

COACHES

CONNIE YORI
11TH SEASON AT NEBRASKA
2010 NATIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR





Connie YORI

Nebraska Head Coach
Creighton (1986)

Career Record: 385-266 (22 seasons)
Nebraska Record: 190-126 (10 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)
- Eight Postseason Appearances at Nebraska (2004-10, 2012)
- U.S. Junior National Team Committee (2009-12)
- 2012 NCAA Tournament First Round (Nebraska)
- 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)

"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. 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."

— Nebraska Coach Connie Yori

Coach Connie Yori continues to lead an exciting phase of sustained growth in the Nebraska women's basketball program in her 11th year in Lincoln. A young Husker lineup that featured six freshmen contributors and just one active senior among 10 players, ran to a 24-9 overall record and a 10-6 Big Ten mark in 2011-12. Along the way, Yori's Huskers stormed into the Big Ten Conference Championship Game in their first-ever appearance at the tournament.

Nebraska carried that momentum to a No. 6 seed in the 2012 NCAA Tournament - the Huskers' fourth NCAA appearance in the past six seasons. NU's 24 wins marked the second-highest win total in school history, while the Huskers' final No. 17 ranking by the Associated Press marked Nebraska's second final top-25 ranking in the past three seasons. The 2011-12 Huskers matched the school record by staying in the AP Top 25 for the final 14 weeks of the season.

Much of Nebraska's success came without an active center on the roster, following the season-ending injury to sophomore Adrianna Maurer after 10 games. The Huskers also had just one active senior in 2011-12, after a season-ending injury to Harleen Sidhu.

The Huskers, who return 10 letterwinners in 2012-13, will be led by Wade and Naismith national player-of-the-year candidates Lindsey Moore and Jordan Hooper. Moore, a senior from Covington, Wash., was one of eight finalists for the Nancy Lieberman Award honoring the nation's top point guard. As a junior in 2011-12, Moore earned a spot on the Big Ten All-Tournament Team and was a second-team All-Big Ten selection.

Another Wade and Naismith Trophy candidate, Hooper returns as a junior for the Huskers in 2012-13. The 6-2 forward from Alliance, Neb., was an honorable-mention Associated Press All-American as a sophomore in 2012. A first-team All-Big Ten selection and a member of the Big Ten All-Tournament Team, Hooper was also a first-team WBCA All-Region 6 choice. She led the Big Ten in rebounding and double-doubles, while ranking third in the conference in scoring in 2011-12. Hooper scored more points than any other sophomore in school history and became the first sophomore at Nebraska to reach 1,000 career points.

Another Nebraska native, Emily Cady, joined Moore and Hooper in earning conference honors in 2011-12. Cady, a 6-2 forward from Seward, Neb., claimed a spot on the Big Ten All-Freshman Team while becoming the first Husker freshman in two decades to earn honorable-mention all-conference accolades from the league media. Cady ranked among the Big Ten's top six freshmen in all five major categories (points, rebounds, assists, blocked shots, steals).

Cady and fellow forward Hailie Sample became the first freshman duo in school history to start every game for Nebraska. In fact, with Cady and Sample leading the way, Nebraska's freshmen played the most minutes of any freshman class in the Big Ten, and they were also by far the most productive.

Nebraska also excelled in the classroom, with six Huskers earning academic All-Big Ten honors in 2012. Off the court, senior guard Kaitlyn Burke won Nebraska's Big Ten Sportsmanship Award across all female sports and was the President of the Nebraska Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

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 in the top 10, but spent nine straight weeks in the top 10 to end the 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 AP Poll and No. 7 in the USA Today/ESPN Coaches Top 25.

Yori, who earned national coach-of-the-year honors from the WBCA, AP, USBWA, 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 Big 12 Coach-of-the-Year honors.

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 Griffin, who claimed first-team All-Big 12 accolades for the third time, Cory Montgomery and Yvonne Turner earned first-team All-Big 12 awards. Turner was also named the Big 12 Co-Defensive Player of the Year, while Griffin joined Turner on the All-Big 12 Defensive Team. Dominique Kelley added honorable-mention All-Big 12 accolades. Moore 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.

Griffin went on to earn one of five spots on the WNBA All-Rookie Team for the Sun, before joining Montgomery and Yvonne Turner in Europe to continue their professional careers.

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 over eight league home games, while shattering the school attendance records.

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 was anything but a quick fix. Instead, Yori spent eight years building Nebraska brick-by-brick with painstaking detail into a force to be reckoned with on the 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."

In Nebraska's final year in the Big 12, the Huskers were ravaged by injuries and the departure of six seniors on their way to a 13-18 record. But the Huskers welcomed four true freshmen and a pair of redshirts who made major impacts in NU's 2011-12 resurgence.

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, 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 Griffin to an ankle injury before the season began. The Huskers were dealt a further blow inside with the loss of 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.



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 play, going 5-2 in its last seven regular-season Big 12 games. NU 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 non-conference road games at LSU and New Mexico.

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, 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 league games.

In Griffin's absence, Montgomery emerged as a rising star in the Big 12, ranking among the league's top 10 in scoring and rebounding. In her first season as a starter, Montgomery earned honorable-mention All-Big 12 by averaging 15.2 points and 7.8 rebounds per game. Turner also increased her production on the offensive end, averaging 11.7 points and 3.4 rebounds per contest while 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 that won first-round NCAA Tournament games. Along the way, Nebraska became one of only three schools - joining Baylor and Oklahoma - to post four straight .500 or better Big 12 seasons.

Not only has Nebraska gained recognition for averaging 20 wins per year over the past nine seasons, the Huskers have also regularly played one of the nation's top 30 schedules.

The Huskers have also distinguished themselves as one of a select few schools in the 64-team NCAA Tournament field to produce a 100 percent graduation rate. In fact, Nebraska has earned that distinction in 2007, 2008 (1 of 12), 2010 (1 of 19) and 2012 (1 of 22).

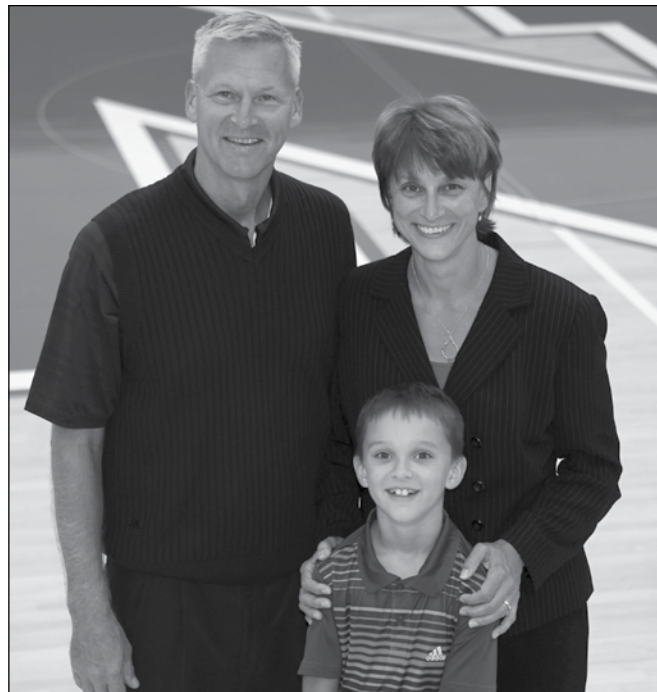
In 2009-10, Nebraska led the conference with six first-team academic All-Big 12 selections. Griffin and Kala Kuhlmann earned first-team academic All-Big 12 recognition for the third time in their careers, while Montgomery earned first-team honors for the second time with her third overall pick. Fellow seniors Nicole Neals and Nikki Bober also earned first-team academic honors. Jessica Periago, who became a three-time first-team academic All-Big 12 pick in 2010-11, was also honored in 2009-10. In addition, Montgomery and Neals earned their bachelor's degrees from NU in just 3 1/2 years, while Nebraska's four other seniors all graduated in May of 2010.

The Huskers have 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 nine 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 10 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 rise on the conference and national levels has been remarkable considering Yori's starting point.



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

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.

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

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
2010-11	Nebraska	13-18	.419	3-13	.188
2011-12	Nebraska	24-9	.727	10-6	.625
	Nebraska Record	190-126	.601	78-82	.488
	Career Record	385-266	.591	205-183	.528

showing was its first top-six league finish since 1999-2000, 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. NU's 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 a 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 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.

Aubry, a captain and member of the Canadian Senior National Team who eventually became Nebraska's first Olympian in 2012, added honorable-mention All-Big 12 recognition 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 Danielle Page, who spent the 2008 WNBA season with the Connecticut Sun. Page enters her fifth professional season overseas in 2012-13.

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 Perriago, 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. 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 lived up to the lofty expectations created by the success of the Huskers' 2010

senior class. That group included 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 and Kansas City center Adrianna Maurer.

Yori's ninth class could end up rivaling the best in school history. Led by Nebraska prep star Emily Cady and Texas standout Hailey Sample, the four Husker newcomers in 2011-12, joined redshirts Woodberry and Simon in making up the most productive class in Husker history. Parade All-American and 2011 Louisiana High School Player of the Year Brandi Jeffery and All-California guard Tear'a Lauderhill made major impacts off the bench in 2011-12. Cady and Sample became just the eighth and ninth freshmen in school history to start every game, while playing major roles in pushing the Huskers back to the NCAA Tournament. NU's six freshmen in 2011-12 combined for nearly 900 points and 600 rebounds, almost doubling the production of any other class in school history.

Yori's 10th class is led by All-Ohio guard Rachel Theriot and Nebraska all-staters Sadie Murren and Courtney Aitken. Theriot, a 6-0 point guard, was ranked among the top 100 players in the nation, while Murren was rated among the country's top 250.

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 50-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. 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' only 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. 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 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 also 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 based on a good value system. It is our responsibility as coaches to help develop those things. We surround our student-athletes with people who have a good values and we want to help mold our players in a positive way.

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 10 years in our program. In 2010, we won the Big 12 championship, earned a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament and made it to the Sweet 16.

Last year, in our first season in the Big Ten Conference, we were one of the youngest teams in the league and finished 10-6. We won the second-most games in school history and we advanced to the NCAA Tournament. The Big Ten is not only one of the nation's most stable and tradition-rich conferences in all sports, it is a great women's basketball conference.

Overall, 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 Ten championship, then you are going to be a top-10 team competing for the national title. With the right players, those goals are possible at Nebraska.

Q: How has the move to the Big Ten helped Nebraska?

CY: Not only do the top teams in the league battle for national titles, but six or seven 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 80 million homes across the nation, and it



Connie Yori, the 2010 National Coach of the Year, enters her 11th season at Nebraska in 2012-13. Yori, who needs just two more victories to become Nebraska's career wins leader, has guided NU to four NCAA tournaments in the last six years. She has led Nebraska to eight postseason bids overall, including the 2010 NCAA Sweet 16 and the 2012 NCAA Tournament.

certainly makes the world feel smaller to the parents of our players from outside the state of Nebraska.

Q: How would you describe the style of play you would like to feature 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 few years because of our depth, but then we began moving in that direction and in 2009-10 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. In 2011-12, we ranked among the top teams in the Big Ten by averaging more than 71 points per game.

Our style allows us to feature more talented all-around players because we want to play with expanded rotations to keep our legs fresh. We want to create offense with defense. 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: We have one of the best athletic departments in the country. Our athletic staff has a great love of Nebraska, 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.

Our new practice facility, the Hendricks Training Complex, gives us a tremendous advantage with a new locker room, team room, weight room and athletic medicine facilities for our players. In 2013-14, we will move into the new Pinnacle Bank Arena in downtown Lincoln, where are games will be a focal point of not just the campus, but of the entire city of Lincoln.

Q: How impressive has Nebraska's fan support been in your first 10 seasons as NU's head coach?

CY: I have been astounded by the support of Husker fans. 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 made a huge 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 nearly doubled from 2009-10 to 2010-11. We annually rank among the top 20 teams in home attendance, and the interest in our program at the local and national level continues to grow.





Sunny SMALLWOOD

**Nebraska Associate Head Coach
Eighth Season
Boise State (1983)**

Smallwood's Credentials

- Associate Head Coach, Nebraska (2008-Present)
- Assistant Coach, Nebraska (2005-08)
- Associate Head Coach, California (2004-05)
- Assistant Coach, Washington (1993-2004)
- Assistant Coach, Washington State (1990-93)
- Head Coach, Boise High School (1983-90)

A well-respected assistant coach with an impressive track record as a talented recruiter, Sunny Smallwood will enter her eighth season on the Nebraska coaching staff in 2012-13, and her fifth as the Huskers' associate head coach.

Smallwood, who joined Coach Connie Yori's Nebraska staff before the 2005-06 season, played a major role in helping the Huskers to six postseason tournament bids in the past seven seasons, including four NCAA Tournament trips. In 2009-10, Smallwood helped develop one of the top defenses in school history while powering Nebraska to a 32-2 record, a Big 12 regular-season title and the school's first NCAA Sweet 16 appearance.

In 2011-12, the Huskers ran to the second-best record in school history with a 24-9 mark and another NCAA Tournament trip. A young group of Huskers with two true freshmen in the starting lineup along with sophomore All-American Jordan Hooper battled to a runner-up finish in their first-ever Big Ten Tournament by posting three straight wins, before falling to Purdue in overtime. The Huskers return four starters in 2012-13, including Nancy Lieberman Award finalist Lindsey Moore.

Smallwood played a lead role in signing Moore, a 2009 Parade High School All-American and Washington State Player of the Year. Moore, a 2013 national player-of-the-year candidate, earned second-team All-Big Ten honors in 2012. She claimed Big 12 All-Freshman honors while starting a school freshman-record 34 games at point guard in 2009-10, before adding honorable-mention All-Big 12 accolades in 2010-11. Moore has started 98 straight games as a Husker.

"Sunny has shown a tremendous commitment to our program for the past seven years and her knowledge and experience have been invaluable," Yori said. "She is a firm believer in the ideals we have set forth in our program, and she has played an important role in recruiting and the development of our players both on and off the court."

Smallwood focuses her on-court coaching attention to developing Nebraska's backcourt players, while coordinating the Husker defense. She is also responsible for all aspects of Nebraska's individual player development workouts, while assisting with opponent scouting.

"Sunny has a vast array of experience and is helping our program in all areas," Yori said. "She has proven herself as a dedicated and loyal assistant coach in this profession, and we expect her to have a positive impact on our program in the years to come."

Smallwood came to Nebraska from the University of California, where she spent the 2004-05 season as the associate head coach for the Golden Bears.

Smallwood helped Cal land one of the nation's top 10 recruiting classes during her only season in Berkeley.

Before heading to California, Smallwood spent 11 seasons as an assistant coach at the University of Washington, including her last eight seasons in Seattle as the Huskies' lead assistant. She was the Huskies' recruiting coordinator all 11 years she spent on the staff at Washington.

During her time in Washington, Smallwood helped the Huskies to six NCAA Tournament appearances, advancing to the regional semifinals in 1995 and the NCAA Elite Eight in 2001.

Smallwood worked under two head coaches at Washington, first for Chris Gobrecht and then June Daugherty. In eight seasons under Daugherty, Smallwood

helped UW earn seven postseason tournament appearances.

In her 11 seasons at Washington, Smallwood helped at least one player earn first-team All-Pac 10 Conference honors in all but one season.

Smallwood's recruiting resume included Jamie Redd, a McDonald's High School All-American and UW's all-time leading scorer, and Amber Hall, the Huskies' all-time leading rebounder, along with All-Pac 10 Conference selections Megan Franza, LeAnn Sheets, Loree Payne, Andrea Lalum and Giuliana Mendiola, the 2003 Pac-10 Conference Player of the Year.

Smallwood's international recruiting base included Laure Savasta, a member of the 2000 French Olympic team, and Hall, a Canadian National Team member.

Smallwood began her collegiate coaching career as an assistant at Washington State from 1990 to 1993.

In her first season in Pullman, the Cougars earned their first-ever bid to the NCAA Tournament. In addition to her on- and off-court coaching duties, Smallwood was also the director of Washington State's summer camps.

A 1983 graduate of Boise State with a degree in secondary education, Smallwood was a two-time first-team academic All-Mountain West Conference selection for the Broncos as a player from 1979 to 1983.

After college, Smallwood spent seven years as the head coach at Boise High School, leading her team to state tournament appearances in 1986 and 1989. She served as the head volleyball coach for one season, an assistant volleyball coach for three years and an assistant track and field coach for seven seasons.

Born in Deadwood, S.D., on May 28, 1961, Smallwood attended high school in Price, Utah, where she was a multi-sport standout at Carbon High School and earned 16 varsity letters.





Shimmy GRAY-MILLER

**Nebraska Assistant Coach
First Season
Michigan (1994)**

Gray-Miller's Credentials

- Assistant Coach, Nebraska (2012-present)
- Head Coach, Saint Louis (2005-12)
- Assistant Coach, Arizona (2003-05)
- Assistant Coach, Washington (2000-03)

Shimmy Gray-Miller joined the Nebraska staff in May of 2012 after spending the past seven seasons as the head coach at Saint Louis.

"We're really excited that Shimmy has decided to join our Nebraska coaching staff," Nebraska Coach Connie Yori said. "We're confident her experience as a head coach and her previous work at other BCS programs will benefit us in a big way. She is a high-energy person with great character, and we believe she'll be a great fit for our staff and players."

Gray-Miller joined a Nebraska team that returns four starters and 10 letterwinners from a squad that went 24-9 overall and 10-6 in the Big Ten. The Huskers earned their fourth NCAA Tournament berth in the past six years and advanced to the Big Ten Tournament title game in their first season in the conference.

Gray-Miller has experience of her own in making a transition to a new conference, along with experience in helping teams win major conference titles. She also has close ties to the Big Ten.

Gray-Miller was named head coach at Saint Louis in April of 2005 and led the Billikens in their transition to the Atlantic-10 Conference in 2005-06. In her time at Saint Louis, the native of Flint, Mich., led players who earned seven All-A-10 awards, including one A-10 Most Improved Player. One Billiken was also named the A-10 Freshman of the Year under Gray-Miller.

Her program also excelled off the court. The Billikens earned a pair of CoSIDA Academic All-America honors,

while adding three A-10 Scholar-Athlete-of-the-Year awards for women's basketball. Her 2006-07 Billiken team finished 17th with a 3.336 combined GPA in the WBCA Academic Top 25 Team Honor Roll.

In the community, Gray-Miller and the Billiken women's basketball program were routinely one of the leading groups among nearly 200 SLU organizations in community service and first among varsity sports all seven years of her tenure. As a result of her tireless efforts in the community, Gray-Miller was recognized with the Greater Missouri Girl Scouts of America Distinguished Women Leaders Award in 2011.

Prior to her arrival at SLU, Gray-Miller served two seasons (2003-04, 2004-05) as an assistant coach at Arizona. She helped the Wildcats win the first Pac-10 Conference women's basketball title in school history in 2004. Arizona earned NCAA Tournament bids both seasons Gray-Miller was on the bench. Wildcat players Shawntinice Polk and Dee-Dee Wheeler both earned honorable-mention All-America honors and first-team All-Pac-10 awards. Wheeler was chosen with the 26th overall pick in the second round of the 2005 WNBA Draft by the Los Angeles Sparks.

Before heading to Tucson, Gray-Miller spent three seasons as an assistant coach at Washington from 2000-01 to 2002-03. Gray-Miller joined current Husker Associate Head Coach Sunny Smallwood on the UW staff for all three of those seasons.

Gray-Miller and Smallwood helped Washington win the 2001 Pac-10 title and make a pair of NCAA Tournament appearances, including a trip to the NCAA Elite Eight. Gray-Miller helped coach seven All-Pac-10 players in her time in Seattle, including 2003 Pac-10 Player-of-the-Year Giuliana Mendiola and 2001 WNBA Draft pick Megan Franza.

Gray-Miller graduated from Michigan in 1994 with a bachelor's degree in sociology and a minor in law and criminology. She played basketball for the Wolverines, serving as team captain and winning the 1994 Bob Ufer Quarterback Club Award for leadership and dedication. She still ranks on the top 20 career list in several categories. In 1998-99, Gray-Miller played professional basketball for Olivais Futebol Clube, a first-division club team in Coimbra, Portugal.

A graduate of Carman-Ainsworth High School in Flint, Mich., Gray-Miller was a two-sport Michigan All-State athlete. She was inducted into the Carman-Ainsworth Athletics Hall of Fame in 2005. Gray-Miller served on the Central Institute of the Deaf (St. Louis) Board of Directors and as a Board Member for Safe Connections Domestic Assault Center (St. Louis).

She is a highly sought after guest speaker and presenter for various organizations including the NCAA Achieving Coaching Excellence workshop, Athens (Greece) Institute of Sport, and the WBCA annual convention.





Dayna FINCH

**Nebraska Assistant Coach
Third Season
Creighton (2004)**

Finch's Credentials

- Assistant Coach, Nebraska (2010-Present)
- Assistant Coach, Creighton (2008-10)
- Assistant Coach, Northern Colorado (2006-08)
- Graduate Assistant, Nebraska (2004-06)
- Missouri Valley Conference Scholar-Athlete of the Year (2004)
- Missouri Valley Conference Career Three-Point Leader (294)
- Postseason WNIT All-Tournament Team (2004)

Dayna Finch enters her third season as an assistant coach at Nebraska in 2012-13. Finch will focus much of her attention on developing the Husker backcourt players while helping to coordinate Nebraska's offense. She also assists with recruiting and opponent scouting.

"Dayna has knowledge and understanding of the game of basketball beyond her years," Nebraska Coach Connie Yori said. "She brings a lot of energy and a good amount of creativity to our staff, and she also does a nice job for us in recruiting. Dayna also has great character, and we expect her to be a tremendous asset to our staff and our players in the future."

In 2011-12, Finch helped tutor the Husker post players, including honorable-mention All-American and first-team All-Big Ten forward Jordan Hooper.

Nebraska's offense ranked third overall in the Big Ten in 2011-12 with 71.4 points per game, helping power the Huskers to the second-highest win total in school history with 24. The Husker forwards also played a major role in Nebraska leading the Big Ten with 7.0 made three-pointers per game, as Hooper and Emily Cady combined to connect on 92 of NU's 230 threes.

With Finch coordinating Nebraska's inside game, the Huskers ranked among the top teams in the Big Ten in offensive rebounding (2nd, 15.5 orpg) and rebound margin (3rd, +3.4 rpg).

Hooper led the Big Ten with 9.3 rebounds per game, which ranked among the top 25 players in the nation.

Hooper also ranked among the top 25 players nationally with 18.9 points per game.

In addition to Hooper's success, Cady claimed Big Ten All-Freshman honors by averaging 9.9 points and 6.5 rebounds per game. Cady ranked 11th in the Big Ten on the boards and 28th in the conference in scoring.

Hooper, a national player-of-the-year candidate, and Cady return to lead Nebraska's inside game in 2012-13 while continuing to develop their skills.

"I try to bring a high level of energy and enthusiasm to the gym each day," Finch said. "I want to help young players reach their full potential both on and off the court, and I think Coach Yori and our Nebraska staff have consistently done that over the years. It's exciting to be a part of that."

While Finch spent most of the past two seasons guiding Nebraska's inside game, she has extensive experience as a coach and player in the backcourt.

Finch was originally recruited by Yori out of high school to play guard at Creighton. Finch went on to be one of the top three-point shooters in Missouri Valley Conference history, connecting on 294 threes in 121 career games with the Jays.

Finch spent her first two seasons playing for Yori at Creighton, before Yori took the top job at Nebraska in 2002-03. Finch closed her Creighton playing career by earning a spot on the WNIT All-Tournament Team in 2004. Following her playing career, Finch rejoined Yori as a graduate assistant at Nebraska during the 2004-05 and 2005-06 seasons.

Finch gained her first full-time coaching position as an assistant at Northern Colorado for two seasons in 2006-07 and 2007-08, before rejoining Coach Jim Flanery at Creighton for the 2008-09 and 2009-10 campaigns as an assistant coach.

Before embarking on her coaching career, Finch set the Creighton and Missouri Valley Conference record with 294 career three-pointers. She closed her CU career with 1,260 points, while also ranking 10th in school history with 182 steals.

As a senior, Finch led the Bluejays with 13.9 points and 3.9 rebounds per game. She added 2.8 assists and 2.4 steals per contest, while ranking as one of the nation's top three-point shooters. She knocked down 98-of-250 threes on the season, connecting on 39.2 percent of her shots from long range. She ranked seventh nationally with 3.1 three-pointers per game, while ranking 27th nationally in three-point field goal percentage in 2003-04.

Finch capped her senior season by averaging 17 points, 4.4 rebounds and 2.8 assists per game to help the Jays to the Postseason WNIT title.

Finch was a part of three teams that qualified for the postseason at Creighton, including Yori's 2002 Missouri Valley Conference championship team that advanced to the NCAA Tournament.

In addition to her success on the court, Finch was a standout in the classroom, capturing 2004 Missouri Valley Conference Scholar-Athlete-of-the-Year honors. The two-time first-team academic All-Missouri Valley selection was also a first-team CoSIDA Academic All-District VII pick. She closed her career with a 3.67 grade-point average as a psychology major.

As the head coach at Creighton, Yori recruited Finch out of high school in Kansas. The two-time Kansas Class 3A Player of the Year in 1999 and 2000, Finch produced a spectacular prep career at Smith Center High School. The two-time first-team all-class selection averaged 27 points, five rebounds and two assists per game as a senior. She was also an AAU All-American in 1999, and was an honorable-mention All-American by USA Today in both 1999 and 2000.

Finch earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Creighton in 2004, before claiming her master's degree in leadership education from Nebraska in 2006.

Finch, who was born in Quinter, Kan., on April 4, 1982, married former Nebraska fullback Tim Weltmer on Aug. 14, 2004.

The couple welcomed their first child, a daughter, Deklynn, in April of 2012.





**Jan
BETHEA**
Director of Operations
Third Season
St. Augustine's (1995)

Bethea's Credentials

- Director of Operations, Nebraska (2010-Present)
- Play Through the Foul Team Building & Communication Workshops (2008-10)
- Assistant Coach, Cal State Northridge (2005-07)
- Director of Operations, UNLV (2000-05)
- WBCA Events Manager, High School All-America Game (1999-2000)

Jan Bethea brings a strong resume as a collegiate assistant coach and director of operations to the Nebraska women's basketball staff.

Bethea, who enters her third season with the Huskers in 2012-13, coordinates Nebraska's scheduling and team travel, while also helping to lead team leadership and life skills activities off the court. She also monitors academic progress for the Husker players, while serving as a liaison to the Fastbreakers Booster Club and other areas within the athletic department.

"Jan brings great experience in administration, and she is a good fit for our program," Nebraska Coach Connie Yori said. "Her values and beliefs match ours, and she wants to help our student-athletes maximize their potential both on and off the court."

Bethea spent 2009-10 working in marketing and public relations, assisting with the development of "Play Through the Foul Team Building and Communication Workshops," a fun and interactive workshop designed to empower, enlighten and encourage effective interpersonal communication.

In 2008, Bethea played a key role in launching one of the most historically significant projects for the Women's Basketball Coaches Association, serving as the Manager of New Initiatives for the Kay Yow/WBCA Cancer Foundation. She also assisted in managing efforts for the Think Pink campaign. The initiative raised more than \$1 million for cancer research with more than 1,100 colleges and universities participating in campaign efforts.

Bethea spent five seasons as the director of basketball operations at UNLV from 2000 to 2005. Her duties included

game scheduling, team travel, coordinating tournaments, as well as community outreach activities. She was also the liaison for marketing, public relations and the booster club. She coordinated Meet The Lady Rebels Night, Lady Rebel Luncheons, and the annual 5K Run With The Lady Rebels, while also serving as Chairperson of the Minority Opportunity Committee for athletics.

"I am thrilled to be a part of the Nebraska program," Bethea said. "Coach Yori and her staff have done an excellent job with the program. Coach Yori has looked beyond competition in mentoring her players by emphasizing the importance of academics."

Following her five-year stint at UNLV, Bethea served as an assistant coach for two seasons at Cal State Northridge from 2005 to 2007. In addition to coordinating team travel, meals and practice schedules, Bethea also assisted with the program's budget, opponent scouting, game preparation and all aspects of on- and off-campus recruiting.

From 1999 to 2000, Bethea served as the WBCA Events Manager for the High School Girls All-America game. She was directly responsible for the planning, development and execution of the game, which featured 20 of the top high school seniors from across the country.

Prior to her role as an events manager, Bethea served as the events coordinator with the WBCA and also spent a year as the president of her own event planning company, Ultimate Events.

While completing her coursework at St. Augustine's College in Raleigh, N.C., Bethea was the acting Director of Intramurals and Assistant Academic Coordinator for the athletic department. She held the position until receiving her bachelor's degree in physical education in 1995.

In 1998, she earned her master's degree in sports administration from St. Thomas University in Miami, Fla., while working as an athletic academic monitor for student-athletes at the University of Miami.

Bethea is a native of Raleigh, N.C.



**Austin
THOMS**

Administrative Assistant/Video Coordinator
First Season
Taylor (2010)

Thoms' Credentials

- Administrative Assistant/Video Coordinator, Nebraska (2012-Present)
- Graduate Assistant, Men's Basketball, Hawaii Pacific (2010-12)
- Volunteer Assistant, Women's Basketball, IPFW (2009)

Austin Thoms (pronounced TOMES) joins the Nebraska women's basketball staff as administrative assistant/video coordinator for the 2012-13 season.

In his role at Nebraska, Thoms will handle all aspects of team video, including filming of the Huskers' practices and games along with breakdown of opposing team video and video exchange. He will also assist with various administrative duties in the women's basketball office, while also serving as Camp Director of Coach Connie Yori's Women's Basketball Camps.

"Austin is talented, energetic and has great potential both administratively and as a coach," Yori said. "He has an impressive skill set, and we think he will bring some great energy to our video breakdown and opponent scouting throughout the season."

Thoms was a four-year letterman as a college basketball player, competing his first two seasons (2006-07, 2007-08) at Concordia in Seward, Neb., before spending his final two years at Taylor University in Upland, Ind.

Thoms capped his collegiate career by capturing a spot on the 2010 NAIA Scholastic All-America team. He went on to earn his bachelor's degree in business management from Taylor in May of 2010.

A native of Fort Wayne, Ind., Thoms previously worked as a volunteer assistant women's basketball coach at Indiana University-Purdue University-Fort Wayne during the summer of 2009.

During the 2010-11 and 2011-12 seasons, Thoms was a graduate assistant men's basketball coach at Hawaii Pacific University in Honolulu. In addition to his on-court coaching responsibilities, Thoms served as a primary recruiter for the Midwest, along with Arizona, Utah and Colorado. He also assisted with scheduling.

Thoms also conducted Hawaii Pacific's film exchange, while filming and breaking down practices and individual workouts.

He also founded the Little Sharkies youth basketball program during his time in Honolulu.

Thoms earned his master's degree in human resource management from Hawaii Pacific in May of 2012.

During the summer of 2012, Thoms served as the Camp Director of Coach Connie Yori's Women's Basketball Camps. He previously served as a camp counselor at Coach K's Duke Basketball Camp in the summer of 2009 and 2010. He was also a camp counselor at Taylor University's Basketball Camp in 2008.

Thoms, who is married to Kelli Ziegler, was born Nov. 26, 1987.



Dominique KELLEY

**Graduate Assistant Manager
First Season
Nebraska (2012)**

Kelley's Credentials

- Graduate Assistant, Nebraska (2012-Present)
- Assistant Coach/Junior Varsity Coach, Doane (2011-12)
- All-Big 12 (Honorable-Mention, 2010)
- 110 Consecutive Starts at Nebraska (2007-11)
- Nebraska High School Player of the Year (2007)

Former Husker guard Dominique Kelley returns to the Nebraska program in 2012-13 in the role of graduate assistant manager.

Kelley's primary responsibilities at Nebraska include assisting with practice preparation and administrative duties, while coordinating Nebraska's efforts on Twitter and Facebook. She will also play a role with Coach Connie Yori's Nebraska Women's Basketball Camps.

"Dominique was like a coach on the floor for us during her time at Nebraska. Her work ethic and leadership skills will be great assets to our program in her new role as a graduate assistant. Dominique is a tremendous leader with great character who brings a lot of energy to the table," Yori said. "She gained coaching experience last year while she was still completing her degree at Nebraska, and hopefully this will be a great next step on her way to a coaching career."

Kelley joins the Husker staff after earning her bachelor's degree in broadcasting from Nebraska in May of 2012.

The Lincoln Northeast High School graduate claimed honorable-mention All-Big 12 accolades as a junior on the best Husker women's basketball team in school history in 2009-10. Kelley averaged 12.6 points and 3.9 rebounds per game while shooting 43.1 percent from three-point range to help the Huskers capture the

2010 Big 12 Conference regular-season title. She helped power NU to a perfect 29-0 regular-season record and 30 consecutive wins to open the season. Nebraska finished the year with a 32-2 mark after earning a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament and making the school's first-ever NCAA Sweet 16 appearance.

During the Huskers' three games in the 2010 NCAA Tournament, Kelley averaged 18.3 points, 3.3 rebounds, 2.7 assists and 1.0 steal per game, while shooting 60 percent from the field.

Kelley's senior season in 2010-11 was cut short by knee injuries. Through the first 11 games as a starter, Kelley averaged 15.0 points, 5.0 rebounds and 3.5 assists. Before being sidelined by injuries, Kelley started the first 110 games of her NU career. Despite missing more than 15 games as a senior, Kelley still finished among the top 20 scorers in school history with 1,107 points. She also ranks No. 3 in Nebraska history in career three-point percentage (.389) and sixth in career free throws made (383) and attempted (490).

While completing her bachelor's degree at Nebraska in 2011-12, Kelley served as assistant coach and junior varsity coach for the Doane College women's basketball program.

Kelley, who was married to Clyde Johnson in June of 2012, is pursuing her master's degree in education administration.



Julie TUTTLE

**Assistant Athletic Trainer
Second Season
Creighton (1991)**

Tuttle's Credentials

- Assistant Athletic Trainer, Nebraska (2011-Present)
- Assistant Athletic Trainer, Creighton (2006-2010)
- Assistant Athletic Trainer, Houston (2005-06)
- Graduate Assistant Athletic Trainer, Houston (2003-05)
- Student Assistant Athletic Trainer, Nebraska (2000-03)

Julie Tuttle joined the Nebraska Athletic Medicine staff as a full-time athletic trainer for women's basketball in June of 2011.

Tuttle's primary focus is the care of the Husker women's basketball players on a daily basis. Tuttle coordinates all treatment for the Huskers, while attending practices and workouts. In addition to treating minor injuries, Tuttle emphasizes preventive care while also coordinating rehabilitation programs for major injuries.

"Julie brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our athletic training staff for women's basketball," Nebraska Coach Connie Yori said. "She is passionate about her profession and does a great job of developing strong working relationships with student-athletes."

Tuttle returned to the Husker program after spending four seasons at Creighton, where she served the women's basketball and women's crew teams.

Tuttle graduated from Nebraska with a bachelor's degree in athletic training in 2003. She worked with the women's basketball program as a student athletic trainer in 2000-01.

Tuttle assisted the women's soccer and swimming and diving teams in 2001-02 and the football program in 2002-03. After receiving her certification as an

athletic trainer, Tuttle earned her master's degree in sports administration from Houston, while serving as a graduate assistant for the Cougars.

Tuttle gained a full-time position as an assistant athletic trainer at Houston, working primarily with women's basketball.

She returned to Creighton in 2006-07 and worked with the Jays' program through 2009-10, before spending a year in the private sector.

Tuttle earned her first bachelor's degree in social work from Creighton in 1991. She was a social worker for several years in Illinois and Omaha before coming to Nebraska to pursue her career as an athletic trainer.

Originally from Pocahontas, Iowa, Tuttle is a Certified Athletic Trainer through the National Athletic Trainer's Association and has been a member since 2002. She also became a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist through the National Strength and Conditioning Association in 2005. Tuttle is an Approved Clinical Instructor and CPR/AED certified.



Rose SOUSEK

**Basketball Office
Secretary
14th Season**

Sousek's Credentials

- Nebraska Women's Basketball Office Secretary (1999-Present)
- University of Nebraska Multicultural Affairs Secretary
- Associate Degree, San Bernardino (Calif.) Valley College (1986)

Rose Sousek serves as the secretary for the Nebraska women's basketball program. She handles all office functions and works directly with Nebraska women's basketball head coach Connie Yori. Before moving

into her current position with the women's basketball program in 1999, Sousek was a secretary in the office of Multicultural Affairs.

Sousek was born in San Bernardino, Calif., and graduated from San Bernardino Valley College with an associate degree in liberal arts. Sousek moved to Nebraska in 1986. She and her husband, Bob, have six children, Mike, Cynthia, Ray, Tony, Dan and Amy, and 17 grandchildren.

Rose's daughter Cynthia is a University of Nebraska graduate.



Rusty RUFFCORN

**Head Women's Basketball
Strength Coach
Seventh Season
Nebraska-Omaha (2004)**

Ruffcorn's Credentials

- Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (C.S.C.S.)
- USAW Level I Club Coach Certification
- Strength and Conditioning Intern, Nebraska (2004, 2005)
- Student-Assistant Strength Coach, Nebraska-Omaha

Rusty Ruffcorn has served as the Nebraska's women's basketball strength coach since 2006. In addition to his duties with the women's basketball program, Ruffcorn has

served as a strength coach at the Devaney Center, while helping the Huskers' transition into their new weight room at the Hendricks Training Complex in 2011-12.

He also served as the men's basketball strength coach at NU from 2006 to 2011.

Ruffcorn began his association with Nebraska as a volunteer intern in 2004. He moved into a full-time intern role in 2005 and worked with the baseball and football squads before taking over for the basketball teams.

A native of Omaha, Ruffcorn was a student-assistant strength coach at Nebraska-Omaha before graduating with a bachelor's degree in exercise science in 2004. With a significant background in strength training, power lifting and Olympic weightlifting, Ruffcorn has earned USAW Level I club coach certification and is a certified strength and conditioning specialist (C.S.C.S.).

Rusty is married to the former Lisa Rathbun, and the couple has two daughters, Bella Grace and Brooklyn Reese.



Lindsey REMMERS

**Director of Sports Nutrition
Fifth Season
Winthrop (2005)**

Remmers' Credentials

- Registered Dietitian
- Licensed Medical Nutrition Therapist
- Sports Nutrition Intern, Nebraska (2006-08)

As a registered dietitian and board certified specialist in sports dietetics, Lindsey Remmers joined the Nebraska Athletic Department as a full-time staff member in 2008 and serves as the director of sports nutrition.

In her role, Remmers works to help integrate healthy choices and optimal fueling into daily training routines

for all of Nebraska's 23 varsity sports. She provides individual nutritional counseling that focuses on individual performance fueling strategies, hydration and proper supplementation, team nutrition education sessions, on-site and travel meal management, body composition analysis, and eating disorder prevention and counseling. Remmers also assists with the daily operations of the Training Table, administering the food labeling system and participating on the menu management team.

Previously, Remmers served as a volunteer intern for the nutrition staff in 2005, and was promoted to graduate assistant in 2006. She served as the associate director of sports nutrition for the Huskers from 2008 to 2011. Originally from Filley, Neb., she obtained her bachelor of science degree in human nutrition from Winthrop University in South Carolina, where she was also a member of the volleyball team. She helped Winthrop to a pair of conference championships as an athlete and another as a volunteer coach.

Remmers earned her master's degree in health and human sciences, specializing in exercise science from the University of Nebraska in 2008.



Sheri HASTINGS

**Women's Basketball
Academic Counselor
Seventh Season
Nebraska (1987)**

Hastings' Credentials

- Nebraska Academic Counselor (2006-Present)
- Master's Degree, Educational Psychology (Nebraska, 1995)
- Bachelor's Degree, Secondary Mathematics (Nebraska, 1987)

Sheri Hastings serves as an academic counselor at Nebraska. Hastings has been with the athletic department since August of 2006. She will serve as the academic counselor for women's basketball, rifle, bowling, women's

gymnastics and soccer during the 2012-13 academic year.

Before coming to Lincoln, Hastings served as a mathematics learning specialist for Student Support Services at UNL. Prior to that, she was a secondary mathematics teacher at Grand Island High School.

A Grand Island native, Hastings earned her bachelor's degree in secondary mathematics from UNL in 1987. Hastings continued her education at Nebraska and earned a master's degree in educational psychology in 1995.

Hastings and her husband, John, have three daughters, Megan, Kathryn and Abigail.



Amanda HOLZWARTH

**HuskerVision
Video Production Coordinator
Seventh Season
Nebraska (2007)**

Holzwarth's Credentials

- Nebraska Women's Basketball HuskerVision Video Production Coordinator (2006-Present)
- Producer/Director of Bank of the West Nebraska Women's Basketball Show with Connie Yori
- Bachelor's Degree, Journalism (Nebraska, 2007)

Amanda Holzwarth (formerly Pohlmann) joined the Nebraska Athletic Department in August of 2008 as a

video production specialist for HuskerVision. She was promoted to video production coordinator in the summer of 2011.

Holzwarth coordinates the video production of all women's basketball games at the Devaney Center, while also producing the Bank of the West Nebraska Women's Basketball Show with Coach Connie Yori.

She is responsible for all HuskerVision events relating to Nebraska women's basketball, as well as the Life Skills/Academic programs.

Before being hired on a full-time basis by the athletic department, Holzwarth served as a HuskerVision intern. She earned her bachelor's degree in journalism from Nebraska in 2007.

Holzwarth was also a student production assistant at HuskerVision from 2004 to 2006, before entering a full-time roll.

A native of Plymouth, Neb., she married Steven Holzwarth in June 2010.



Blake LANGE

**Assistant
Equipment Manager
Fifth Season
Iowa State (2005)**

Lange's Credentials

- Assistant Equipment Manager, Nebraska (2008-12)
- Assistant Director of Equipment Operations, Navy (2006-08)
- Associate Intern for Athletic Equipment, Iowa State (2005-06)
- Student Equipment Manager, Iowa State (2003-05)

Blake Lange joined the Nebraska Athletic Department in July of 2008 as an assistant equipment manager. Lange coordinates all the equipment-related duties at the Bob Devaney Sports Center for the Nebraska women's

basketball, men's and women's indoor and outdoor track and field, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's tennis, bowling and rifle teams.

Lange came to Nebraska after spending the 2006-07 and 2007-08 seasons as the assistant director of equipment operations at Navy. Lange served as a student equipment manager at Iowa State from January of 2003 through May of 2005, before working as an associate intern for athletic equipment at Iowa State from June 2005 through June of 2006.

An Iowa State graduate, Lange earned his bachelor's degree in health and human performance with a sports management option. Blake and his wife, Emily, have a two-year-old daughter Elsie.