

2003-04 NCAC Women's Basketball Coach Bios

JENNIFER REIMER

Allegheny College

It didn't take long for Jennifer Reimer to leave her mark as she guided Allegheny to the NCAC regular season co-championship and a 20-9 mark in her first season at the helm. In three years, she has won 48 games and claimed three top-four finishes in the NCAC.

Reimer is the seventh head coach in Allegheny women's basketball history, after serving for two seasons as the head coach at Mount Union College. She also spent one season at Juniata College prior to her time at Mount Union. She also served as an assistant at Ohio Northern for three seasons following graduation.

A Pittsburgh native, Reimer is a 1994 graduate of Lycoming College in Williamsport, Pa., before earning a master's of education degree from Bowling Green State University in 1996. While at Lycoming, Reimer was a four-year starter at point guard and team captain her junior and senior years. Reimer graduated from Lycoming as the school's second all-time assist leader and was honored as the female scholar-athlete of the year.

- Year at Allegheny: 4th
- Coaching Record: 48-31/85-66 (6 years)
- Alma Mater: Lycoming '94

SARA LEE

Denison University

Sara J. Lee enters her 15th season as Denison's head women's basketball and volleyball coach. Lee has an extensive coaching background at the college level, as well as a wealth of competitive collegiate athletic experience.

In 1989 Lee came to Denison from Lake Erie College in Painesville, Ohio, where she was the head coach of women's volleyball, basketball and softball for two years. While at Lake Erie, she also served as the coordinator of women's athletics, an instructor of physical education, a residence hall director and an academic advisor.

A native of Moorhead, Minn., Lee enrolled at Moorhead State University after graduating from high school in 1982. She earned her B.S. in physical education from Moorhead State in 1986. Lee went on to earn an M.A. in athletic administration from Kent State in 1987.

Lee has been inducted into the Moorhead State University Athletic Hall of Fame for her distinguished accomplishments and career both on and off the playing field. Lee's honors as an undergraduate include the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Scholarship, which is awarded annually by NAIA athletic directors. Lee was also honored as the recipient of the Moorhead State Student-Athlete Award her senior year.

In addition to her coaching duties, Lee is an assistant professor in Denison's department of athletics, physical education and recreation, and has recently been named as an assistant to DU's director of athletics.

- Year at Denison: 15th
- Coaching Record: 166-179/167-205 (15 years)
- Alma Mater: Moorehead St. '86

JEANNINE RUH

Earlham College

Jeannine Ruh begins her seventh season as the head coach of women's basketball at Earlham College. She came to Earlham after a three-year stint as head coach at Haverford College. Ruh previously had served as an assistant at Wittenberg for four seasons.

Three seasons ago, Ruh guided Earlham to a school-best 17-10 record and an 11-5 NCAC mark, and reached the championship game of the conference tournament for the first time, before falling in overtime. Ruh was voted NCAC Coach of the Year in recognition of her team's accomplishments. Last season, Earlham advanced to the semifinals again, upsetting third-seeded Denison in the quarterfinals.

A 1987 graduate of Otterbein College, Ruh had a distinguished collegiate athletic career. The physical education major played four years of varsity basketball and softball for the Cardinals. A basketball captain, she led her team to a 17-7 finish in her senior year.

- Year at Earlham: 7th
- Coaching Record: 65-87/86-137 (9 years)
- Alma Mater: Otterbein '87

ANNE HAYNAM
HIRAM COLLEGE

Anne Haynam, a 1988 graduate of Hiram College, enters her fifth season as head women's basketball coach and assistant athletic director.

Haynam has been a head coach at the collegiate level for 13 seasons, previously serving as the head women's basketball coach at Dickinson College for nine seasons. At Dickinson, she brought about a revival of the program by winning the school's first Centennial Conference championship and making four appearances in the Eastern College Athletic Conference South Region playoffs, earning her the record as the school's winningest coach with 92 victories in her tenure.

Haynam received her bachelor of arts degree with a double major in classical studies and physical education. While at Hiram, she earned conference and/or regional recognition in three sports: field hockey, softball, and basketball. In addition, she was named female athlete of the year and a scholar-athlete as a junior before graduating as the Terrier's all-time leading scorer (1,187 points). She was elected to the school's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2000.

Prior to coaching at Dickinson, Haynam served as assistant athletic director and assistant women's basketball coach at Lycoming, and also served as the head coach at Bald Eagle Area High School (1988-89) in Wingate, Pennsylvania.

- Year at Hiram: 5th
- Coaching Record: 15-74/107-212 (13 years)
- Alma Mater: Hiram '88

SUZANNE HELFANT
Kenyon College

Suzanne Helfant enters her ninth season at Kenyon College with an overall record of 124-82, making her the most successful coach in the history of the 30-year-old program.

She began her tenure at Kenyon in 1995-'96 and promptly produced an 18-8 season, the most wins ever by a KC team. She followed that season up by directing the 1996-'97 team through a 26-2 season that included the program's first-ever North Coast Athletic Conference Championship and first-ever NCAA Tournament berth. She topped off the season with the NCAC's Coach of the Year award.

More recently, Helfant guided the 1999-2000 team to a 21-7 record along with another NCAC Championship and NCAA Tournament berth. Prior to her arrival, the Kenyon Ladies had just four winning seasons dating back to the program's inception in 1973. Since then, Helfant has doubled that number. She's also coached three NCAC Players of the Year.

Helfant was previously head basketball coach at Marietta for three seasons before taking on her current position. She has also served as an assistant at Lycoming and John Carroll.

Helfant graduated from Allegheny in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in communications. She was a three-year starter at point guard for the Gators, and was a three-time all-NCAC performer. She was inducted into the Allegheny Hall of Fame in 1998.

- Year at Kenyon: 9th
- Coaching Record: 124-82/158-125 (11 years)
- Alma Mater: Allegheny '88

CHRISTA CHAMPION
Oberlin College

Christa Champion enters her second season as head women's basketball coach at Oberlin College. During the 1994-2000 seasons, Champion was the head women's basketball coach at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, MA. During her six seasons with the Lady Engineers, she led the program to two post-season bids

as well as guiding the team to a school record 23 wins and first-ever conference basketball title in 1996. She earned the WBCA District I Coach of the Year award and the New England Women's-8 Conference (NEW-8) Coach of the Year award.

Previously, she was the head women's basketball coach at the University of New Haven in New Haven, Connecticut. In her second season, the Chargers doubled the number of wins from the previous season. Champion was a graduate assistant coach at Smith College from 1988-90.

Champion is a 1986 graduate of Brown University where she was a four-year starter for the basketball squad leading the team to two Ivy League championships. As a senior, she was named team captain and was recognized three times as All-Ivy. In addition, she was a three-time CoSIDA first-team Academic All-American. Champion graduated Magna cum laude in Bio-medical Engineering earning a NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarship. In 1995, she was inducted to the Brown University Hall of Fame.

- Year at Oberlin: 2nd
- Coaching Record: 6-19/109-156 (10 years)
- Alma Mater: Brown '86

NAN CARNEY-DEBORD **Ohio Wesleyan University**

Eighteenth-year head coach Nan Carney-DeBord has blazed trails never before seen by Ohio Wesleyan women's basketball as the Bishops' winningest women's coach,

Carney-DeBord piloted the Battling Bishops to the national semifinals in 2000-01. Ohio Wesleyan won its fifth North Coast Athletic Conference championship, won the NCAC tournament and finished with a 26-7 record that season. Carney-DeBord was named NCAA Division III Coach of the Year by the WBCA.

Carney-DeBord has been named NCAC Coach of the Year award 6 times, making her the most frequent recipient of that honor in league history.

She came to Ohio Wesleyan from Bethany (W.Va.) College, where she was head field hockey and softball coach and assistant basketball mentor. Her field hockey squads won Pennwood West Conference titles in 1983 and 1984.

Carney-DeBord is a 1980 graduate of Denison University, where she lettered 4 times each in basketball and field hockey. A wing and point guard in basketball, she was team captain and MVP as a senior. As a field hockey back, she was a team captain for 3 years and led one team to a 13-0 record. She was inducted into Denison's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1998. She earned her master's degree from Kent State and is a professor of physical education at Ohio Wesleyan.

- Year at Ohio Wesleyan: 18th
- Coaching Record: 303-142
- Alma Mater: Denison 1980

PAM SMITH **Wittenberg University**

Pam Smith has clearly established herself as one of the premier women's basketball coaches in Division III. She took over a moribund program in 1986-87 which had had little success in its history and 17 years later has turned it into one of the winningest programs in Division III.

The five-time North Coast Athletic Conference Coach of The Year has compiled a 325-134 record over the last 17 years, led the Tigers to seven appearances in the NCAA Division III tournament and won nine NCAC championships. In 1990 she led Wittenberg to a 26-3 record, a perfect 12-0 slate in the North Coast Athletic Conference regular season and a first-ever appearance in the NCAA Division III tournament. Last season, she guided the Tigers to an unblemished 16-0 conference record (24-5 overall) and a trip to the NCAA tournament.

Smith was named head coach at Wittenberg in 1986 after a standout career in a Tiger uniform from 1979 to 1982. While a player at Wittenberg, Smith was selected second team Academic All-America as a senior and the most valuable player of the basketball team for three seasons. She was inducted into the Wittenberg University Athletic Hall of Honor.

Smith received her bachelor's degree in biology from Wittenberg in 1982 and her master's degree in physical education with an emphasis on exercise physiology from Ithaca College in 1985.

Smith also has the role of associate athletic director and is the University's senior women's administrator. She is an instructor in the department of health, fitness and sport.

- Year at Wittenberg: 18th
- Coaching Record: 325-134
- Alma Mater: Wittenberg '82

LISA CAMPANELL KOMARA
The College of Wooster

Lisa Campanell Komara is in her seventh season as the head women's basketball coach at The College of Wooster. During her tenure, she has directed her teams to 54 wins, highlighted by a 13-victory season last winter.

Before coming to Wooster, Campanell Komara spent 12 years as the head coach at Bethany College. During that time, she directed the Bisons to a remarkable turnaround, including a 22-4 mark and the team's first trip to the NCAA Division III Tournament in 1997, after which she was named Presidents' Athletic Conference Coach of the Year.

A graduate of West Liberty State College, Campanell Komara earned her bachelor's degree in health and physical education. She went on to earn her master's degree in sport administration at West Virginia University.

- Year at Wooster: 7th
- Coaching Record: 54-97/202-268 (20 years)
- Alma Mater: West Liberty '82