



Thankfulness

Learn from each circumstance.



Head Coach Third Season

Dick Bennett

Dick Bennett became the 15th head coach to direct the Washington State men's basketball team when he was hired March 29, 2003. He came to the Palouse with a proven track record of rebuilding programs. He has continued the tradition as the Cougars' mentor.

WSU has won 25 games over the last two seasons, including 14 in the Pacific-10. Both marks are the most by the Cougars in a two-year span since the 1995-96 and 1996-97 seasons. Prior to Bennett's arrival, WSU had won seven of its last 50 Pac-10 games.

The Cougars biggest improvement has come at the defensive end of the floor. In 2003-04, WSU led the Pac-10, holding opponents to just 59.7 points per game, a 19.1 points per game improvement from 2002-03. No Pac-10 team has recorded such a dramatic improvement from one season to the next since Arizona and Arizona State joined the Pacific-8 to form the Pacific-10 for the 1978-79 season.

Last season, the Cougars again led the Pac-10 in scoring defense, giving up 56.9 points per outing. The mark was the lowest scoring average against a Pac-10 team since Oregon State yielded 55.8

points per game in 1983-84, three years prior to the 3-point shot being implemented.

During Bennett's first year, WSU swept three Pac-10 season series for the first time since 1994-95, broke losing streaks of 27 road games (at Alaska Fairbanks) and 22 Pac-10 road games (at California), and ranked nationally in scoring defense (12th), free throw percentage (13th) and fewest turnovers per game (14th).

Perhaps Bennett's biggest accomplishment in the 2003-04 season came Feb. 5 at UCLA. He guided WSU to a 55-48 win marking the first time the Cougars have defeated the Bruins on the road in 47 tries.

In 2004-05, the Cougars continued to break losing streaks. WSU stopped a 17-game slide to Stanford with a 60-51 win at the Spokane Arena in the Pac-10 opener. The Cougars completed their first home-and-home sweep of the Cardinal in 12 seasons with a 59-48 victory at Stanford, March 3.

The triumph Cougar fans will remember is a 70-63 upset of No. 11 Arizona in Tucson, Jan. 29. The victory broke a 38-game losing streak to Arizona and a 48-game skid against ranked opponents.

Prior to WSU, Bennett spent 35 plus years

teaching the game of basketball to young men in the state of Wisconsin with high school coaching stops in towns like West Bend and Eau Claire and college jobs in Stevens Point, Green Bay and Madison.

The owner of a 479-289 (.624) overall mark in 26 plus years at the collegiate level, Bennett was 94-68 (.580) at Wisconsin from 1995-2000. He guided the Badgers to three NCAA Tournament bids, including the 2000 Final Four, and one NIT bid. Prior to Bennett's arrival, Wisconsin appeared in

just three of the previous 57 NCAA Tournaments.

Known throughout the basketball world as one of the game's pre-eminent defensive coaches, Bennett's Badgers led the Big Ten in scoring defense four straight seasons and finished among the top five nationally in that category three times.

Statistics, however, do not tell the entire story about Bennett. He is highly respected by his peers. During the 1998-99 season, *Sports Illustrated* polled 115 college basketball coaches and asked the question, "If you could only go to one coaching

Coach Dick Bennett

During his collegiate coaching career, Dick Bennett has displayed a remarkable ability for reversing the fortunes of struggling basketball programs. The turnaround performances below speak for themselves.

WISCONSIN-STEVENSON POINT

1974-75 (Pre-Bennett)	6-20	
1975-76 (Pre-Bennett)	10-16	
77-77	9-17	
78-78	12-14	
79-79	14-12	
80-80	18-10	
81-81	19-8	
82-82	22-6	
1982-83	26-4	NAIA Tournament
1983-84	28-4	NAIA Runner-up
1984-85	25-5	NAIA Tournament
TOTAL	173-80 (.684)	

WISCONSIN-GREEN BAY

1983-84 (Pre-Bennett)	9-19	
1984-85 (Pre-Bennett)	10-16	
86-86	5-23	
87-87	15-14	
88-88	18-9	
1988-89	14-14	
1989-90	24-8	NIT Second Round
1990-91	24-7	NCAA Tournament
1991-92	25-5	NIT
93-93	13-14	
1993-94	27-7	NCAA Tournament Second Round
1994-95	22-8	NCAA Tournament
TOTAL	187-109 (.632)	

WISCONSIN

1992-93 (Pre-Bennett)	14-14	
1993-94 (Pre-Bennett)	18-11	
1994-95 (Pre-Bennett)	13-14	
96-96	18-14	NIT Second Round
1996-97	18-10	NCAA Tournament
98-98	12-19	
1998-99	22-10	NCAA Tournament
1999-2000	22-14	NCAA Final Four
2000-01	2-1	Retired, Nov. 30, 2000
TOTAL	94-68 (.580)	

WASHINGTON STATE

1999-2000 (Pre-Bennett)	6-22	
2000-01 (Pre-Bennett)	12-16	
2001-02 (Pre-Bennett)	6-21	
2002-03 (Pre-Bennett)	7-20	
2003-04	13-16	
2004-05	12-16	
TOTAL	25-32 (.439)	

CAREER 479-289 (.624)



clinic, whose would it be?" Top four vote-getters were Duke's Mike Krzyzewski, Rick Majerus, Dick Bennett and Bob Knight (then with Indiana).

When others speak of Bennett, the same words and phrases are repeated...humble, passionate, intense, tough, competitive, fundamentally sound, a great teacher.

Bennett has passed along his knowledge of the game to others in his family. Daughter Kathi is a past head women's basketball coach at Indiana and son Tony is WSU's associate head coach after a stint with Wisconsin. Dick's younger brother Jack recently retired from his head coaching position at Wisconsin-Stevens Point after leading the Pointers to the NCAA Division III national championship each of the last two seasons.

The success of Bennett's teams over the years is the result of taking care of the basketball, working for good shots and playing hard-nosed, team defense. The best of Bennett's players are not necessarily spectacular, but rather dependable, fundamentally sound, intense and mentally tough.

Born in Pittsburgh, Pa., Bennett began his collegiate coaching career at Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 1976 after 11 seasons in the Wisconsin prep ranks. As a high school coach, Bennett won 168 games and guided Eau Claire Memorial to a 22-3 mark and a runner-up finish at the State tournament during the 1975-76 season.

Bennett spent nine seasons at UW-Stevens Point and racked up 173 wins. During his final three seasons (1982-85), the Pointers were a combined 79-13. He was named NAIA Coach of the Year after leading the 1983-84 squad to a 28-4 record and national runner-up finish. Bennett was named Wisconsin State University Conference Coach of the Year in 1982 and 1985, as well as NAIA District IV and NAIA Area IV Coach of the Year in 1985.

The Ripon College graduate moved into the Division I ranks at Wisconsin-Green Bay prior to the 1985-86 season. He inherited a team that was 4-24 the year before he arrived and produced a winning record (15-14) in just his second season. Three years later, Bennett earned the 1990 Mid-Continent Conference Coach of the Year award after leading the Phoenix to a 24-8 mark and the second round of the NIT.

The following season, led by son Tony, the Phoenix rolled to a 24-7 record and made its first appearance in the NCAA Tournament, losing 60-58 to Michigan State in the first round. During the 1991-92 campaign, UW-Green Bay went 25-5 and won its first regular season conference title. Bennett was named Mid-Continent Conference and NABC District 11 Coach of the Year.

After a rebuilding season, Bennett guided the Phoenix to back-to-back NCAA Tournaments. The 1993-94 squad was 27-7, won the conference title and shocked the college basketball world with a first round NCAA Tournament win over 16th-ranked California, which was led by Jason Kidd and Lamond Murray. Bennett was tabbed NABC District 11 and Basketball Times Midwest Coach of the Year. In his final year with the Phoenix, Bennett returned to the NCAA Tournament before losing to Big Ten champion Purdue 49-48 to close out a 22-8 season.

At Wisconsin, Bennett's highlights included consecutive 22-win seasons in 1998-99 and 1999-2000. No Badger teams prior had posted a 20-win season. The 1999-2000 season was magical. The Badgers were 13-12 in February, then won nine of their final 11 games to reach the Final Four. Playing the most difficult schedule in the nation according to the Sagarin Ratings, Wisconsin defeated a school-record eight nationally ranked opponents

during its march to Indianapolis.

Bennett and his wife Anne have three grown children, Kathi, Amy and Tony, and six grandchildren.



WSU Head Coach Dick Bennett (center) with former Milwaukee Bucks' Head Coach Terry Porter and Dick's son Tony.

Hoop Scoop's 2005 Ranking of Top College Coaches

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. | Mike Krzyzewski | Duke |
| 2. | Jim Calhoun | Connecticut |
| 3. | Tubby Smith | Kentucky |
| 4. | Bob Knight | Texas Tech |
| 5. | Lute Olson | Arizona |
| 6. | Rick Pitino | Louisville |
| 7. | Roy Williams | North Carolina |
| 8. | Eddie Sutton | Oklahoma State |
| 9. | Dick Bennett | Washington State |
| 10. | Bob Huggins | then with Cincinnati |



Associate Head Coach Third Year

Tony Bennett

Tony Bennett, the son of Washington State Head Coach Dick Bennett, is in his third season with the Cougars and his second as associate head coach for men's basketball.

In September of 2005, Washington State announced Tony will replace his father Dick as the Cougars' head coach upon the elder Bennett's retirement. That date has yet to be determined.

Tony came to Washington State from Wisconsin where he spent three seasons as an assistant coach for the Badgers. His responsibilities included recruiting, summer camps and player development. During the 2002-03 season, he helped guide the Badgers to the Sweet Sixteen of the NCAA Tournament.

While at Wisconsin, he was part of the coaching staff that recruited Devin Harris, Kirk Penney, Brian Butch, and Alando Tucker. Harris, the 2004 Big 10 Player of the Year and first team All-Big 10 selection, was the fifth overall pick in the 2004 NBA Draft, while Penney, an Olympian for New Zealand, earned first team All-Big 10 accolades in back-to-back seasons (2002-2003). Tucker, a 2002 Top 50, and Butch, a 2003 Top 20, were among the top national high school recruits.

Tony offers to the WSU program the kind of knowledge that only a former NBA player

possesses having played three seasons (1992-95 for the Charlotte Hornets) before a foot injury ended his NBA career. Prior to being selected by the Hornets with the 35th pick in the 1992 NBA Draft, Tony enjoyed a storied career at UW-Green Bay where his father was the head coach.

He finished his collegiate career as the Mid-Continent Conference's all-time leader in points (2,285) and assists (601). He still ranks as the NCAA's all-time leader in 3-point percentage (.497). He led the Phoenix to one NCAA Tournament berth and two appearances in the NIT and UWGB was 87-34 (.719) during his career.

A two-time MCC Player of the Year, Tony won the Frances Pomeroy Naismith Award given to the nation's most outstanding senior under six-feet tall. He also was the 1992 GTE Academic All-American of the Year. Tony started for Purdue's Gene Keady on the USA bronze medal-winning 1991 Pan-American Games team.

Bennett, who attended Green Bay's Preble High School and was named the state of Wisconsin's Mr. Basketball in 1988, served as the Wisconsin basketball team manager during the Final Four season of 1999-2000. He arrived in Madison following a stint in New Zealand, where he played and coached professionally.

Tony and his wife, Laurel, have two



Assistant Coach Third Year

Mike Heideman

Mike Heideman is in his third season as an assistant coach at Washington State and his second stint with Cougar Head Coach Dick Bennett. Heideman was an assistant to Bennett at Wisconsin-Green Bay, 1986-95.

During that time, Heideman coordinated all recruiting efforts and played an integral role in UWGB capturing the Mid-Continent Conference regular season title in 1992 and 1994. During that era, Heideman helped guide the Phoenix to Mid-Continent Tournament championships and NCAA Tournament automatic berths in 1991 and 1994. He also helped lead UWGB to a Midwestern Collegiate Conference Tournament title and an NCAA Tournament appearance in 1995.

Following the 1994-95 season, Heideman succeeded Bennett as the head coach of the Phoenix and found immediate success.

He led UWGB to the Midwestern Collegiate Conference regular season championship and a berth in the NCAA Tournament during his first season (1995-96). His team was ranked as high as 22nd by the Associated Press and 23rd in the USA Today/CNN Coaches poll.

Heideman's efforts earned him the Midwestern Collegiate Conference Coach of the Year in 1996. He was also selected as the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) District 11 Coach of the Year and Wisconsin Collegiate Coach of the Year in 1996.

During his seven seasons at UWGB, Heideman compiled a record of 110-95. He spent one season as an assistant at Valparaiso before joining the Cougars' staff in April 2003.

Prior to UWGB, Heideman was the head men's basketball coach at St. Norbert College (1982-86), an NCAA Division III school in DePere, Wis. He was selected NABC Division III Midwest Region Coach of the Year in 1984 and received the Contribution to Basketball Award for the state of Wisconsin in 1986. His 66-25 mark at St.

Norbert's gives him a career record of 176-120 in 11 seasons as a collegiate head coach.

In addition to his collegiate background, Heideman owns high school coaching experience at Xavier in Appleton, Wis., and Augusta (Wis.). In 11 seasons, Heideman compiled a prep record of 158-52.

He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in physical education from Wisconsin-LaCrosse. Heideman and his wife Sally have two grown sons, David and Timothy.



Assistant Coach Second Year

Ben Johnson

Ben Johnson enters his second season as an assistant coach at Washington State University where he is no stranger to the Cougar coaching staff.

Johnson played for WSU Head Coach Dick Bennett at Wisconsin-Green Bay for four seasons (1989-92) and was a teammate of WSU Associate Head Coach Tony Bennett during that time. While attending UWGB, Johnson helped lead the Phoenix to one NCAA Tournament and two appearances in the NIT.

The four-year letterwinner still ranks second in the UWGB record book for career steals (166) along with season steals (54 in 1992), while sitting in a tie with Tony Bennett for steals in a game with six. Johnson also holds the sixth spot for all-time games played (119) and is tied for ninth with season steals (45 in 1991).

Upon graduating from UWGB with a degree in communications, Johnson spent time as a player/coach in Australia from 1993-95 and 2002-04. He was the head coach for Kuiyam Pride Under 23 Men and Kuiyam Pride Women in the Australian Basketball Association (2002-04). In 2003, he was named Women's Australian Basketball Association Coach of the Year.

In addition, Johnson served as an assistant coach at his alma mater from 1995-2002 under current Washington State Assistant Basketball Coach Mike Heideman, where he helped the Phoenix reach the NCAA Tournament in 1996.

Johnson, a native of Stevens Point, Wis., is married to Nicky.





Coordinator of Basketball Operations Third Year

Ron Sanchez

Ron Sanchez enters his third season as the coordinator of basketball operations for Washington State University.

A graduate of State University of New York, College of Oneonta, Sanchez came to Pullman after spending two seasons as a volunteer coach at Indiana University.

With the Hoosiers, Sanchez assisted in self and opponent scouting as well as film exchange. He worked closely with the administrative assistant and video coordinator during his time at Indiana, which included the Hoosiers' national runner-up finish in 2002. While at Indiana, he earned his master's degree in athletic administration/sport management.

Prior to Indiana, Sanchez was an associate head coach at Delhi College in New York from 1999-2001. In 2001, Delhi posted a 31-2 record, captured the Region III championship and placed fourth at the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Championship.

A native of San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic, Sanchez was named the State University of New York Athletic Conference Player of the Year in 1996. He also earned the Eastern College Athletic Conference Championship Most Valuable Player award in 1996 and was a three-time State University of New York Athletic Conference all-academic selection.

Coaches and Support Staff



MARGARET PEYOU

Principal Assistant, Men's Basketball

Margaret Peyou is in her 17th year at Washington State University and her third with the men's basketball program.

A native of Seattle, Peyou graduated cum laude in American history from WSU. Her responsibilities with men's basketball include office management and budget oversight. In addition, she coordinates coaches' travel and Cougar Head Coach Dick Bennett's daily schedule.

Prior to her current position, Peyou worked with WSU baseball and head coach Bobo Brayton as well as Cougar track and head coach John Chaplin. In addition, she worked with golf, tennis, swimming and athletic media relations.



REBECCA FAULDS

Athletic Media Relations
Student Assistant



BRIAN GRAHAM

Manager



BURDETTE GREENY

Equipment Manager



GLENN JOHNSON

Public Address Announcer



MARJA LARSEN

Athletic Training Student



CRAIG LAWSON

Assistant Athletic Media
Relations Director



MARTY NORTHCROFT

Assistant Director of
Marketing



PATRICK PARSLEY

Athletic Training Student



RONNIE WIDEMAN

Manager



2005-06 MANAGERS

Standing (L to R): Ben Cartmell, Scott Lewis, Brian Graham, Josh Mullins, Mitch Reaves. Sitting (L to R): Marlon Stewart, Matt Ahmann, Ronnie Wideman, Geoff White, Tim Marrion. Not Pictured: Jason Strong.