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Contact: UW Athletic Communications, 206/543-2230

Jackson Named UW Women's Basketball Coach

One of the nation's top recruiters appointed to lead Husky women's basketball program.

SEATTLE — The University of Washington women's basketball program entered an exciting new era today with the appointment of Tia Jackson as the school's head coach, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Todd Turner announced.

Jackson comes to Seattle after spending the last two seasons as an assistant under coach Gail Goestenkers at Duke University, where she was considered by many experts as one of the top recruiters in the country. She helped lead the Blue Devils to the NCAA championship game in 2006 and the NCAA Sweet Sixteen this past season.

"Tia is perfect match for Washington," said Turner. "Her experiences at the highest levels as a coach and a player have prepared her well for this special opportunity. Tia's passion for the game, her tutelage under some of the greatest coaches in women's basketball, and her commitment to the total development of student-athletes, make her the ideal person to lead our program. She joins an incredible staff of head coaches at the UW and we are very pleased to welcome her."

As the recruiting coordinator at Duke, Jackson attracted consecutive recruiting classes that ranked among the top five in the nation. She also signed four players who were named McDonald's All-America honorees. In addition, Jackson was involved in all aspects of the program's operation, including scheduling, budget, scouting, on-court coaching and academic advisement.

During her coaching career, Jackson spent six seasons as an assistant on the West Coast. During the 1999-2000 season, she served under Tara VanDerveer at Stanford and helped lead the Cardinal to the second round of the NCAA Tournament. She then spent five seasons at UCLA as assistant coach and recruiting coordinator for Coach Kathy Olivier. During her time at UCLA, she was responsible for attracting two nationally-ranked top-10 recruiting classes that included four McDonald's and/or WBCA All-America selections.

"I am extremely excited to be coming to the University of Washington and to be a part of the academic and athletic excellence for which this university is known," said Jackson, who played against Washington on 13 occasions as a player and assistant coach. "This is an extraordinary opportunity, filled with a wonderful new challenge. I want to thank

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Tia Jackson's Career

Coaching Career

2007-	Washington (Head Coach)
2005-07	Duke (Assistant)
2000-05	UCLA (Assistant)
1999-00	Stanford (Assistant)
1996-99	Va. Commonwealth (Assistant)

Playing Career

1997	Phoenix Mercury (WNBA)
1991-95	University of Iowa Mardela Springs (Md.) H.S.

What They Say About Jackson

"Tia is destined to be a super star. She has it all...she's outgoing, she's an incredible recruiter and she's great with people. She knows the game of basketball and is an awesome teacher on the basketball court. Her preparation and organizational skills are outstanding. I can't say enough about her. As I told Todd and Marie, she's an impact coach and Washington is one fortunate university."

— Gail Goestenkers, University of Texas Head Coach

"Tia was and is excellent in all she does. She was a great student, a great athlete and tremendous competitor (at Iowa), one who sought knowledge and got along well with everyone. Tia is a person of high integrity and character. I said of her upon meeting Tia, this one will be special and she truly was and is. I have been fortunate to be part of her life and in her career choices."

"Tia is one of the few individuals that can become the head coach at a top 10 basketball program. And I feel she will be extremely successful. Everywhere Tia has coached, every program Tia has touched, has excelled because of her. It warms my heart to know she has been given this opportunity and I am extremely proud of her."

— C. Vivian Stringer, Rutgers University Head Coach

President Emmert and Todd Turner for this tremendous opportunity. I feel so fortunate to be back in the Pac-10, where I've spent a great deal of my coaching career. This is truly a homecoming for me.

"There is a great women's basketball tradition at Washington that the coaches before me have worked hard to build. I'm excited to present a style of basketball that will stimulate the Husky fanbase and push our program to the top of the Pac-10 and toward our goal of a national championship."

A 1995 graduate of the University of Iowa, Jackson played for C. Vivian Stringer, the first coach to lead three different schools to the NCAA Final Four and a member of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. She helped lead the Hawkeyes to four top-25 rankings in five seasons before earning her bachelor's degree in media studies and film, emphasizing in television production and editing.

As a junior, Jackson helped Iowa to a 27-4 record, a berth in the NCAA Final Four and was named to the NCAA Mideast Regional all-tournament team. She completed her college career ranked 10th on Iowa's all-time list for rebounds with 507 and seventh in steals with 168. For her career, she averaged 10.2 points, 4.4 rebounds and 1.5 steals per game. Jackson was honored as an all-Big Ten Conference selection twice.

Upon graduation, Jackson accepted a position as an assistant coach at Virginia Commonwealth. Following her first year as an assistant at VCU, she was drafted by the Phoenix Mercury and played in the WNBA's inaugural season in 1997. Jackson averaged 2.8 points and 2.1 rebounds in 28 games and helped lead the Mercury to the first-ever WNBA title under Olympian and Basketball Hall of Fame honoree Cheryl Miller. During her time with the Mercury, Jackson was a teammate to two-time Olympian and Basketball Hall of Famer Nancy Lieberman.

A native of Salisbury, Md., Jackson was a honorable mention high school All-America selection for Mardela Springs High School after scoring 3,108 points during her prep career under the tutelage of coach Barbara McCool.

-- DAWGS --

"I think Washington just hired one of the hottest, brightest young coaches in basketball. She was a great teammate of mine. She was always very astute. I think she will be able to take the Washington program to a totally different level. They found the right person for the job and I'm very proud of her."

— Nancy Lieberman, former Phoenix Mercury teammate

"As a player Tia was hard working, the first one to practice, and the last one to leave the court. I fully expect that she will bring the same type of work ethic and commitment to her team as a head coach."

— Cheryl Miller, former Phoenix Mercury Head Coach

"WOW! The University of Washington hit a home run in hiring Tia Jackson. I think she's the perfect fit for the University and the great City of Seattle. Congratulations."

— Linn Dunn, Former Seattle Storm Head Coach

"I'm thrilled that Tia will become the next head coach at Washington. My good friend Gail Goestenkors cannot say enough positive things regarding Tia's work ethic and professionalism. I want Tia to know that I'm here to help in any way. Congratulations to the University of Washington."

— Anne Donovan, Seattle Storm Head Coach

UW Women's Basketball

Coaches	Years
Tia Jackson	2007-present
June Daugherty	1996-07
Chris Gobrecht	1985-96
Joyce Sake	1983-85
Sue Kruszewski	1980-83
Pat Dobratz	1979-80
Kathie Neir	1975-79
Christine Burkhart	1974-75

NCAA Appearances16

- Second-Most in the Pac-10
- 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 2001, 2003, 2006, 2007

All-Pac-10 Performers14

- Third-Most in the Pac-10

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