

COACHES

**2010 NATIONAL
COACH OF THE YEAR**

Connie

YORI





Connie YORI

**Nebraska Head Coach
Creighton (1986)**

**Career Record: 348-239 (20 seasons)
Nebraska Record: 153-99 (8 seasons)**

YORI'S CREDENTIALS

- Head Coach, Nebraska (2002-Present)
- WBCA National Coach of the Year (2010)
- Kay Yow National Coach of the Year (2010)
- Associated Press National Coach of the Year (2010)
- U.S. Basketball Writers Association National Coach of the Year (2010)
- Naismith National Coach of the Year (2010)
- 2010 Big 12 Conference Coach of the Year (Nebraska)
- 2002 Missouri Valley Conference Coach of the Year (Creighton)
- Seven Consecutive Postseason Appearances at Nebraska (2004-Present)
- 2010 NCAA Tournament Sweet 16 (Nebraska)
- 2008 NCAA Tournament Second Round (Nebraska)
- 2007 NCAA Tournament First Round (Nebraska)
- 2002 NCAA Tournament First Round (Creighton)
- 1993 NCAA Tournament Second Round (Creighton)
- 2010 Big 12 Conference Champions (Nebraska)
- 2002 Missouri Valley Conference Champions (Creighton)
- Head Coach, Creighton (1992-2002)
170-115 Record (10 Seasons)
- Head Coach, Loras College (1990-92)
25-25 (2 Seasons)
- Assistant Coach, Creighton (1986-89)

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- NEBRASKA COACH CONNIE YORI

Coach Connie Yori continues to lead an exciting phase of sustained growth in the Nebraska women's basketball program entering her ninth year in Lincoln.

Yori guided the Nebraska program to its best season in school history in 2009-10, leading the Huskers to their first-ever Big 12 Conference regular-season title. Along the way, NU tied the Big 12 record with a 30-game winning streak and became the first team in league history to post an unbeaten regular season (29-0). The Huskers also became just the second team in conference history to go a perfect 16-0 in regular-season league play.

Yori engineered Nebraska's rise to its highest national ranking in school history, climbing as high as No. 3 in the national polls. Prior to 2009-10, Nebraska had never been ranked in the top 10, but spent nine straight weeks in the top 10 to end the regular season, after beginning the year unranked.

Yori's Huskers captured the school's first No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament and advanced to the program's first NCAA Sweet 16, before finishing No. 4 in the final official NCAA RPI. NU also finished No. 4 in the final Associated Press Poll and No. 7 in the USA Today/ESPN Coaches Top 25.

Yori, who earned national coach-of-the-year honors from the Women's Basketball Coaches Association, Associated Press, U.S. Basketball Writers Association, the Naismith Trophy and the inaugural Kay Yow Award, led the Huskers to the biggest single-season turnaround in the nation in 2009-10. Nebraska improved 17 games in the win column after advancing to the postseason in 2008-09.

The Huskers, who were the preseason pick to finish sixth in the Big 12 by league coaches, went undefeated in the nation's No. 1 RPI conference and Yori captured the first Big 12 Coach-of-the-Year award of her career.

Bolstered by the return of first-team All-American and 2010 Big 12 Player-of-the-Year Kelsey Griffin, the Huskers dominated the opposition in 2009-10. In addition to the conference honors won by Griffin, who claimed her third first-team All-Big 12 accolades, Cory Montgomery and Yvonne Turner claimed the first first-team All-Big 12 awards of their careers. Turner was also named the Big 12 Co-Defensive Player of the Year, while Griffin joined Turner on the All-Big 12 Defensive Team. Junior guard Dominique Kelley added honorable-mention All-Big 12 accolades. Lindsey Moore, the 2009 Washington High School Player of the Year, was also named to the Big 12's All-Freshman Team after leading NU to 32 wins as a starting point guard.

Griffin, who finished her career with 2,033 points and 1,019 rebounds, was chosen by the Minnesota Lynx with the No. 3 overall pick in the WNBA Draft before being traded to the Connecticut Sun. Little more than one hour later, Montgomery was selected by the New York Liberty with the No. 25 overall pick in the draft. Overall, the Big 12 Conference offered 10 of the 36 WNBA draft picks in 2010.

In addition to Nebraska's incredible rise to prominence on the national scene, the Huskers became a marquee attraction at the Devaney Center and across the Midwest. Nebraska led the Big 12 by averaging 11,383 fans per game during eight conference home games, while shattering the school's previous attendance records.

For the season, Nebraska ranked seventh nationally with an average home attendance of 7,390 fans per game, while drawing a school-record seven consecutive crowds of more than 10,000 to close the season. That streak included the school's first-ever capacity crowd of 13,595 at the Devaney Center for Nebraska's win over Missouri on Feb. 27, which included a Big 12 regular-season title presentation and the cutting down of the nets at the Devaney Center for the first time since 1988.

Although Nebraska's meteoric rise on the national landscape seemed like an overnight success story with national headlines in USA Today, The New York Times and even Sports Illustrated, along with unprecedented exposure from ESPN, the Huskers' climb has been anything but a quick fix.

Instead, Yori has spent eight years building Nebraska brick-by-brick with painstaking detail into a force to be reckoned with on the Big 12 and national levels.

Yori's success at Nebraska has come as a result of her commitment to helping student-athletes have outstanding all-around collegiate experiences on the court, in the classroom and in the community. Yori's approach involves helping create an atmosphere of terrific team chemistry with players and coaches who genuinely care about each other.

"We believe that the success level of our team has improved because we have focused on bringing in the highest quality of student-athlete. Obviously, we want talented basketball players with great skill levels and knowledge of the game, but we also want great students who want to become great people after their careers are over."

When Yori first arrived at Nebraska in the summer of 2002, the Huskers were coming off back-to-back losing seasons. Left with just a handful of healthy, scholarship players, Nebraska struggled to an 8-20 overall mark and a 1-15 Big 12 record. Through steady recruiting and a commitment to helping her student-athletes improve on and off the court during their time at Nebraska, the Huskers have found a recipe for success.

Even before its breakthrough 2009-10 campaign, the Huskers had earned six consecutive postseason tournament appearances, including back-to-back trips to the NCAA Tournament in 2007 and 2008. NU's 2008 NCAA appearance included the school's third-ever NCAA Tournament victory with a first-round win over Xavier, before taking No. 1 national seed Maryland to the limit on the Terrapins' home court in the second round.

In 2008-09, Nebraska battled its way to a Postseason WNIT bid despite losing All-Big 12 forward Kelsey Griffin to an ankle injury before the season began. The Huskers were dealt a further blow inside with the loss of junior center Nikki Bober, just days after helping the Huskers to a win over No. 24 Arizona State at the Devaney Center on Dec. 28. The Sun Devils went on to advance to the 2009 NCAA Elite Eight. In addition to the losses of Griffin and Bober inside, the Huskers played the entire season without freshman shooting guard Layne Reeves, who was rehabilitating from a knee injury suffered during her senior season of high school.

Despite the early setbacks, Yori helped the Huskers adjust to new roles while developing new young leaders on the court. Her guidance helped Nebraska become one of the hottest teams down the stretch in Big 12 Conference play. In fact, Nebraska went 5-2 in its last seven regular-season Big 12 games and finished as one of just five league schools to close the second half of conference play with a winning record. NU joined NCAA Final Four qualifier Oklahoma, NCAA Elite Eight participant Iowa State, NCAA Sweet 16 qualifier Texas A&M and Big 12 Tournament champion Baylor as the five schools to notch winning records in the league over the last eight regular-season games.

The Huskers, who finished the year with a 15-16 overall record and a 6-10 Big 12 mark, tied for seventh in the nation's strongest conference. The Big 12 sent six teams to the NCAA Tournament and three more to the WNIT. Amazingly, Nebraska's seventh-place regular-season league finish was one spot higher in the standings than NU's projected finish by the conference coaches before the season, when those coaches thought Griffin would play.

Nebraska's season was not only highlighted by top-25 victories over Arizona State and Kansas State, the Huskers also played one of the nation's toughest schedules. The Huskers played 19 games against 2009 postseason tournament qualifiers, including Big Ten champion and NCAA Sweet 16 participant Ohio State, along with road games at perennial powers LSU and New Mexico during the non-conference season.

Nebraska's success came despite featuring the most inexperienced starting lineup in the Big 12. The conference was one of the most veteran leagues in 2008-09 with 24



senior starters across the league, including 14 four-year starters. Nebraska's regular lineup was the only one that did not feature a senior throughout the season, as NU's lone active senior, Tay Hester, started just 18 of the Huskers' 31 games.

In Griffin's absence, Cory Montgomery emerged as a rising star in the Big 12, ranking among the top 10 in the league in scoring and rebounding. In her first season as a starter, Montgomery earned honorable-mention All-Big 12 honors by averaging 15.2 points and 7.8 rebounds per game. Yvonne Turner also increased her production on the offensive end, averaging 11.7 points and 3.4 rebounds per contest while again leading the Huskers in three-point shooting and steals. Turner's explosiveness on the defensive end earned her a second straight spot on the Big 12 All-Defensive Team.

In 2007-08, Yori guided Nebraska to one of its best seasons, as the Huskers claimed their third NCAA Tournament victory in history with a 61-58 win over Xavier in College Park, Md.

Along with leading Nebraska to its first NCAA Tournament win in a decade, Yori helped the Huskers to their first back-to-back NCAA Tournament appearances since the 1999 and 2000 seasons, while posting back-to-back 20-win campaigns for the first time since 1998 and 1999.

In 2007-08, Yori's Huskers finished with a 21-12 record despite a 13-player roster that featured five true freshmen, five sophomores and one junior college transfer. Griffin, an All-Big 12 forward, was the only Husker to ever start a game in an NU uniform heading into the 2007-08 campaign.

Along with their youth, the Huskers faced the challenge of the best schedule in school history. NU played 24 of its 33 games against 2008 postseason tournament teams, including 16 games against teams that advanced to the NCAA Tournament. Overall, Nebraska's strength of schedule ranked No. 24 nationally heading into postseason play.

Despite Nebraska's youth and imposing schedule, the Huskers finished with a 9-7 Big 12 mark in a league that sent 11 teams to the postseason, including eight teams that won first-round games in the NCAA Tournament. Along the way, Nebraska became one of only three Big 12 schools - joining Baylor and Oklahoma - to post four straight .500 or better league seasons.

Yori's Huskers have established themselves as a force in the Big 12 North, posting a 36-14 record against North foes over the past five regular seasons - the best mark among the six North Division teams during that stretch. Iowa State is

32-18 during that same stretch, while Kansas State is 30-20.

Not only has Nebraska gained recognition for averaging 21 wins per year over the past seven seasons, the Huskers have also distinguished themselves as one of only a handful of schools in the 64-team NCAA Tournament field to produce a perfect 100 percent graduation rate. In fact, the 2010 Huskers were one of only 19 schools in the NCAA Tournament to achieve the feat. In 2008, NU was one of only 12 schools in the tournament field to accomplish the mark.

In 2009-10, Nebraska led the conference with six first-team academic All-Big 12 selections. Griffin and Kala Kuhlmann earned first-team academic All-Big 12 recognition for the third time in their careers, while Montgomery earned first-team honors for the second time with her third overall pick. Fellow seniors Nicole Neals and Nikki Bober also earned first-team academic honors, while junior Jessica Periago was named to the first team for the second straight year. In addition, Montgomery and Neals both earned their bachelor's degrees from NU in just 3 1/2 years, while Nebraska's four other seniors were all scheduled to graduate in May of 2010.

The Huskers also continued to demonstrate unsurpassed community involvement. Since the inception of Nebraska's Life Skills Team Award presented to the school's most committed team in the area of outreach, Yori's team has finished among the top programs all seven years while winning the Life Skills Team Award on two occasions. Individually, Griffin earned national recognition as Nebraska's first Lowe's Senior CLASS Award winner in any sport. Nebraska's 2010 Female Student-Athlete of the Year, Griffin was also honored as a finalist for the V Foundation Comeback Award.

While Nebraska has continued to achieve growing success in each of Yori's eight seasons, she believes the best is yet to come for the Huskers.

"We believe we are still in the growth stage in our program. That is part of what makes it exciting and fun to come to work every day. We have improved, but we are really focused on getting better every single day."

NU's ascension on the Big 12 and national levels has been remarkable considering Yori's starting point.

Yori set out to establish a winning tradition at Nebraska after she was hired on June 24, 2002.

When she arrived in 2002, the Huskers were coming off back-to-back losing seasons and the program was left with just five scholarship players for most of the season.

But Yori was also confident that Nebraska's resources, coupled with her coaching knowledge and ability to develop strong personal relationships with players, would lead NU to future success.



Nebraska Coach Connie Yori with her husband, Kirk Helms, and their son, Lukas.

Yori's 2002-03 club struggled to an 8-20 record, but her first recruiting class made an immediate impact in her second season.

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, 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. NU added a 7-9 Big 12 mark and may have finished just one win shy of the school's first NCAA Tournament bid since 2000. NU finished in a three-way tie for seventh in a league that sent nine teams to the postseason, including the Huskers.

Nebraska made a trip to the 2004 Postseason WNIT and played two home games in the tournament. NU's 73-60 first-round win over Drake was its first postseason victory since 1998 and the first home postseason win since 1993.

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

The Huskers made history in 2003-04 by becoming the athletic department's first winner of the Life Skills Award of Excellence. The award was presented to the team that showed the greatest overall commitment to Nebraska's community outreach program, an impressive accomplishment considering Nebraska's overall Life Skills program has been named the best in the nation.

Although NU had to replace four senior starters in 2003-04, the 2004-05 squad continued the program's climb.

Nebraska grabbed national headlines and made school history on Jan. 12, 2005, by knocking off then-No. 2 Baylor, 103-99 in triple overtime at the Devaney Center. Not only did the Huskers outlast the eventual national champion Bears in the longest game in Big 12 history, they also posted a win over the highest-ranked team in school history.

The Huskers finished with an 8-8 Big 12 record for the first time since 1999-2000 and claimed a sixth-place finish in one of the nation's toughest leagues. NU's sixth-place showing was its first top-six league finish since 1999-2000,

YORI'S YEAR-BY-YEAR RECORD

Season	School	Record	Pct.	Conf.	Pct.
1990-91	Loras College (NCAA III)	10-15	.400	7-11	.389
1991-92	Loras College (NCAA III)	15-10	.600	10-8	.556
	Loras 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 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
2006-07	Nebraska	22-10	.688	10-6	.625
2007-08	Nebraska	21-12	.636	9-7	.563
2008-09	Nebraska	15-16	.484	6-10	.375
2009-10	Nebraska	32-2	.941	16-0	1.000
	Nebraska Record	153-99	.607	65-63	.508
	Career Record	348-239	.593	192-164	.539



and helped the Huskers advance to the postseason for the second straight year with a trip to the 2005 Postseason WNIT.

Nebraska finished 2004-05 with an 18-14 record despite playing 11 games against top 25 foes. Along with the win over No. 2 Baylor, NU 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.

Yori's 2004-05 squad was composed of seven newcomers on a 12-player roster. The newcomers were guided by senior point guard Jina Johansen and were sparked by the emergence of Kiera Hardy, who became the third sophomore in school history to earn first-team all-conference honors. She also became just the third Husker since the inception of the Big 12 in 1996-97 to claim first-team All-Big 12 accolades.

Hardy's rise along with the addition of 2005 Big 12 Newcomer of the Year Jelena Spiric and the leadership of Chelsea Aubry gave NU high hopes for 2005-06. Those hopes were tempered the first week of fall practice by the loss of Spiric to a season-ending knee injury.

Despite the setback, NU ran to a 19-13 overall record, including an 8-8 Big 12 mark, while advancing to the Postseason WNIT for the third straight year.

The Huskers closed the season as one of the Big 12's hottest teams, winning seven of their last 10 games including a trip to the WNIT quarterfinals, despite a late-season illness to freshman phenom Kelsey Griffin.

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

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

Nebraska's rise to the upper echelon in the powerful Big 12 continued in 2006-07. The Huskers finished with a 22-10 overall record that included a 10-6 league mark. NU earned a first-round bye in the Big 12 Tournament by finishing in a tie for fourth in the league standings.

Hardy led the Huskers in 2006-07 by capturing her third

straight first-team All-Big 12 award before being selected in the third round of the WNBA Draft by the Connecticut Sun. A WBCA Region 5 All-American, Hardy became the second Husker in history to be drafted by the WNBA. She also earned her bachelor's degree from Nebraska the day before hitting the game-winning shot in her professional exhibition debut.

Griffin joined Hardy in capturing first-team All-Big 12 honors in 2006-07, becoming the fourth Husker to earn first-team all-league honors as a sophomore. Griffin was a first-team academic All-Big 12 pick and a member of the Big 12 Winter Good Works Team, making her a shining example of Nebraska's concept of total person development.

Aubry, a captain and member of the Canadian Senior National Team, added honorable-mention All-Big 12 honors as a senior. She also earned academic All-Big 12 honors and served on Nebraska's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee with Griffin.

Nebraska's success against North Division opponents continued in 2006-07, as the Huskers posted an 8-2 mark against North foes - the best record of any North team.

Nebraska's rise has followed continued recruiting success. Yori's first group of recruits included Hardy and Aubry. Yori's second group included 2008 senior Danielle Page, who spent the 2008 WNBA season with the Connecticut Sun.

Yori's third class included Griffin, who became the second player in school history with more than 2,000 points and 1,000 career rebounds.

Yori's fourth class was her largest and most accomplished, including 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.

NU's fifth group included 2007 Miss Nebraska Basketball Dominique Kelley, who set a Husker record by starting all 33 games as a freshman in 2007-08, Canadian National Program member Kaitlyn Burke, California State Junior College Tournament MVP Tay Hester, French National Team member Jessica Periago, and Texas all-stater Catheryn Redmon.

The Huskers' sixth class featured Canadian National program member Harleen Sidhu and Texan Layne Reeves, while NU's seventh class included ESPN Top 100 point guard

and state of Washington Gatorade Player of the Year Lindsey Moore, along with California high school standout Meghan Williams and Minnesota star Katya Leick. Moore earned a spot on the Big 12 All-Freshman Team after breaking Kelley's NU record by starting all 34 games in 2009-10.

Nebraska's eighth recruiting class may live up to the lofty expectations created by the success of the Huskers' 2010 senior class. NU's most recent class includes two-time Nebraska Gatorade Player of the Year and WBCA honorable-mention All-American Jordan Hooper from Alliance, along with Arizona Gatorade Player of the Year Rebecca Woodberry, California standout Katie Simon, Kansas City center Adrianna Maurer and Washington prep star Kellie McCann-Smith.

Yori came to Nebraska 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. Along with the MVC title and a trip to the 2002 NCAA Tournament, the Bluejays went 24-7 with a 16-2 MVC mark. CU also set school and league records with 249 three-pointers to rank fifth nationally with 8.0 per game.

The 47-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 as a guard (1982-83 through 1985-86) and three 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, and also advanced to the NCAA Tournament.

Yori graduated from Creighton with a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1986, and earned a master's degree in sports administration from St. Thomas University in 1990. 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 has a son, Lukas, born 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. She was born Oct. 3, 1963, in Des Moines, Iowa.



Connie Yori was named the 2010 National Coach of the Year after leading Nebraska to a 32-2 season that included a 16-0 conference mark and the Huskers' first Big 12 regular-season title. Nebraska tied the Big 12 record with a 30-game winning streak and advanced to the 2010 NCAA Sweet 16.

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 have come a long way in our first eight years in our program. Last year we won the Big 12 championship, earned a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament and made it to the Sweet 16. Our primary focus is still recruiting 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 want to be a team that competes for conference championships on a regular basis. If you are competing for a Big 12 or Big Ten championship, then you are going to be a top-10 team competing for the national title. We have shown that can happen, and we think with the right players, it can continue to be possible.

Q: How will the move to the Big Ten Conference benefit Nebraska?

CY: 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. The Big Ten Conference is filled with great teams and great tradition, and it provides tremendous academic opportunities for student-athletes. The Big Ten Conference has also committed itself to helping provide national exposure to its teams and athletes through the Big Ten Network. Last year, the Big Ten Network provided more national television coverage for women's basketball than any other conference in the country. The Big Ten Network reaches more than 75 million homes across the nation and will certainly help the world feel smaller to the parents of our players from outside the state of Nebraska.



Connie Yori, the 2010 National and Big 12 Conference Coach of the Year, enters her ninth season at Nebraska in 2010-11. She has led the Huskers to seven straight postseason appearances (2004-10), including the 2010 NCAA Sweet 16. She also guided NU to the 2010 Big 12 regular-season championship.

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

CY: We are up-tempo on both ends of the court. Some programs are up-tempo offensively, but we can create offense with our defense. We 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 and last year, we achieved it. We were one of the top 10 offensive teams in the country in 2009-10, while also being an excellent defensive team. We created offense with our defense, but we still think we can improve in that area in the future. Being an up-tempo team requires the right personnel. We want players who not only know how to attack but also want to learn to be smarter, disciplined basketball players. Those are the kind of players who not only have success at the Division I level, but also at the professional level. 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 Athletic Director Tom Osborne, 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.

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.

We are building a new practice facility that will provide our team with not only a new practice court, but also a new locker room, team room, weight room, athletic medicine facility and new basketball offices.

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

CY: I have been astounded by the support of the fans in my first eight 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.

In 2009-10 our program experienced all-time highs, ranking seventh nationally in attendance with nearly 7,500 fans per game. We also led the Big 12 by averaging nearly 11,500 fans per league game and our season ticket sales have nearly doubled since last year.

