



**5-6 • Freshman • Guard  
Chandler • Arizona  
(St. Mary's)**

**Honors and Awards**

- No. 48 Point Guard Prospect in the Nation (All-Star Girls Report)
- No. 192 Player in the Nation (All-Star Girls Report)
- All-Arizona (2004, 2005, 2006)
- Regional Player of the Year (2006)
- First-Team All-Conference

**Outlook**

One of the top point guard prospects in the nation, Nicole Neals will contend for playing time in Nebraska's backcourt with fellow freshmen Yvonne Turner and Kala Kuhlmann.

The trio of talented freshmen could help fill the starting role vacated by graduated senior LaToya Howell in 2005-06.

Neals, who was rated as one of the top 50 point guard prospects in the nation entering her senior season, comes to Nebraska from one of the most dominant high school programs in the nation at St. Mary's in Phoenix, Ariz.

She led the Lady Knights to the Class 5A Division I title while finishing as one of the top 25 teams in the nation in 2006. Playing alongside fellow NCAA Division I recruits Dymond Simon and Kayli Murphy (Arizona State) and Taylor Schneider (Texas-Pan American), Neals closed her career as St. Mary's all-time leading scorer with 2,298 points.

Neals will get a chance to face each of her high school teammates this season, as Nebraska is scheduled to face Arizona State in the season opener in Tempe on Nov. 10, before facing Texas-Pan American at the Devaney Center on Nov. 28.

The 5-6 native of Chandler, Ariz., was a three-time All-Arizona selection. She helped St. Mary's to state titles in 2004 and 2006, while settling for a state runner-up finish in 2005.

As a senior, she averaged 19.8 points, 3.7 assists and 3.4 steals per game.

A talented three-point shooter, Neals connected on 195 threes in her four-year career, hitting 38.2 percent of her attempts to set the school record in that category as well. As a senior, she shot 43 percent from long range.

Nebraska Coach Connie Yori said Neals' high

school success as an individual and as a member of a championship-level team will help the Huskers.

"Nicole brings a wealth of success and speed to this program," Yori said. "She has played at the highest level in high school basketball. She truly understands what it means to be a team player, and she can play either the one or two position for us. She will also help space the floor for us because she is such a dangerous three-point threat."

**High School**

Neals led prep power St. Mary's High School in Phoenix, Ariz., to three consecutive state championship games, capturing crowns in both 2004 and 2006. The Lady Knights finished with a No. 19 national ranking under Coach Frank Denogean in 2006.

Neals was rated as the No. 48 point guard recruit in the nation and the No. 192 player overall by the All-Star Girls Report.

As a senior, Neals averaged 19.8 points per game to close her career as the school's all-time leading scorer with 2,298 points. She earned her third straight All-Arizona honor and scored 17 points in the state title game win over Mesa Red Mountain.

Neals also set the school record with her 38.2 percent (195-510) success rate from three-point

range, including a stellar 43 percent (58-135) as a senior.

She ranked second in school history with 389 assists, just three off the school record, while ranking third in the St. Mary's record book with 378 career steals. She had 100 or more steals in three of her four seasons for the Lady Knights.

Among her many notable performances in high school, Neals led the Lady Knights to the championship game of the Sacajawea National Invitational Tournament in Sioux City, Iowa, in December of 2005.

Neals shot St. Mary's into the title game by scoring 28 points, including six three-pointers, against Denison-Schleswig. It was one of three games in Neals' career that she connected on six three-pointers.

Earlier in the same tournament, Neals scored 19 points to lead the Lady Knights past current Husker teammate Kala Kuhlmann's Charter Oak-Ute squad. Kuhlmann finished with 17 points.

As a junior, Neals averaged 16.4 points, 2.4 assists and 2.0 steals per game to lead St. Mary's to a Class 5A state runner-up finish. She also knocked down 43 three-pointers as a junior.

As a sophomore in 2003-04, Neals poured in 35 points in the state title game victory over Desert Vista. Her 674 points as a sophomore ranked as the third-highest scoring total in school history, while her 594 points as a senior ranked fifth in the school record book.

She added 113 assists as a sophomore, which ranks as the fifth-highest single-season assist mark at St. Mary's.

**Personal**

The daughter of Edward and Corine Neals, Nicole was born April 20, 1988, in Cheyenne, Wyo. She has two brothers, Joseph, 21, and Isaiah, 13. Nicole is majoring in business administration at Nebraska. She posted a 3.665 GPA while taking summer classes at Nebraska.

She chose Nebraska over Stanford, Arizona, Mount St. Mary's and Pepperdine. She also visited Texas Tech, San Diego and Arizona State.

