

## Dawn Staley

Catapulting South Carolina into the national spotlight, Dawn Staley has made the Gamecocks a mainstay in the battle for SEC and national championships. Under her leadership, the Gamecocks have reached many firsts – National Championship, NCAA Final Fours, No. 1 rankings, SEC regular-season and tournament titles, SEC Player of the Year, National Player of the Year, WNBA No. 1 Draft pick, and No. 1 recruiting classes – to name the most notable.

Staley's 13 seasons at the helm of the Gamecocks include:

- 2017 NCAA National Championship
- Three NCAA Final Fours in the last six tournaments (2015, 2017, 2021)
- Ranking in the AP Top 25 every week since Dec. 10, 2012, including 95 weeks in the top five
- 25 weeks ranked No. 1 in the AP Poll, including the first final No. 1 ranking in program history (2019-20)
- Nine 25-win seasons, including four 30-win campaigns led by a school-record 34 victories in 2014-15
- Five SEC regular-season championships (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2020)
- Six SEC Tournament titles (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021)
- Three top-two recruiting classes (#1 in 2021, #1 in 2019, #2 in 2014)
- Seven NCAA Attendance titles, averaging over 10,000 fans each season (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021)

While her coaching career is in full bloom, Staley is still recognized for her body of work as a one of the most decorated participants in United States women's basketball history. The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame solidified that legacy with her enshrinement as part of the Class of 2013. The Phoenix Club of Philadelphia established the Dawn Staley Award recognizing the nation's top guard in women's Division I basketball in 2013 as well. Staley was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2012 and was one of the final nominees for induction to the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame the same year. In the summer of 2011, the WNBA recognized her as one of the league's "Top 15," honoring the most influential players in the league's history.

In 21 seasons as a head coach, Staley has led her college teams to 11 25-win seasons, a total of 17 postseason appearances (two WNIT) and 128 weeks in the Associated Press top 10, including 25 in the No. 1 spot.

Also a force in USA Basketball, Staley was named the U.S. Women's National Team head coach for 2017-21, leading the U.S. to 2018 FIBA World Cup gold to earn USAB National Coach of the Year honors that year, adding gold medals at the 2019 and 2021 FIBA AmeriCups and stretching the U.S. Olympic gold medal streak to seven straight at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. Prior to that appointment, Staley led three other U.S. teams to gold medals – 2015 FIBA U19 World Championships, 2014 FIBA U18 Americas Championship, 2007 Pan Am Games – and served as an assistant on the Senior National Team 2006-08 and again 2014-16, during which the U.S. claimed gold in the 2014 FIBA World Championship and the 2008 and 2016 Olympics.

At the helm of the Gamecocks over the last 13 seasons, Staley has twice been named National Coach of the Year (2014, 2020) with her 2020 unanimous selection making her the first former Naismith Player of the Year to earn the Naismith Coach of the Year award. She is a four-time SEC Coach of the Year and was

the 2012 BCA Female Coach of the Year. She is the only Gamecock basketball coach – men’s or women’s – to amass 300 victories at South Carolina and became the fastest coach to 200 wins in program history, needing just 277 games at South Carolina to reach the plateau.

Staley has coached a National Player of the Year (A’ja Wilson, 2018) and a National Freshman of the Year (Aliyah Boston, 2020). Under her leadership, Seven Gamecocks have collected 17 All-America selections, two have picked up five SEC Player of the Year honors, three have earned SEC Defensive Player of the Year recognition a total of five times, one has been the SEC 6th Player of the Year and six were named SEC Freshman of the Year. She has coached 16 Gamecocks to All-SEC honors a combined 31 times, including 16 first-team selections, and eight Gamecocks have been selected in the WNBA Draft in the last five seasons, including 2018 No. 1 pick A’ja Wilson who went on to earn WNBA Rookie of the Year honors a year after Allisha Gray became the first Gamecock to capture the honor in 2017. Two other Gamecock draftees have earned WNBA All-Rookie Team honors as well.

On Staley’s watch, the Gamecocks are enjoying the most sustained success in program history. After posting back-to-back 25-win seasons in 2011-12 and 2012-13 for the first time in more than 30 years, the 2014-15 team broke the school record with 34 wins. South Carolina won more SEC games than the season before in each of her first seven seasons, culminating in the 2015-16 team recording just the second 16-0 conference record in league history. Her Gamecocks are the only SEC program with multiple 16-0 seasons in league history after they matched that mark in 2019-20. Staley’s 152 SEC wins account for 70.3 percent of the program’s total 216 wins over its 30 seasons in the league, and her .738 SEC winning percentage is second only to Tennessee’s Pat Summitt in league history. Staley has delivered the only five SEC championships in program history, and she has helped the Gamecocks to 10 of the program’s 11 top-four finishes in the league.