

Coaches

The 2003-2004 Montana Coaching Staff



Griz Head Coach Pat Kennedy

the
Pat Kennedy



"Pat brings national credibility and acclaim and is a tribute to the great coaches who have preceded him here at Montana."
--Montana Athletic Director Wayne Hogan

2nd Year at Montana/Overall: 406-293 in 23 Years

Pat Kennedy has been a head coach at the Division I level the past 23 seasons, including 13 post-season appearances, eight in the NCAA Tournament and five N.I.T. bids.

He is now in his second season at Montana, taking the post in April of 2002. Kennedy, 51, who is one of the nation's elite college coaches, is Montana's 24th head coach.

In just over two decades, Kennedy who has an overall record of 406-293, reached the prestigious 400-win plateau last season with a 61-49 home victory over Portland State on January 11, 2003. Earlier in his career, he became only the fourth Division I coach in NCAA history to win 100 games in his first five years as a head coach.

Kennedy came to Montana from DePaul University in Chicago, where he coached from 1998 to 2002. In his second year at DePaul, Kennedy engineered the biggest one season turnaround in school history. After winning seven games in his initial campaign, the Blue Demons finished 18-13 and advanced to the second round of the NIT. The following year, Kennedy had DePaul in the NCAA tournament with a 21-12 mark, the school's first NCAA berth since 1992.

Prior to coming to Chicago, Kennedy spent 11 seasons at Florida State University where he compiled a 202-131 (.607) mark.

In 39 seasons of Seminole basketball prior to Kennedy's arrival in Tallahassee, Florida State had been to the NCAA Tournament just four times. The FSU basketball program had never won a conference championship, regular season or post-season. Just three Seminole players had been selected in the first round of the National Basketball Association's draft. Only seven 20-win seasons dotted Florida State's basketball resume. Only one FSU team had ever made it past the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Kennedy met the challenges of rebuilding head-on and rewrote FSU's basketball history. The Seminoles advanced to the NCAA Tournament five times under Kennedy's guidance. He led his FSU troops to a Metro Conference regular season and post-season title. Five Seminole players were chosen in the opening round of the draft, including a stretch of four straight years.



Experience

Kennedy also led FSU to five 20-win seasons and had two more with 19 victories. The Seminoles advanced to within a game of the Final Four in 1993 after going to the Sweet 16 the previous season.

FSU drew more than 100,000 fans for the first time ever in his first season and repeated the feat in all but two of his seasons. In 1992-93, FSU set new school records for average and total attendance.

In his last season at FSU in 1996-97, Kennedy guided the Seminoles to a 20-12 record and a return to post-season play. The Seminoles advanced to the championship game of the NIT tournament before falling to Michigan. In 1992-93, FSU finished just one win away from a trip to the Final Four after losing to Kentucky in the Southeast Regional final.

Kennedy's most amazing feat as a coach may have been during the 1991-92 season, FSU's first in the ACC. That season the Seminoles had six league road wins, including a stunning victory at North Carolina in its league opener and finished 11-5; good enough for second place behind eventual national champion Duke. That team advanced to the Sweet 16.

Kennedy's penchant for rebuilding jobs began in the Big Apple when he spent six years as the head coach at Iona. In his tenure with the Gaels, Kennedy led them to four 20-win seasons, two trips to the NCAA Tournament and a pair of NIT appearances. He got the Iona job after Jim Valvano departed for North Carolina State.

Kennedy was an assistant coach at Lehigh in 1977. He joined Valvano's staff at Iona in 1978 and spent the next two seasons there before getting the

top job after the 1979-80 season.

Kennedy currently serves on the prestigious National Association of Basketball Coaches Board of Directors and is second in line for the presidency of that organization.

He attended Kings College in Wilkes-Barre, Penn., on a basketball scholarship. After two years as a

player, while boarding the team bus for a game at the Palestra in Philadelphia, his coach asked him "to scout the next two opponents tonight, here are the tickets and directions." With that Kennedy's career changed completely. He became head junior varsity coach, finishing the year with a 17-4 record. He was elevated to the school's top varsity assistant coach as a senior.



Pat Kennedy



Coach Kennedy Year-by-Year:

Year	School	W-L	Pct.	Post-season
1980-81	Iona	15-14	.517	
1981-82	Iona	24-9	.727	NIT First Round
1982-83	Iona	22-9	.710	NIT Second Round
1983-84	Iona	23-8	.742	NCAA First Round
1984-85	Iona	26-5	.839	NCAA First Round
1985-86	Iona	14-15	.482	
IONA/6 Yrs.			124-60	.674
1986-87	Florida State	19-11	.633	NIT Second Round
1987-88	Florida State	19-11	.633	NCAA First Round
1988-89	Florida State	22-8	.733	NCAA First Round
1989-90	Florida State	16-15	.516	
1990-91	Florida State	21-11	.656	NCAA Second Round
1991-92	Florida State	22-10	.687	NCAA Sweet 16
1992-93	Florida State	25-10	.714	NCAA Elite Eight
1993-94	Florida State	13-14	.481	
1994-95	Florida State	12-15	.444	
1995-96	Florida State	13-14	.481	
1996-97	Florida State	20-12	.625	NIT Finals
FLORIDA ST./11 Yrs.			202-131	.607
1997-98	DePaul	7-23	.233	
1998-99	DePaul	18-13	.580	NIT Second Round
1999-00	DePaul	21-12	.636	NCAA First Round
2000-01	DePaul	12-18	.400	
2001-02	DePaul	9-19	.321	
DEPAUL/5 Yrs.			67-85	.441
2002-03	Montana	13-17	.433	
23-YEAR CAREER TOTAL:			406-293	(.581)

In addition to his youth camps throughout the Chicago area, Kennedy has served as the state of Florida's honorary chairman for the Special Olympics. In 1984, while at Iona, he was named Special Olympics' Man of the Year. Pat makes frequent appearances on radio and television talk shows both in the Windy City and across the country.

A native of Keyport, New Jersey, Pat and his wife Jeannie have three children: son Joey, 19, and two daughters, Kimberly, 15, and Kathryn, 10.



Kennedy family left to right: Joey, Kimberly, Jeannie, Kathryn and Pat

Wayne Tinkle

Wayne is in his third season as an assistant coach at The University of Montana.

He had been a Grizzly assistant coach for one season prior to Pat Kennedy becoming Montana's head coach and was retained by Kennedy.

"Wayne was a very big key for my decision to come to Montana," said Griz Head Coach Pat Kennedy. "You couldn't ask for a better representative of your program or of your University. He is an extremely popular figure within the state of Montana.

"He is also very well known in basketball circles because he played after college at the professional level both here and overseas," Kennedy said. "I think he has a very bright future. He knows the game. Wayne does a great job in individual instruction. He is extremely organized,

very motivated, and extremely competitive.

"Tinks" played for the Grizzlies from 1985-89 and was a three-time Big Sky Conference all-league selection from his sophomore through his senior seasons. He is ranked fourth in Montana history in points and rebounds with 1,500 points and 836 rebounds. He is ranked 13th in Big Sky history in rebounding, and he's 23rd in scoring.

After Wayne left UM he advanced on to the professional ranks and played at that level for 12 seasons, retiring last year.

He was Montana's Carl Dragstedt Award (MVP) winner in 1988 and 1989. His senior year he averaged 17.1 points a game, the eighth most in a single season at UM. He was named the MVP of UM's Holiday Classic Tournament in 1988.

Following his senior year he signed



a free agent contract with the Seattle Supersonics. He was released by the Sonics at the end of the preseason and played in the Continental Basketball League in Topeka, Kansas, and finished the year playing in Venezuela.

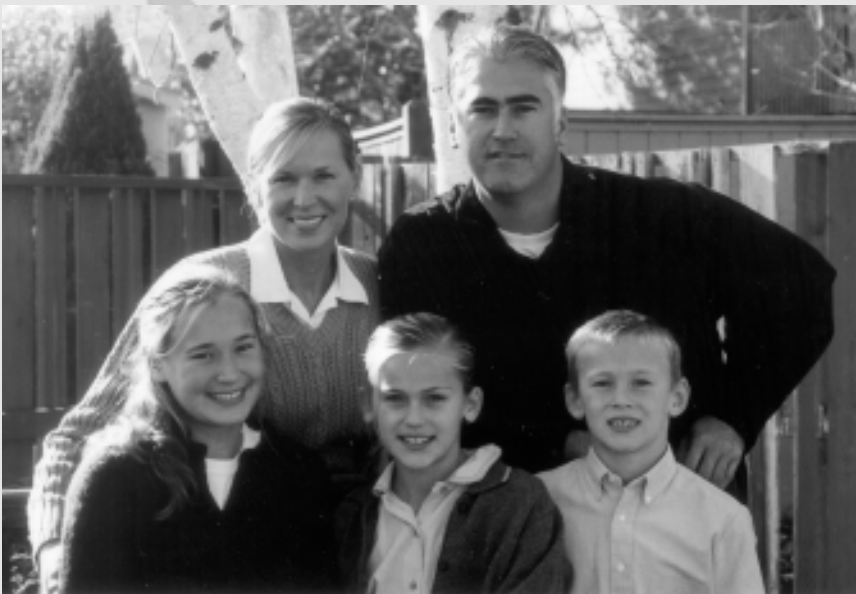
During his career he has played in the CBA, as well as in Sweden, Spain, Italy, and Greece.

Tinkle's most recent professional stint was for two different teams in Spain from 1997-99, where he ranked among the league's top scorers and rebounders.

He missed the 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 seasons with injuries and retired after playing briefly in the IBL in Las Vegas.

Wayne was born in Milwaukee, Wis., and is the youngest of 11 children (seven girls and four boys). He is a 1984 graduate of Ferris High School in Spokane, Wash.

He married former Lady Griz star Lisa McLeod in August 1989. They have three children, daughters Joslyn, 12 and Elleson, 10, and son Tres, 7.



The Tinkle family, Lisa and Wayne, Joslyn, Elleson, and Tres

Brian Marso



Brian Marso (Pronounced: Mar-Soe) is in his initial season as an assistant men's basketball coach at The University of Montana.

Marso, 30, has had unprecedented success as the head basketball coach at Sheridan College in Wyoming the previous four seasons, going 116-17 for a winning percentage of .872.

Last year the Generals went 30-2 and finished the season ranked ninth in the nation and went 10-0 en route to the Wyoming Conference championship. His four-year record in league games was 32-2.

"Brian brings a wealth of talent to the program," said Montana Head Coach Pat Kennedy. "He is one of the most successful junior college coaches in the country, but the real positive thing about his coaching at the junior college level is that he's been involved in all of the things that you have to do at the Division I level. He's been involved in recruiting, academics, coaching, and administration.

"His record of 116-17 speaks for itself," Kennedy said. "He's a really outstanding addition to our staff."

Sheridan's record and national ranking the past four seasons are: 30-2 (ninth) 29-7 (17th), 27-6 (20th), and 30-2 (ninth). Marso was selected the Region IX men's "Coach of the Year" following the 2003 and 2000 seasons and was nominated in 2001. He was named the conference "Coach of the Year" in 1999, 2000, and 2003.

Prior to coaching the men's team at Sheridan, Marso was the mentor of the women's team in 1998-99. That season his squad went 28-10, was the Region IX champion, and advanced to the national finals in Salina, Kansas. He was chosen District IX "Coach of the Year" after that season.

From 1996-98 he served as an assistant men's hoop coach and fundraising and academic coordinator for the Generals.

He coached six All-Americans during his five-year stint as a head coach.

Marso earned his bachelor of science degree at the University of Maryland in 1996.

A native of Gillette, Wyoming, Brian is single.

"This is an area that I am looking forward to being in, and having a chance to work under coach Kennedy is a great opportunity," Marso said. "I am very excited to make this move and jump in with both feet, and continue to learn and gain experience with a great head coach here at The University of Montana.

"One of the things we did at Sheridan was just get players, no matter where they're from," Marso said. "We've got great ties along the East Coast, in Texas, and in the upper Midwest. If there are players somewhere, we're going to go get them.

We need to cover our bases here in the state of Montana and the Northwest," Marso continued, "but we want to get the best players we can to enhance the program. We want student-athletes who fit into what we're trying to do."



Rodney McConnell

Rodney McConnell begins his second season as an assistant coach at The University of Montana.

“Rodney is clearly one of the young, up-and-coming coaches in our business,” said Griz Head Coach Pat Kennedy. “Out of a large list of candidates he rose to the top. He has an extremely bright future. At a young age he’s done a great job for himself academically, as he already possesses his master’s degree.

“He is incredibly well-rounded for a young coach,” Kennedy said. “He’s very good in dealing with the players and really understands his X’s and O’s. He’s going to become an outstanding recruiter. I like the idea of having two young coaches with the potential of both Rodney and Rob (Norris).”

McConnell came to Montana from his alma mater, Tarleton State University, where he served as an assistant coach two seasons ago. Prior to that he was an assistant coach for two years at Hill Junior College in Hillsboro, Texas.

While at Tarleton State he served as a Microsoft Computer programming instructor. At Hill JC he taught weight training, as well as conditioning and fitness.

He earned a B.S. degree in exercise and sports studies in August of 2000 from Tarleton State and received his Master’s Degree in physical education from there in May of 2002. He maintained a 3.5 GPA in college.

He attended Blinn Junior College in Brenham, Texas, for two years. While there he was twice named to the All-



Texas Eastern Athletic Conference team.

McConnell prepped at Hattiesburg High School in Mississippi, where he was a two-time all-state pick. He is ranked third in school history at Hattiesburg HS during his three-year varsity career there.

He is single.

“I’m very excited and thankful for the opportunity here at The University of Montana,” McConnell said. “I feel that Coach Kennedy is a great person to work for, which will lead to a bright and successful future for the University and for myself as well. Coach Kennedy is definitely a teacher of the game, as well as a professional businessman.”



Rob Norris



"Rob did a great job for me at DePaul, and we are very fortunate and excited that we could lure him to The University of Montana."
 -- Head Coach Pat Kennedy

Norris is in his second season as an assistant coach at The University of Montana.

He had worked for Griz Head Coach Pat Kennedy at DePaul University, where he served as the team's video coordinator two years ago. Prior to that he was in the commodities business, and before that he was an assistant coach at his high school alma mater.

"Rob did a great job for me at DePaul, and we are very fortunate and excited that we could lure him here to The University of Montana," Kennedy said. "I've got eight coaches now who are Division I head coaches, and I see Rob as a guy who has the potential to be a quality Division I head coach."

"He's an intense competitor and has a keen knowledge of the game for a young guy," Kennedy said. "He's the one individual who I brought from my other staff. It's nice to have someone with you who knows you from your other program."

He had a short stint playing professional basketball with the Mickey Walker All-Stars (AAU) and Team Fokus in Upstate New York. That team played high and mid-major college programs in exhibition games.

He moved to Chicago to become a commodities option trader at the Chicago Board of Option. He said that he missed basketball and after working one year in the stock market he took a job with Coach Kennedy at DePaul.

He played collegiate basketball for two seasons at Fairleigh Dickenson College in Teaneck, NJ, where he was first team "All-New Comer" in the Northeast Conference as a freshman.

He then attended Indiana University in Pennsylvania, where his senior team went 22-5, and the team had the third best winning record percentage (81.5%) in school history. He was team captain his senior season.

During his college career, Norris had more than 1,000 points, 400 assists, and 400 rebounds.

Rob prepped at McQuaid Jesuit High School in Rochester, New York, a program consistently ranked among the top 25 in the nation. At McQuaid he was a two-time Section 5 state champion. His senior year he was selected to the Class "A" all-state team and was an All-Greater Rochester pick as well.

He was an assistant coach at his high school for about six months before he took the position in Chicago.

He earned a B.A. in history/Pre-law at Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1999.

Rob is single.



Basketball Managers



Jordan Cramer
Head Manager



Lacey Kimball
Asst. Manager