

LADY TIGER HISTORY



PARIS LEONARD ○



The Early Years history was compiled from the dissertation of Dr. Jane H. Hooker, A History of the Women's Sports Program at Memphis State University: 1912-1938. Dr. Hooker received her B.S. in 1968 and her M. Ed. in 1968 in health, physical education and recreation from Memphis State University, and her Ed. S., 1974 and Ph.D., 1988 from the University of Mississippi. She was a member of the basketball team in the 1960s and was coach of the women's volleyball team from 1970-72. Dr. Hooker is presently an associate professor in the HMSE Department at The University of Memphis.

1910s

- The doors of West Tennessee State Normal School opened at 10:00 a.m. on the morning of September 10, 1912. Fewer than 300 students were enrolled in the two-year teachers' school located in rural Shelby County. The campus consisted of three buildings that were erected at a cost of \$450,000. President Seymore Mynders presided over a faculty that consisted of 25 teachers.
- The first women's practice game was played with no score reported in December of 1913 (dormitory vs. day pupils.)
- January 24, 1914, the Normal School played its first interscholastic-intercollegiate game. The Tigresses beat Whitehaven High School, 24-0 at Whitehaven.
- March 6, 1914, undefeated Central High School beat Normal, 12-9 to become the "Champions of the South."
- During the 1915 and 1916 academic year, there were no accounts of any interscholastic or intercollegiate women's basketball games, only interclass games.
- First photograph of a women's basketball team appears in the DeSoto (school annual) with Mrs. Caldwell as the coach and Miss King as the manager.
- Feb. 16, 1917, first doubleheader with the men.
- No team in 1917-1918.
- Prior to the start of the 1919-20 year, Mrs. Frank (Martha) L. T. Teuton becomes the first head women's basketball coach at WTNS. She had played on a basketball team at Peabody College. During her first season, the Tigresses finish 10-4 while playing a three division



The first women's basketball team at West Tennessee Normal School (1917).



The 1920 Lettermen's Club including members of the Tigress basketball team.

1920s

- Dec. 4, 1920, WTNS played its first intercollegiate game against Union University (Jackson, Tenn.) and won 41-16.
- First intercollegiate doubleheader against Union College in Jackson, Tenn. The Tigresses won that game 35-15.
- WTNS completes 1920-21 season, 15-1-1, with its only loss at Troy, 19-14 (Troy was a small west Tennessee high school).
- The Feb. 12, 1922, Commercial Appeal said that Normal was a contender for the Memphis girls' championship, and this season are figuring on winning the title.
- After an outstanding 13-0 start, the team had to end the season due to the result of vaccinations for smallpox. The team's 13-0 record was the first ever undefeated team at West Tennessee State Normal School.
- During the 1921-22 season, the Tigresses scored a record 71 points against Covington (10).
- At the completion of the 1921-22 season, Teuton retires from coaching to start a family. As well, her husband Frank, accepts a teaching position in North Carolina. She completed her career at WTNS with an overall record of 38-5-1.
- W.H. DePriest, a senior at West Tennessee Normal School takes over the women's basketball team. DePriest had been the men's coach during the 1921-22 campaign. However, Mabel Bunch, Presi-



Martha Teuton
1919-22 • 38-5-1

LADY TIGER BASKETBALL

Lady Tiger History

dent Kincannon's secretary accompanies the team on the road.

- A record 12 players were on the Tigress roster including five starters from the 1921-22 campaign (Eva Briggs, Gladys Dunkel, Louise Verdel, Alice Dorsey and Willie Deverell).
- The 1922-23 team finished undefeated 11-0.
- The 1922-23 team played its first out-of-state team beating Ole Miss, 38-8 on Dec. 15, 1922.
- Jan. 12, 1923, the Tigresses played games in Jonesboro, Ark., against the Jonesboro Aggies, winning 16-9 and against Jonesboro High School, winning 35-5. Those two wins were the first time WTSNS played two games in one day.
- The Tigresses played their first team from Alabama, beating Jacksonville Alabama Normal School, 23-11.
- The first record of an admission fee (25 cents) being charged for a women's basketball game occurred in Feb. 1923, when the Tigresses played Alamo High School. WTSNS won that game 41-22 in front of a standing room only crowd.
- The 1923-24 Tigresses had no coach until after Christmas. The team's first coach was Ernest C. Ball, but Crowley A. Davis was the coach at the end of the season.
- The team finished 4-4 and won the mythical city championship.
- Willie Deverell was the first women's basketball player to letter for four years at WTSNS. As well, it was the first year that women were awarded letters for competing in athletics.
- President Kincannon was not reappointed and J. W. Brister became the president. As well, Zach Curlin was appointed as director of athletics and physical education. Curlin acted as both the men's and women's basketball coaches for the 1924-25 season.
- Completed the 1924-25 season with a 3-6 record.
- On July 1, 1925 the name of the school was changed from West Tennessee State Normal School to West Tennessee State Teachers College, and offered a four-year course.
- Leo Lindsey was hired as a full-time girls' physical education teacher



W. H. DePriest
1922-23 • 11-0



Crowley Davis
1923-24 • 4-4

and basketball coach. She had been a star player at George Peabody College.

- The Tigresses finished 11-0-1. The lone tie was against Middle Tennessee State Teachers College, 31-31. The West Tennessee team asked for a play-off but MTSTC refused. The Tigresses claimed a tie for state and southern honors.
- For the first time the women stayed in dorms and hotels, not private homes, when playing away from Memphis. As well, the team began traveling by train to out-of-town games.
- The 1926-27 team finished 6-4.
- On Dec. 9, 1927, the Mississippi Valley Conference was formed with Dr. J. W. Carr, dean of Murray State Normal College elected as the first president. Included in this conference were the following institutions: Tennessee, Juniors at Martin, Bethel College, Lambuth College, Murray State Normal, Bethel College, Will Mayfield College, Jonesboro College, Delta State Teachers College and Sunflower Junior College.
- The 1927-28 team finished 12-3 and was recognized as the city, tri-state and Mississippi Valley Conference champions. WTSTC beat Delta State in the conference championships, 31-27.
- Ophelia Gaulding, Dot Wood, Mary Sue Moody and Mary Skinner earned All-Conference honors.
- Team invited to play in National AAU Girls Basketball Championship in Wichita, Kansas, March 29-31.
- Mary Sue Moody was chosen to the All-America team.
- Ellen Baird hit 57 out of 60 free throws to become the Tri-State Free-Throw Champion. She competed in the World Free Throw Championships in Charleston, South Carolina. Over 50,000 entries from the United States and 19 foreign countries competed in that event. Baird tied Margaret MacBurney of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada but won in a playoff hitting 60-of-60. Baird won this championship three straight years.
- After the 1927-28 season, Leo Lindsey resigned to get married and completed her career with an overall record of 32-8-1.
- Ethel Gentry Blackman a



Ellen Baird
1927-30



Leo Lindsey

former basketball star at Middle Tennessee State Teachers, was named girls athletic director, physical education teacher and women's basketball coach in 1929.

- The Tigresses finished 8-1 with their only loss to Delta State (Margaret Wade was the center for that Delta State team).
- Tennessee Polytechnical Institute, Middle Tennessee State Teachers College, and Freed-Hardeman Junior College were added to the Mississippi Valley Conference.
- WTSTC hosted the 1929 Mississippi Valley Conference Tournament. The women's championship game between Delta State and the Tigresses was a sell-out. However, the Tigresses lost that game 37-20. It was the second consecutive year that Delta State had beaten West Tennessee State Teachers College in the conference final. Despite the loss, the Tigresses finished 10-2.
- Mattie Harpole and Mary Skinner earn all-conference.
- The women's basketball team played by new rules in 1930-31. The team played two-division ball with six players. The center was allowed to go to forward after the tip, therefore there were three forwards and three guards.
- The team lost star forward Glenda Long and Ellen Baird and struggled to a 6-4 record.
- Despite a first-round loss in the Mississippi Valley Conference Tournament, Marian Scrivener, who was a four-year letterwinner, earned all-conference. Floy Dickinson was a second team all-conference pick.
- The Tigresses had their first losing season since 1924-25 as they finished the 1931-32 season a disappointing, 4-8.
- The 1932-33 season brought about two more changes to the women's basketball program. First, the women would play under the new two court rule. Guards were now allowed to guard from the entire court and were allowed to keep the forwards from shooting from behind the head. As well, all shots counted two points. The second change was that Martin College of Pulaski, Tenn., was added as member of the Mississippi Valley Conference.
- The Tigresses had their worst start in history going 0-3. However, the team finished 4-6 and were invited to the National AAU Tournament in Wichita, Kan. Coach Blackman did not take her team because



A page from the 1924 De Soto yearbook features women's basketball players: "Bill" Deverell (#1), Louise Verdel (#2), "Snooks" McDaniel (#3), Ozella Morris (#4) and Meb Burrus (#5).

they did not win the MVC Tournament.

- During the 1933 MVC Tournament, the Tigresses scored a school best 82 points against Bethel in the first round.
- Getting back on track, the 1933-34 Tigresses finished 14-2-2. The team lost to Lambuth in the finals of the Mississippi Valley Conference Tournament which it hosted on Feb. 27-28, 1934. Despite the loss, WTSTC was invited to the National Invitational Basketball Tournament but were unable to go due to a lack of financial backing.
- Sammie Rushing and Hazel Goodwin were named to the all-conference team.
- The 1933-34 team set a record for number of regular season games (15) and total games (18) played in a year.
- In 1934-35, for the fifth straight season, the Tigresses lost in the finals of the Mississippi Valley Conference Tournament. Lambuth once again beat WTSTC in the finals, 30-21.
- Despite their second place finish in the MVC, the Tigresses finished the 1934-35 season, 12-1.
- Hazel Goodwin and Hazael Pegues were named to the all-conference team.
- The 1935-36 WTSTC team completed the season 7-5 and lost to



Ethel Blackman
1929-35 • 57-29-2



The 1937 Intramural Team (Danes)

LADY TIGER BASKETBALL

Lady Tiger History



The Tigresses of 1934-35 ended the year with a 12-2 record. They are pictured with coach Ethel Blackman.

Martin College in the semifinals of the Mississippi Valley Conference Tournament.

- Stella Schnupp, Hazel Pegues and Olga Distretti earned honorable mention all-conference.

1937-69

- Former women's athletic director Elma Roane, was an incoming freshman at WTSTC the year that the women's athletic programs were abolished.
- The women at West Tennessee State Teachers College would have to play intramural sports for the next 35 years. However, they did form teams to play in the Memphis Park Commission League.
- Elma Roane served as a player and then coach of those intramural teams which played until the end of the 1960s. These teams played under the name of Memphis State in a Memphis Park Commission League but did not receive financial support or other recognition as there was no recognized women's athletic program.
- From 1963-1966 Barbara Antonelli, an instructor in the HPER Department took over the duties of coach and continued participation in the Memphis Park Commission League. Some funds were received for limited extramural competition against other intercollegiate teams in the West Tennessee Area.
- Elma Roane, who was a pioneer for women's athletics at Memphis, again coached the team in 1966-67 and the intercollegiate experience expanded to include Eastern Arkansas and Southwest Missouri area colleges. Travel to invitational tournaments provided extended competition and provided more visibility for the growing sport. Jane Hooker was a member of this team.
- From 1967-72 Harriette Lavenue, an instructor in the HPER Department coached during the next four seasons on an ex-

tended extramural basis. The schedule was lengthened and some spectator interest was created through competition in the newly formed Tennessee College Women's Sports Federation formed in 1969.

1970s

- The 1970s saw the return of women's basketball to the Memphis campus after a 35 year absence.
- Mary Lou Johns was named the head coach of the Lady Tiger program, as she began a 20-year reign that brought women's basketball at the University to national prominence.
- In the winter of 1972 the Lady Tigers took the court for the first game in over 35 years. Memphis recorded an 83-27 victory over Jackson State Community College, the first of 376 victories in Johns' career.
- After nine games, the team was undefeated as they recorded victories over Arkansas Tech, Union, Lambuth and Ole Miss.
- Memphis finished the season with an impressive record of 17-6.
- The 1973-74 season was the first 20-win season in the history of the Lady Tiger program, as they posted a 23-9 record.
- The 1974-75 season saw the Lady Tigers post the most wins in school history as they won 29 games on the season.
- In 1974-75, the Lady Tigers won second place in the Tennessee state tournament and in the regional tournament.
- The 1974-75 season also saw the first 100-point game in school history, as the Lady Tigers posted a 114-49 victory over Arkansas State.
- The Lady Tigers also posted a 102-78 victory over UT- Chattanooga that same year.
- In 1975, Terry Galloway became the the first 1,000 point scorer in Lady Tiger history, as she registered 1,046 points during her career (1973-75).
- With the absence of Terry Galloway, the 1976 Lady Tigers turned to Lynn Enzweiler for the offensive production. Enzweiler finished her career (1974-76) with 1,185 points
- In 1976 the women's athletic department took a giant leap in becoming a national power. After playing second fiddle to the men's program for years, tremendous improvement was seen in the women's athletic program. Additional funding enabled coaches to expand their recruit-



Elma Roane
1946-55

ing programs and could now draw top female athletes by being able to offer them athletic scholarships for the first time in the history of the school.

- Another major improvement for the program was the addition of an athletic trainer. Linda Arnold was hired to care for the female athletes. Before the hiring of Arnold it was the coaches' responsibility to take care of the health needs of their players.
- The Lady Tigers awarded six basketball scholarships to female athletes prior to the 1976 season. One of the recipients of a scholarship went to Betty Booker who went on to become the Lady Tigers' all-time leading scorer with 2,835 points.
- Linda Street also was awarded a scholarship and she still ranks as the fourth-leading scorer in Lady Tiger history with 2,147 career points.
- The results of the improvements made to women's athletics was immediately noticeable with the Lady Tiger basketball team. The Lady Tigers opened the 1976-77 season with six straight wins, including victories over top-notch programs such as Ole Miss and Southern Mississippi.
- On Feb. 2, 1977, Memphis ranked 18th in the Top 20 poll with a 17-4 record.
- March 8-12 saw the Lady Tigers host the AIAW Regional Tournament at the Memphis State Fieldhouse.
- The Lady Tigers equalled the school record for wins during the 1977-78 season, as Memphis posted a 29-9 record.
- Because of the increased prestige and popularity of women's basketball, a Lady Tiger Booster Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes Women's chapter and a Lady Tiger Athletic Council were formed.
- During the 1978-79 season, Betty Booker virtually rewrote the Lady Tiger record books, claiming numerous season, game and career records.
- On November 18, 1978, Booker registered 41 points against Middle Tennessee State in a 101-86 Lady Tigers victory. The 41 points scored by Booker ranked as the top single-game performance in school history until 1999 when Tamika Whitmore scored 45 against



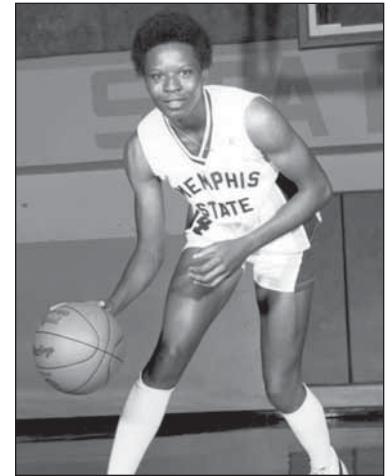
Mary Lou Johns
1972-1991



Linda Arnold was the first trainer hired in 1976 to take care of the female athletes.

Arkansas St. Booker finished the season with a 21.6 scoring average which, up until the 1997-98 season, was tops for a single-season scoring average in Memphis history.

- The 1979-80 season was the first year that the Lady Tigers competed in the Metro Conference. Memphis entered the tournament as the No. 1 seed, but lost a hard fought battle with Louisville in the finals, 75-72.
- In 1978-79, Memphis defeated three nationally-ranked teams (Tennessee, Ole Miss and Valdosta State), and were ranked nationally themselves as high as No. 15.
- The Lady Tigers lost two of their all-time leading scorers, Linda McKinnie and Linda Street for the 1979-80 season. Memphis still managed an 18-13 record.
- Despite an inconsistent season, the Lady Tigers finished the season winning their final four regular season games, and received honorable mention in Mel Greenberg's Top 25 national Poll.
- Betty Booker ended her college basketball career with a record-setting 2,835 points. The 5-5 guard from Hampshire, Tenn. became the Lady Tigers' all-time leading scorer and was ranked 19th nationally. Booker had her jersey retired after holding 20 of 32 individual records, including most games played, highest scoring average and highest field goal percentage.



Linda Street continues to rank as the Lady Tigers' fourth-leading scorer.

1980s

- Head Coach Mary Lou Johns called her 1980-81 Lady Tiger team, "the best bunch of Lady Tigers ever." The Lady Tigers had three of their star players back from the injured list for the season. Linda Street, Linda McKinnie and Marcia Monk anchored a team that went 20-11 and lost to Louisville in the Metro Conference tournament finals.
- Following a 94-74 win over #10 Stephen F. Austin, the Lady Tigers entered the national rankings for the first time in three years at No. 19. Memphis ranked at #19, #17 and #14 before holding their first Top 10 ranking ever at the No. 10 spot on approximately Feb. 2. Memphis ranked at No. 10 through a 13-game winning streak and fell to No. 16 with a loss to East Tennessee State. Memphis also ranked at #15 before ending the year ranked 17th nationally.
- Linda Street had her jersey retired in the Lady Tigers' final home game of the year. Street became the second player in Lady Tiger history to

LADY TIGER BASKETBALL

Lady Tiger History



1979-80 Tigers entered the Metro Tournament as the No. 1 seed.

have her jersey retired. Street finished her stellar career as the Lady Tigers' all-time leading rebounder and second leading scorer.

- The 1981-82 Lady Tiger team posted the best season in Lady Tiger history up to that point. Memphis claimed the Metro Conference Championship with a convincing 83-59 victory over Cincinnati in the finals. Memphis was the sixth highest scoring team in the nation and had the seventh best won-loss percentage (26-5, .839).
- Memphis also appeared in its first NCAA Tournament, making it all the way to the Sweet 16. Memphis finished the season ranked No. 10 in the nation.
- Several Lady Tigers earned prestigious honors following the 1981-82 season. Kim Duppins was named a Kodak Region II All-American at the Mid-America Classic, Linda McKinnie became the third Lady Tiger to score 2,000 points in a career. Regina Street was named the Most Valuable Player at the Metro Conference Tournament and Diane Jones was named to the All-Metro tournament team.
- Linda McKinnie and Kim Duppins joined Betty Booker and Linda Street in the history books, as both players had their jerseys retired following the 1981-82 season.
- The 1982-83 Lady Tigers once again found postseason success, this time in the National Women's Invitational Tournament in Amarillo, Texas. After defeating Southern Illinois, 77-69, in the first round behind Regina Street's 21 points and knocking off Oral Roberts, 88-61 behind Street's 27 points, the Lady Tigers earned a berth in the championship game against New Orleans. UNO was able to slow down the fast-paced Lady Tiger attack, and defeated Memphis 68-58.
- The Lady Tigers garnered their second Metro Conference Championship during the 1984-85 season. Memphis defeated Southern Mississippi, 77-75, in overtime to earn their second bid to the NCAA tournament. The Lady Tigers were defeated 82-64 in the first round by Auburn.
- Lady Tigers earned their first national ranking of the 1984-85 season on Jan. 23 as the 20th-ranked team in the country. The ranking marked the fifth team under Mary Lou Johns to be ranked nationally (1976-77, 1977-78, 1978-79, 1981-82, 1984-85).
- Regina Street became the fifth Lady Tiger to have her jersey retired,

as she was honored by the school following the end of the 1984-85 season. No Lady Tiger has had her jersey retired since Street.

- Memphis returned to the NCAA Tournament in 1987, after posting a 20-9 record during the 1986-87 season. Despite losing in the first round of the Metro Conference Tournament, Memphis earned a bid to the NCAA Tournament. The Lady Tigers lost a heartbreaker to the University of Virginia on the Lady Cavs home court, 76-75.
- The Lady Tigers would find the road to success was not as easy following the 1986-87 season. The Lady Tigers posted a 15-15 record in 1987-88, but that is the last time the Lady Tigers would reach the .500 mark in the 1980s.

1990s

- The 1990's brought the first coaching change in the modern era of Lady Tiger basketball. After 20 seasons Mary Lou Johns stepped down, and the Lady Tigers hired up-and-coming head coach Joye Lee-McNelis. In a press conference on April 11, 1991 McNelis was introduced in a press conference and a new era of Lady Tiger basketball began.
- In McNelis' first season with the Lady Tigers the new Lady Tiger coach led Memphis to double digit victories for the first time since 1987. After one more season below five hundred, McNelis made the statement she was here to turn around the Lady Tiger program.
- McNelis' arrival at the University was not the only change to come to Lady Tiger basketball prior to the 1991-92 season the Lady Tigers joined the newly formed Great Midwest Conference. On November 11, 1990 the formation of the conference was announced. The league, which included UAB, Cincinnati, DePaul, Marquette, Saint Louis and Memphis, began competition during the 1991-92 season.
- The 1992-93 season was the beginning of another era at Memphis. One of the most heralded recruits to ever step on the campus at Memphis made her Lady Tiger debut. Keeta Matthews began the first of four fabulous seasons with the Lady Tigers.
- Matthews quickly made her presence felt as she was named to the Great Midwest Conference's first team all-conference squad. For her performance Matthews was also named the Great Midwest Conference's Newcomer of the Year.
- Matthews continued to pull in the accolades as she was tabbed as the Great Midwest Conference's Preseason Player of the Year.
- Memphis would make a statement in the 1993-94 season. After a slow start, the Lady Tigers, behind a heralded recruiting class, would catch fire at the end of the season, and make it to the finals of the Great Midwest Conference Tournament, just missing earning a berth in the NCAA Tournament.
- Matthews was once again a first team all-conference performer, while freshman Kitty Allen brought the Great Midwest Conference Newcomer of the Year award back to Memphis.
- Prior to the 1994-95 season, the University announced that Memphis State University would become the University of Memphis. Dr. V.

Lady Tiger History

LADY TIGER BASKETBALL

Lane Rawlins announced the change in an effort to bring more attention to the urban University's commitment to education and research.

- The Lady Tigers emerged onto the national scene once again in the 1994-95 season. Behind the play of Matthews, Allen and super freshman LaTonya Johnson, the Lady Tigers won the Great Midwest Conference and earned a berth in the NCAA Tournament.
- For the third consecutive year, Memphis brought home the Newcomer of the Year trophy, as Johnson was the Lady Tigers' third recipient in as many years of the prestigious award.
- Matthews was once again named to the first-team all-conference squad, and head coach Joye Lee-McNelis was a finalist for the National Coach of the Year honor after leading the Lady Tigers to a 22-8 record.
- The first round of the NCAA tournament saw the underdog Lady Tigers knock off perennial power USC, coached by Hall of Famer Cheryl Miller, in the first round played at Memorial Coliseum in Nashville, Tennessee. The Lady Tigers would fall to host Vanderbilt in the second round, but the Lady Tigers made people take notice that they had arrived once again.
- Memphis was one of 11 institutions to begin play in 1995 in the newly-formed Conference USA. The conference officially unveiled its name, logo and commissioner on April 25, 1995 at Harry Caray's Restaurant in Chicago.
- Memphis returned to the NCAA tournament again in 1995-96 after claiming the inaugural Conference USA Championship with an upset win over DePaul. LaTonya Johnson earned first-team all-conference honors, while Matthews was on the second team.
- The honors for Lady Tiger freshmen continued as Tamika Whitmore was named to the all-freshman team, after an outstanding freshman season.
- December 15, 1995 saw LaTonya Johnson turn in one of the most dominating performances in Lady Tiger history. Johnson scored 40 points in a loss to Mississippi State in Starkville, Miss. The 40-point performance was the second highest output, second only to Betty Booker's 41 point performance, in Lady Tiger history.
- Memphis finished the season ranked second in the nation in scoring offense. The Lady Tigers racked up 85.2 points a game, and no performance was more evident of the Lady Tigers' scoring ability than their game with South Florida. The Lady Tigers set a modern day school record as they piled up 75 first half points in a 106-60 victory over the Bulls.
- Another milestone for the Lady Tiger program came about in 1996. For the first time in school history, the Lady Tigers appeared on national television.



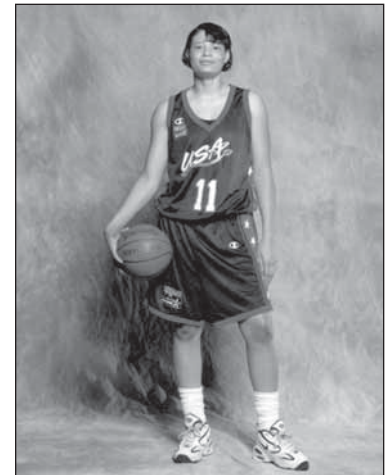
Regina Street was named the 1982 Metro Tourney MVP



The Beginning of Conference USA

ESPN2 aired the Conference USA Championship game between the Lady Tigers and DePaul University.

- Keeta Matthews wound up her storied career following the Lady Tigers' loss to Ohio State in the NCAA Tournament. Matthews finished as the school's third all-time leading scorer with 2,133 points and left a solid foundation for the Lady Tigers to build upon.
- Head coach Joye Lee-McNelis recorded her third consecutive 20-win season following the 1996-97 season which saw the Lady Tigers finish, 22-7 overall; 12-2 in Conference USA.
- The Lady Tigers claimed a share of the regular-season C-USA championship in 1996-97, but ran into a red-hot Marquette team in the semi-finals of the C-USA tournament and lost, 83-77. The Lady Tigers received a bid to the NCAA Tournament and their dreams were halted in the first round after losing to eventual Final Four participant, Notre Dame, 93-62.
- Tamika Whitmore was named a first teamer on the C-USA all-conference squad while LaTonya Johnson and Kitty Allen were named to the second-team. Allen was also named C-USA Defensive Player of the Year.
- The Lady Tigers continued their streak of success in 1997-98, totaling a 22-8 record and an outright C-USA Championship. Memphis rolled through the league tournament at the end of the season, defeating South Florida (78-66), Cincinnati (72-64) and Louisville (79-75) en route to an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.
- Memphis entered the NCAA Tournament for the fourth straight season, and for the third consecutive time, lost in the first round. Despite a 40-point career-high effort by junior Tamika Whitmore, the Lady Tigers suffered a 91-80 loss in the first round of the NCAA East Regional.
- Following the 1997-98 season, Tamika Whitmore was named an honorable mention selection on the *Associated Press*, the *Basketball Times* and the Kodak all-America teams. LaTonya Johnson was listed as an honorable mention pick on the *Basketball Times* all-America squad. Whitmore and Johnson were both named to the C-USA all-conference teams. In addition, Johnson was named the C-USA Tournament MVP and Whitmore was named the C-USA Player of the Year.
- The honors for both LaTonya Johnson and Tamika Whitmore continued even after the 1997-98 season as Johnson became the first female athlete drafted by a professional team, the Utah Starzz of the WNBA. Whitmore was chosen as one of 12 players to play for the R. William Jones Cup team that captured the gold medal in Taiwan during the summer of 1998.
- Joye Lee-McNelis recorded her fifth consecutive 20-win season after guiding her 1998-99 squad to a 22-10 record and a Final Four show-



Tamika Whitmore was the first Lady Tiger to play on the USA Jones Cup team.

LADY TIGER BASKETBALL

Lady Tiger History



The 1994-95 team was the first team since the 1986-87 squad to advance to the post-season NCAA Tournament.

ing in the Women's NIT. It was the first time in four years that the Lady Tigers hadn't garnered a C-USA regular-season or tournament championship, but they made up for it in the postseason. Memphis was the only squad in C-USA to advance to the second round of a post-season tournament.

- On Dec. 14, 1998, Memphis entered the Associated Press poll at the No. 24 spot and saw little movement for four weeks before dropping out of the poll. That season marked the first time since 1984-85 that Memphis had been nationally ranked.
- Tamika Whitmore carried the squad with the departure of WNBA-bound LaTonya Johnson as the Tupelo, Miss., native was named the C-USA Player of the Year for the second straight season. She was also listed as an all-American on four different teams including, *Associated Press* (second team), *Women's Basketball Journal* (first team), U.S. Basketball Writer's Association (first team) and Kodak (honorable mention).
- Whitmore, who became the second-leading scorer at The U of M, also set a new school record with 45 points against Arkansas State in the third round of the WNIT. She also became the second Lady Tiger in just two years to be drafted to the WNBA. Whitmore was chosen 30th by the New York Liberty in the 1999 draft which was saturated with former players from the now-defunct ABL.
- Though there were many questions at the start of the 1999-2000 season with regards to how the team would handle losing Tamika Whitmore, it's safe to say that the team surpassed all pre-season expectations as McNelis recorded her seventh consecutive winning season (18-12), and the Lady Tigers made their sixth straight post-season tournament appearance. McNelis also recorded her 150th career win, and the Lady Tigers were invited to the WNIT for the second straight year.
- McNelis led her squad to several highlights in her ninth season at the helm of the Lady Tiger program, including the eighth straight Lady Tiger Classic title, 15 straight wins at the Elma Roane Fieldhouse, a ranking of 28 in RPI at the start of the C-USA season and a



Joye Lee-McNelis
1991-2004

No. 5 ranking out of 315 teams in strength of schedule. Yolanda Reed was named the MVP of the Lady Tiger Classic while Malissa Bush was named to the all-tournament team.

- Two players were honored by the league as junior Tiffany Adkins and senior Yolanda Reed were named to the all-C-USA third-team, and Shannon Hamp was named to the C-USA all-freshman squad.

2000s

- The 2000-01 season marked McNelis' 10th anniversary with the Lady Tigers as she led Memphis to a 17-13 record and a first round appearance in the WNIT. For the seventh straight year, Memphis advanced to post-season play, and for the second consecutive season, two players were honored by C-USA. Senior Tiffany Adkins was named to the league's first-team and Princess Swilley was honored to the all-freshman squad.
- Memphis opened the 2000-01 season with five straight wins, marking the first time in 12 years that the Lady Tigers had opened at 5-0.
- Tiffany Adkins was the third Lady Tiger invited to the WNBA pre-draft camp.
- Melissa Abraham became just the fourth Lady Tiger in school history to pull down 20 rebounds in a game, accomplishing that feat against USF. Princess Swilley also tied the third-leading school records for steals in a game with eight against UMKC, and in field-goal percentage with an 11 of 12 mark from the field against UAB.
- The 2001-02 season will go down in history as one of the most uncharacteristic seasons for a Lady Tiger squad. With seven newcomers on the team, Joye Lee-McNelis struggled with inexperience and ended the year with an 11-17 record. The season marked the first time in 10 years that a Lady Tiger squad had posted a losing record.
- The 2001-02 season also snapped a seven-year streak of post-season action, while Memphis ended the campaign on an eight-game losing streak.
- Among the positives from the 2001-02 were Shannon Hamp garnering second-team all-C-USA honors and Princess Swilley ending the year on a 12-game double-digit scoring streak.
- Memphis did manage to capture its 10th straight Lady Tiger Classic title with wins over UMKC and Kentucky, while Shannon Hamp was named the MVP and Princess Swilley was named to the all-tournament team.
- One Lady Tiger managed to make history during the 2001-02 season



LaTonya Johnson was the first Lady Tiger to play in the WNBA.

as Kalara McFadyen, a 5-6 point guard, recorded what is believed to be the first-ever triple-double in NCAA, WNBA and NBA history without ever taking a single shot. McFadyen totaled 10 rebounds, 12 assists and 10 steals on Feb. 3, 2002, against Charlotte, and was featured in several national publications, including *USA Today*, *Sports Illustrated* and the *NCAA News*.

- The Lady Tigers hit another bump in the road during the 2002-03 season, ending the year with a 13-15 overall record, and a 6-8 record in Conference USA. Several Lady Tigers suffered injuries that kept the squad from achieving consistency throughout the year. Most noted was Princess Swilley who suffered a nagging shoulder injury the entire year that was serious enough to warrant surgery upon the completion of the season.
- Despite playing with pain the whole season, Swilley was second on the squad in scoring and in steals, and was named C-USA Player of the Week on Jan. 27. Also honored by the league was senior Shannon Hamp who was a third-team all-C-USA selection, and was named a Player of the Week on Dec. 2.
- Shannon Hamp also etched her name forever in the career record books, becoming the 15th Lady Tiger to enter the 1,000-point club. Hamp ended her four-year career with 1,427 points and was a three-time all-C-USA honoree.
- Memphis opened the 2003-04 season with a 6-0 run, that included a season-opening win over Maryland-Eastern Shore and a rare win in Cookeville, Tennessee, over Tennessee Tech.
- Conference USA announced a major membership change for the 2005-06 season. Gone would be Louisville, Cincinnati, USF, DePaul, TCU, Marquette and Saint Louis. Added in those slots would be UCF, Marshall, Rice, UTEP, SMU and Tulsa.

- The Lady Tigers captured their 12th-consecutive Lady Tiger Basketball Classic Championship with a 69-63 win over Ole Miss in the championship game. Tamika Butler had 21 points in the championship game, and she and Jennifer Sullivan were both named to the All-Tournament Team. Sullivan was named Tournament MVP. Also named to the team were Ole Miss' Armentie Price, Eastern Kentucky's Katie Kelly and Nebraska's Margaret Richards.

- Tamika Butler scored a career-high 30



Tamika Whitmore is presented the C-USA Player of the Year award by former league commissioner Mike Slive.



The 1998-99 Lady Tigers finished with a 22-10 record and a Final Four showing in the WNIT.

- points, and dropped five three-point field goals in a 81-70 road win at Austin Peay to stretch the Lady Tigers' season-opening win streak to 5-0. That marked the first time since 2003-04 that Memphis had started a season 5-0. It also marked the first time in two years a Lady Tiger scored 30 or more points in a game. The winning streak would go to 6-0 with an 80-52 win over UT Martin in the Elma Roane Fieldhouse.
- The 6-0 Lady Tiger start to the season would give Memphis its best start in 25 years. The 6-0 start had last been posted by a Mary Lou Johns coached team in 1978-79. Memphis' best-ever start was a 10-0 start in 1973-73.
- It a match-up of the unbeaten, the Lady Tiger win streak was snapped by Vanderbilt, with a 73-49 Commodore victory.
- Memphis would pick up two wins over Arkansas-based schools, with victories over Arkansas-Pine Bluff and the University of Arkansas-Little Rock. No one knew it at the time, but the UALR game would be the Lady Tigers' last game played in the Pyramid. It would be announced during the off-season that Memphis would join the NBA Grizzlies in FedExForum beginning with the 2004-05 season. In the UALR win, the Memphis bench would outscore the UALR bench, 37-0.
- Memphis flew to Missoula, Montana, in late December to participate in the University of Montana tournament. Memphis would snap the Idaho Vandals unbeaten streak with a 73-64 victory, just 17 days after having their own undefeated start streak snapped.
- The Lady Tigers would fall to host Montana, 74-56, in the championship game of the tournament. Junior Raven Rogers would be the only Lady Tiger named to the all-tournament team despite the 56 points scored by freshman guard Devin Necaise in the two games.
- Memphis would suffer back-to-back losses for the first time of the 2003-04 season while falling 79-75 at Arkansas. It marked Memphis' first loss to an Arkansas-based school of the year, and the Lady Tigers finished with a 2-1 record against Arkansas schools.
- Memphis posted a win before hosting back-to-back C-USA opponents to open the Conference USA schedule. Memphis, suffered back-to-back losses for just the second time all season, falling to No. 19 TCU, 78-75, and Houston, 58-55. Houston would finish the year ranked. Memphis fell to 5-4 in C-USA openers following the Houston loss.

LADY TIGER BASKETBALL

Lady Tiger History

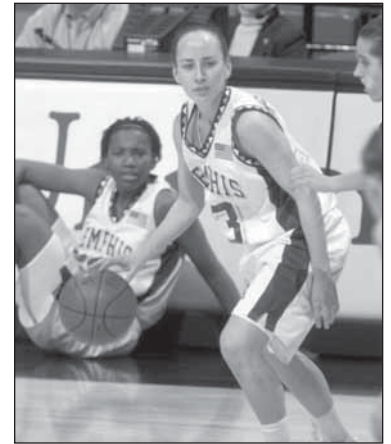
- Memphis finished the regular season with a 9-5 C-USA mark and earned at No. 6 seed for the league championship tournament. That was the Lady Tigers' highest-seeding in three years, matching a No. 6 seeding from 2001. Memphis won its opening game against UAB before falling to Louisville. Memphis was picked to finish ninth in the pre-season coaches' poll, and finished tied for fifth.
- Victoria Crawford became the 11th Lady Tiger in school history to earn All-Conference USA honors with a third team award. Crawford also became the first Lady Tiger to ever be named the Conference USA Sixth Player of the Year.
- The Lady Tigers would make an appearance in their 12th post-season and their fourth WNIT appearance following a 20-9 regular season. The post-season appearance snapped a two-year Lady Tiger post-season drought.
- Memphis improved to 9-4 in WNIT post-season games with a 66-64 win over Tulsa, a future Conference USA opponent.
- The Lady Tigers' season came to an end at Western Kentucky, with a 104-87 loss in Bowling Green.
- Victoria Crawford downed 30 points in the loss, including a 16-for-17 stint from the free-throw line. Crawford would finish the season with 207 made free-throws, a new Conference USA single season record.
- Princess Swilley would score just two points in the WKU loss, but those two points put her exactly at the 1,000 career point mark, the 16th Lady Tiger to hit that mark.
- On May 14, 2004 Joye-Lee McNelis was introduced as the new head coach at the University of Southern Mississippi, after spending the previous 13 seasons as the Lady Tigers' head coach.
- On June 10, 2004, Blair Savage was introduced as the third Lady Tiger head coach. Savage had spent nine previous seasons as a member of McNelis' staff before spending the last year as an assistant coach at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn.
- Four days later, on June 14, assistant coach Tom Cross announced that he would remain with the Lady Tigers and was promoted to Associate Head Coach.
- On July 2, 2004, just in time to begin recruiting, Angela Crosby was added to the Lady Tiger staff from a UT-Chattanooga program that had appeared in four straight NCAA tournaments and which began the 2004-05 season the No. 23 ranked team in the Athlon Magazine Preseason poll. The entire staff would hit the road and begin recruiting for the 2004-05 season.
- Former Lady Tiger Kaneshi Hart decided to return to school for a second bachelor's degree and announced that she would play center for the Lady Tigers for her final year of eligibility after taking a year off.
- Savage would round out her coaching staff with Helen Darling of the Minnesota



Tiffany Adkins became the third Lady Tiger invited to WNBA pre-draft camp in 2001.

Lynx out of the WNBA. Darling played college basketball at Penn State.

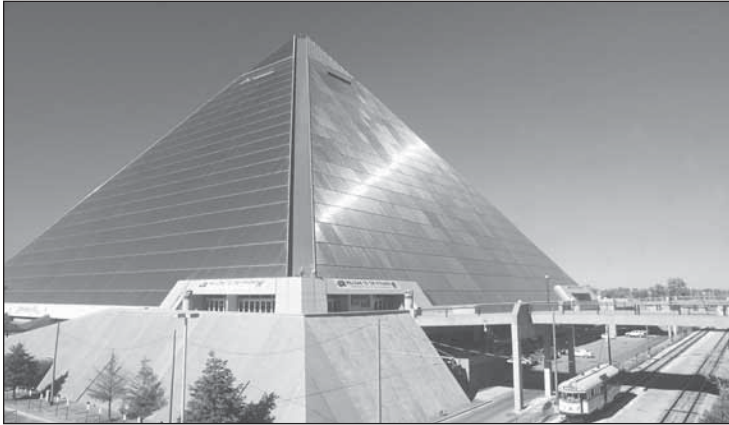
- On Oct. 15th, 2004, the Lady Tigers joined the Tiger men's basketball team in Midnight Madness Festivities at FedExForum in downtown Memphis, the University's first event in the new facility.
- Prior to the season beginning, Memphis knew it would be the last time they would see certain conference opponents for a while. Prior to the beginning of the year, the Big East would accept Cincinnati, DePaul, Louisville, Marquette and USF to replace Big East members that had departed for the ACC. After Rice, SMU and UTEP were announced as being among the C-USA newcomers, TCU would announce it was leaving for the Mountain West. Saint Louis and Charlotte would also announce they were joining the Atlantic 10. The new C-USA would add Marshall, Rice, SMU, Tulsa, UCF and UTEP.
- The Lady Tigers' opened Blair Savage's coaching career with a 54-40 win over Mercer. The match-up featured two former Lady Tiger assistant coaches squaring off as Mercer was coached by former Lady Tiger assistant Brenda Welch-Nichols with former student-manager Toby Bush as an assistant.



Kalara McFadyen recorded the first-ever triple-double on Feb. 3, 2002 against Charlotte.

Memphis' History in the AP poll (as compiled by Mel Greenberg)

1/12/77.....	18th	3/6/79.....	18th
1/19/77.....	17th	3/13/79.....	20th
1/26/77.....	15th	1/10/82.....	19th
2/2/77.....	18th	1/17/82.....	17th
3/9/77.....	16th	1/24/82.....	14th
12/21/77.....	19th	1/31/82.....	10th
1/11/78.....	19th	2/7/82.....	10th
1/18/78.....	19th	2/14/82.....	16th
1/25/78.....	19th	2/21/82.....	16th
2/1/78.....	18th	2/28/82.....	15th
2/8/78.....	16th	3/7/82.....	15th
2/15/78.....	15th	3/14/82.....	15th
2/22/78.....	13th	3/27/82.....	17th
3/1/78.....	13th	12/24/84.....	19th
3/8/78.....	14th	1/20/85.....	19th
3/15/78.....	19th	1/27/85.....	20th
1/16/79.....	20th	2/3/85.....	18th
1/30/79.....	19th	12/14/98.....	24th
2/6/79.....	20th	12/21/98.....	24th
2/13/79.....	18th	12/28/98.....	23rd
2/20/79.....	17th	1/4/99.....	24th
2/27/79.....	15th		



The Lady Tigers' win over UALR marked their final game played in the Pyramid. The Tigers announced in February that they would join the NBA Grizzlies in the FedExForum beginning in 2004-05.

- Blair Savage would sign her first recruiting class. Memphis-area product Paris Leonard would be the first Memphis-area prep player to sign with the Lady Tigers in over 10 years, while Sherika Montgomery would join the early-signing class from Plantersville, Miss. Ashley Howard would join the team as a spring signee for Savage's first recruiting class.
- Memphis won its 13th consecutive Lady Tiger Thanksgiving Classic tournament title with a thrilling 71-67 victory over Louisiana-Monroe. Victoria Crawford would earn Tournament MVP honors, while Jennifer Sullivan and Raven Rogers would join her on the all-tournament team.
- Dec. 19-20th marked the third-ever Lady Tiger regular season games to be played out of the country as Memphis participated in the Fun in the Sun Shootout in Cancun, Mexico. Memphis would, however, drop both games at that tournament, falling 87-79 to Oral Roberts, and 84-64 to Western Kentucky. Jennifer Sullivan was named to the all-tournament team.
- For the second time in as many years, a Lady Tiger hit the 1,000 career point mark in a loss to Western Kentucky, as Victoria Crawford passed the grand scoring mark in the loss. Princess Swilley accomplished a similar feat in a loss to WKU in the WNIT the previous year.
- Memphis would suffer a bit of a loss on the way home from Cancun, as Lady Tiger assistant coach Tom Cross announced that he was leaving Memphis to assume Director of Personnel Services responsibilities with the Houston Comets of the WNBA. Cross' strong background in the X's and O's of basketball, as well as the fact that he was the last assistant remaining from Joye Lee-McNelis' staff would be an additional obstacle for Memphis for the remainder of the year.
- Memphis would open the C-USA schedule as part of a four-game road trip. After scoring just 14 points in the opening half at Nebraska, the Lady Tigers would slide on the road, dropping four straight before returning home for a 56-53 win over Tulane.
- The Lady Tiger senior class would pick up something rare when freshman Marie Reid grabbed an offensive board and stuck it back to preserve a 61-58 victory over Marquette.
- Memphis would enter the Conference USA tournament as the No.

9 seed and would avenge a league-opening road loss to East Carolina with a 76-67 win in the first round of the tournament in Charlotte.

- Victoria Crawford would repeat her All-Conference USA Third team honors in a poll of league coaches. Crawford would cap her career with 1,299 career points. She would set a new Memphis career record with 660 free throws attempted, and would finish third with 497 successful free-throws.
- The Lady Tigers' season would come to an end with a 78-55 loss to nationally-ranked DePaul. The 13-16 overall record for the team was four fewer wins than former coach Mary Lou Johns had in her first year and was one more than Joye Lee-McNelis would post in her first year.
- On July 1 of 2005, the Conference USA membership change would become official. The league would split into two divisions (East and West). Memphis would be in the East with East Carolina, Marshall, Southern Miss, UAB and UCF while Houston, Rice, SMU, Tulane, Tulsa and UTEP would make up the West Division.
- The Lady Tiger basketball schedule for 2005-06 featured 10 post-season teams and two Sweet 16 teams. Memphis faced Sweet 16 participants Arizona State (on the road) and Georgia (at home). The Georgia game also marked the Lady Tigers' first-ever appearance in the FedExForum.
- Devin Necaise would be named to the Conference USA All-Academic Team in the first year of the team's inception.



Savage was hired at the U of M on June 10, 2004.



The Lady Tigers played their first game in the FedExForum against Georgia during the 2005-06 season.