



Kathi Bennett

Northern Illinois Head Women's Basketball Coach

Coaching History

1988-89	Head Coach	Marycrest College
1989-96	Head Coach	Wisconsin-Oshkosh
1996-00	Head Coach	Evansville
2000-05	Head Coach	Indiana
2008-10	Assistant Coach	Wisconsin
2010-	Head Coach	Northern Illinois

About Bennett

Playing Experience

1982-83 UW-Stevens Point
 1983-85 UW-Green Bay

College

1986 UW-Green Bay
 Bachelor of Science

High School

1981 Stevens Point Area

Family

Mother: Anne Bennett
 Father: Dick Bennett
Retired coach
 Brother: Tony Bennett
Head Men's Coach, Virginia
 Sister: Amy Stieber (Bennett)

Birthplace

Clintonville, Wisconsin

Career Accomplishments

- Holds a career winning percentage of .613 (309-194) in 18 years as a head coach, with 12 winning seasons.
- Led the Huskies to a 30 percent increase in wins, 75 percent in conference, from the 2009-10 season.
- As head coach of the Huskies, earned her 300th career win on Nov. 27, 2010, at home against Chicago State to join her legendary father, Dick Bennett, on the 300 career wins list.
- Guided three different programs (UW-Oshkosh, Evansville, Indiana) to eight NCAA Tournaments, five conference championships, and has led her team to the postseason nine times.
- As an assistant at Wisconsin primarily responsible for defense, took the Badgers from 10th in the Big Ten to first in the conference and 24th nationally in scoring defense. The Badgers went from allowing 66.9 points per game prior to Bennett's arrival to allowing just 56.2 in her second season with the program.
- In 2010, helped Wisconsin to its first NCAA Tournament berth since 2002. The Badgers made the postseason in both of Bennett's years there, including the WNIT in 2009.
- Recorded a 42-18 record in her last two seasons at Evansville and reached the postseason both years. Prior to Bennett's arrival, Evansville had gone 18-113 all-time.
- Coached Indiana to the 2002 Big Ten Tournament Championship, with upset wins over No. 1 seed Purdue and regular season champion Penn State. The fifth-seeded Hoosiers were the lowest seeded team to ever win the tournament.
- Her Indiana teams defeated six top-25 programs with two wins over top-10 opponents.
- Earned NCAA Division III Coach of the Year accolades after leading UW-Oshkosh to a perfect 31-0 record and a national championship in 1996.
- Named the 1999 Missouri Valley Coach of the Year for orchestrating a 13-win turnaround at Evansville and taking the Purple Aces to their first NCAA Tournament.
- Led UW-Oshkosh to the 1995 NCAA Division III National Championship game.
- UW-Oshkosh won five WIAC championships, had 17 All-WIAC selections, and two NCAA D-III All-Americans with Bennett at the helm.

Honors & Awards

- 2004 Big Ten Conference All-Star Team Head Coach
- 2003 Team USA Assistant Coach, Pan American Games
- 2002 Indiana - Big Ten Tournament Champions
- 1999 Missouri Valley Conference Coach of the Year
- 1996 NCAA Division III Coach of the Year (WBCA)
- 1996 UW-Oshkosh - NCAA Division III National Champions
- 1996 Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Coach of the Year
- 1995 UW-Oshkosh - NCAA Division III National Runner-Up
- 1994 Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Coach of the Year
- 1991 Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Coach of the Year





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Year	School	W-L	Pct.	Position	Highlights
1988-89	Marycrest College	18-10	.643	Head Coach	First season as a coach
1989-90	UW-Oshkosh	17-7	.708	Head Coach	NCAA D-III Tournament Second Round
1990-91	UW-Oshkosh	21-5	.808	Head Coach	NCAA D-III Tournament Second Round WIAC Coach of the Year
1991-92	UW-Oshkosh	18-6	.750	Head Coach	NCAA D-III Tournament First Round
1992-93	UW-Oshkosh	16-8	.667	Head Coach	
1993-94	UW-Oshkosh	24-3	.889	Head Coach	NCAA D-III Tournament Quarterfinals WIAC Coach of the Year
1994-95	UW-Oshkosh	28-3	.903	Head Coach	NCAA D-III National Runner-Up
1995-96	UW-Oshkosh	31-0	1.000	Head Coach	NCAA D-III National Championship WBCA NCAA D-III Coach of the Year WIAAC Coach of the Year
UW-Oshkosh Total		155-32	.829		Three-time WIAC Coach of the Year
1996-97	Evansville	3-23	.115	Head Coach	Took over a program that had a 18-113 all-time record
1997-98	Evansville	6-20	.231	Head Coach	
1998-99	Evansville	19-11	.633	Head Coach	First NCAA Tournament appearance in school history Missouri Valley Coach of the Year
1999-2000	Evansville	23-7	.767	Head Coach	WNIT First Round
Evansville Total		51-61	.455		42-18 record over last two seasons
2000-01	Indiana	20-11	.645	Head Coach	
2001-02	Indiana	17-14	.548	Head Coach	Big Ten Tournament Champions NCAA D-I Tournament First Round
2002-03	Indiana	13-15	.464	Head Coach	Team USA Assistant Coach, Pan American Games
2003-04	Indiana	12-17	.429	Head Coach	Big Ten Conference All-Star Team Head Coach
2004-05	Indiana	10-18	.357	Head Coach	
Indiana Total		72-74	.493		Defeated six top-25 teams
2008-09	Wisconsin	21-11	.656	Assistant Coach	Took UW from 10th to second in Big Ten scoring defense
2009-10	Wisconsin	19-15	.559	Assistant Coach	Badgers led Big Ten in scoring defense (56.2 ppg)
Wisconsin Total		40-26	.606		Helped UW to WNIT, NCAA Tournament appearances
2010-11	Northern Illinois	13-17	.433	Head Coach	Improved wins by 30%, 75% in conference, from prior year
Northern Illinois Total		13-17	.433		One All-MAC and two Academic All-MAC selections
<i>Total</i>		<i>353-221</i>	<i>.615</i>		<i>14 winning seasons in 20 years as a coach</i>
Total (Head Coach)		309-194	.613		Nine postseason appearances, National Championship



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Quotes on Bennett

"Two things stand out immediately about Kathi. Her teams play extremely hard and are very, very grounded fundamentally. They have great defensive principles, and she gets the most out of her talent. (When coaching against Kathi) you knew it was going to be 40 minutes and you knew they were going to be in a defensive stance for every possession of the game. They were going to do all the little things that good teams do, and no matter what you did that was going to be there.

"I think she'll have an immediate impact on the (Mid-American Conference). Her style of play is, I think, conducive for success. I think very quickly she'll be able to make it a very tough place to play at home. Her team will steadily improve throughout the course of the year and grow into a good road team."

- Jim Foster, Head Women's Basketball Coach, Ohio State

"Northern Illinois is very, very fortunate to hire one of the best coaches I know, and that's Kathi Bennett. Strong mind, strong character, great core values, and an unbelievable basketball coach. They've hired, in my opinion, one of the best coaches in the country. I have utmost respect for Kathi, and I thank her for her time with us at Wisconsin. I'm sorry to lose her, but I'm very happy for her and for Northern Illinois. Every place she's been, she has taken her program to the top.

"Our history, we played against each other in the high school state tournament. Then we coached against each other when she was at Oshkosh and I was at Eau Claire, and when I was here and she was at Indiana. I was just blessed to have her on my sideline for two years. She brought the best out in my team every night."

- Lisa Stone, Head Women's Basketball Coach, Wisconsin

"I think you couldn't have gotten a better person. She is an extremely knowledgeable person. She is passionate about the game, passionate about life, and has impeccable character. I don't think you could've gotten a better coach. The girls will love her. She'll be very buttoned-up. She'll be disciplined, but those kids will have a lot of fun and will learn from her. I think it's a great fit for your school.

"The Bennetts are all about programs, and all about their system. I think that she's bringing a system and a program to Northern Illinois that will last, a program that will endure time. There's one thing that Kathi will bring immediately, and that is a consistent personality. One that is demanding, yet understanding. I think that she is a tremendous coach."

- Debbie Ryan, Head Women's Basketball Coach, Virginia

"The one thing I can say without exaggeration is that she's an incredibly persevering person. She has had at least a dozen knee operations, had both knees replaced, come back from a head-on collision and never lost her zest, her desire, to get back to coaching. Though she sustained the injuries, she never lost her focus on what needs to be done. She's taught all of us how to deal with setbacks. We all deal with setbacks, especially in this profession, but she has experience and overcome setbacks in life.

"I've said this before, and people give me a look, but I've said it because I believe it. I believe Kathi is the best in the family. I have a brother Jack who won two national titles at (Wisconsin) Stevens Point, he's retired now. I have had a few accomplishments in 40-plus years as a head coach. Tony has been to the Sweet 16 and is at Virginia now. She teaches on both ends of the floor extremely well, she is a great recruiter, and, most importantly, she cares deeply for the kids she is coaching. Kathi brings an incredible caring attitude for the kids she coaches. That she has been through so much strengthens that."

- Dick Bennett, Father, Retired Head Men's Basketball Coach

"My sister Kathi had a significant impact on my basketball career as a player and even as a coach. I remember watching her work ethic and her toughness and seeing her become a great player. I watched her drive and her passion for the game. When you're a fifth or sixth grader that has an impact on you. I couldn't beat her in one-on-one until I was like 16. That's how good she was, and I was pretty good as a player.

"She will build up that program in the right way. Just as she is a person of character and integrity, she will bring in young women who are character young ladies to that program. That's how you have lasting success. That's how you build a program. You've got yourself a good one. I know I'm biased, but I promise you that. You just watch what will happen, it will be pretty cool I think."

- Tony Bennett, Brother, Head Men's Basketball Coach, Virginia