In her four-year career at Tennessee, McCray keyed three SEC regular-season titles, two conference tournament championships and four NCAA Tournament appearances for the Lady Vols. In addition to helping UT build a 122-11 record, McCray picked up All-America and SEC Player of the Year honors in both her junior and senior years. She scored 1,572 career points, a number that still ranks her among the Lady Vols' all-time top 15.

McCray graduated from Tennessee in 1995 with a bachelor's degree in sports marketing. She is married to Thomas Penson.



McCray Capsule

Coaching Experience

South Carolina, assistant coach,
2008-present
Western Kentucky, assistant coach,
2006-08

Playing Experience

Chicago Sky, WNBA, 2006
San Antonio Silver Stars, WNBA, 2005
Phoenix Mercury, WNBA, 2004
Indiana Fever, WNBA, 2002-03
Washington Mystics, WNBA, 1998-2001
• Three-time WNBA All-Star, 1999, 2000, 2001
Columbus Quest, ABL, 1996-98
• ABL Most Valuable Player, 1996-97
• League Championship, 1996-97
USA Basketball, 1993, 1995-96, 1998-2000
• Olympic Gold Medal, 1996, 2000
Tennessee, 1991-95
• Two-time Kodak All-America, 1994, 1995
• Two-time Naismith All-America, 1994, 1995
• Two-time SEC Player of the Year, 1994, 1995

Education

Bachelor of science in sports marketing,
Tennessee, 1995

Intro

Players

Staff

Opponents

Review

Records

History

Angela O'Neal

Dir. of Basketball Ops. :: 1st Year at South Carolina :: Virginia, 1995

Angela O'Neal reunited with fellow Virginia alumnus Dawn Staley when she joined the University of South Carolina women's basketball staff in July 2008. After graduating from Virginia, O'Neal went on to pursue a legal career before getting her start in college athletics as the director of basketball operations at Kentucky then moving on to the NCAA office.

"Angela is loyal, passionate about the game of basketball and enjoys the task of helping people be the best they can be," Staley said. "We have been friends for a long time, and I have always wanted to work with her because of her outstanding work ethic and her thoroughness."

Prior to joining Staley's staff, O'Neal worked as an assistant director of enforcement at the NCAA. As such, she was charged with investigating and evaluating information to determine if NCAA violations had occurred and then processing that information within the enforcement guidelines.

After her first three years at University of Kentucky, O'Neal earned an assistant athletics director title in July 2006 and

continued to manage the day-to-day operations of the women's basketball program. Working with a \$2.25 million budget, O'Neal handled the logistics for team travel, non-conference scheduling, facility usage and the supervision and hiring of staff, student employees and team managers. Additionally, she was the administrator for the Victory Club for Women's Basketball, the program's university-affiliated fundraising entity.

Prior to her work in college athletics, O'Neal was an associate attorney at Kennerly, Montgomery & Finley, P.C., where she was a civil litigator with a concentration in insurance defense and business related torts. She got her start as an attorney at Legal Aid of East Tennessee, litigating and negotiating family law cases under a Department of Justice Domestic Violence grant.

O'Neal earned a bachelor of arts in American government from the University of Virginia in 1995 and received her doctor of jurisprudence from the University of Tennessee in 2000.



Jon Vaden

Strength & Conditioning :: 3rd Year at Carolina :: Va. Tech, 2005

Jon Vaden became an assistant strength and conditioning coach for the Gamecocks in July 2007 after spending the previous two years as a graduate assistant. He is responsible for the design and implementation of strength and conditioning programs for women's basketball, volleyball and men's and women's tennis.

A native of New Kent, Va., Vaden got his start in the profession as a student intern at Virginia Tech while completing his bachelor's degree in human nutrition, food and exercise. He assisted in the training for football, baseball and men's soccer. Following his graduation in May 2005, Vaden was a volunteer strength and conditioning coach at Liberty University until enrolling in South Carolina's master's of public health program in August. In his short time with the Flames, he helped organize, plan and prepare workouts for the football team.

Upon his arrival in Columbia, Vaden served as a strength and conditioning graduate assistant, working with baseball and men's golf. After his first year on the staff, he took a leadership role with men's golf and baseball pitchers, implementing a year-round strength and conditioning program for those groups. He continued to assist with the training of student-athletes in women's soccer, men's and women's tennis, women's golf, swimming, equestrian and track and field. Vaden completed his master's degree in May 2007 and, in July 2007, began working full time on the Gamecocks' strength and conditioning staff.

He is a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (C.S.C.S.) through the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) and holds the title of Strength and Conditioning Coach Certified (SCCC) through the Collegiate Strength and Conditioning Coaches Association (CSCCa). Additionally, Vaden is CPR, first aid and AED certified.



Jennifer Herod

Athletic Trainer :: 4th Year at South Carolina :: Purdue, 1994

South Carolina graduate Jennifer Herod returned to Columbia to join the Gamecock athletic training staff as an assistant athletic trainer in the summer of 2005 after serving in a similar role at Ball State University since 1996. She works primarily with the women's basketball team and oversees men's and women's golf and men's and women's tennis.

Herod earned her master's of public health from South Carolina in May 1996 and moved on to Ball State, where she worked primarily with the women's basketball and men's and women's tennis teams. She was the direct supervisor for the Cardinals' women's soccer, men's and women's swimming and diving, women's cross country and women's track and field teams as well as the coordinator of Olympic sports coverage.

While going to school at South Carolina, Herod served as a graduate assistant athletic trainer for two years working primarily with the Gamecock softball and men's and women's swimming and diving teams.

Originally from Griffith, Ind., Herod got her start as an in-patient rehabilitation aide during the summer months in 1992 and 1993. She was a student volunteer assistant in the Physical Therapy Clinic at the Purdue University Student Hospital from September 1992 through May 1993. She earned a bachelor's degree from Purdue in 1994, double-majoring in athletic training and movement and sports science.

Herod is a certified member of the National Athletic Trainers Association, along with numerous other affiliations and certifications. Herod is married to Kevin Herod. The couple has two children, Olivia and Aubrey.



Earleen Michels

Academic Advisor :: 7th Year at South Carolina :: Purdue, 1965

Earleen Michels joined the South Carolina athletics department in July 2003. She is the academic counselor for volleyball, women's basketball and equestrian and performs other C.A.R.E.S. (Carolina Academic Resources & Enrichment Services) duties assigned to the academic counseling staff.

With Michels serving as academic advisor, the Gamecock women's basketball team placed more of its student-athletes on the SEC Winter Sports Academic Honor Roll than any other SEC school from 2004 to 2007.

Prior to South Carolina, Michels taught for 10 years in the Midlands/Greater Columbia area and worked in the state office of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, a non-profit organization interfacing with South Carolina public and private middle schools, high schools and colleges. She also worked overseas one year with KMAG, the Military Advisory Group to the Korean Army. In Skaneateles, N. Y., Michels worked as an EMT with the all-volunteer ambulance team, S.A.V.E.S.

The Churubusco, Ind., native graduated from Purdue with a Bachelor of Arts in elementary education. After two years of field experience, Michels returned to Purdue and received a master of science in education. Michels has a daughter, Christina, and a son, Doran.



Cynthia Jordan

Video Coordinator :: 1st Year at South Carolina :: Temple, 2004

Cynthia Jordan joined the South Carolina staff as video coordinator in September 2008 after serving as a graduate assistant at Temple University in 2007-08. Her primary duties include taping South Carolina games and practices, coordinating the exchange of scouting tapes, film breakdown, the production of team highlight videos and supervising the day-to-day video needs of the staff.

Jordan was a four-year letterwinner on the Temple women's basketball team under head coach Dawn Staley. Jordan earned her bachelor's degree in business administration and marketing in 2004 and is currently pursuing her master's degree in sports and recreation administration.



Freddy Ready

Head Manager :: 7th Year at South Carolina :: South Carolina, 2002

Freddy Ready has been part of the South Carolina athletics department in various capacities since August 1999. Head coach Dawn Staley named him head manager for the program in September 2007.

The Aiken, S.C., native earned a degree in hotel, restaurant and tourism management with a focus on sport and entertainment and a minor in business administration in 2002 and is currently working toward a master's degree in sport and entertainment management.



Eddie Carta

Special Assistant :: 2nd Year at South Carolina :: South Carolina, 2008

Eddie Carta joined the South Carolina women's basketball program in 2007-08 as the video coordinator. He was named special assistant in 2008-09 by head coach Dawn Staley. In his new role, he helps coordinate office activities and assists with summer camps.

Carta earned his bachelor's degree in economics from South Carolina in 2008.



Kaye Hunke

Administrative Assistant :: 12th Year at South Carolina

Since joining the women's basketball staff in 1997, Kaye Hunke has helped keep the coaching staff organized and the office running smoothly.

She graduated from Scott County High School (Ky.) and attended Lexington Community College, where she took classes toward a business degree. In her spare time, Hunke enjoys reading, traveling, gardening and spending time with her family.

Hunke and her husband, Ken, have two children, John and Jacob.



Team Behind the Team



Back Row: Kitwanda Smith, Bobbie Van Tassel, Ali Langford, Asia Lance, Christi Cook.
Front: Head manager Freddy Ready, Chane Brown, special assistant Eddie Carta.

Intro

Players

Staff

Opponents

Review

Records

History

Administrative Leadership

Intro	Players	Staff	Opponents	Review	Records	History									
<div>2008-09 South Carolina Gamecocks</div> <div></div> <div><div>Dr. Harris Pastides</div><div>University President</div></div>	<div>2008-09 South Carolina Gamecocks</div> <div></div> <div><div>Eric Hyman</div><div>Athletics Director</div></div>	<div>2008-09 South Carolina Gamecocks</div> <div></div> <div><div>Dr. Bill Bearden</div><div>Faculty Representative</div></div>	<div>2008-09 South Carolina Gamecocks</div> <div></div> <div><div>Marcy Girtor</div><div>Associate Athletics Director</div></div>	<div>2008-09 South Carolina Gamecocks</div> <div></div> <div><div>Kevin O'Connell</div><div>Executive Associate Athletics Director</div></div>	<div>2008-09 South Carolina Gamecocks</div> <div></div> <div><div>Val Sheley</div><div>Senior Associate Athletics Director/SWA</div></div>	<div>2008-09 South Carolina Gamecocks</div> <div></div> <div><div>Charles Waddell</div><div>Associate Athletics Director</div></div>	<div>2008-09 South Carolina Gamecocks</div> <div></div> <div><div>Bryan Risner</div><div>Interim Assoc. AD/Development</div></div>	<div>2008-09 South Carolina Gamecocks</div> <div></div> <div><div>Jeff Tallant</div><div>Chief Financial Officer</div></div>	<div>2008-09 South Carolina Gamecocks</div> <div></div> <div><div>Jeff Davis</div><div>Associate Athletics Director</div></div>	<div>2008-09 South Carolina Gamecocks</div> <div></div> <div><div>Shawn Burke</div><div>Assistant Athletics Director</div></div>	<div>2008-09 South Carolina Gamecocks</div> <div></div> <div><div>Jennifer Stiles</div><div>Assistant Athletics Director</div></div>	<div>2008-09 South Carolina Gamecocks</div> <div></div> <div><div>Jeff Crane</div><div>Director of Revenue Development</div></div>	<div>2008-09 South Carolina Gamecocks</div> <div></div> <div><div>Steve Fink</div><div>Media Relations Director</div></div>	<div>2008-09 South Carolina Gamecocks</div> <div></div> <div><div>Lance Grantham</div><div>Director of Ticket Operations</div></div>	<div>2008-09 South Carolina Gamecocks</div> <div></div> <div><div>Eric Nichols</div><div>Marketing Director</div></div>