

**Head Coach • Nebraska
Alma Mater • Creighton, 1986
Career Record**
• **258-199 (16 Seasons)**
• **63-59 (4 Seasons at Nebraska)**

Coaching Credentials

- Head Coach, Nebraska (2002-Present)
- Head Coach, Creighton (1992-2002)
170-115 Record (10 Seasons)
- 2002 Missouri Valley Conference Champions (Creighton)
- 2002 NCAA Tournament Appearance (Creighton)
- 2002 Missouri Valley Conference Coach of the Year (Creighton)
- Head Coach, Loras College (1990-92) 25-25 (2 Seasons)
- Assistant Coach, Creighton (1986-89)

Coach Connie Yori set out to establish a new winning tradition in women's basketball at Nebraska after she was hired on June 24, 2002.

Yori knew the task in front of her was tall, but she was also confident that Nebraska's resources and her own abilities to develop strong personal relationships with her players, along with her knowledge as a head coach would lead the Huskers to future success.

Entering her fifth season at the helm of the Huskers, Yori definitely has a firm foundation established at Nebraska, and the Husker program has regained national respect, while continuing to climb the ladder in the Big 12 Conference.

The Huskers advanced to postseason play for the third consecutive season and finished as one of the hottest teams in the Big 12 in 2005-06. Nebraska advanced to the quarterfinals of the Postseason WNIT for the first time in school history and closed the year by winning seven of its last 10 games.

The Huskers finished with a 19-13 record, the most wins for an NU squad since the 1999-2000 season. Nebraska also finished with an 8-8 Big 12 mark and tied for sixth in the league standings for the second straight season.

Nebraska also won a game in the Phillips 66 Big 12 Championship for the second straight year, while posting a win in the Postseason WNIT for the third straight season.

The Huskers' strong finish came while establishing a measure of dominance against Big 12 North Division competition. Nebraska was a perfect 5-0 in rematches with North Division opponents in 2005-06, and finished the regular season with a 7-3 mark against North schools, before adding another victory against Colorado in the first round of the Big 12 Tournament.

"We have our program moving in the right direction as far as the way we want to play, how hard we want to play, and the attitude we want to approach the game.

– Nebraska Head Coach Connie Yori

The Huskers defeated Colorado three times in the same season for the first time in school history after recording their first regular-sweep of the Buffaloes in 21 years. NU also ended a 20-year losing streak against the Buffs in Boulder.

Nebraska's success against North Division opponents and the return of All-Big 12 players Kiera Hardy, Kelsey Griffin and Jelena Spiric, along with senior captain and Canadian Senior National team member Chelsea Aubry, give the Huskers plenty of optimism for the 2006-07 season and beyond.

Not only do the Huskers return four starters and three major contributors off the bench in Danielle Page, TK LaFleur and Ashley Ford for 2006-07, NU will also add possibly the best recruiting class in school history with five incoming freshmen.

Those freshmen include WBCA All-American and Miss Nebraska Basketball Yvonne Turner, All-Arizona guard Nicole Neals, All-Minnesota forward Cory Montgomery, Iowa Female Athlete of the Year Kala Kuhlmann and All-Nebraska center Nikki Bober.

Nebraska's success in 2005-06 came despite overcoming major injuries, including the loss of the 2005 Big 12 Newcomer of the Year Jelena Spiric to a knee injury in fall practice. Despite the setbacks, Yori kept the Huskers climbing in 2005-06, after making major strides during the 2004-05 campaign.

Nebraska grabbed national headlines on Jan. 12, 2005, when the Huskers made school history by knocking off then-No. 2 Baylor, 103-99 in triple overtime at the Bob Devaney Sports Center in Lincoln. Not only did the Huskers outlast the eventual national champion Bears in the longest game in Big 12 Conference history, they also improved to 3-0 in the Big 12 Conference for the first time in nearly a decade.

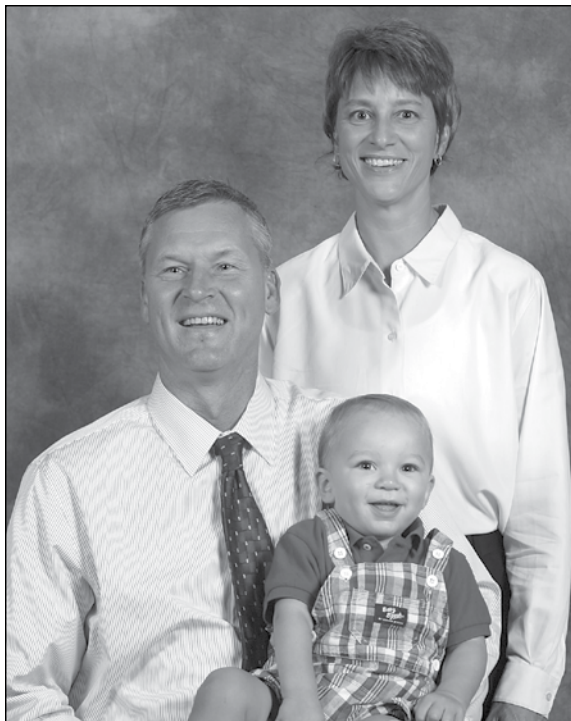
The Huskers' fast start in Big 12 play helped NU finish with an 8-8 Big 12 record for the first time since the 1999-2000 season and claim a sixth-place finish in one of the nation's toughest conferences. Nebraska's sixth-place showing was its first top-six conference finish since 1999-2000, and helped the Huskers advance to the postseason for the second straight year with a trip to the Postseason WNIT.

Overall, Nebraska finished with an 18-14 record despite playing 11 games against top 25 opponents. Along with the win over Baylor, which marked the first win over a top-five opponent in school history, Nebraska also defeated No. 14 Iowa State 88-59 on Feb. 12 in Lincoln, to give NU its largest victory margin in history over a top-25 opponent.

The Huskers' 2004-05 success on the court came despite losing four seniors who started every game during an 18-12 campaign (7-9, seventh place in Big 12) in 2003-04. But Yori's third Nebraska squad,

Yori's Year-by-Year Record

Season	School	Record	Pct.	Conf.	Pct.
1990-91	Loras College (NCAA Div. III)	10-15	.400	7-11	.389
1991-92	Loras College (NCAA Div. III)	15-10	.600	10-8	.556
	Loras Overall Record	25-25	.500	17-19	.472
1992-93	Creighton	20-8	.714	12-4	.750
1993-94	Creighton	24-7	.774	14-2	.875
1994-95	Creighton	18-9	.667	12-6	.667
1995-96	Creighton	15-13	.536	10-8	.556
1996-97	Creighton	8-19	.296	7-11	.389
1997-98	Creighton	16-12	.571	11-7	.611
1998-99	Creighton	16-14	.533	9-9	.500
1999-00	Creighton	12-15	.444	7-11	.389
2000-01	Creighton	17-11	.607	11-7	.611
2001-02	Creighton	24-7	.774	16-2	.889
	Creighton Overall Record	170-115	.596	109-67	.619
2002-03	Nebraska	8-20	.286	1-15	.063
2003-04	Nebraska	18-12	.600	7-9	.438
2004-05	Nebraska	18-14	.563	8-8	.500
2005-06	Nebraska	19-13	.594	8-8	.500
	Nebraska Overall Record	63-59	.516	24-40	.375
	Career Record	258-199	.565	151-141	.517



Coach Connie Yori, her husband, Kirk Helms, and their two-year-old son, Lukas Helms.

which was composed of seven newcomers on a 12-player roster, still succeeded on and off the court with strong team chemistry, a commitment to each other and a dedication to playing hard every minute.

The emergence of Kiera Hardy, who became the third sophomore in school history and just the third NU player since the inception of the Big 12 Conference in 1996-97 to earn first-team All-Big 12 honors, helped Nebraska compensate for the loss of four seniors.

While the Huskers have achieved improved success on the court the past two seasons, Nebraska has also gained ground on the recruiting trail. After being forced to piece together a class of newcomers in 2002-03 after taking NU's top job on June 24, 2002, Yori's first true group of recruits came to Lincoln in 2003-04 and produced immediate results.

Hardy and Aubry headline the players in Yori's first class, while her second group included Danielle Page, who already ranks among the best shot blockers in school history. Yori's third class featured 2006 Big 12 All-Rookie selection Kelsey Griffin and TK LaFleur, who was one of the top backcourt recruits in the nation and made major contributions to NU's success down the stretch in 2005-06.

Yori has certainly brought the Huskers a long way since her first days as Nebraska's head coach in the summer of 2002. Yori's first team, which had just five healthy scholarship players for most of the season, managed an 8-20 record.

Yori's second team made a major jump. The 2003-04 squad featured four returning senior starters and made one of the largest improvements in NCAA Division I basketball by finishing with an 18-12 record, despite playing 19 games against 2004 postseason clubs.

Along with a win over No. 13 Ohio State, which advanced to the second round of the 2004 NCAA Tournament, the Huskers notched one of the biggest wins in school history with an 81-63 victory over No.

9 Kansas State on Jan. 24. The win came in front of a national television audience on Fox Sports Net and marked the highest-ranked team the Huskers had ever defeated at the Devaney Center, until Nebraska's landmark win over national champion Baylor in 2005.

The Huskers added a 7-9 record in Big 12 play, likely falling just one win shy of the school's first NCAA Tournament bid since 2000. NU finished in a three-way tie for seventh place in a powerful league that sent nine teams to the postseason, including the Huskers.

Nebraska still made a trip to the postseason by hosting a pair of games in the WNIT. With a 73-60 win over Drake in the first round, the Huskers produced NU's first postseason victory since 1998 and the school's first home postseason win since 1993.

Along with Nebraska's amazing improvement on the court, the Huskers also made major strides in the classroom and the community.

The Huskers made history in 2003-04 by becoming the athletic department's first winner of the Life Skills Award of Excellence Team Competition. The women's basketball team captured its second Life Skills Award in 2006.

The women's basketball team won the Life Skills Award with an unwavering commitment to community service that surpassed the rest of Nebraska's varsity athletic programs. An impressive accomplishment considering Nebraska's overall Life Skills program has been named the best in the nation.

Yori accepted Nebraska's top job after 10 successful years at Creighton, where she closed her career as the 2002 Missouri Valley Conference Coach of the Year after leading CU to MVC regular-season and tournament titles and a 2002 NCAA Tournament bid.

Yori left a group of talented players in place at Creighton, while coming to Lincoln to help Nebraska rebuild a program that left her with just six active scholarship players for the start of 2002-03.

"As a Nebraskan, I know the rich athletic traditions at Nebraska. But until I came here and toured all of the facilities and met the people in the department, I didn't realize what a great working atmosphere this could be," Yori said upon her hiring. "Nebraska definitely has all of the resources to make a successful basketball program. It's a school with great facilities, tremendous fan support, excellent academic and athletic support services and an outstanding athletic tradition."

Shades of Nebraska's improvement were evident in Yori's first season. The Huskers posted a 65-55 win over No. 25 Cincinnati and opened the year with a 7-2 record to receive votes in the ESPN/USA Today Poll. The Bearcats returned the nucleus of a team that went 27-5, advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament and defeated NU, 81-59, a year earlier.

Along with the win over Cincinnati, the Huskers produced a dramatic 19-point second-half comeback to win on the road in San Diego.

Earlier in the season, the Huskers nearly came back from a 25-point second-half deficit to beat a

Drake team that had advanced to the 2002 NCAA Tournament. The Huskers' comeback against Drake came up short, but the respect they gained from NU's fans was evident in the standing ovation they received despite an eight-point setback.

Before coming to Nebraska, Yori spent 10 seasons as the head coach at Creighton University in Omaha. Along with the MVC title and a trip to the NCAA Tournament in 2002, the Bluejays posted a 24-7 overall record and a 16-2 mark in league play. The Bluejays also set school and league records with 249 three-pointers to rank fifth nationally with 8.0 per game.

The 42-year-old native of Ankeny, Iowa, produced a 170-115 (.596) mark in 10 seasons at Creighton.

Overall, Yori spent 17 seasons at Creighton, including four seasons as a guard (1982-83 through 1985-86) and three seasons as an assistant coach (1986-87 through 1988-89) under Bruce Rasmussen.

Between stints as an assistant coach and head coach at Creighton, Yori spent one year (1989-90) as the head softball coach at St. Thomas University in Miami, Fla., where she earned her master's degree in sports administration. Yori then spent two seasons as head coach at NCAA Division III Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, (1990-91 and 1991-92).

After two years at Loras College, she returned to Creighton to take the reins from her mentor, Rasmussen, who accepted an associate athletic director position at CU in 1992, and has since become athletic director.

In her first season as Creighton's head coach in 1992-93, Yori led the Bluejays to a 20-8 record, a 12-4 conference mark and the school's second trip to the NCAA Tournament. CU earned a No. 10 seed in the Midwest Region and defeated No. 7-seed Bowling Green (84-73) before losing to defending national champion Texas Tech (75-65) in the second round.

In her second season (1993-94), Yori's Bluejays raced to a 24-7 record and a 14-2 MVC mark. Her 2001-02 Creighton squad matched that mark, while setting a school record with 16 conference victories.

Yori graduated from Creighton with a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1986. As a player for the Bluejays, Yori ranks third on the school's all-time scoring list with 2,010 points. A 1992 inductee into the Creighton University Athletic Hall of Fame, Yori owns the school record for career scoring average (20.3 ppg). She also owns school game records for points (42) and field goals made (20). She ranks second in career field goals made (797) and free throws made (416), fourth in rebounds (746), fifth in field goal percentage (.542) and assists (399) and seventh in blocked shots (69). Her No. 25 jersey was also retired by Creighton.

A 1982 graduate of Ankeny High School, Yori is a two-time inductee into the Iowa Girl's High School Athletic Union Hall of Fame as a basketball and softball player. She led the Hawkettes to a state title in 1980 and a runner-up finish in 1981, scoring 3,068 points in her six-on-six prep career. A four-time first-team all-state shortstop, Yori also helped Ankeny to state softball titles in 1979, 1980 and 1981.

Yori is married to Kirk Helms and the couple had their first child, Lukas, in July of 2004. Yori has been active in the community as a volunteer, including serving as the honorary chairperson of the 2006 Race for the Cure.

A Conversation with Coach Connie Yori

Q: What qualities do you look for in student-athletes that you recruit to Nebraska?

CY: I've always believed that if you surround yourself with good people, then good things will happen. If you recruit quality student-athletes with good character, then things will fall into place. I think character encompasses a lot of things.

We want to be committed to recruiting student-athletes who have quality character and are good athletes. I believe the game is still a team game. You can have great individual players, but if they don't play together, then you are not going to be successful. We want players who understand team concepts and believe in those things. We want players who care about each other and respect one another. When you have that, then special things can happen.

Q: What do you hope student-athletes will take from their years with the Nebraska women's basketball program?

CY: We want them to leave here a better person than they came. We want to recruit quality people, but as a coaching staff we want to impact our student-athletes in a positive way. As coaches, we have a parenting role when our players are away from home.

We want our kids to be able to go out into the world and be productive members of society after they graduate from college. We want them to be overall good people and make good decisions with strong family values. It is our responsibility as coaches to help develop those things. The more quality people we can surround our student-athletes with, we believe those things will happen.

Q: What do you envision as the direction of the Nebraska women's basketball program?

CY: We are going to try to get better every year. We are going to try and recruit quality student-athletes who our fans can be proud of. We want our student-athletes to be players our fans will enjoy watching. We also want our student-athletes to be here for the right reasons. We're going to improve, and in time we will be a team competing for conference championships in the Big 12. If you are competing for conference championships in the Big 12, then you are going to be a top 10 team competing for the national championship. We think that can happen, but we also know that it is going to take some courage for some kids to come our direction and believe in the things that we believe.

Q: What are the benefits of playing in the powerful Big 12 Conference?

CY: Three of our last five conference champions have competed for national titles, including Baylor, which won the national championship in 2005. Texas battled Connecticut down to the wire in the Final Four in 2003, and Oklahoma went to the national championship game in 2002. From top to bottom, I really believe the Big 12 is the best conference in



Connie Yori enters her fifth season as Nebraska's head coach in 2006-07, after leading the Huskers to three consecutive postseason appearances in 2004, 2005 and 2006. In this conversation, Coach Yori discusses her expectations for current and future players, her style of coaching, and Nebraska's great fans.

basketball. Not only do the top teams in the league battle for national titles, but six to eight other teams are heading to the NCAA Tournament. When you couple that with the fact that the Big 12 has led the nation in attendance for the past six seasons, it really makes for a great atmosphere night in and night out in every arena in the league.

Q: How would you describe the style of play you would like to feature in the future at Nebraska?

CY: We would like to be up-tempo on both ends of the court. Some programs are up-tempo offensively, but we would like to get to the point where we can create offense with our defense. We want to play aggressively at both ends of the court and make it a 94-foot game.

We were not able to do that in my first two years because of our depth, but we began moving in that direction the past two years, and we think the future of our program will have success that way. We think it is an exciting style to play, and we want to run.

Q: How would you rate the academic support provided to student-athletes at Nebraska?

CY: I truly believe our academic support services are the best in the country. Other schools come here and try to duplicate our system and model their programs after ours. What's great about Nebraska's academic support is that it can help a good student become a great student, and an average student can become a good student.

There is a total commitment by the people working in the academic area, as well as by our coaching staff. The two groups working hand-in-hand will

help our players graduate and be ready to take the next step in their lives.

Q: What kind of support does the women's basketball program receive at the University of Nebraska?

CY: Under the leadership of Steve Pederson, we believe we have one of the best athletic departments in the country. Our athletic staff has a great love of Nebraska and Nebraska athletics, and they are committed to helping us in the right manner make our program successful.

They have helped us renovate our locker rooms and our office areas to help improve the experience of our student-athletes. Executive Associate Athletic Director Marc Boehm was hired specifically to help our program. It even goes as high as our chancellor, Harvey Perlman, who has shown great support of our program. There is no pressure to cut corners. We want to do things the right way.

Q: How impressive has Nebraska's fan support been in your first four seasons as NU's head coach?

CY: I have been astounded by the support of the fans in my first three seasons. It was incredible to see 3,000 people at a game in 2002-03 when we were not winning a lot of games. Not only did they come out, but they stayed the entire game. They were supportive and they made a difference in the game. Our attendance increased 60 percent in our third season and we have ranked among the top teams in the nation in attendance. In 2004-05, we had two crowds of more than 12,000 fans and we are excited about the future of Nebraska basketball.



LAKALE MALONE

**Assistant Coach • Nebraska
Alma Mater • Indiana, 1999**

Coaching Credentials

- Assistant Coach, Nebraska (2003-Present)
- Assistant Coach, Bradley (2001-03)
- Assistant Coach, Wagner (2000-01)

LaKale (pronounced Luh-KALE) Malone joined Coach Connie Yori's Nebraska staff in May of 2003 after spending two seasons at Bradley in Peoria, Ill.

Now entering her fourth season on the Nebraska women's basketball coaching staff, Malone is in her second year as the Huskers' recruiting coordinator.

Malone played an integral role in the 2005-06 Nebraska signing class that included WBCA High School All-American Yvonne Turner, Iowa Female Athlete of the Year Kala Kuhlmann, All-Arizona guard Nicole Neals, All-Minnesota forward Cory Montgomery and All-Nebraska center Nikki Bober in her first year as the Huskers' recruiting coordinator.

In her role as recruiting coordinator, Malone keeps records of Nebraska's contact and evaluations of recruits, while scheduling the Huskers' official and unofficial visits.

In addition to her extensive recruiting responsibilities, Malone's on-court coaching duties include working with Nebraska's wing players. She also assists with opponent scouting.

Yori said Malone's success in recruiting is helping to build Nebraska's program for the future. Yori also said Malone's presence has been a major benefit to the Nebraska program over the past three seasons.

"LaKale brings a lot of energy and enthusiasm to our staff," Yori said. "Along with a great personality, she brings a wide range of experiences as a coach and a player to our staff. She has spent time in several areas of the country, which helps her relate to players and recruits from around the nation."

A native of Murfreesboro, Tenn., Malone graduated from Indiana in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in accounting and marketing after earning four letters for the Hoosiers (1996-99).

After graduation, she spent one year as an accountant/auditor for PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP in Nashville, Tenn., before returning to basketball as an assistant coach at Wagner College in Staten Island, N.Y., for the 2000-01 season. While at

Wagner, Malone was responsible for scouting reports, team travel, film editing, academic monitoring of student-athletes and community development activities. In addition, Malone conducted the strength and conditioning program for the Seahawks.

After one season at Wagner, Malone went to Bradley, where she worked with the frontcourt and backcourt players and handled scouting reports and team travel for the Braves. She also took an increased role in recruiting during her second season. She was also the co-coordinator of Bradley's summer camps.

Malone previously served on the women's basketball camp staffs at both Illinois and Illinois State. She has also worked camps at Notre Dame and served as assistant coordinator of Indiana's camps in 1999, where she was responsible for camp promotion, finances and scheduling.

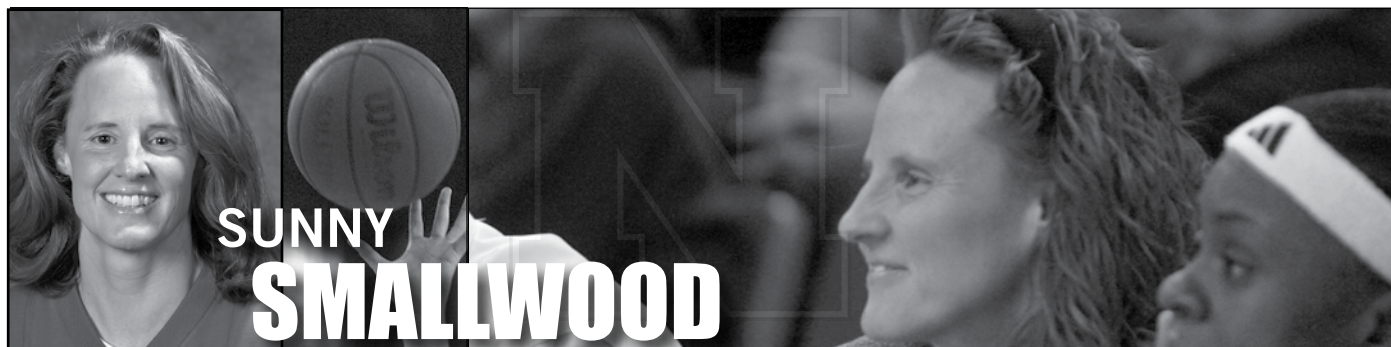
As a student at Indiana, Malone spent time as a volunteer speaker at the Boys and Girls Club, discussing such topics as goal-setting, academics and sportsmanship.

Malone has been a team member of Sports Reach, an organization that competes internationally. She competed in Israel in the summer of 2000 and toured with the team in Tunisia, Africa, before her arrival at Bradley during the summer of 2001.



Assistant Coach LaKale Malone enters her fourth season at Nebraska. Malone has played a major role in the Huskers' recruiting efforts in addition to assisting the Huskers with on-floor coaching responsibilities.

Malone was born May 8, 1976, in Murfreesboro, Tenn., where her mother, Lillian, resides. LaKale has a younger sister, LaNae, and a younger brother, BJ.



**Assistant Coach • Nebraska
Alma Mater • Boise State, 1983**

Coaching Credentials

- Assistant Coach, Nebraska (2005-Present)
- Assistant Coach, California (2004-05)
- Assistant Coach, Washington (1993-2004)
- Assistant Coach, Washington State (1990-93)
- Head Coach, Boise High School (1983-90)

A well-respected assistant coach with an impressive track record as a talented recruiter, Sunny Smallwood enters her second season on the Nebraska coaching staff.

Smallwood came to Nebraska from the University of California, where she spent the 2004-05 season as the associate head coach for the Golden Bears.

Smallwood helped Cal land one of the nation's

top 10 recruiting classes during her only season in Berkeley.

Before heading to California, Smallwood spent 11 seasons as an assistant coach at the University of Washington, including her last eight seasons in Seattle as the Huskies' lead assistant. She was the Huskies' recruiting coordinator all 11 years she spent on the staff at Washington.

Nebraska Coach Connie Yori said Smallwood's experiences as a coach and a recruiter make her a great addition to the Nebraska program.

"Sunny has a vast array of experience and is helping our program in all areas. She has proven herself as a dedicated and loyal assistant coach in this profession, and we expect her to have a positive impact on our program in the years to come."

Smallwood focuses her on-court coaching attention to developing Nebraska's backcourt players, while coordinating the Husker defense.

She is also responsible for all aspects of Nebraska's individual player development workouts, while assisting with opponent scouting. Smallwood also plays a major role in Nebraska's recruiting efforts.

During her time in Washington, Smallwood helped the Huskies to six NCAA Tournament appearances, advancing to the regional semifinals in 1995 and the NCAA Elite Eight in 2001.

Smallwood worked under two head coaches during her tenure at Washington, first for Chris Gobrecht and then June Daugherty. In eight seasons under Daugherty, Smallwood helped UW earn seven postseason tournament appearances.

In her 11 seasons at Washington, Smallwood helped at least one player earn first-team All-Pac 10 Conference honors in all but one season.

Smallwood's recruiting resume included Jamie Redd, UW's all-time leading scorer, and Amber Hall, the Huskies' all-time leading rebounder, along with All-Pac 10 Conference selections Megan Franza, LeAnn Sheets, Loree Payne, Andrea Lalum and Giuliana Mendiola, the 2003 Pac-10 Conference Player of the Year.

Smallwood's international recruiting base included Laure Savasta, a member of the 2000 French Olympic team, and Hall, a Canadian National Team member.

Smallwood began her collegiate coaching career as an assistant at Washington State from 1990 to 1993.

In her first season in Pullman, the Cougars earned their first-ever bid to the NCAA Tournament. In addition to her on- and off-court coaching duties, Smallwood was also the director of Washington State's summer camps.

A 1983 graduate of Boise State with a degree in secondary education, Smallwood was a two-time first-team academic All-Mountain West Conference selection for the Broncos as a player from 1979 to 1983.

After college, Smallwood spent seven years as the head coach at Boise High School, leading her team to state tournament appearances in 1986 and 1989.

Smallwood served as the head volleyball coach for one season, an assistant volleyball coach for three years and an assistant track and field coach for seven seasons.

Born in Deadwood, S.D., on May 28, 1961, Smallwood attended high school in Price, Utah, where she was a multi-sport standout at Carbon High School and earned 16 varsity letters.



Assistant coach Sunny Smallwood enters her second season at Nebraska. Smallwood helps develop the Husker backcourt players, while coordinating NU's defense.



**Assistant Coach • Nebraska
Alma Mater • Keene State, 1996**

Coaching Credentials

- Assistant Coach, Nebraska (2005-Present)
- Special Assistant, Connecticut Sun-WNBA (2005)
- Assistant Coach, Columbia (2004-05)
- Assistant Coach, Connecticut Sun-WNBA (2003, 2004)
- Assistant Coach, Western Connecticut State (2001-03)
- Assistant Coach, Hartford-men (1996-97)
- Assistant Coach, Keene State-men (1995-96)

A talented assistant coach on both the women's and men's collegiate levels and with the WNBA's Connecticut Sun, Tory Verdi enters his second season with the Nebraska women's basketball program in 2006-07.

Verdi came to Nebraska after serving as the acting head coach at Columbia University from February through April of 2005. He served as the head assistant coach at Columbia from October 2004 until February 2005.

Before taking his position at Columbia, Verdi spent the 2003 and 2004 seasons as an assistant coach of the Connecticut Sun in the WNBA. He helped the

Sun to the Eastern Conference title in 2004 and the Eastern Conference finals in 2003. He also spent time working as a special assistant to the Sun during the 2005 season before joining the Nebraska coaching staff.

Nebraska Coach Connie Yori said Verdi's new ideas and WNBA coaching experience have helped energize Nebraska's already talented staff.

"Tory's varied experiences, particularly his involvement in the WNBA for three years, brings a fresh perspective to our program," Yori said. "He is a highly energetic recruiter and coach who will help us in all areas of our program. His specialty has been on the offensive end, as well as in the recruiting process, and I am confident he will help the Nebraska women's basketball program make another step forward."

Verdi focuses much of his on-court coaching attention to Nebraska's post players, while also coordinating the Husker offense. He also assists with individual player development and opponent scouting, while playing an active role in Nebraska's recruiting efforts.

Verdi helped coordinate Nebraska's 2006-07 schedule.

In addition to his professional experience as an assistant coach in the WNBA, Verdi served as the head coach of the Springfield Spirit in the National Women's Professional Basketball League from October 2003 through April 2004.

Along with his experience as a collegiate and professional women's coach, Verdi has extensive experience as a collegiate men's coach.

Before joining the WNBA's Connecticut Sun in 2003, Verdi served as an assistant men's basketball coach at Western Connecticut State in Danbury, Conn.

Verdi helped Western Connecticut State to back-to-back NCAA Tournament appearances in 2002 and 2003. He also served as assistant men's coach at the University of Hartford from 1996 to 1997, after



Assistant Coach Tory Verdi and his wife, Heather, have a three-year-old son, Tyler. Verdi enters his second season on the Nebraska staff.

working as an assistant men's coach at his alma mater, Keene State College in New Hampshire, from 1995 to 1996.

Verdi added experience as a high school boys coach at Pomperaug High School in Southbury, Conn., from 1997 to 2000.

Verdi was born in New Britain, Conn., on Dec. 28, 1972. He earned his bachelor's degree in elementary education from Keene State College in 1996, before adding a master's degree in computer technology from the University of Hartford in 2003.

Verdi and his wife, Heather, have a three-year-old son, Tyler.





Director of Basketball Operations Alma Mater • Creighton, 2001

Credentials

- Director of Basketball Operations Nebraska (2005-Present)
- Assistant Coach, Nebraska (2002-05)
- Assistant Coach, Creighton (2001-02)
- Two-Time First-Team All-Missouri Valley Conference
- Ranks in Creighton's Top 10 in Scoring, Assists and Steals
- Played in 113 Career Games as a Guard at Creighton (1997-2001)

After spending three years on the Nebraska sideline as an assistant coach, Angela Timmons enters her second season as the director of basketball operations for the Huskers in 2006-07.

As the director of operations, Timmons leads the administration of Nebraska's program, including the supervision of the Huskers' academic progress. She coordinates Nebraska's practice and workout schedules, along with the Huskers' travel plans. She will also coordinate Nebraska's future schedules.

Timmons serves as the liaison to the Fastbreakers Women's Basketball Booster Club, and supervises Nebraska's managers, student assistants and practice squad members. She is also responsible for all equipment purchases and assists in budget planning for the entire program.

During her first three years at Nebraska, Timmons focused her efforts on helping the Huskers re-establish the foundation for a successful program with her exceptional abilities on the recruiting trail.

When Timmons arrived with Coach Connie Yori in 2002-03, Nebraska had just six available scholarship players. Since then, Timmons has worked tirelessly to replenish Nebraska's talent pool and put the Huskers back in contention in the Big 12 Conference.

In 2003-04 and 2004-05, Timmons coordinated Nebraska's recruiting efforts, which included signing a six-player class before the 2004-05 season, and a three-player class for the 2005-06 campaign. Two-time first-team All-Big 12 guard Kiera Hardy and Big 12 Newcomer-of-the-Year Jelena Spiric are just two of the players that Timmons helped bring to Lincoln during her first three seasons in Lincoln.

"Angela did an outstanding job at helping us correct the lack of numbers we had when we arrived at Nebraska, while adding some really talented young players to our roster," Yori said. "She has proven herself as a talented recruiter and assistant coach

at this level, but she wanted a chance to take a step back from coaching a little bit to concentrate on the administrative side of things. She has shown extreme loyalty to this program and has helped immensely in building our program."

Before coming to Nebraska prior to the 2002-03 season, Timmons spent one season as an assistant coach at Creighton. However, Timmons' connection with Yori goes back to Timmons' high school career in Des Moines, Iowa, when Yori recruited her to play at Creighton.

Timmons bought into Yori's coaching philosophy and system and excelled as a player, earning a pair of first-team All-Missouri Valley Conference honors as a starting guard for the Bluejays. She finished her career as the school's ninth all-time leading scorer.

Timmons' familiarity with Yori's coaching style and techniques helped ease the transition for the entire coaching staff at Nebraska.

Along with working to develop Nebraska's backcourt players, Timmons took on the added role of coordinating Nebraska's recruiting efforts in 2003-04.



Angela Timmons enters her fifth season at Nebraska and second year as NU's director of basketball operations. Timmons played for and coached with Connie Yori at Creighton.

Timmons' work on the recruiting trail helped Nebraska land a solid recruiting class that included four junior college transfers and a pair of talented high school freshmen. The Huskers' success in recruiting talented junior college players was crucial in helping Nebraska compensate for the loss of four senior starters from the 2003-04 squad that each started every game for the Huskers.

Timmons, who joined the Husker staff on July 3, 2002, was named an NU assistant just one week after Yori officially began her duties at Nebraska on June 26, 2002.

Yori said the decision to invite Timmons to join the Nebraska coaching staff was an easy one.

Although Timmons spent four years battling the Huskers as a player, she is eager to help build a successful program at Nebraska.

At Creighton, Timmons worked with the backcourt as well as coordinating special events, fund raising, camps and game management.

As a player from 1997 to 2001, Timmons was a two-time All-Missouri Valley Conference first-team honoree. She played in 113 games in her career at Creighton, ranking fourth all-time. She led the Bluejays in assists in each of her four seasons, while averaging over 40 steals per season. Timmons was also named MVC Player of the Week on three occasions.

Timmons' best season came in her junior campaign when she led her team in 12 statistical categories, including career highs in points (436), points per game (16.1), minutes per game (31.9) and three-point field goals made (49). Her single-game high for points and assists also came in her junior season with 31 and 11, respectively.

She averaged 11.2 points per game over her career, while chipping in with 3.1 assists and 26.1 minutes per game. Timmons finished her career ninth all-time on CU's career scoring chart with 1,263 points, and she is one of only 13 players in Creighton history to score 1,000 points.

Timmons finished her career ranked fifth in free throws made (335), fifth in free throws attempted (464), sixth in three-point field goals made (134), seventh in assists (342) and 10th in steals (165).

Timmons is a 2001 graduate of Creighton University with a bachelor's of science degree in exercise science. During her senior campaign, she also earned first-team All-MVC Scholar-Athlete honors.

Timmons was born in Des Moines, Iowa, on April 23, 1979.



STEPH CLARK

Creighton • 1993

- Administrative Assistant/Video Coordinator (Third Year)

Credentials

- Administrative Assistant/Video Coordinator, Nebraska (2004-Present)
- Head Coach, Odessa (Texas) Junior College (1996-99)
- Assistant Coach, Illinois-Chicago (1995-96)
- Assistant Coach, Angelo State (1993-95)
- Played Collegiately at Creighton University
- Nebraska High School Hall of Fame Inductee (2003)

Steph Clark enters her third season with the Nebraska basketball program in 2006-07, serving as an administrative assistant/video coordinator.

Clark has also served as the Camp Director for the Nebraska Women's Basketball Summer Camps and organizes NU's youth and coaches clinics. She helps coordinate Nebraska's Life Skills Program and arranges the Huskers' community service projects.

In 2005-06, the Husker women's basketball program captured its second Life Skills Team Award in three seasons. The program, which presented its first award to the basketball team in 2003-04, honors the Nebraska varsity team the demonstrates the highest dedication to each area of NU's nationally renowned Life Skills program.



TIA DAVIS

Toledo • 2003

- Graduate Assistant Manager (First Year)

Credentials

- First-Team All-Mid-American Conference (2002-03)
- Mid-American Conference All-Tournament Team (2000-01)
- 15th on Toledo's All-Time Scoring List (1,099 Points)
- Basketball Program Coordinator for National Youth Sports Program in Toledo (2003)

Tia Davis joined the Nebraska women's basketball staff as a graduate assistant manager in June of 2006. A standout at the University of Toledo, Davis comes to Nebraska after a professional basketball career in Switzerland and Luxembourg.

Nebraska Coach Connie Yori said Davis' international and professional experience would be beneficial to the Husker program.

"Tia has a broad range of experience, especially with her professional experience overseas and with her real-world experience away from basketball," Yori said. "She had a successful college career where she demonstrated some excellent leadership qualities both on and off the court. She is an intelligent person with a bright future ahead of her."

As a senior captain at Toledo in 2002-03, Davis earned first-team All-Mid-American Conference honors despite missing the final 10 games of the season after suffering a knee injury with just over one minute left in regulation in an overtime win over Western Michigan on Feb. 5.

Clark, who returned to college basketball after a five-year stint away from the game, has an extensive coaching resume.

The 1993 Creighton graduate began her coaching career as an assistant at Division II Angelo State in 1993. She helped Angelo State to a 23-6 record in 1993-94 and the school's first national tournament appearance. Along the way, she found time to earn a master's degree from Angelo State.

After spending two seasons at the San Angelo, Texas school, Clark spent one season as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at the University of Illinois-Chicago. She helped UIC to a 17-12 record.

Clark left the Flames to spend three seasons as the head coach at Odessa (Texas) Junior College from 1996 to 1999. She led the club to a 16-11 record in her final season in 1998-99.

After three years at Odessa JC, Clark chose to travel with her husband to Norway and Denmark, as he pursued his career as a professional hockey coach.

Clark also enjoyed more time focusing on her family. After the family returned to the United States, Clark spent two years as a fifth- and sixth-grade teacher at Pinewood Elementary School in Omaha.

A high school star at McCool Junction, the former Stephanie Thomas was a three-time Class D-1 all-stater in both basketball and volleyball. She was the honorary captain of the Class D-1 all-state teams and an all-class, all-state selection in both 1987 and 1988, after finishing her prep career with 1,743 points.

She was also a three-time honorary captain of the Class D-1 all-state volleyball team. In track, she set school records in the 100- and 300-meter hurdles, long jump and high jump. She set state meet records in the high jump and hurdles and was a two-time first-team all-state selection as a softball player.

For her impressive prep career, Clark was inducted into the Nebraska High School Hall of Fame in 2003.

Steph is married to Joe Clark, and they have two children, a 7-year-old daughter, Sydnie, and a 5-year-old son, Tanner.

Steph was born in Lincoln on Feb. 23, 1970.

Her injury came a day after earning MAC West Division Player-of-the-Week honors on Feb. 4 for the second time as a senior. She earned the award by tying her career high with 28 points and adding eight rebounds in a win over Marshall. The 5-10 guard finished among the top 15 players in the MAC in seven categories in 2002-03, including third in scoring at 18.1 points per game and eighth in rebounding at 7.1 boards per game.

Davis became the 17th Rocket in school history to reach the 1,000-point plateau, finishing her career ranked 15th on Toledo's all-time scoring list with 1,099 points. She was also named the teams' MVP, helping Toledo to a 20-10 final record, including a 12-4 MAC mark and a trip to the Postseason WNIT.

During her career, Davis appeared in 107 games with 80 starts. She averaged 10.3 points per game in her four-year career.

As a junior, Davis averaged 11.2 points and 5.0 rebounds per game. She scored in double figures on 15 occasions, including a 20-point effort in Toledo's upset of then-No. 5 Duke. She also set her career high with 28 points in a win over Western Michigan on Feb. 9, 2002. She played in all 28 games for the Rockets with 27 starts, helping Toledo to a 17-11 overall record and a 12-4 league mark.

During her sophomore season in 2000-01, Davis started all 31 games to help Toledo capture MAC regular-season and tournament championships on their way to an NCAA Tournament bid. Davis earned a spot on the All-MAC Tournament team and finished the year averaging 9.9 points and 5.2 boards per game.

Davis graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in marketing and finance. She was also a member of Athletes in Action. During her time at Toledo, she served as a student intern in the sports marketing and sales office, helping to plan and implement game promotions.

During the summer of 2003, Davis served as the basketball program coordinator for the National Youth Sports Program in Toledo. She organized practices and individual drills for 25 teams from the ages of seven to 16.

From the fall of 2003 through the winter of 2005, Davis played basketball internationally in Europe. She also served as a volunteer coach for the Kokomo LadyKats high school basketball team in 2005.

A native of Kokomo, Ind., Davis graduated from Kokomo High School in 1999. She earned Hoosier Basketball first-team all-state honors and helped lead Kokomo to sectional and regional championships.



JAMES HARRIS

Nebraska • 2000

- Coordinator of Sports Nutrition (Fifth Year)

Credentials

- Registered Dietitian
- Nutritionist, Nebraska (2002-Present)
- Graduate Assistant Strength Coach, Arizona State (2000)
- Nutritionist, Athletes' Performance (2000-01)
- Graduate Assistant Nutritionist, Nebraska (2000)
- Student Assistant Nutritionist, Nebraska (1997-2000)

James Harris has been the coordinator of sports nutrition at Nebraska since 2001, after originally joining the department as a student nutritionist in 1997. Harris was promoted to graduate assistant in 2000.

Harris' current duties include body composition/frame analysis, nutrition education, weight gain/loss, meal planning, eating disorders, supplementation and counseling for all Nebraska student-athletes.

Harris returned to Nebraska after a brief stint at Arizona State University, where he served as a graduate assistant strength coach for football.

In addition to his duties with the Sun Devil program, he was also head nutritionist at Athletes' Performance, a training center for professional athletes in Tempe, Ariz.

At Athletes' Performance, Harris provided training and all nutrition services for several athletes from the NFL, NBA, NHL and Major League Baseball.

A native of Los Angeles, Calif., Harris received his bachelor's degree from Nebraska in 2000. He became a Registered Dietitian in 2001, and performed graduate research at Nebraska and Arizona State.

Harris earned his master's degree from the University of Nebraska in 2004.



James Harris serves as Nebraska's coordinator of sports nutrition. He assists Husker women's basketball players with nutrition education, meal planning, body composition and frame analysis.



RUSTY RUFFCORN

Nebraska-Omaha • 2004

- Head Basketball Strength Coach (First Year)

Credentials

- Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (C.S.C.S.)
- USAW Level I Club Coach Certification
- Strength and Conditioning Intern, Nebraska (2004, 2005)
- Student-Assistant Strength Coach, Nebraska-Omaha

Rusty Ruffcorn was hired as Nebraska's head basketball strength coach in 2006. Ruffcorn will work primarily with the men's and women's basketball teams while also serving as the Devaney Center strength coach.

Ruffcorn began his association with Nebraska as a volunteer intern in 2004. He moved into a full-time intern role in 2005 and worked with the baseball and football squads before taking over for the basketball teams.

A native of Omaha, Ruffcorn was a student assistant strength coach at Nebraska-Omaha before graduating with a bachelor's degree in exercise science in 2004. With a significant background in strength training, power lifting and Olympic weightlifting, Ruffcorn has earned USAW Level I club coach certification and is a certified strength and conditioning specialist (C.S.C.S.).