



Doc Sadler

**Head Coach
Second Year**

Record at Nebraska: 17-14
Division I record: 65-32

+ **The Sadler File**

Full Name:
Kenneth Lee Sadler

Date of Birth:
June 12, 1960

Hometown:
Greenwood, Ark.

Family:
Wife, Tonya;
Sons, Landon (14) and
Matthew (11)

Education:
Bachelors of Science,
Arkansas, 1982
Masters of Science,
Northeastern State, 1991

Head Coaching Experience:
Nebraska,
2006-present;
UTEP,
2004-06;
Arkansas-Fort Smith,
1998-2003

Assistant Coaching Experience:
Arkansas, 1982-85;
Lamar, 1985-86;
Houston, 1986;
Chicago State, 1987-88;
Arkansas-Fort Smith, 1988-91;
Texas Tech, 1991-94;
Arizona State, 1994-97;
Arkansas-Fort Smith, 1997-98;
UTEP, 2003-04

Awards and Honors:
NJCAA Region II Coach of
the Year, 2001, 2002

Doc Sadler

Looking back on Kenneth "Doc" Sadler's coaching career, it's obvious why he was the perfect choice to become the 26th head coach in the history of the Cornhusker men's basketball program:

- Sadler's a veteran Division I coach who has been associated with 11 postseason teams. Only four times at this level has a team with Sadler on the sideline not played in the postseason.

- He has helped 19 players reach the pinnacle of their sport – the National Basketball Association. He personally recruited eight of those players.

- He has an all-star coaching heritage after starting in the business at his home state school, Arkansas, with future Hall of Fame Coach Eddie Sutton. That puts him in the same coaching family under Mr. Henry Iba, a legend and Hall of Famer in his own right.

Along with Sadler's personal tradition of success, his other unique attributes – the winning attitude, energy, passion and workmanlike approach – are exactly the reasons why it was easy for Sadler to get up and running quickly in his first year at Nebraska despite taking over the program at such a late date.

+ **Building Blocks**

Sadler was hired on Aug. 8, 2006, and had less than 90 days before the start of fall practice to get his staff in order, finish the current schedule and round out the roster, including re-recruiting players from the previous season. As he accomplished each task

+ **Starting Strong**

Doc Sadler has a history of starting strong. As a first-year Division I head coach, Sadler's UTEP team posted the seventh-highest single-season victories total in NCAA history. At Nebraska, Sadler helped the 2006-07 Huskers post 17 wins, the third-highest total ever by a first-year mentor at Nebraska.

First-Year Coaching Victories (at Nebraska)

1. Paul Schlisser, 1919-20..... 22-2
2. Danny Nee, 1986-87..... 21-12
3. **Doc Sadler, 2006-07..... 17-14**
4. Moe Iba, 1980-81..... 15-12
5. E.O. Stiehm, 1911-12..... 14-1

First-Year Coaching Victories (NCAA Division I all-time)

1. Bill Guthridge, North Carolina (1998)..... 34-4
2. Bill Hodges, Indiana State (1979)..... 33-1
3. Jamie Dixon, Pittsburgh (2004)..... 31-5
4. Stan Heath, Kent State (2002)..... 30-6
- John Warren, Oregon (1945)..... 30-13
6. Mick Cronin, Murray State (2004)..... 28-6
7. **Doc Sadler, UTEP (2005)..... 27-8**
- Phil Johnson, Weber State (1969)..... 27-3
- Blaine Taylor, Montana (1992)..... 27-4
- Tevester Anderson, Murray State (1999)..... 27-6
- John Phillips, Tulsa (2002)..... 27-7
- Chris Lowry, Southern Illinois (2005)..... 27-8

with resounding success, Sadler's drive and determination rewarded the Husker faithful with immediate dividends, not only on the court but also with a feeling that the program was again headed in a positive direction.

The 2006-07 Huskers posted a 17-14 record under Sadler despite battling numerous injuries and competing with a small lineup that included only one player over 6-4 averaging more than 7.0 minutes per game. Sadler's 17 wins ranked third all-time among first-

year Nebraska head coaches and the five straight wins to open the season were the most at Nebraska by a first-year mentor in eight decades. Among the early season victories was his 50th as a head coach, a 73-61 win over No. 20 Creighton that stopped a six-game regular-season win streak by the Bluejays over NU.

Nebraska also posted a seventh-place showing in the Big 12 Conference after being picked to finish near the bottom of the league's preseason polls. Behind Sadler's prodding, the Huskers

had opportunities in the last two weeks of the regular season to push for an upper-division finish before falling just short.

The modest success in his first year at Nebraska was enough to leave Sadler with an impressive total of 65 wins in three years – or nearly 22 victories per season as a Division I head coach. With just 32 losses, he holds an outstanding .670 winning percentage at this level.

Nebraska's immediate improvements under Sadler were a direct reflection of his simple approach and ability



to get the most out of his players. Sadler demands that his players give maximum effort every time they step on the court – whether in practice or a game. He reciprocates by providing players the freedom to create offensively while trying to help the team win.

The biggest benefactor of Sadler's creative style in 2006-07 was Nebraska junior center Aleks Maric, who blossomed into arguably the Big 12's top post player. Maric was one of the league's most improved players while averaging 18.5 points and 8.7 rebounds per game – making him the top returning scorer and rebounder in the Big 12 in 2007-08 – and hitting a league-high 56.5 percent from the floor. Only the second Husker ever to post 1,000 points and 600 rebounds before the end of his junior season, Maric earned second-team All-Big 12 accolades, the first Husker in six years to earn the distinction.

Maric was far from the only beneficiary of Sadler's savvy coaching. Four other Huskers entered the Nebraska record books in 2007, including seniors Charles Richardson Jr. (third in NU single-season assists) and Marcus Perry (sixth in NU single-season 3-pointers). After posting impressive numbers on the court, Richardson and Perry also became the first Huskers to earn their degrees after playing for Sadler. Former NU guard Marcus Neal Jr. also returned to the campus to earn his degree in the summer of 2007, for a total of three Husker men's basketball graduates in Sadler's first year in Lincoln.

Following the season, Sadler was honored to receive an invite to serve as a Trials Team Coach for the U.S. Under-19 World Championships team, the first stint of his career working with USA Basketball. Selected to the position by his peers, Sadler coached invited participants at the Dallas Mavericks' facilities and helped the coaching staff choose the team that went on to win the silver medal at the 2007 U-19 World Championships.

Sadler is used to getting the most out of every situation he encounters, including the chance to take over a Husker program that has at times struggled for national recognition on the basketball court.

"Someone asked me why I would come to Nebraska. It's pretty simple," Sadler said. "I've got a chance to coach at a place that has had (252) academic All-Americans. I've got a chance to coach at a place that has won (23) national championships.

"You don't win national

championships because of great coaches. I truly believe this. Because you've had (252) academic All-Americans, you've got some high-character people. And you've got an athletic department and a university that cares about kids. You do not have that kind of success just because of wanting it. You've got a lot of people working for that to happen. Because you've got everybody working together, you've won (23) national championships.

"What more could a coach want than that? I can't think of anything else."

|+| **Moving Up**

Before Sadler, 47, brought his engaging personality and hard-nosed basketball style to the Big 12 Conference, he spent two impressive seasons as head coach at Texas-El Paso, where he helped continue the long-standing tradition of success in Miners basketball. Sadler's UTEP teams boasted 48 victories in his two years as head coach and won 72.7 percent of their games. Including his first season with the Miners as an assistant coach, Sadler helped UTEP to 72 victories over three years, ranking the Miners 20th nationally in victories during that span.

A native of Greenwood, Ark., Sadler made one of the most successful Division I coaching debuts in college basketball history, as his 2004-05 Miners squad ran to an impressive 27-8 record and an NCAA Tournament berth. UTEP won a school-record 14 Western Athletic Conference (WAC)

games and its first WAC Tournament title in 15 years to earn the league's automatic bid to the Big Dance.

The 27 wins were one off the UTEP school record and ranked Sadler seventh in NCAA history for victories by a first-year Division I coach.

Sadler led UTEP to 21 victories in 2005-06 and an NIT berth while overcoming several injuries that depleted the team of its top scorers for a majority of the season. Sadler's squad relied on defense and finished the campaign ranked 15th nationally by allowing only 59.5 points per game. His disciplined approach showed on the court as the Miners placed ninth nationally with only 14.9 fouls per game and ranked 28th in rebounding margin (+4.7).

The Miners went undefeated at home in league play and earned an 11-3 mark to rank third in the final league standings. UTEP set a C-USA record by allowing just 56 points per game in conference play in 2005-06, and also allowed teams to hit just 40.6 percent from the floor on the year, the program's best mark since 1974.

While solid defense is a staple of his teams, Sadler understands the need to put creative scorers in a position to flourish. That was especially noticeable in his first UTEP team, as the 2005 Miners set the school record for points scored (2,616, 74.7 ppg), assists (579) and free throw percentage (.792).

Sadler helped two players, Omar Thomas and Filberto Rivera, earn first-team All-WAC honors in 2005, the first time UTEP had a pair of players on the first squad in 20 years.

|+| **Career Highlights**

- Helped 11 teams to postseason appearances in 15 years as a Division I coach
- Named U.S. Under-19 National Team Trials Coach in 2007
- Recruited eight future NBA players
- Coached and developed an additional 11 players who went on to play in the NBA
- Reached the postseason following six seasons as a head coach
- Ranks seventh in Division I history with 27 wins in his first season as a head coach
- Won at least 20 games in two of first three years as Division I head coach
- Guided three players to first-team all-conference honors over the past three years

|+| **First Three Years at Division I**

(Big 12 Coaches Only)

1. **Doc Sadler (Nebraska)**.. 65-32
Mike Anderson (MU)..... 65-34
3. Jeff Capel (OU)..... 60-31
4. Rick Barnes (UT)..... 55-33
5. Bob Knight (TTU)..... 51-21
6. Jeff Bzdelik (CU)..... 49-38
7. Greg McDermott (ISU)... 46-42
8. Scott Drew (BU)..... 37-51
9. Bill Self (KU)..... 34-47
10. Mark Turgeon (A&M)..... 34-48
- Sean Sutton (OSU)..... 22-13 (one year)
- Frank Martin (KSU)..... First season



The Sadler family (from left): Landon, Doc, Matthew and Tonya.

|+| Sadler Year by Year

Years	Team	Record	Notes
1998-99	Arkansas-Fort Smith	16-14 (.533)	First year as head coach at collegiate level
1999-00	Arkansas-Fort Smith	24-7 (.774)	Bi-State Conference East Champions
2000-01	Arkansas-Fort Smith	30-5 (.857)	Finished season ranked No. 5 nationally, Bi-State Conference East Champions, NJCAA Region II Champions
2001-02	Arkansas-Fort Smith	30-6 (.833)	Finished season ranked No. 7 nationally, NJCAA Region II Champions, Bi-State Conference East Champions
2002-03	Arkansas-Fort Smith	20-7 (.741)	Bi-State Conference East Champions
2004-05	UTEP	27-8 (.771)	WAC Tourney champs; NCAA Tournament – lost to Utah, 60-54
2005-06	UTEP	21-10 (.677)	NIT – defeated Lipscomb, 85-66; lost to Michigan, 82-67
2006-07	Nebraska	17-14 (.548)	Third-winningest first-year coach in NU history
Career Totals		8 years, 185-71 (.723)	4 Postseason Appearances; 4 Conference Championships
Division I Totals		3 years, 65-32 (.670)	2 Postseason Appearances

Thomas also earned MVP honors after an outstanding performance at the league tournament. A year later, John Tofi, one of two 1,000-point scorers on the squad, was the third Miner to earn a first-team all-league certificate under Sadler.

The Miners gained three straight postseason appearances with Sadler on the bench. Before taking over as head coach, Sadler was an assistant at UTEP under then-head coach Billy Gillispie (currently head coach at Kentucky) in 2003-04 when the Miners made their first NCAA Tournament appearance in more than a decade. Under Gillispie and Sadler, UTEP tied the biggest turnaround in NCAA history that season as it went from six to 24 wins in Sadler's first season assisting the Miners.

|+| Honing His Skills

Sadler honed his coaching skills in his native state as he served as a head coach in the junior college ranks for five years at Arkansas-Fort Smith from 1999 to 2003. The success at UTEP should have come as little surprise to anyone who knew Sadler, as he posted a 120-39 record in Fort Smith.

As a head coach, his teams have posted winning marks every season while six of his squads have won at least 20 games. Overall, he owns a 185-71 (.723) career record as a college head coach across all levels.

Sadler served two stints at Arkansas-Fort Smith, first as an assistant coach in 1988-91 and then again during the 1997-98 season. He took over as head coach and athletic director in 1998 and served in that capacity until 2003 when he left to join Gillispie at Texas-El Paso.

Sadler's teams won the Bi-State East Conference title each of his last four years at Arkansas-Fort Smith. The 2001 and 2002 NJCAA Region II Coach of the Year, Sadler led the Lions to the region title and an appearance in the NJCAA national tournament while winning 30 games each of those seasons. Off the court, his teams had

a 95 percent graduation rate during his tenure and every sophomore over his last two seasons at UAFS was awarded a scholarship to a four-year institution, including eight Division I scholarships.

Honing his administrative and fundraising skills, Sadler oversaw a department that posted a 72.4 winning percentage across all sports under his guidance while he also spearheaded efforts to build a new basketball arena for the university.

|+| Passion for Winning

Considered by many to be a tremendous tactician and strategist, Sadler is equally as impressive on the recruiting paths. Sadler has signed eight players who have gone on to play in the NBA, including Michael Batiste, Tony Battie, Cory Carr, Mark Davis, Darwin Ham, Eddie House, Maurice Jeffers and Jason Sasser.

Sadler has also coached 11 other players who reached the NBA – Greg Anderson, Mario Bennett, Randy Brown, Isaac Burton, Byron Irvin, Joe Klein, Andrew Lang, Ron Riley, Alvin Robertson, Darrell Walker and Rickie Winslow. Overall, Sadler's total is an impressive number with 19 former pupils who reached the highest level of professional basketball.

Sadler has a passion for winning, but it is his ability to build relationships and then develop players both on and off the court that served him well during his 12 years as an assistant coach. Along with his NBA and all-conference picks, Sadler has seen his players succeed in the classroom, including 10 Miners on the 2005-06 team who earned at least a 3.0 grade-point average in the first semester.

As an assistant coach, Sadler served stints at seven current Division I schools, including Arkansas (1982-85, under Coach Eddie Sutton), Lamar (1985-86, under Coach Pat Foster), Houston (1986), Chicago State (1987-88, under Coach Tommy Suiitts), Texas Tech (1991-94, under Coach James Dickey), Arizona State (1994-97,

under Coach Bill Freider) and UTEP (2003-04, under Coach Billy Gillispie).

Over 12 full seasons as a Division I assistant coach, nine of his teams reached the postseason, including ASU's 1996 team that reached the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament. At Texas Tech, Sadler helped the Red Raiders to the 1993 Southwest Conference title and an NCAA appearance. He recruited talent that helped the Red Raiders to a 28-1 record and a Sweet 16 berth in 1996.

|+| Coaching Family

The energetic Sadler also served one season as a high school coach, guiding County Line High School (Ark.) to a 38-7 record. Sadler's late father, Charles, coached football at the high school level for more than 30 years in Arkansas, and Sadler's brother, Pedro, is currently head golf coach and assistant basketball coach at Fort Smith Southside High School.

Sadler, who was a student manager for the Arkansas Razorbacks under Coach Eddie Sutton, earned his bachelor's degree in physical education in 1982 before beginning his collegiate coaching career with Sutton at Arkansas. Sadler added a masters of science degree in education from Northeastern State in 1991. Sadler and his wife, Tonya, who is also a native of Greenwood, Ark., have two sons, Landon (14) and Matthew (11).

|+| Sadler Against

All Opponents

Team	Record
Alabama-Birmingham	1-1
Alabama A&M	2-0
Alabama State	1-0
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	1-0
Arizona State	1-0
Baylor	0-1
Boise State	3-0
Central Florida	0-1
Colorado	1-1
Creighton	1-0
Delaware State	1-0
East Carolina	1-0
Fresno State	1-1
Georgetown	0-1
Hawaii	3-1
Houston	2-1
IPFW	1-0
Iowa State	0-2
Jackson State	1-0
Kansas	0-2
Kansas State	1-1
Lipscomb	1-0
Louisiana-Lafayette	0-1
Louisiana Tech	1-1
Lubbock Christian	1-0
Marshall	1-0
Memphis	0-1
Miami	1-0
Michigan	0-1
Mississippi Valley State	1-0
Missouri	2-0
Nebraska-Omaha	1-0
Nevada	1-1
New Mexico	0-1
New Mexico State	4-0
North Texas	1-0
Occidental College	1-0
Oklahoma	0-1
Oklahoma State	1-1
Oklahoma Panhandle State	1-0
Oregon	0-1
Pacific	1-1
Princeton	1-0
Rice	4-0
Rutgers	0-1
Savannah State	1-0
San Jose State	2-0
Southern Illinois	0-1
Southern Methodist	4-0
Southern Miss	2-0
Syracuse	0-1
Texas	0-1
Texas A&M	0-1
Texas Permian Basin	1-0
Texas Southern	1-0
Texas Tech	1-2
Tulane	1-0
Tulsa	3-1
Utah	0-1
Western Kentucky	1-0
Western New Mexico	1-0
Wyoming	1-0
Total	65-32

