SOUTH CAROLINA
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

3 NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS • 8 NCAA FINAL FOURS • 10 SEC CHAMPIONSHIPS • 9 SEC TOURNAMENT TITLES • 28 ALL-AMERICANS

Assoc. AD Comms/PR: Diana Koval | **Office:** 803.777.7977 | **Cell:** 314.369.6050 | **Email:** dkoval@mailbox.sc.edu
Web: www.GamecocksOnline.com | **X:** @GamecockWBB | **Instagram:** @GamecockWBB | **TikTok:** @GamecockWBB | **Facebook:** @GamecockWBB

GAME 1 • OUI-PLAY • NOVEMBER 2, 2026 • 6 PM • ADIDAS ARENA • PARIS, FRANCE

#1/1 GAMECOCKS
0-0

Head Coach: Dawn Staley
Record at SC: 511-114 (19th)
Career Record: 683-194 (27th)
Top Returning Scorer: Joyce Edwards (19.2)
Top Returning Rebounder: Joyce Edwards (6.8)

VS

#20/17 MARYLAND
0-0

Head Coach: Brenda Frese
Record at MD: 631-178 (24th)
Career Record: 688-208 (27th
Top Returning Scorer: Oluchi Okananwa (17.8)
Top Returning Rebounder: Oluchi Okananwa (5.4)

THE SERIES
SC Record/Staley Era: 7-2 / 7-1
H: 2-1 **A:** 3-0 **N:** 2-1
Current Streak: Won 6
Last Meeting: W, 71-67, 3/28/25 in NCAA Tournament

HOW TO FOLLOW
Watch: ESPN (Ryan Ruocco, Rebecca Lobo, Holly Rowe)
Listen: 107.5 The Game, SiriusXM Ch. 174 or 228; SXM App Ch. 952 (Brad Muller)
Live Stats: StatBroadcast

GAMECOCK NOTABLES

- South Carolina head coach Dawn Staley is entering her 27th season as a head coach and her 19th leading the Gamecocks. She has led South Carolina to nine 30-win seasons since 2015-16, including at least 35 wins in each of the last five seasons. Her Gamecocks have played in six consecutive NCAA Final Fours, highlighted by two National Championships and two other championship game appearances – all more than any other team in that timeframe.
- The Gamecocks are 16-2 in season openers under Staley, including a 4-1 record in openers against ranked teams. The most recent of those was in the inaugural Oui-Play when then-No. 6 South Carolina defeated then-No. 10 Notre Dame on Nov. 6, 2023. The lone loss came in the first season opener against a ranked team as then-No. 5 Xavier defeated unranked South Carolina in Columbia.
- The Gamecocks are ranked No. 1 in both national preseason polls for the fifth time in the last seven seasons, drawing 23 of the 31 first-place votes in the AP Poll and 26 of the 32 in the USA Today/WBCA Coaches Poll.
- South Carolina's offense has big shoes to fill this season as last year's squad set the program single-season record for scoring average (85.6 ppg) and ranked second in program history in field goal percentage (.500).
- Three Gamecocks – Joyce Edwards, Tessa Johnson and Chloe Kitts – were named to the Naismith Trophy Preseason Watch List, tying for the most of any school. All three earned spots on their position award watch lists as well.
- South Carolina played two exhibition games this preseason, including an outdoor matchup with College of Charleston in September. The more recent was a 113-34 win over Benedict on Oct. 23 during which the Gamecocks shot 48.8 percent, including 55.6 percent in the second half (20-of-36). Edwards and Johnson netted double-figure points in both exhibition outings with Jerzy Robinson joining them against Benedict with a double-double that included 17 points, 11 rebounds, five assists and two steals in 25 minutes. Ashlyn Watkins and Alicia Tournebize each grabbed double-digit rebounds against Benedict.
- The Gamecocks brought a pair of players home this week with Tournebize and freshman Justine Loubens returning to play on French soil. The pair last teamed up to help France to a bronze medal in the 2025 FIBA U18 EuroBasket.

1	**11**	**13**
Just one player on South Carolina's roster is under 6-feet tall.	Of South Carolina's 15 games against teams in the preseason rankings, 11 are on the road (5) or at neutral sites (6).	On the 15-player roster, 13 signed with the Gamecocks out of high school.

SCHEDULE/RESULTS

TheLinkU Invitational (Charleston, SC)		
Sept. 27	vs. CofC (Exh.) (ESPN+)	W, 91-60
Oct. 23	**Benedict (Exh.)**	**W, 113-34**
Oui Play (Paris, France)		
Nov. 2	vs. #20/17 Maryland (ESPN)	Noon
Ally Tipoff (Charlotte, NC)		
Nov. 8	vs. North Carolina (ESPN)	5:30 PM
Nov. 12	at Clemson (ESPN/2)	7 PM
The Real SC (Greenville, SC)		
Nov. 15	vs. Southern Cal)ABC)	1 PM
Nov. 17	**FGCU (SECN+)**	**7 PM**
Nov. 21	at Providence (Peacock)	1:30 PM
Hall of Fame Women's Showcase (Uncasville, CT)		
Nov. 24	vs. UConn (FS1)	8 PM
PowHER Player Classic (Columbia, SC)		
Nov. 28	**Tennessee State (SECN+)**	**2:30 PM**
Nov. 29	**NC Central/Ala. A&M (SECN+)**	**12/2:30 PM**
SEC-ACC Challenge		
Dec. 3	at Duke (ESPN)	7 PM
Dec. 6	**Oklahoma State (ABC)**	**4 PM**
Dec. 12	**Wofford (SECN+)**	**Noon**
Dec. 16	**UAlbany (SECN+)**	**7 PM**
Players Era Championship (Las Vegas)		
Dec. 19	UCLA (ESPN)	8:30 PM
Dec. 20	Notre Dame (ESPN)	7:30 PM
Dec. 28	**Gardner-Webb (SECN+)**	**6 PM**
Dec. 31	**Alabama* (SECN)**	**7 PM**
Jan. 3	at Texas* (ABC)	3 PM
Jan. 7	at Mississippi State* (SECN)	7 PM
Jan. 10	**Arkansas* (SECN)**	**4 PM**
Jan. 14	**Oklahoma* (ESPN)**	**7:30 PM**
Jan 17	at Missouri* (SECN)	4 PM
Jan. 21	**Florida* (SECN+)**	**7 PM**
Jan. 28	at Tennessee* (SECN)	6:30 PM
Jan. 31	**Kentucky* (ESPN)**	**3 PM**
Feb. 4	at Vanderbilt* (ESPN)	7 PM
Feb. 8	at Oklahoma* (ESPN2)	7 PM
Feb. 11	**Texas A&M* (SECN)**	**6 PM**
Feb. 14	at Ole Miss* (ESPNU)	1 PM
Feb. 21	**LSU* (ABC)**	**3 PM**
Feb. 25	**Auburn* (SECN+)**	**7 PM**
Feb. 28	at Georgia* (SECN)	Noon
Mar. 3-7	SEC Tournament (Greenville, SC)	

** indicates SEC game*
All times Eastern
TV outlet listed in parentheses

TALE OF THE TAPE (2025-26 STATS)

	Points	FG%	3FG%	3FGM per Game	FT%	FTM per Game	Scoring Def.	Scoring Margin	FG% Def.	3FG% Def.	Reb. Margin	Assist Avg.	TO Margin	Blocks Avg.	Steals Avg.
SOUTH CAROLINA	85.6	.500	.371	6.0	.730	14.7	57.8	+27.8	.348	.289	+9.4	18.0	+4.7	5.8	9.5
MARYLAND	82.3	.454	.323	6.8	.761	15.6	63.7	+18.6	.394	.333	+10.3	16.1	+3.9	3.5	10.2

2

OLIVIYAH EDWARDS

oh-LIV-ee-uh

6-3 • Fr. • F • Tacoma, WA

0



Deep toolbox, competitor, good communicator, elite intangibles ... McDonald's and Naismith All-American.

Last Gm: 8 pts, 4-5 FGs, 4 rebs vs. Benedict

	PPG	APG	FG%	3F%	FT%
26-27	—	—	—	—	—
Car.	—	—	—	—	—

Career Highs
Pt: —
Rb: —
Ast: —
Stl: —

ADHEL TAC

uh-DELL TACK

6-5 • Jr. • F • Grand Prairie, TX

15



High motor ... great teammate ... career slowed by injuries, but has improved output each of last two seasons.

Last Gm: 2 pts, 2 rebs, 2 stls vs. CofC

	PPG	RPG	BPG	FG%	FT%
25-26	3.1	3.4	0.8	.521	.537
Car.	2.3	2.5	0.4	.481	.561

Career Highs
P: 11 v Queens, 11/23/25
R: 10 v. Queens, 11/23/25
B: 2 v. Prov., 12/28/25*
A: 2 vs. BGSU, 11/7/25

ASHLYN WATKINS

6-3 • 5th • F • Columbia, SC

2



Physical presence inside, athletic, good touch ... took 2025-26 off recovering from injury ... preseason All-SEC 2nd Team.

Last Gm: 9 pts, 10 rebs, 6 off. rebs. vs. Benedict

	PPG	RPG	BPG	FG%	FT%
25-26	—	—	—	—	—
Car.	7.3	5.5	1.7	.547	.547

Career Highs
Pt: 21 at Arkansas, 2/9/25
Rb: 20 vs. NC St., 4/5/24
A: 4 vs. Presby, 3/22/24*
S: 4 at Tenn., 2/15/24*

CHLOE KITTS

6-2 • 5th • F • Oviedo, FL

21



Missed 25-26 with torn ACL ... tenacious, passionate competitor ... 2025 All-America ... preseason All-SEC 2nd Tm.

Last Gm: 8 pts, 7 rebs, 12 mins vs. Benedict

	PPG	RPG	APG	FG%	FT%
25-26	—	—	—	—	—
Car.	8.1	5.8	1.5	.523	.734

Career Highs
Pt: 25 vs. Vandy, 3/7/25
Rb: 14 vs. Mich., 11/4/24*
Ast: 10 at Miss., 2/27/25
Bk: 5 vs. Mizzou, 2/8/24

KAELI WYNN

KAY-lee

6-2 • Fr. • F • Santa Ana, CA

3



Great skill set and will to win ... daughter of women's basketball coaches ... missed senior season with injury.

Last Gm: 1st season at SC

	PPG	APG	FG%	3F%	FT%
26-27	—	—	—	—	—
Car.	—	—	—	—	—

Career Highs
Pt: —
Rb: —
Ast: —
Stl: —

KELSI ANDREWS

6-3 • Fr. • F • Hazel Green, AL

23



Size, skill, versatility ... high basketball IQ, strong defensive presence ... impact on both ends of court ... 3x USAB gold.

Last Gm: 9 pts, 3 rebs, 3 blks, 10 mins vs. Benedict

	PPG	APG	FG%	3F%	FT%
26-27	—	—	—	—	—
Car.	—	—	—	—	—

Career Highs
Pt: —
Rb: —
Ast: —
Stl: —

TESSA JOHNSON

6-0 • Sr. • G • Albertville, MN

5



Multi-level scoring threat ... 2026 All-SEC 2nd Team ... 4th in NCAA last season in 3FG% (.448) ... Preseason All-SEC 1st Tm.

Last Gm: 17 pts, 5 stls, 3 assts vs. Benedict

	PPG	APG	FG%	3F%	FT%
25-26	12.8	2.5	.469	.448	.827
Car.	9.3	1.7	.466	.440	.838

Career Highs
Pt: 22 at Miss St, 1/5/25
3s: 5 at TX A&M, 2/2/26*
A: 6 vs TN Tech, 3/21/25*
Stl: 3 vs. Ala., 2/22/24*

AYLA McDOWELL

EYE-luh

6-1 • So. • G • Cypress, TX

24



3-level scorer ... great size and athleticism ... improved confidence coming into second season.

Last Gm: 5 rebs, 2 assts, 1 stl vs. Benedict

	PPG	SPG	FG%	3F%	FT%
25-26	4.1	0.6	.405	.363	.741
Car.	4.1	0.6	.405	.363	.741

Career Highs
Pt: 16 vs. Miss St, 2/5/26*
Rb: 5 vs. Miss St., 2/5/26*
Ast: 2 at FGCU, 12/20/25
Stl: 3 vs. Miss St, 2/5/26*

BROOKE QUARLES-DANIELS

5-7 • 5th • G • Macomb, MI

6



Veteran guard with skill and toughness ... joined team Sept. 9 ... last 2 seasons at Michigan, 2 at Oakland.

Last Gm: 2 pts, 3 assts, 3 stls vs. Benedict

	PPG	APG	SPG	FG%	FT%
25-26	5.9	2.8	2.5	.480	.609
Car.	8.7	2.4	2.1	.439	.606

Career Highs
P: 27 vs. UWGB, 1/20/24^
R: 17 vs. N. Ky., 1/13/23^
A: 8 v. YSU, 2/8/24^
S: 8 v. Canisius, 11/4/25^

ALICIA TOURNEBIZE

al-EE-see-uh TOR-nah-beez

6-7 • So. • F • Vichy, France

31



Improved physical strength in 1st summer in Columbia ... great touch around the rim out to 3-pt line.

Last Gm: 6 pts, 10 rebs, 2 blks, 2 stls vs. Benedict

	PPG	RPG	BPG	FG%	FT%
25-26	4.0	3.4	0.7	.418	.529
Car.	4.0	3.4	0.7	.418	.529

Career Highs
Pt: 9 at Okla., 1/22/26
Rb: 11 v Sthrn., 3/21/26
Bk: 3 vs. Okla., 3/28/26
Ast: 3 vs. Miss St, 2/5/26

JORDAN LEE

6-0 • Jr. • G • Stockton, CA

7



Helped Texas to share of 2025 SEC Reg.-Season title, 2026 SEC Tourn. crown ... preseason All-SEC 2nd Team.

Last Gm: 9 pts, 2 stls vs. Benedict

	PPG	APG	FG%	3F%	FT%
25-26	13.2	2.5	.422	.348	.750
Car.	9.5	1.8	.418	.363	.735

Career Highs
P: 23 at Mizzou, 1/1/26^
R: 6 at Arkansas, 2/9/26*^
A: 6 vs. JMU, 11/19/25^
S: 4 at Alabama, 3/1/26*^

JUSTINE LOUBENS

loo-BANZ

6-2 • Fr. • G • L'Isle-Jourdain, France

32



Good shooter out of France's 1st division La Roche Vendée ... helped France to bronze at 2025 FIBA U18 EuroBasket.

Last Gm: xxxx

	PPG	APG	FG%	3F%	FT%
26-27	—	—	—	—	—
Car.	—	—	—	—	—

Career Highs
Pt: —
Rb: —
Ast: —
Stl: —

JOYCE EDWARDS

6-3 • Jr. • F • Camden, SC

8



Size, speed, skill at all positions ... 2026 2nd-team All-America ... 2x 1st-team All-SEC ... unanimous preseason All-SEC 1st Tm.

Last Gm: 15 pts, 4 rebs vs. Benedict

	PPG	RPG	BPG	FG%	FT%
25-26	19.2	6.8	1.1	.571	.707
Car.	16.0	5.9	0.8	.554	.734

Career Highs
Pt: 34 at USF, 12/18/25
Rb: 12 vs. TCU, 3/3/26*
Bk: 4 v. Penn St., 12/14/25
Stl: 6 v. Penn St., 12/14/25

AGOT MAKEER

uh-GOT muh-KEER

6-0 • So. • G • Thunder Bay, Ontario

44



Size, speed, versatility ... 2026 NCAA Regional All-Tourn. Team ... great 2026 NCAA Tourn. with 14.0 ppg on 55.0 FG%

Last Gm: xxxx

	PPG	APG	FG%	3F%	FT%
25-26	7.3	1.3	.462	.250	.692
Car.	7.3	1.3	.462	.250	.692

Career Highs
Pt: 18 vs TCU, 3/30/26
Rb: 10 vs. UGA, 1/11/26*
A: 4 v. Winthrop, 11/19/25
Stl: 4 vs. SoCal, 3/23/26

JERZY ROBINSON

6-0 • Fr. • G • Los Angeles, CA

9



Strong, physical all-level scorer ... confident competitor ... 2026 McDonald's All-American ... 2x LA Player of the Year.

Last Gm: 17 pts, 11 rebs, 5 assts vs. Benedict

	PPG	APG	FG%	3F%	FT%
26-27	—	—	—	—	—
Car.	—	—	—	—	—

Career Highs
Pt: —
Rb: —
Ast: —
Stl: —

DAWN STALEY

At SC: 511-114 (19th)
Career: 683-194 (27th)

HC



- 3 National Championships, undefeated season in 2024
- 6 consecutive NCAA Final Four appearances
- 10 SEC Regular-Season titles; 9 SEC Tournament crowns
- 5th in winning percentage (.779) among active NCAA Div. I coaches (min. 15 years)
- 15 WNBA Draft picks since 2020, 8 1st-round picks – both numbers lead the nation

^ indicates includes games at previous NCAA Div. I institution
* indicates has happened multiple times, most recent listed

3

QUICK FACTS

The University

Location: Columbia, S.C.
Founded: 1801
Enrollment: 40,000
Colors: Garnet (PMS 202C) and Black
Nickname: Gamecocks
Conference: Southeastern
University President: Michael Amiridis
Athletics Director: Jeremiah Donati
Facility: Colonial Life Arena (18,000)

Coaching Staff

Head Coach: Dawn Staley
Alma Mater: Virginia, 1992
Overall Record: 683-194 (27th season)
School Record: 511-114 (19th season)
Assoc. Head Coach, Alma Mater:
Lisa Boyer, Ithaca, 1979 (19th season)
Assistant Coaches, Alma Mater:
Jolette Law, Iowa, 1990 (10th season)
Wendale Farrow, E. Michigan, 2009 (2nd season)
Mary Wooley, USC Aiken, 2002 (4th season)
Khadijah Sessions, South Carolina, 2016 (4th season)

Team Information

2025-26 Record: 36-4
Home: 18-0 Away: 11-1 Neutral: 7-3
SEC Record (Finish): 15-1(1st)
Home: 8-0 Away: 7-1
Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 8/5
Starters Returning/Lost: 2/3

Program History

First Year of Women's Basketball: 1974-75
All-Time Record: 1,091-543 (53rd season)
All-Time SEC Record: 293-214 (36th season)
NCAA Appearances (Last): 22 (2026)
NCAA Tournament Record: 60-19
2026 NCAA Result: Runner-Up
WNIT Appearances (Last): 5 (2011)
WNIT Record: 6-4

Media Relations

Women's Basketball Contact: Diana Koval
Office: 803.777.7977
Cell: 314.369.6050
Email: dkoval@mailbox.sc.edu
Women's Basketball on Social Media:
Twitter: @GamecockWBB
Instagram: @GamecockWBB
Facebook: @GamecockWBB
TikTok: @GamecockWBB
Head Coach on Social Media
Twitter: @DawnStaley
Instagram: @Staley05
Athletics Department on the Web
Website: GamecocksOnline.com
Twitter: @GamecocksOnline
Instagram: @GamecocksOnline
Facebook: Facebook.com/GamecocksOnline
YouTube: YouTube.com/GamecocksOnline

CURRENT STREAKS

	Total	Home	Road	Neut.
Overall	L1	W22	W5	L1
SEC	W10	W56	W5	–
Non-Conference	L1	W12	W4	L1
Ranked Teams	L1	W6	W3	L1

Perennial Power

Under Dawn Staley, South Carolina women's basketball had been a perennial national power since winning its first SEC title in 2013-14. A few highlights from that stretch.

- 6 straight NCAA Final Four appearances (2021-2026) is the longest active streak and the second-longest streak in tournament history.
- 3 National Championships are third most by a single program in tournament history.
- 10th undefeated National Championship season in NCAA history (2023-24)
- 87 AP No. 1 rankings are third-most by a program in the poll's history.
- 138 straight AP Top-10 rankings is the longest active streak – more than three times the next program
- 15 Gamecocks have earned All-America status at least once in their careers

Season Openers

South Carolina is 16-2 in season openers under head coach Dawn Staley with the two losses coming in her first three seasons at the helm. Five of those 18 season openers were against ranked opponents, including three in the previous 10 seasons, with a 4-1 record in the previous five such meetings.

This is the third time in the last four seasons the Gamecocks have opened the season at a neutral site.

The Maryland Series

The Gamecocks are 7-2 all-time against Maryland after winning the last five meetings, including a 7-1 mark in the Dawn Staley era with all eight games coming with both teams ranked in the top 20.

The most recent meeting saw then-No. 2 South Carolina defeat then-No. 18 Maryland in the 2025 NCAA Sweet 16 in Birmingham, Ala., on March 28. Then-junior Chloe Kitts posted a 15-point, 11-rebound double-double, including 10 and 6, respectively, in the first half to keep the Gamecocks close at the break before a 72.7 percent shooting third quarter gave them the edge they needed to secure the victory.

Neutral Stance

The Gamecocks are 187-99 (.653) all-time on a neutral court. South Carolina head coach Dawn Staley is 104-31 in games played at neutral sites (.770), including a 37-11 (.771) record in regular-season outings on neutral courts.

Ranked Readings

Against ranked teams, South Carolina is 147-75 (.662) in the Dawn Staley era (beginning 2008-09), and even that mark is skewed by the early seasons of her tenure. Since the start of the 2014-15 campaign, the Gamecocks are 132-36 (.786) against ranked teams, including a 62-9 (.873) mark since the start of the 2021-22 season. The Gamecocks are 130-25 (.839) under Staley when ranked higher/better than their opponent.

Schedule Sketch

Dawn Staley has built the program's success by challenging her teams throughout the year to prepare for the NCAA Tournament.

2026-27 AWARDS

Team
Projected SEC Champion (coaches, media)
Preseason No. 1 National Ranking (AP, Coaches)

Joyce Edwards
Naismith Trophy Preseason Watch List
Cheryl Miller Award Preseason Watch List
Preseason All-SEC First Team (coaches, media, USA Today)

Tessa Johnson
Naismith Trophy Preseason Watch List
Ann Meyers Drysdale Award Preseason Watch List
Preseason All-SEC First Team (coaches)
Preseason All-SEC Second Team (media, USA Today)

Chloe Kitts
Naismith Trophy Preseason Watch List
Katrina McClain Award Preseason Watch List
Preseason All-SEC Second Team (coaches, media, USA Today)

Jordan Lee
Preseason All-SEC Second Team (coaches)
No. 6 ESPN Impact Transfers

Jerzy Robinson
No. 7 ESPN Impact Freshmen

Ashlyn Watkins
Preseason All-SEC Second Team (coaches)

Dawn Staley
Preseason SEC Coach of the Year (USA Today)

In 2026-27, South Carolina's full 32-game schedule includes 15 games against teams ranked in the preseason polls, including six against top-10 foes – vs. #3/3 Southern Cal (11/15), vs. #2/2 UConn (11/24), at #4/4 Duke (12/3), at #6/6 Texas (1/3), at #8/9 Vanderbilt and #9/8 LSU (2/21).

Eight of the 15 games are against non-conference teams. Eleven of the 15 games are on the road (5) or at neutral sites (6).

Ranking Review

South Carolina opens the season ranked No. 1 in both the AP and USA Today/WBCA Polls for the fifth time in the last seven seasons.

Overall, South Carolina has earned the No. 1 spot in the AP Poll 87 times – the third-most of any program in that poll's history (2nd is Tennessee, 112).

The Gamecocks have the longest active streak of weeks in the AP Top 10 at 138, beginning with the 2019-20 preseason poll. Their 269 straight appearances in the AP Poll, dating back to Dec. 10, 2012, marks the second-longest active streak in the nation and the sixth longest all-time (tie-4th place, Stanford and Duke, 312).

In the USA Today/WBCA Coaches' Poll, South Carolina has been in the top 10 since claiming the No. 10 spot in the 2019-20 preseason poll.

SEASON THEME: PRO.

South Carolina women's basketball annually builds its season around a theme, and this year's is PRO. Overall, it is defined as a women's basketball Gamecock shaped by preparation, discipline, accountability, leadership and an uncompromising standard of excellence; one who prepares like a professional, competes like a professional and carries herself like a professional before the title is ever given.

Beyond that, the theme lends itself to many themes central to the Gamecocks' culture under Staley – the PROgram is the difference, trust the PROcess, PROgress never stops, PROdUction at South Carolina. Fans will see these and many other messages centered on similar word play as the team's story unfolds throughout the season.

4

Staley's Standard

Now in her 27th season as a head coach, Dawn Staley has a .779 (683-194) winning percentage, which ranks fifth in the nation among active head coaches with at least 16 years of experience and 10th all-time. With three national championships, she ranks fourth among head coaches all-time in NCAA titles.

Staley is one of just two women's basketball coaches to lead their teams to multiple 40-game win streaks in NCAA history with the Gamecocks' program-record 43-game streak (2023-24) ranking seventh longest in NCAA history. She is one of just 11 men's or women's basketball coaches all-time to win at least three NCAA National Championships and the first Black head coach to win multiple titles. She is one of seven coaches to lead a team to at least four NCAA National Championship games.

Entering her 19th season with the Gamecocks, Staley is the program's all-time winningest coach (511) with a program-record 15 postseason appearances. She accounts for all eight of the Gamecocks' Final Four appearances and the only NCAA National Championships in program history. Her leadership on the court and in the community resulted in the City of Columbia commissioning a statue of Staley, which stands a short distance from the Gamecocks' home Colonial Life Arena.

Staley's 10 SEC regular-season championships trail only Pat Summitt's 16 in league history, and she has joined Summitt as the only coaches to win five consecutive SEC regular-season titles (2022-26). Staley's seven SEC Coach of the Year awards trail Summitt's league record by just one. Staley's 229 SEC regular-season wins are the most among active league coaches and third all-time – behind just Summitt (Tennessee, 306) and Andy Landers (Georgia, 273). She was the second-fastest to the 200-win mark in league history with her 255 games trailing Summitt's mark of 229. Staley's .800 SEC winning percentage (229-57) is second only to Summitt (.874) among coaches in the league more than five seasons. Staley owns the SEC record for consecutive regular-season conference victories with a 57-game streak that began in the 2021-22 season and ended in 2024-25.

THE STALEY ERA

Wins	
30-Win Seasons	9
25-Win Seasons	14
National Rankings	
Weeks in the AP Top 25	274
Weeks in the AP Top 10	229
Weeks in the AP Top 3	150
Weeks at AP No. 1	87
Postseason	
NCAA Tournament Appearances	14
NCAA Sweet 16s	13
NCAA Final Fours	8
National Championships	3
In the SEC	
Regular-Season Championships	10
Regular-Season Top 3 Finishes	14
Tournament Championships	9

Preseason Predictions

The Gamecocks are atop both preseason polls, claiming 23 No. 1 votes in the Associated Press Poll (31 voters) and 26 in the USA Today Coaches Poll (32 voters).

South Carolina's three entries on the Naismith Trophy Preseason Watch List tied for the most in the nation with fifth-year forward Chloe Kitts, senior guard Tessa Johnson and junior forward Joyce Edwards making the list. The trio also earned spots on their positional player of the year watch lists.

The Gamecocks were also selected to repeat as SEC Regular-Season Champions by both the media and league coaches in preseason voting.

Back in (Garnet and) Black

South Carolina's 15-player roster includes eight returning letterwinners all of whom have at least one SEC championship and appearance in the NCAA national championship game. The six letterwinners returning from the 2025-26 squad accounted for 52.2 percent of that team's scoring and 51.0 percent of its rebounding.

All-America forward Joyce Edward headlines that group as its top returning scorer after pouring in a program-record 768 total points and ranking among the nation's most efficient scorers with a .571 field goal percentage. All-SEC guard Tessa Johnson also hit high efficiency marks with her 44.8 percent 3-point shooting ranking fourth in the nation. Sophomore Agot Makeer thrived in the 2026 NCAA Tournament, ranking second on the team with 14.0 points per game on 55.0 percent shooting (46.2 from 3-point range) at the event.

Re-joining that core are fifth-year forwards Chloe Kitts and Ashlyn Watkins, who both missed the 2025-26 season due to injury. Both have drawn All-SEC honors in their careers behind strong paint presence and versatility. Kitts was an honorable mention All-American and MVP of the SEC Tournament and NCAA Regional in 2025, finishing her junior season with 10.2 points and a team-high 7.7 rebounds per game. Watkins' last full season was 2023-24 when her 9.2 points and 7.4 rebounds per game off the bench made her an All-SEC selection. She played in 14 games in 2024-25 before suffering a torn ACL at Mississippi State on Jan. 5.

The remaining three returns are all looking for more experience and to make an impact. Junior Adhel Tac is looking to shake off injuries that have consistently interrupted her on-court contributions. Sophomores Ayla McDowell and Alicia Tournebize are poised to elevate their contributions this season as well.

New to the Nest

South Carolina welcomes seven newcomers for the 2026-27 season, including five freshmen who made up the No. 2 signing class in then nation.

Junior guard Jordan Lee leads the transfer duo as the No. 6 impact transfer in the nation, according to ESPN. Last season at Texas, she started 38 games with career-high marks of 13.2 points per game on 42.2 percent shooting to go with her defensive bona fides.

Fifth-year guard Brooke Daniels joined the Gamecocks in early September, bringing Big Ten All-Defensive Team honors to the backcourt.

A pair of top-10 signees highlight Staley's elite Class of 2026 with No. 3 Oliviyah Edwards and No. 6 Jerzy Robinson, who was a Naismith Player of the Year finalist. No. 19 Kaeli Wynn and No. 30 Kelsi Andrews further bolstered the class, despite injuries curtailing their senior seasons and higher class rankings. French freshman Justine Loubens finalized the incoming class after spending a season averaging 6.5 points on 47.2 percent shooting in France's first division for women's basketball.

Learn more about each of the newcomers on and off the court in the New to the Nest series,

NATIONAL RANKINGS

Associated Press Poll *(Oct. 20)*

1.	**South Carolina**	**0-0**
2.	*UConn*	*0-0*
3.	*Southern Cal*	*0-0*
4.	*Duke*	*0-0*
5.	Michigan	0-0
6.	*Texas*	*0-0*
7.	Louisville	0-0
8.	*Vanderbilt*	*0-0*
9.	*LSU*	*0-0*
10.	Iowa	0-0
11.	*UCLA*	*0-0*
12.	*North Carolina*	*0-0*
13.	*Notre Dame*	*0-0*
14.	*Kentucky*	*0-0*
15.	TCU	0-0
16.	Washington	0-0
17.	Minnesota	0-0
18.	Ohio State	0-0
19.	*Ole Miss*	*0-0*
20.	*Maryland*	*0-0*
21.	*Oklahoma*	*0-0*
22.	*Oklahoma State*	*0-0*
23.	Illinois	0-0
24.	West Virginia	0-0
25.	NC State	0-0

USA Today/WBCA Coaches' Poll *(Oct. 20)*

1.	**South Carolina**	**0-0**
2.	*UConn*	*0-0*
3.	*Southern Cal*	*0-0*
4.	*Duke*	*0-0*
5.	Michigan	0-0
6.	*Texas*	*0-0*
7.	Louisville	0-0
8.	*LSU*	*0-0*
9.	*Vanderbilt*	*0-0*
10.	Iowa	0-0
11.	*North Carolina*	*0-0*
12.	*UCLA*	*0-0*
13.	*Notre Dame*	*0-0*
14.	*Kentucky*	*0-0*
15.	Washington	0-0
16.	TCU	0-0
17.	*Maryland*	*0-0*
18.	Minnesota	0-0
19.	*Oklahoma State*	*0-0*
20.	Ohio State	0-0
21.	*Oklahoma*	*0-0*
22.	Illinois	0-0
23.	*Ole Miss*	*0-0*
24.	West Virginia	0-0
25.	NC State	0-0

GAMECOCKS IN 2026-27 NATIONAL POLLS

Poll	Pre	11/10	11/17	11/24	12/1	12/8	12/15	12/22	12/29	1/5	1/12	1/19	1/26	2/2	2/9	2/16	2/23	3/2	3/9	3/16
Associated Press	1																			
Coaches	1																			

5

which includes a short video on each first-year Gamecock at: https://scgamecocks.info/NewNest.

Paint Production

A long-time leader in paint production, South Carolina aims to keep that tradition this season after setting the program record with 46.0 points in the paint per game in 2025-26 while both Chloe Kitts and Ashlyn Watkins missed the season due to injuries.

In that record-setting season, the Gamecocks scored 53.8 percent of their points in the paint and outscored their opponents by +22.0 paint points per game. South Carolina shot 59.4 percent in the paint while holding opponents to just 42.4 percent in that space.

Block Party

The Gamecocks have been a premier shot blocking program since their first national championship in 2017. They ranked in the top 15 in blocks per game that season and have only climbed higher in the nine subsequent seasons, including four years leading the nation in the stat and twice coming in second. Beyond the number of blocks, their block percentage led the nation the last three seasons.

Last season, South Carolina finished seventh in the nation with 5.8 blocks per game, including 4.9 against ranked foes and an SEC-best 6.2 per league game.

While last season's top shot blocker in Madina Okot graduated, the Gamecocks return fifth-year forward Ashlyn Watkins this season, who through just over two seasons on the court is just one block outside the program's all-time top-10 shot blockers.

Everybody's All-American

The Gamecocks' 15-woman roster includes eight McDonald's All-Americans – Joyce Edwards, Oliviyah Edwards, Tessa Johnson, Jordan Lee, Agot Makeer, Ayla McDowell, Jerzy Robinson and Ashlyn Watkins .

At South Carolina, Staley has coached 32 McDonald's All-Americans, including 24 who signed as freshmen.

WNBA Pipeline

Dawn Staley's status as a dream merchant is most evident by the steady stream of Gamecocks being drafted into and enjoying lengthy careers in the WNBA. Since her first Gamecock was drafted in 2015, she has seen 21 have their name called on draft night – the second-most by a program in that time.

Staley's numbers have skyrocketed since 2020 with an NCAA-best 15 draft picks since then, including a best-in-the-nation eight first-round selections in that time.

In proof Staley sends players to the league ready, six Gamecocks have earned All-Rookie Team honors, including three WNBA Rookies of the Year – Allisha Gray (2017), A'ja Wilson (2018), Aliyah Boston (2023).

Great Gamecock Fans

Including a 15,368 mark last season, South Carolina fans have led the nation in average attendance for the last 12 seasons, although the NCAA does not officially recognize the COVID-limited attendance in 2020-21. The official mark of 11 consecutive seasons atop the stat matches Tennessee's NCAA-best run from 2004 to 2014.

Selling out of season tickets for the third-straight season, South Carolina is on track to own sole possession of the record.

The Gamecocks have had at least one sellout of the 18,000-seat Colonial Life Arena for 10 straight seasons (excluding COVID-limited 2020-21) dating back to the first ever sellout of 18,000 on Feb. 8, 2016.

South Carolina's 2024-25 attendance average of 16,437 was the second-highest in the history of the NCAA, narrowly trailing Tennessee's 1998-99 average of 16,565. That mark included a program-record seven sellouts.

DAWN STALEY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

In Fall 2026, the University of South Carolina's College of Hospitality, Retail and Sports Management (HRSM) launched the Dawn Staley Leadership Academy, inspired by Staley's legacy of excellence, resilience and service.

The idea was borne from a leadership course based on her New York Times bestselling autobiography *Uncommon Favor: Basketball, North Philly, My Mother, and the Life Lessons I Learned from All Three* that started in Fall 2025 and was immediately wildly popular among students.

The Academy will select approximately 30 students per year to take part in the six-hour curriculum that will equip them with the vision, network and experiences to influence their industries, strengthen their communities and lead beyond graduation.

The curriculum includes four courses taught by full-time faculty and also include frequent appearances by Coach Staley. Those who complete the work, which includes creating and with the help of grant money executing a project that gives back to their communities.

For more information on the Dawn Staley Leadership Academy, visit: https://scgamecocks.info/DSLA.

GAMES LED TEAM IN...

Scoring	2025-26	Career	Record
Joyce Edwards	23	39	35-4
Chloe Kitts*	0	10	10-0
Tessa Johnson	4	9	7-2
Ashlyn Watkins*	0	4	4-0
B. Quarles-Daniels	0^	22^	6-16^
Jordan Lee	8^	10^	9-1^

Rebounding	2025-26	Career	Record
Chloe Kitts*	0	28	26-2
Ashlyn Watkins*	0	19	19-0
Joyce Edwards	6	12	10-2
Alicia Tournebize	2	2	1-1
Agot Makeer	1	1	1-0
Adhel Tac	1	1	0-1
B. Quarles-Daniels	10^	36^	16-20^

Assists	2025-26	Career	Record
Tessa Johnson	3	8	8-0
Chloe Kitts*	0	8	8-0
Joyce Edwards	4	5	4-1
Ashlyn Watkins*	0	1	1-0
B. Quarles-Daniels	8^	40^	23-17^
Jordan Lee	1^	2^	2-0^

** indicates player did not play in 25-26*
^ indicates includes games at previous NCAA Div. I program

MISCELLANEOUS STATS

Triple-Double	2025-26	Career	Record
Chloe Kitts*	0	1	1-0

Double-Doubles	2025-26	Career	Record
Chloe Kitts*	0	17	17-0
Joyce Edwards	9	13	13-0
Ashlyn Watkins*	0	12	12-0
Tessa Johnson	1	1	1-0
Agot Makeer	1	1	1-0
Adhel Tac	1	1	1-0
B. Quarles-Daniels	1^	7^	4-3^

30+ Points	2025-26	Career	Record
Ta'Niya Latson	1	21^	18-3^
Joyce Edwards	1	1	1-0

20+ Points	2025-26	Career	Record
Joyce Edwards	22	27	27-0
Tessa Johnson	3	4	4-0
Chloe Kitts*	0	4	4-0
Ashlyn Watkins*	0	1	1-0
B. Quarles-Daniels	0^	6^	3-3^
Jordan Lee	1^	2^	2-0^

10+ Points	2025-26	Career	Record
Joyce Edwards	37	64	59-5
Tessa Johnson	30	55	52-3
Chloe Kitts*	0	43	43-0
Ashlyn Watkins*	0	30	30-0
Agot Makeer	9	9	8-1
Ayla McDowell	3	3	3-0
Adhel Tac	1	1	1-0
B. Quarles-Daniels	5^	56^	32-24^
Jordan Lee	30^	40^	36-4^

10+ Rebounds	2025-26	Career	Record
Chloe Kitts*	0	21	21-0
Ashlyn Watkins*	0	15	15-0
Joyce Edwards	10	14	13-1
Agot Makeer	2	2	2-0
Tessa Johnson	1	1	1-0
Adhel Tac	1	1	1-0
Alicia Tournebize	1	1	1-0
B. Quarles-Daniels	3^	11^	6-5^

10+ Assists	2025-26	Career	Record
Chloe Kitts*	0	1	1-0

5+ Assists	2025-26	Career	Record
Tessa Johnson	5	10	10-0
Joyce Edwards	5	6	6-0
Chloe Kitts*	0	5	5-0
B. Quarles-Daniels	9^	21^	16-5^
Jordan Lee	1^	2^	2-0^

5+ Blocks	2025-26	Career	Record
Ashlyn Watkins*	0	5	5-0

5+ Steals	2025-26	Career	Record
Joyce Edwards	2	2	2-0
B. Quarles-Daniels	4^	11^	10-1^

** indicates player did not play in 25-26*
^ indicates includes games at previous NCAA Div. I program

SOUTH CAROLINA SINGLE-QUARTER RECORDS

TEAM

Scoring

Most

		Points
1.	vs. #14 Maryland, 11/12/23, 4th qtr.	37
	vs. Saint Peter's, 11/22/16, 1st qtr.	37
3.	vs. Florida, 2/13/25, 1st qtr.	36
	vs. Presbyterian, 12/16/23, 1st qtr.	36
	at Kentucky, 1/12/23, 4th qtr.	36
	vs. Alabama, 2/3/22, 1st qtr.	36
	at Vanderbilt, 1/12/20, 3rd qtr.	36
	vs. Alabama State, 3rd qtr.	36

Fewest

		Points
1.	vs. App State, 12/5/18, 4th qtr.	5
2.	at #16 Kentucky, 3/1/26, 4th qtr.	6
	vs. Oregon State, 3/23/21, 4th qtr.	6
	vs. #17 Indiana, 11/28/19, 4th qtr.	6
	vs. St. John's, 11/25/17, 2nd qtr.	6
	vs. #6 Stanford, 3/31/17, 2nd qtr.	6
	vs. #9 UCLA, 12/18/16, 1st qtr.	6

Fewest Allowed

		Points
1.	vs. Texas, 3/30/21, 4th qtr.	0
	at Vanderbilt, 1/14/21, 2nd qtr.	0
	at Ole Miss, 1/30/20, 1st qtr.	0
4.	**vs. Southern, 3/21/26, 3rd qtr.**	**2**
	6 other times	2

Most Allowed

		Points
1.	vs. Baylor, 12/2/18, 1st qtr.	32
	at #15 Maryland, 11/13/17, 4th qtr.	32
	vs. #22 Kentucky, 2/26/17, 4th qtr.	32
4.	vs. Missouri, 2/26/26, 3rd qtr.	31
5.	3x, last vs. Arkansas, 3/8/19, 3rd qtr.	30

Scoring Margin

Lead

		Score	Margin
1.	vs. Alabama State, 11/5/19, 3rd qtr.	36-9	+37
2.	vs. App State, 11/17/19, 1st qtr.	35-3	+32
3.	vs. Southern, 3/21/26, 3rd qtr.	32-2	+30
4.	vs. NC Central, 12/7/25, 3rd qtr.	28-2	+26
	vs. Charleston, 11/25/20, 3rd qtr.	34-8	+26
	vs. USC Upstate, 11/21/19, 3rd qtr.	33-7	+26
	vs. Arkansas, 1/3/16, 2nd qtr.	35-9	+26

Deficit

		Score	Margin
1.	vs. UConn, 2/1/18, 2nd qtr.	8-29	-21
2.	at Tennessee, 2/15/18, 3rd qtr.	9-29	-20
3.	vs. Baylor, 12/2/18, 1st qtr.	13-32	-19
	at Mississippi State, 2/5/18, 4th qtr.	9-28	-19
5.	vs. Indiana, 11/28/19, 4th qtr.	6-24	-18
	vs. Connecticut, 3/26/18, 1st qtr.	12-30	-18

Field Goals

Made

		FGM
1.	at Florida, 2/27/20, 1st qtr.	15
	vs. Saint Peter's, 11/22/16, 1st qtr.	15
3.	6x, last vs. Florida, 2/13/25, 1st qtr.	14

Attempts

		FGA
1.	vs. Arkansas, 3/7/20, 4th qtr.	28
2.	vs. Duke, 11/26/25, 2nd qtr.	26
3.	vs. Arkansas, 2/20/25, 3rd qtr.	25
	vs. Oklahoma, 1/19/25, 2nd qtr.	25
	vs. Purdue, 11/30/24, 1st qtr.	25
	vs. Howard, 3/18/22, 1st qtr.	25
	vs. Arkansas, 1/9/20, 3rd qtr.	25

Highest Percentage

		FGM-A	Pct
1.	vs. Vanderbilt, 3/7/25 4th qtr.	10-11	.909
2.	vs. Kentucky, 3/5/16, 4th qtr.	11-13	.846
3.	at Georgia, 1/2/23, 4th qtr.	5-6	.833
4.	vs. Bowling Green, 11/7/25, 4th qtr.	9-11	.818
	at Kentucky, 1/21/18, 3rd qtr.	9-11	.818

Lowest Percentage

		FGM-A	Pct
1.	vs. Ole Miss, 3/5/22, 4th qtr.	0-5	.000
2.	vs. Georgia, 1/12/17, 2nd qtr.	1-12	.083
3.	vs. NC State, 12/3/20, 2nd qtr.	2-19	.105
4.	at Mississippi State, 1/8/23, 3rd qtr.	2-18	.111
	at Iowa State, 12/6/20, 4th qtr.	1-9	.111

Lowest Percentage Allowed

		FGM-A	Pct
1.	vs. Southern, 3/21/26, 3rd qtr.	0-14	.000
	vs. Clemson, 11/11/25 4th qtr.	0-17	.000
	vs. Miami (FL), 3/20/22, 2nd qtr.	0-9	.000
	vs. Howard, 3/18/22, 2nd qtr.	0-10	.000
	vs. Clemson, 11/17/21, 2nd qtr.	0-16	.000
	vs. Texas, 3/30/21, 4th qtr.	0-15	.000
	at Vanderbilt, 1/14/21, 2nd qtr.	0-16	.000
	at Ole Miss, 1/30/20, 1st qtr.	0-9	.000
	vs. Purdue, 12/15/19, 4th qtr	0-8	.000

Highest Percentage Allowed

		FGM-A	Pct
1.	vs. Drake, 11/24/18, 2nd qtr.	11-13	.846
2.	at LSU, 1/15/17, 2nd qtr.	9-12	.750
3.	vs. East Carolina, 11/17/24, 4th qtr.	8-11	.727
	vs. Tennessee, 1/14/18, 2nd qtr.	8-11	.727
	vs. Quinnipiac, 3/25/17, 2nd qtr.	8-11	.727

Rebounding

Total

		Rebs
1.	vs. Arkansas, 3/7/20, 4th qtr.	28
2.	vs. Charleston, 11/25/20, 3rd qtr.	22
3.	vs. Howard, 3/18/22, 1st qtr.	21
4.	vs Coastal Carolina, 12/21/22, 1st qtr.	20
	vs. Hampton, 11/27/22, 3rd qtr.	20
	vs. Howard, 3/18/22, 3rd qtr.	20
	vs. Howard, 3/18/22, 2nd qtr.	20
	vs. Charleston, 11/25/20, 1st qtr.	20
	at Ohio State, 11/14/16, 1st qtr.	20

Margin

		Rebs	Margin
1.	vs. Hampton, 11/27/22, 3rd qtr.	20-2	+18
	vs. Charleston, 11/25/20, 3rd qtr.	22-4	+18
3.	vs. Arkansas, 1/22/23, 2nd qtr.	19-2	+17
4.	vs. Arkansas, 1/22/23, 3rd qtr.	18-2	+16
	vs. Howard, 3/18/22, 2nd qtr.	20-4	+16
	vs. Arkansas, 3/7/20, 4th qtr.	21-5	+16

INDIVIDUAL

Scoring

Most

		Points
1.	Kaela Davis at Auburn, 1/5/17, 1st qtr.	19
2.	A'ja Wilson vs. Notre Dame, 11/26/17, 4th qtr.	18
3.	Alexis Jennings at Florida, 2/17/19, 3rd qtr.	17
4.	Zia Cooke at Georgia, 1/2/23, 4th qtr.	15
	Aliyah Boston vs. Florida, 12/31/20, 2nd qtr.	15
	M. Herbert Harrigan vs. TX A&M, 3/1/20, 1st qtr.	15
	Kaela Davis vs. Quinnipiac, 3/25/17, 3rd qtr .	15
	Tina Roy vs. Arkansas, 1/3/16, 3rd qtr.	15

Rebounding

Most

		Rebs
1.	**Madina Okot at LSU, 2/14/26, 3rd qtr.**	**9**
	Kamilla Cardoso vs. Ole Miss, 3/4/23, 2nd qtr.	9
	Aliyah Boston vs. N. Carolina, 3/25/22, 4th qtr.	9
	LeLe Grissett at Vanderbilt, 1/14/21, 4th qtr.	9
	Aliyah Boston vs. UConn, 2/10/20, 1st qtr.	9
	Aliyah Boston vs. Arkansas, 1/9/20, 1st qtr.	9
	Alaina Coates at Arkansas, 2/5/17, 1st qtr.	9
	Alaina Coates at Georgia, 1/26/17, 2nd qtr .	9

7



Head Coach
DAWN STALEY

19th Season at South Carolina
27th Season in Career

Since thrusting South Carolina into the national spotlight when she was hired in May 2008, Dawn Staley has made the Gamecocks a mainstay in the battle for SEC and national championships. The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame inductee as a player is angling for another induction as a coach with her standing as one of five head coaches with at least three women's basketball National Championships and the only Black basketball head coach with multiple national titles, one of five head coaches to lead an undefeated team to a National Championship, and the first Black head coach of the USA Basketball Senior National Team.

In her 19th season at the helm of the Gamecocks, highlights include:

- Three National Championships (2017, 2022, 2024)
- Eight NCAA Final Fours in the last 11 tournaments, including six consecutive which is the second-longest streak in tournament history
- Ranking in the AP Top 25 every week since Dec. 10, 2012, the second-longest active streak in the nation and sixth-longest all-time (268)
- 38 straight weeks at No. 1 in the AP Poll, just the third program to go wire-to-wire in back-to-back seasons
- 86 total weeks at No. 1 in the AP Poll, the third-most in the history of that poll
- Nine 30-win seasons, including a program-record 38 wins in 2023-24
- 10 SEC regular-season championships, including a current streak of five
- Nine SEC Tournament titles
- SEC-record 57 consecutive league regular-season victories, which ranks sixth in NCAA history for conference win streaks
- Five top-two recruiting classes (#2 in 2025, #2 in 2024, #1 in 2021, #1 in 2019, #2 in 2014)
- 12 NCAA Attendance titles in the last 12 seasons
- 21 WNBA Draft selections, including 13 first-round and two overall No. 1 picks

Staley is recognized for her work beyond basketball, and her leadership in the community continues to yield accolades. In 2023, the City of Columbia announced plans to erect a statue of Staley, which was installed in April 2025 on Senate Street a short distance from the Gamecocks' home arena to honor her commitment to leadership, community empowerment and uplifting future generations as much as her coaching legacy. Her autobiography Uncommon Favor: Basketball, North Philly, My Mother, and the Life Lessons I Learned from All Three was published in May 2025 and became a New York Times bestseller, rising to No. 2 on the Combined Print and E-Book Nonfiction list shortly after it was published. In April 2026, Staley became one of the rare sports figures elected to the American Academy of. Arts and Sciences, which recognizes leaders in academia, the arts, industry, journalism, philanthropy, policy, research and science. She was selected in the scientific, cultural and nonprofit leadership category.

In her 27th season as a head coach, Staley has led her college teams to 16 25-win seasons, a total of 22 postseason appearances (two WNIT) and 228 weeks in the Associated Press top 10, including 86 in the No. 1 spot – the third most times in the top spot in the history of that poll. Her .779 winning percentage (683-194) ranks eighth in the nation among active head coaches and 10th all-time.

At the helm of the Gamecocks for the last 18 seasons, Staley has been named National Coach of the Year five times. Her 2020 unanimous selection made her the first former Naismith Player of the Year to earn the Naismith Coach of the Year

STALEY AT SOUTH CAROLINA YEAR-BY-YEAR

Year	School	Record	Conf. Rec.	Conf. Finish	Postseason
2008-09	South Carolina	10-18	2-12	11th	
2009-10	South Carolina	14-15	7-9	T-7th	
2010-11	South Carolina	18-15	8-8	T-5th	WNIT 2nd Round
2011-12	South Carolina	25-10	10-6	T-4th	NCAA Sweet 16
2012-13	South Carolina	25-8	11-5	T-4th	NCAA 2nd Round
2013-14	South Carolina	29-5	14-2	1st	NCAA Sweet 16
2014-15	South Carolina	34-3	15-1	T-1st	SEC Tourn. Champ./NCAA Final Four
2015-16	South Carolina	33-2	16-0	1st	SEC Tourn. Champ./NCAA Sweet 16
2016-17	South Carolina	33-4	14-2	1st	SEC Tourn. Champ./NCAA Champ.
2017-18	South Carolina	29-7	12-4	T-2nd	SEC Tourn. Champ/NCAA Elite Eight
2018-19	South Carolina	23-10	13-3	2nd	NCAA Sweet 16
2019-20	South Carolina	32-1	16-0	1st	SEC Tourn. Champ/(NCAA canceled)
2020-21	South Carolina	26-5	14-2	2nd	SEC Tourn. Champ/NCAA Final Four
2021-22	South Carolina	35-2	15-1	1st	NCAA Champion
2022-23	South Carolina	36-1	16-0	1st	SEC Tourn. Champ/NCAA Final Four
2023-24	South Carolina	38-0	16-0	1st	SEC Tourn., Champ/NCAA Champ
2024-25	South Carolina	35-4	15-1	T-1st	SEC Tourn. Champ/NCAA Runner-Up
2025-26	South Carolina	36-4	15-1	1st	NCAA Runner-Up
At Temple	**8 seasons**	**172-80**	**99-25**	**3 A-10 Titles**	**4 A-10 Tourn. Titles, 6 NCAA appearances**
At SC	**18th season**	**511-114**	**229-57**	**10 SEC Titles**	**9 SEC Trn. Titles, 3 NCAA Titles**
Career	*26th season*	*683-194*	*328-82*		

STALEY HIGHLIGHTS

Coaching Highlights

College

- 20 NCAA Tournament Appearances (14 at SC)
- 3x NCAA National Champion (2017.2022, 2024)
- 9 30-Win Seasons
- 11 Regular-Season Conference Titles (SEC 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026; A-10 2008)
- 12 Conference Tournament Titles (SEC 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024; A-10 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006)
- 5-time National Coach of the Year (2014, 2020, 2022, 2023)
- 4-time WBCA Region Coach of the Year (Region 3 2014, 2015, 2016; Region 1 2005)
- 9x Conference Coach of the Year (SEC 2014, 2015, 2016, 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024; A-10 2004, 2005)

USA Basketball

- Senior National Team Head Coach (2017-21) – Tokyo Olympics gold (2020); FIBA AmeriCup gold (2021); co-National Coach of the Year (2021); FIBA AmeriCup gold (2019), FIBA World Cup gold (2018), National Coach of the Year (2018)
- Senior National Team Asst. Coach (2006-08, 2014-16) – Rio Olympics gold medal (2016), FIBA World Championship gold medal (2014), Beijing Olympics gold medal (2008), FIBA Americas Championship gold medal (2007), FIBA World Championship bronze medal (2006)
- U19 National Team Head Coach – FIBA U19 World Championship gold medal (2015), co-National Coach of the Year (2015)
- U18 National Team Head Coach – FIBA U18 Americas Championship gold medal (2014)
- Pan Am Games Head Coach – Gold medal (2007)

Playing Highlights

U.S. Professional – 11 seasons

- 5x WNBA All-Star (2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006)
- Two-time ABL All-Star (1997, 1998)
- WNBA All-Decade Team

USA Basketball

- Olympic gold medalist (1996, 2000, 2004)
- Flag bearer for U.S. in Olympic Games Opening Ceremony (2004)
- Two-time USA Basketball Female Athlete of the Year (1994, 2004)

College – Virginia (1989-92)

- Kodak All-America (1990, 1991, 1992)
- Honda-Broderick Cup Award for Collegiate Female Athlete of the Year (1991)
- Two-time ACC Player of the Year (1991, 1992)
- NCAA Tournament MOP (1991)

Other Notables

- American Academy of Arts & Sciences (2026)
- FIBA Hall of Fame, Class of 2025
- Naismith Mem. Basketball Hall of Fame, Class of 2013
- Order of the Palmetto Recipient (2013)
- Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, Class of 2012
- Two-time Wanamaker Award (1997, 2005)
- Henry P. Iba Citizenship Award (2007)

award, and she became the first men's or women's coach to claim the award in three straight seasons 2022-24. She is a seven-time SEC Coach of the Year and was the 2012 BCA Female Coach of the Year. She is the only Gamecock basketball coach – men's or women's – to amass 300 victories at South Carolina and became the fastest coach to 200 wins in program history, needing just 277 games at South Carolina to reach the plateau. She is the program's all-time winningest coach with 511 wins, a .818 (511-114) winning percentage and a program-record 15 postseason appearances. She is just the fourth head coach to reach 500 wins at an SEC school while it was in the league.

In the vaunted SEC, Staley's 229 league wins are the most among active league coaches and third all-time, trailing just Women's Basketball Hall of Fame Inductees Andy Landers (Georgia, 273) and Pat Summitt (Tennessee, 306). She was the second fastest to 200 league wins (255 games), trailing only Summitt at 229. Her .800 SEC winning percentage (229-57) is second only to Summitt (.874) in league history. Her Gamecocks are the only SEC program with multiple 16-0 seasons in league history, hitting that mark four times (2015-16, 2019-20, 2022-23, 2023-24). Staley's back-to-back SEC undefeated seasons helped the Gamecocks to an SEC-record 57-game win streak in league play, which ranks sixth in NCAA history for conference win streaks. In 2026, she joined Summitt as the only head coaches to win five straight SEC regular-season titles.

In addition to coaching two National Players of the Year, two National Defensive Players of the Year and a National Freshman of the Year, Staley has helped 16 Gamecocks collect 32 All-America selections, three to pick up seven SEC Player of the Year honors, five to earn SEC Defensive Player of the Year recognition a total of nine times, three to SEC 6th Player of the Year honors and six to capture SEC Freshman of the Year. She has coached 26 Gamecocks to All-SEC honors a combined 49 times, including 23 first-team selections. Since her first Gamecock was selected in the 2015 WNBA Draft, a total of 21 South Carolina alums have been chosen, which is the second-most of any program in that timeframe. Of those 21, 13 have been first-round picks, highlighted by two No. 1 overall picks since 2018. Three Gamecocks have been named WNBA Rookie of the Year and have amassed 13 All-Star selections. A'ja Wilson went on to become a the WNBA's first four-time MVP and is a three-time WNBA Defensive Player of the Year.

Also a force in USA Basketball, Staley was named the U.S. Women's National Team head coach for 2017-21, leading the U.S. to 2018 FIBA World Cup gold to earn USAB National Coach of the Year honors that year, adding gold medals at the 2019 and 2021 FIBA AmeriCups and stretching the U.S. Olympic gold medal streak to seven straight at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, for which she again earned Coach of the Year honors. Prior to that appointment, Staley led three other U.S. teams to gold medals – 2015 FIBA U19 World Championships, 2014 FIBA U18 Americas Championship, 2007 Pan Am Games – and served as an assistant on the Senior National Team 2006-08 and again 2014-16, during which the U.S. claimed gold in the 2014 FIBA World Championship and the 2008 and 2016 Olympics.

While her coaching career is in full bloom, Staley is still recognized for her body of work as a one of the most decorated participants in United States women's basketball history. The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame solidified that legacy with her individual enshrinement as a player in the Class of 2013 and against as part of the 1996 U.S. Women's Olympic Team enshrined with the Class of 2026. The Phoenix Club of Philadelphia established the Dawn Staley Award recognizing the nation's top guard in women's Division I basketball in 2013 as well. Staley was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2012, and she was part of the FIBA Hall of Fame Class of 2025.

SOUTH CAROLINA DAWN STALEY ERA SINGLE-GAME RECORDS

Scoring

Most	Points
1. vs. Queens, 11/23/25	121
2. vs. Charleston, 11/25/20	119
3. 2x, last, vs. Bowling Green, 11/7/25	114

Fewest	Points
1. at Stanford, 11/26/10	32*
2. vs. Georgia, 3/4/11	34
3. vs. Mississippi State, 3/5/09	39

Fewest Allowed	Points
1. vs. Mississippi Valley State, 11/24/23	19*
2. vs. Howard, 3/18/22	21
vs. South Carolina State, 12/14/11	21

Most Allowed	Points
1. at Connecticut, 2/11/19	97
2. vs. Arkansas, 3/8/19	95
3. 4x, most recent, at Oklahoma, 1/22/26 (OT)	94

Margin of Victory	Score	Margin
1. vs. Miss. Valley State, 11/24/23	101-19	+82
2. vs. Charleston, 11/25/20	119-38	+81
3. vs. Queens, 11/23/25	**121-49**	**+72**

Margin of Defeat	Score	Margin
1. at Stanford, 11/26/10	32-70	-38
2. vs. Georgia, 3/4/11	34-66	-32
3. vs. Stanford, 12/19/08	47-78	-31

Field Goals

Made	FGM
1. at FGCU, 12/20/25	**45**
2. 3x, last, vs. Missouri, 2/26/26	44

Attempts	FGA
1. vs. Missouri, 2/26/26	84
2. vs. Clemson, 11/16/23	83
vs. Maryland, 11/12/23	83

Highest Percentage (Min. 24 FGM)	FGM-A	Pct
1. vs. Tennessee, 2/8/26	36-52	.692
2. vs. Morgan State, 12/6/23	41-60	.683
3. at Texas A&M, 1/21/24	39-58	.672

Lowest Percentage	FGM-A	Pct
1. at Stanford, 11/26/10	12-55	.218
2. vs. Georgia, 3/4/11	12-52	.231
3. at Florida, 1/20/13	15-64	.234

Lowest %age Allowed	FGM-A	Pct
1. vs. Miss. Valley State, 11/24/23	8-67	.119*
2. vs. South Carolina State, 12/14/11	6-48	.125
3. vs. Howard, 3/18/22	8-54	.148

Highest %age Allowed (Min. 24 FGM)	FGM-A	Pct
1. vs. UConn, 3/26/18	37-63	.587
2. vs. UConn, 2/11/19	37-65	.569
3. 2x, most recent vs. UConn, 12/28/08	35-62	.565

3-Point Field Goals

Made	3FGM
1. vs. Minnesota, 12/11/16	16
2. vs. Temple, 12/21/18	15
3. 2x, most recent, vs. App. State, 12/5/18	14

Attempts	3FGA
1. vs. Howard, 3/18/22	38
2. vs. Minnesota, 12/11/16	33
3. vs. Syracuse, 3/25/16	32

Percentage (Min. 10 3FGM)	3FGM-A	Pct
1. vs. Oklahoma, 3/28/26	10-14	.714
2. vs. ETSU, 11/22/18	11-16	.688
3. vs. Tennessee Tech, 3/21/24	12-19	.632

Free Throws

Made	FTM
1. vs. Savannah State, 12/14/14	34
vs. Oregon State, 3/25/14	34
3. 3x, most recent, vs. Missouri, 1/10/16	32

Attempts	FTA
1. at Mississippi State, 1/6/13	50
2. vs. Savannah State, 12/28/13	48
3. 2x, most recent, vs. Charleston, 11/25/20	47

Percentage (Min. 26 FTM)	FTM-A	Pct
1. vs. Arkansas, 1/22/23	27-33	.818
2. vs. ETSU, 11/22/18	28-35	.800
vs. Hampton, 11/20/16	28-35	.800

Rebounding

Total	Rebs
1. vs. Arkansas, 1/22/23	74
2. vs. Clemson, 11/16/23	73
vs. Charleston, 11/25/20	73

Margin	Rebs	Margin
1. vs. Arkansas, 1/22/23	74-17	+57
2. vs. Hampton, 11/27/22	62-15	+47
3. vs. Clemson, 11/16/23	73-27	+46

Offensive	Off. Rebs
1. vs. Arkansas, 1/22/23	32
2. vs. Tennessee, 2/20/22	31
3. 2x, most recent, vs. Purdue, 11/30/24	30

Turnovers

Fewest	TOs
1. vs. Purdue, 11/30/24	4
at Tennessee, 2/2/12	4
3. vs. Penn State, 12/14/25	5
10 other times	5

Most	TOs
1. at Wake Forest, 12/3/08	32
2. 3x, most recent, at Ole Miss, 2/25/16	29

Assists

1. at Kentucky, 2/25/24	30
vs. Clemson, 11/16/23	30
vs. Maryland, 11/12/23	30

Steals

1. at Alabama State, 11/11/18	22
2. 4x, most recent, at Coppin State, 1/18/26	21

Blocked Shots

1. vs. Presbyterian, 12/16/23	17*
vs. Appalachian State, 11/17/19	17*
3. 5x, most recent, vs. South Dak. St., 11/20/23	16

* indicates also a school record

2025-26 FINAL STATS

2025-26 South Carolina Women's Basketball
Combined Team Statistics
All games

as of Apr 05, 2026

Game Records

Record	Overall	Home	Away	Neutral
ALL GAMES	36-4	18-0	11-1	7-3
CONFERENCE	15-1	8-0	7-1	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	21-3	10-0	4-0	7-3

Score by Periods

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
South Carolina	888	809	879	840	7	3423
Opponents	581	574	589	549	19	2312

Team Box Score

No.	Player				Total		3-Point		F-Throw		Rebounds											
		GP-GS	MIN	AVG	FG-FGA	FG%	3FG-3FGA	3FG%	FT-FTA	FT%	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG	PF	DQ	A	TO	BLK	STL	PTS	AVG
8	EDWARDS, Joyce	40-40	1221:48	30.5	307-538	.571	2-10	.200	152-215	.707	115	157	272	6.8	75	1	95	106	44	72	768	19.2
00	LATSON, Ta'Niya	35-35	985:22	28.2	175-360	.486	26-80	.325	118-147	.803	19	83	102	2.9	42	0	125	61	11	59	494	14.1
11	OKOT, Madina	39-36	906:46	23.3	214-372	.575	13-29	.448	59-84	.702	149	263	412	10.6	73	1	39	83	55	51	500	12.8
5	JOHNSON, Tessa	38-38	1069:40	28.1	177-377	.469	90-201	.448	43-52	.827	18	110	128	3.4	40	0	96	51	10	24	487	12.8
25	JOHNSON, Raven	40-40	1145:35	28.6	156-321	.486	41-103	.398	41-50	.820	31	128	159	4.0	62	0	202	64	25	60	394	9.9
44	MAKEER, Agot	32-6	616:20	19.3	91-197	.462	17-68	.250	36-52	.692	23	84	107	3.3	44	0	43	38	22	36	235	7.3
1	MCDANIEL, Maddy	33-1	651:02	19.7	41-116	.353	11-33	.333	50-71	.704	8	43	51	1.5	30	0	88	17	2	35	143	4.3
24	MCDOWELL, Ayla	36-1	499:28	13.9	49-121	.405	29-80	.363	20-27	.741	25	24	49	1.4	33	0	8	21	5	22	147	4.1
31	TOURNEBIZE, Alicia	20-0	249:56	12.5	33-79	.418	4-16	.250	9-17	.529	21	47	68	3.4	43	1	8	16	13	6	79	4.0
15	TAC, Adhel	23-3	257:57	11.2	25-48	.521	0-0	.000	22-41	.537	24	55	79	3.4	27	1	5	13	18	5	72	3.1
30	DAUDA, Maryam	37-0	421:08	11.4	31-70	.443	5-22	.227	37-48	.771	38	70	108	2.9	37	1	11	22	25	11	104	2.8
Team											74	89	163					22				
Total		**40**	**8025**		**1299-2599**	**.500**	**238-642**	**.371**	**587-804**	**.730**	**545**	**1153**	**1698**	**42.5**	**506**	**5**	**720**	**514**	**230**	**381**	**3423**	**85.6**
Opponents		**40**	**8025**		**880-2526**	**.348**	**249-861**	**.289**	**303-425**	**.713**	**497**	**827**	**1324**	**33.1**	**715**	**15**	**458**	**702**	**132**	**215**	**2312**	**57.8**

Team Statistics

	SC	OPP
Scoring	**3423**	**2312**
Points per game	85.6	57.8
Scoring margin	+27.8	-
Field goals-att	**1299-2599**	**880-2526**
Field goal pct	.500	.348
3 point fg-att	**238-642**	**249-861**
3-point FG pct	.371	.289
3-pt FG made per game	6.0	6.2
Free throws-att	**587-804**	**303-425**
Free throw pct	.730	.713
F-Throws made per game	14.7	7.6
Rebounds	**1698**	**1324**
Rebounds per game	42.5	33.1
Rebounding margin	+9.4	-
Assists	**720**	**458**
Assists per game	18.0	11.5
Turnovers	**514**	**702**
Turnovers per game	12.9	17.6
Turnover margin	+4.7	-
Assist/turnover ratio	1.4	0.7
Steals	**381**	**215**
Steals per game	9.5	5.4
Blocks	**230**	**132**
Blocks per game	5.8	3.3
Winning streak	**0**	**-**
Home win streak	18	-
Attendance	**276616**	**68632**
Home games-Avg/Game	18-15368	12-5719
Neutral site-Avg/Game	-	10-10039

Team Results

Date	Opponent		Score	Att.
11/03/2025	Grand Canyon	W	94-54	15601
11/07/2025	Bowling Green	W	114-47	16649
11/11/2025	Clemson	W	65-37	16623
11/15/2025	vs Southern California	W	69-52	8150
11/19/2025	Winthrop	W	106-56	15787
11/23/2025	Queens (NC)	W	121-49	15222
11/26/2025	vs Duke	W	83-66	2386
11/27/2025	vs Texas	L	64-66	1950
12/04/2025	at Louisville	W	79-77	10012
12/07/2025	N.C. Central	W	106-42	15677
12/14/2025	Penn St.	W	95-55	15601
12/18/2025	at South Fla.	W	103-44	3767
12/20/2025	at FGCU	W	105-43	3527
12/28/2025	Providence	W	96-55	15065
01/01/2026	Alabama	W	83-57	14367
01/04/2026	at Florida	W	74-63	6006
01/08/2026	at Arkansas	W	93-58	2963
01/11/2026	Georgia	W	65-43	15536
01/15/2026	Texas	W	68-65	17188
01/18/2026	at Coppin St.	W	90-48	3371
01/22/2026	at Oklahoma	Lot	82-94	7402
01/25/2026	Vanderbilt	W	103-74	17002
01/29/2026	at Auburn	W	81-51	4099
02/02/2026	at Texas A&M	W	71-56	4332
02/05/2026	Mississippi St.	W	88-45	15204
02/08/2026	Tennessee	W	93-50	16206
02/14/2026	at LSU	W	79-72	13200
02/19/2026	at Alabama	W	76-57	3703
02/22/2026	Ole Miss	W	85-48	18000
02/26/2026	Missouri	W	112-71	15526
03/01/2026	at Kentucky	W	60-56	6250
03/06/2026	vs Kentucky	W	87-64	11154
03/07/2026	vs LSU	W	83-77	13333
03/08/2026	vs Texas	L	61-78	13567
03/21/2026	Southern U.	W	103-34	10483
03/23/2026	Southern California	W	101-61	10879
03/28/2026	vs Oklahoma	W	94-68	9583
03/30/2026	vs TCU	W	78-52	8558
04/03/2026	vs UConn	W	62-48	15856
04/05/2026	vs UCLA	L	51-79	15856