

HEAD COACH NICKI COLLEN • 1ST SEASON



Nicki Collen was introduced as the fifth Head Coach in Baylor women's basketball history on May 5, 2021.

Collen comes to Baylor from the WNBA's Atlanta franchise, where she spent the last three seasons at the helm for the Dream. Her rookie season in Atlanta resulted in a 23-11 season in 2018, where she earned WNBA Coach of the Year honors and helped the franchise to the WNBA Playoff Semifinals.

Prior to her arrival in Atlanta, she spent two seasons under head coach Curt Miller of the Connecticut Sun, helping the franchise improve from fifth in the East Division to second from 2016 to 2017, respectively.

"I am thrilled to be the head coach at Baylor University. I believe it is the top job in the country for women's basketball," said Collen. "I am excited to begin working with this extremely talented team and I am grateful for the unwavering support of President Livingstone and Mack Rhoades. The success of this program speaks for itself, and I will begin working today to ensure Baylor women's basketball continues to be a program that excels at the highest levels."

Collen's collegiate coaching career spanned for nine seasons prior to her WNBA arrival. She spent two seasons as an assistant at Colorado State from 2000-2002, one season at Ball State from 2002-2003, one at Louisville from 2003-2004, three at Arkansas from 2011-2014 and two at Florida Gulf Coast from 2014-2016.

Her teams' combined record in nine seasons as an NCAA Division I assistant was 214-74, good for a .743 win percentage. As an assistant, Collen guided four different squads to the NCAA Tournament, reaching the second round in three of those seasons.

She spent six of her nine seasons as an assistant under her husband, Tom Collen's head-coaching tenures at Colorado State, Louisville and Arkansas. She also coached under Tracy Roller at Ball State and Karl Smesko at Florida Gulf Coast, who has the third-highest active winning percentage in NCAA Division I. Collen helped the FGCU program to a 64-9 record and the school's first NCAA Tournament win in her two-year tenure.

In her nine seasons at the collegiate level, Collen coached three All-Americans and saw three players selected in the WNBA Draft.

Collen's collegiate playing career began at Purdue in 1993-94, when the Boilermakers made an NCAA Final Four run with a 29-5 overall record and a 16-2 mark in the Big Ten. Her sophomore season, Purdue made another deep run with an Elite Eight appearance to go with a 24-8 overall record. She transferred to Marquette, where she tallied 421 assists in her final two seasons, averaging 7.0 per game in her last 60 collegiate games. She helped the Golden Eagles to two-straight NCAA Tournament appearances in 1997 and 1998.

Nicki and her husband Tom have three children, Connor, Reese and Logan.

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT NICKI COLLEN

"Nicki Collen is a great hire for Baylor. A well-respected basketball mind in the WNBA, she has the knowledge and work-ethic to succeed at one of the top programs in women's college basketball.

Much like the woman who preceded her, Collen is a fiery competitor with a big personality. She is a nice fit for Baylor."

—**Rebecca Lobo, ESPN Analyst, former NCAA Champion**

"Nicki made an immediate impression as a head coach in the WNBA and it was a big challenge to coach against her. She likes an up tempo game, is innovative, and will bring a great style to Baylor Basketball. She is known for being direct and honest with her players in order to get the best from them on and off the court. I'm looking forward to watching her continue the great tradition of Baylor Basketball."

—**Mike Thibault, Connecticut Sun Head Coach**

"Congrats to the Baylor Administration on hiring Nicki Collen as their next basketball coach! Nicki is a detailed strategist and a relationship builder with a tireless work ethic. Coach Collen will bring more winning success to the student athletes on and off the court and the Lady Bear fans will be entertained with a fast paced offensive style of play! Buckle up for some intense, high octane offense!"

—**Debbie Antonelli, ESPN Analyst**

"Nicki has a brilliant basketball mind and a tremendous ability to connect with players. Nicki is high-energy, self-motivated, and ultra-competitive. She will do great things at Baylor."

—**Karl Smesko, Florida Gulf Coast Head Coach**

"Nicki Collen is one of the best basketball minds I've covered over the years. Her depth of knowledge and understanding of the x's and o's is second to none. Coupled with vast experience at various levels on the college and WNBA side, there will be more Big 12 Championships in Baylor's future."

—**LaChina Robinson, ESPN Analyst**

"The Lady Bears program is always near and dear, and I am excited to see what Coach Collen will do on the sidelines in Waco. Fans can expect some fiery defensive skills for Coach C!"

—**Kalani Brown, Atlanta Dream player, former Lady Bear**

"I was really looking forward to working with Coach Collen in the WNBA, and while I didn't get that chance, I couldn't be happier for her to join our alma mater and lead the Lady Bears. I am excited to see her in the green and gold."

—**Odyssey Sims, Atlanta Dream player, former Lady Bear**

"Today is an exciting day for Baylor University and our women's basketball program. Nicki is a passionate leader of young women and an elite basketball mind and teacher of the game. She is a great mission fit who shares in our vision of Preparing Champions for Life by commanding excellence both on and off the court. Nicki's professional experience will be invaluable to developing players for the next level. Her addition sustains our commitment to the women's basketball program at the highest level. We welcome Nicki, her husband Tom and children, Connor, Reese and Logan, to the Baylor family."

—**Mack Rhoades, Baylor Vice President & Director of Athletics**

"We are excited to have Nicki lead our women's basketball program, and we look forward to welcoming her into the Baylor Family. I appreciate the work of Mack Rhoades and his team in identifying our next coach who understands our commitment to an elite program, aligns with Baylor's Christian mission and appreciates how we prepare champions for life at our University. After visiting personally with Coach Collen, I can't wait to see her and our student-athletes as they represent our great University both on the court and inside the classroom as well as throughout the Waco community."

—**Baylor President Linda A. Livingstone, Ph.D**

NICKI COLLEN

Education: Marquette, 1998, Mechanical Engineering
Family: Husband, Tom; Children, Connor, Reese & Logan

EXPERIENCE

Purdue (Player), 1993-95
Marquette (Player), 1996-98
BCM Alexandros, Greece (Player), 1998-99
Colorado State (Assistant Coach), 2000-02
Ball State (Assistant Coach), 2002-03
Louisville (Assistant Coach), 2003-04
Arkansas (Assistant Coach), 2011-14
Florida Gulf Coast (Assistant Coach), 2014-16
Connecticut Sun (WNBA, Assistant Coach), 2016-17
Atlanta Dream (WNBA, Head Coach), 2018-20
Baylor (Head Coach) 2021-present

HIGHLIGHTS

- 2018 WNBA Coach of the Year
- July 2018 WNBA Coach of the Month
- August 2018 WNBA Coach of the Month
- 2018 WNBA Semifinals
- 2017 WNBA Playoffs Second Round as Assistant
- Four NCAA Tournament Appearances as Assistant
- Three WNIT Appearances as Assistant

Collegiate All-Americans Coached

2002	Angie Gorton	Colorado State
2004	Sara Nord	Louisville
2016	Whitney Knight	Florida Gulf Coast

WNBA Draft Picks Coached in College

2003	Tamara Bowie	Washington
2012	C'eira Ricketts	Phoenix
2016	Whitney Knight	Los Angeles

WNBA All-Stars Coached

2017	Jasmine Thomas	Connecticut
2017	Alyssa Thomas	Connecticut
2018	Angel McCoughtry	Atlanta

HEAD COACHING YEAR-BY-YEAR RECORD

Year	Franchise	Conference	OVRL	Postseason
2018	Atlanta	Eastern	23-11	WNBA Semifinals
2019	Atlanta	Eastern	8-26	
2020	Atlanta	Eastern	7-15	
Totals		3 Seasons	38-52	1 Appearance

ASST. WNBA COACHING YBY RECORD

Year	Franchise	Conference	OVRL	Postseason
2016	Connecticut	Eastern	14-20	
2017	Connecticut	Eastern	21-13	WNBA 2nd Round
Totals		2 Seasons	38-52	1 Appearance

ASST. COACHING YEAR-BY-YEAR RECORD

Year	School	Overall	Conf	Postseason
2000-01	Colorado State	25-7	10-4	NCAA-Second
2001-02	Colorado State	24-7	12-2	NCAA-First
2002-03	Ball State	18-8	12-4	WNIT-Second
2003-04	Louisville	20-10	11-3	WNIT-First
2011-12	Arkansas	24-9	10-6	NCAA-Second
2012-13	Arkansas	20-13	6-10	WNIT-Second
2013-14	Arkansas	19-11	6-10	
2014-15	Florida Gulf Coast	31-3	14-0	NCAA-Second
2015-16	Florida Gulf Coast	33-6	14-0	WNIT-Finals
Totals	9 Seasons	214-74	95-39	8 Appearances