



SANTA BARBARA COURT OF CHAMPIONS

KRISTIN KNAPP-COLE | 2017 INDUCTEE



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Kristin Knapp-Cole joined the UT Arlington coaching staff on May 2, 2013. She was promoted to associate head coach in June of 2015. Cole's primary responsibilities include on court coaching with an emphasis on offense, developing the post players, scouting, game scheduling and handling equipment.

Cole has been with the Lady Mavericks for four seasons and helped in UTA's resurgence. UTA finished the 2016-17 season with a 22-9 record and a post-season appearance in the WNIT. UTA won 17 games in the 2014-15 campaign for the largest increase in program history and the best turnaround in NCAA Division I last season. The team finished 8th in the nation and 1st in the Sun Belt in turnovers forced per game.

UTA has earned three consecutive trips to the Sun Belt Conference Championship tournament, and proudly accepted an invitation to the 2015 Women's Preseason National Invitation Tournament with Cole's guidance. The team finished 34th nationally in scoring defense at 56.5 points per game - second in the Sun Belt.

Under her direction, center Rebekah VanDijk led Division I freshmen with 15 double-doubles and was named the 2014-15 Sun Belt Freshman of the Year as well as a second-team all-Sun Belt selection. In 2013-14 Desherra Nwanguma became the first player under the coaching staff to earn an all-conference selection as she was named to the league's second team. In 2016, VanDijk was named to the second team and Cierra Johnson was taken to the third team, the program's third and fourth all-conference picks. In 2016-17 Rebekah VanDijk was named to the first team and Cierra Johnson was Defensive Player of the Year and second team all-conference.

Cole spent one season as the assistant coach under Coach Gerlich at West Texas A&M. While at West Texas A&M, the Lady Buffs compiled a 20-12 record overall and a 14-6 mark in the Lone Star Conference.

Prior to West Texas A&M, Cole had a one-year stint as an assistant coach at The George Washington University, helping the Colonials to an appearance in the Atlantic 10 Tournament.

Prior to George Washington, Cole spent three seasons as the head coach at America East program New Hampshire from 2007-10. Cole was responsible for signing the best recruiting class in UNH women's basketball history.

Cole served as an assistant coach at Xavier (2002-07). During her time with Xavier, Cole coached and recruited several players who helped turn the Musketeers' program into a national power, highlighted by Tara Boothe, XU's all-time leading scorer, and Amber Harris and Ta'Shia Phillips, both of whom were chosen in the Top 10 of the 2011 WNBA Draft. While at Xavier, the Musketeers appeared in two NCAA tournaments and three WNIT post-season tournaments. Xavier also won the 2007 Atlantic 10 Tournament and were the 2005 Atlantic 10 Western Division Champions.

Cole also had stints at Ball State ((2001-02), UNLV (1999-2001) and Auburn University (1996-99). While at Ball State, the Cardinals were MAC Western Division Champions and made it to the WNIT Quarterfinals. Cole coached Tamara Bowie who was a Kodak District All-American and played in the WNBA, as well as overseas. At UNLV, Cole coached former WNBA player Linda Frohlich, an AP All-American and MWC Player of the Year. The Lady Rebels participated in the WNIT in 2001. Cole began her collegiate coaching career at Auburn University. The Lady Tigers went to two NCAA Tournaments and won the 1997 SEC Conference Tournament.

Cole, originally from Santa Barbara, Calif., played collegiately at University of Notre Dame. She made two NCAA Tournament appearances (1992, 1994) with the Fighting Irish, one WNIT appearance (1991), as well as three Midwestern Collegiate Conference championships. Cole won a bronze medal as a participant on the 1991 U.S. Olympic Festival Team and played professionally in Sweden after graduating from Notre Dame.

A four time High School All-American, Cole played at Santa Barbara High School. Playing on two nationally ranked Top 5 teams, Cole became Santa Barbara High Schools all-time leading scorer in 1990 (1,762) and now ranks second on that list. She still holds the all-time rebounding record, single season scoring and rebounding, as well as the single game rebounding record. Cole became a member of the Santa Barbara Athletic Round Table Hall of Fame in 2001. Cole had her jersey retired at SBHS in December 2014, she is one of only 2 women to have their jerseys retired, the other being Holly Ford-Emerson.

Cole resides in Colleyville and is the proud mother of her 10-year-old son, Kael. She strongly believes her purpose is three fold; serving her Savior Jesus Christ, raising her wonderful son Kael, and positively influencing the lives of the young women she is fortunate to coach.

I would like to thank my parents; my dad for teaching me the game and inspiring me to coach and my mom for believing in me and always telling me that I could be anything I wanted to be!