

Arkansas Basketball

1985

Nolan Richardson named coach at Arkansas

1990

Razorbacks' sweep of Texas secures berth in Final Four

1992

Arkansas Whips Mighty Kentucky
Hogs win 105-88 in Wildcats' house

1994

Arkansas Wins NCAA Title

1995

Arkansas delivers
Defending champs oust Virginia, return to Final 4

1997

Nolan Wins 400th

Arkansas All-Time Coaching Victories		
Coach	Years	Wins
Glen Rose (1933-42, 52-66)	23	325
Nolan Richardson (1985-Present)	13	314
Eddie Sutton (1974-85)	11	260
Francis Schmidt (1923-29)	6	113
Eugene Lambert (1942-49)	7	113

1998-99 Media Guide

SEC
Champions

1
9
9
4

SEC
West
Division
Champions

1
9
9
4

NOLAN RICHARDSON

Nolan Richardson never runs out of goals. They drive him. When he reaches one goal, he immediately sets his focus on the next one. Win a big game, he wants to win the next game. Win a conference championship, he wants a trip to the Final Four. Advance to the Final Four, he wants to win the national championship. Win a national championship, he wants to win another. Contentment and complacency are not a part of his vocabulary.

In his 14th year as head coach at Arkansas, Richardson is about to achieve another goal. It's substantial. He admits it means something to him but figures he will enjoy it more when he someday retires. Sometime this year he will become the winningest coach in Razorback history. He needs just 12 more victories to pass Glen Rose.

Richardson says longevity has a lot to do with the record. There is some truth to that. However, it took Rose 23 years to earn 325 wins. If Richardson spends 23 years at Arkansas and continues to win 24 games per year, his average during his first 13 seasons, he would have 554 victories with the Razorbacks.

Richardson also credits his players, as any coach would and should. However, he not only has recruited, taught and motivated the last 13 teams at Arkansas, he's won at times with athletes who weren't as skilled as the opposition. Even his national championship team of 1994 had just one player, Corliss Williamson, who was drafted and has played in the NBA. Last year the Hogs had one of the poorest shooting teams in school history but somehow won 24 games and came within an eyelash of advancing to the NCAA Sweet Sixteen.

Richardson credits Razorback fans. He thinks they are the best in the country. Hog supporters make Bud Walton Arena one of the greatest, if not THE greatest, home court advantages in college basketball. There's certainly truth to that but Richardson has given Arkansas fans a style of play that is conducive to exciting the audience. It's difficult to sit in your seat while the Hogs are racing

up and down the court at such a frantic, though controlled, pace.

The bottom line is much of Richardson's assault on the Arkansas career record should be credited to the man himself. He's persevered through some difficult times, he's never backed down from a challenge and he has exhorted his players to play at an incredibly high level of intensity for 40 minutes every time they take the court. He is the total package. He teaches a system that is more complicated than most, he recruits athletes that fit his system whether they are on any recruiting guru's top 50 list or not and he motivates his players to compete as if the game they are playing could be their last.

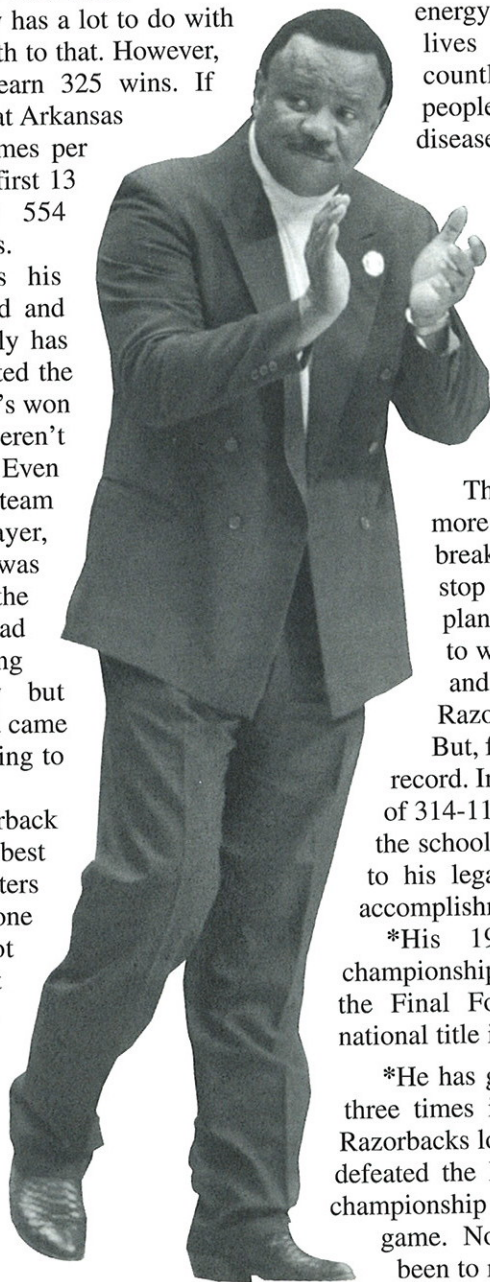
He is also immensely popular in Arkansas. He has won with integrity, style, grace and energy and he has touched thousands of lives along the way. He's made countless phone calls and visits to people suffering from cancer and other diseases. He's given many hours of his time to charity work. He lends his name to causes he believes in. He loves spending time with people. Long after his athletes have left Bud Walton Arena after a game and after he has completed his media obligations, he will sign autographs until the last fan is satisfied.

The longer he stays at Arkansas, the more he likes it. That's why he will break the record this year but won't stop there. He still loves coaching and plans to do it for a while. He still burns to win another national championship and plans to win one leading the Razorbacks.

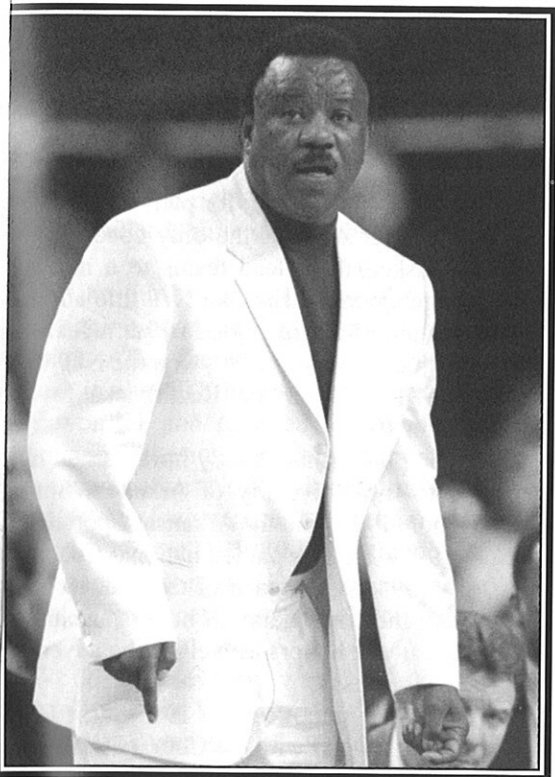
But, first things first. Back to the school record. In 13 years Richardson has a record of 314-118 with the Razorbacks. Becoming the school's winningest coach will only add to his legacy at Fayetteville. Consider his accomplishments:

*His 1994 team won the national championship, defeating Arizona and Duke at the Final Four. It was the first basketball national title in school history.

*He has guided the Hogs to the Final Four three times in the decade of the 1990s. The Razorbacks lost to Duke in the 1990 semifinals, defeated the Blue Devils for the 1994 NCAA championship and lost to UCLA in the 1995 title game. No previous Razorback coach had been to more than one Final Four.



NOLAN RICHARDSON



difficult to teach and execute but extremely effective when it all comes together.

"I'm a player's coach, not a coach's coach," Richardson says. "Our entire foundation is based on teaching players to make decisions. We want our athletes to use their God-given abilities without taking them away. We don't call our system run-and-gun. It's run-and-execute."

Richardson developed his own structure because he was never an assistant coach. He learned defense from Don Haskins while playing at Texas-El Paso and liked what he saw of John Wooden's offenses and defenses when UCLA was ruling college basketball. However, he didn't imitate Haskins or Wooden in total philosophy. His system doesn't appear in any textbook. His unorthodox style makes his teams difficult to prepare for.

He likes it that way. Richardson enjoys being unpredictable. He doesn't want anyone to have any idea what he may do next. That's why the game remains fresh and challenging to him after all the years he has put into it. He still feels as challenged today as he did when he took his first head coaching job at Bowie High School in El Paso. His standards were high then. They still are today.

It was Richardson's high standards that attracted the interest of Razorback athletic director Frank Broyles when he was looking for a coach in the spring of 1985. Broyles had heard nothing but rave reviews about Richardson's accomplishments in basketball and in the community while he was head coach at Tulsa. Luring Richardson to Arkansas was one of Broyles' best decisions in his incredible tenure with the Razorbacks.

In fact, while watching Arkansas practice before taking on Loyola-Marymount in the first round of the 1989 NCAA Tournament, Broyles said, "The way Nolan coaches and his style of play are the wave of the future. He will be the coach of the '90s in college basketball." Broyles' vision was prophetic.

Richardson and Arkansas have been a good match. Yes, there were some struggles early and Richardson believes he's taken some unfair shots in recent years but not from Razorback fans, who were waiting for a coach to lead them to the next level. Richardson was glad to come to a program where the highest level could be achieved.

"We struggled during the first two years personally and on the court," says Richardson. "Looking back, though, we were very close to winning even in the first year. We lost a heckuva lot of close games. We improved the second year and it's been wonderful since. At a point when we were really struggling, Ken Hatfield, who was football coach here at the time, told me once we

*His record in NCAA Tournament games while at Arkansas is a stunning 25-9 (.735). No other Razorback coach ever has won more than 10 NCAA Tournament contests. The Hogs are 16-4 (.800) in the last five NCAA Tournaments they've played in.

*Arkansas won a championship ring in seven consecutive seasons from 1989-95. That included three Southwest Conference titles (1989, 1990, 1991), two Southeastern Conference championships (1992, 1994) and four SEC Western Division crowns (1992, 1993, 1994, 1995).

*Not only is he about to become Arkansas' winningest all-time coach in total victories, his average of 24.2 triumphs-per-season is the best ever by a Razorback mentor.

*He has earned 433 victories in 18 years as a major college head coach.

*During the decade of the 1990s his teams have won 237 games, fourth highest in college basketball. Arkansas' record during the current decade is 237-72 for a percentage of .767.

*His current winning percentage of .736 ranks fifth among active Division-I head coaches.

In a sport that normally is easy to diagram with Xs and Os on a blackboard, Richardson has made his mark with a unique style of attacking defense and up-tempo offense that is difficult to define. It is all based on decision making by his players. It is

SWC
Champions

1
9
9
1

NCAA
Elite
Eight

1
9
9
1

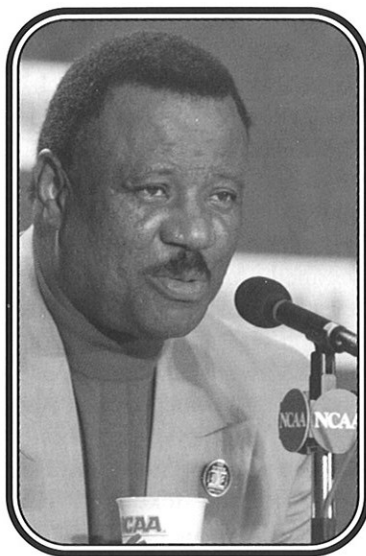
NCAA
Tournament

1
9
9
8

NCAA
Sweet
Sixteen

1
9
9
6

NOLAN RICHARDSON



got the program going the people of Arkansas would appreciate what we did more than any fans at any other school ever would.

“He was right. When I visit Razorback Clubs, the people are happy and proud of what we’ve done. I don’t

know of any other

job that could duplicate the feeling that exists in Arkansas. I wouldn’t want another job in college basketball.

“In fact, when my coaching career is over I plan to live in Arkansas. We love the community, the land we live on and the people we know. I feel more at home here than I have anywhere since leaving El Paso. It’s the same with my wife, Rose. The 13 years we have spent here have gone by very quickly.”

Time does go quickly. It doesn’t seem long ago that Arkansas was dominating the Southwest Conference while selling out 9,000-seat Barnhill Arena. However, this is the eighth year for the Razorbacks to compete in the SEC and the sixth season for the spectacular 19,200-seat Bud Walton Arena, a facility made possible because of Richardson’s incredible success, Broyles’ vision and a gift from Bud Walton.

Richardson’s style made selling the additional seats at Bud Walton Arena an easy task. It also has made him popular not only in Arkansas but nearly everywhere he goes. The national television attention Richardson’s teams have received has made him a recognizable celebrity. He can’t go through an airport without being asked for an autograph. He doesn’t mind. He is a giver in every sense of the word, whether it is to his profession or to his community.

Communities have responded to his generosity. A youth center in Fayetteville was named after his daughter and a middle school in El Paso was named after him when it opened this past year. He attended the opening of the El Paso school and called it “one of the highest honors of my life.”

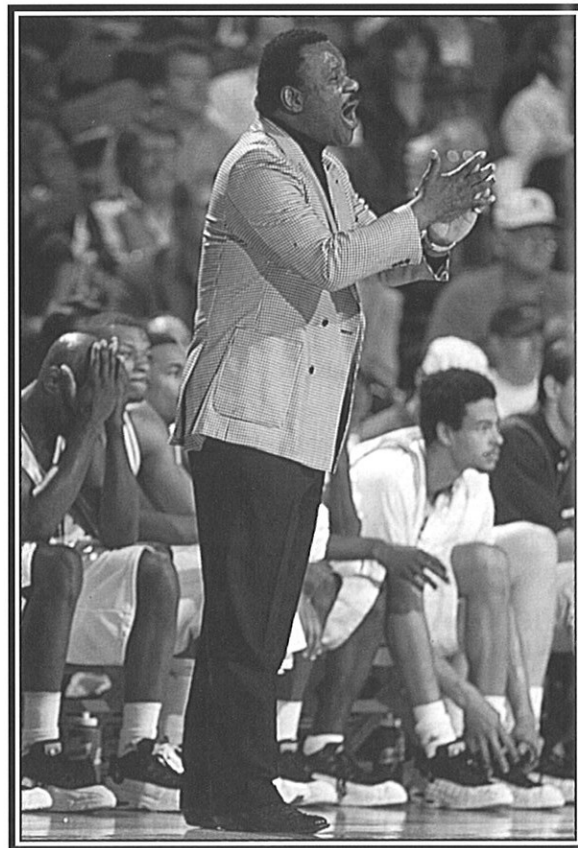
He also is grateful for being head coach at Arkansas. “I’m proud of this state for the opportunity it gave me. I’m always happy to help people when I can. It’s wonderful so many people

come together because of their love of the Razorbacks.”

Of course, Richardson has helped bring people together as they have celebrated the success of the Razorbacks. The record he has compiled should eventually land him a spot in the Basketball Hall of Fame. He deserves the honor for plenty of reasons but first and foremost he’s the only coach in the history of basketball to lead teams to a national junior college championship, an NIT title and the NCAA championship. He guided Western Texas to the national juco crown in 1980, won the NIT with Tulsa in 1981 and led the Razorbacks to the NCAA title in 1994.

His accomplishments already have earned him entrance into the University of Arkansas Sports Hall of Honor (1996) and the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame (1998). He was named national Coach of the Year in 1994, SEC Coach of the Year in 1998 and no doubt there are plenty of honors ahead. He has handled all the honors as well as the adversity with incredible class.

It has not gone unnoticed. In 1995 at the Final Four he was presented with the Courage Award by the United States Basketball Writers. It is the highest honor the group gives. The presentation reduced him to tears as he watched a video that chronicled his life from its beginning in El Paso through the national championship season. Included was a segment on the loss of his



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daughter, Yvonne, to leukemia during his second year at Arkansas.

While Nolan and Rose may never get over the loss of their daughter, Richardson always will remember how Yvonne encouraged him to keep going, to stay in the battle to get the program at Arkansas on the right track. In fact, she's the one who convinced him to take the job in the first place.

By the third year at Fayetteville, Richardson was beginning to be glad he accepted the position. After the Hogs won 19 games and played in the NIT in his second campaign, they won 21 and returned to the NCAA Tournament the next. It began a run of nine consecutive NCAA appearances, equaling the longest streak in school history. From 1989-96 the Razorbacks won at least one NCAA Tournament game each year.

While Ron Huery was Richardson's first big-name recruit, he landed one of the best classes in school history in 1989 when he brought in Todd Day, Lee Mayberry and Oliver Miller, among others. With those three leading the way the Hogs won 25, 30, a school record 34 and 26 games, swept to four league championships and reached the Final Four. The 1990 trip to the Final Four was Arkansas' first since 1978. Perhaps the most amazing accomplishment of the era, though, was winning the SEC outright in 1992, the Razorbacks' first year in the league. The Hogs were a target of every rival after having won their last three SWC titles before making the move. Arkansas signaled its arrival into the SEC with a convincing victory at Kentucky that season.

Once Mayberry, Day and Miller were gone, Richardson reloaded with Corliss Williamson, Scotty Thurman, Corey Beck, Dwight Stewart and Clint McDaniel, among others. That group produced seasons with 22, 31 and 32 victories. The 1994 team won the national championship and the '95 squad reached the NCAA title game before losing to UCLA.

Richardson brought in another bumper crop in 1996 but was stunned when an NCAA inquiry questioned the eligibility of Sunday Adebayo. For

16 months the Razorback program was under intense scrutiny and when it was over most of the NCAA charges were dropped. The Hogs did not receive a single NCAA penalty. However, two recruiting years were damaged and after a miraculous trip to the 1996 Sweet Sixteen, the Razorbacks missed the NCAA Tournament for the first time in 10 seasons in 1997. They did go to the NIT, though, and won three games before losing in the semifinals at New York City.

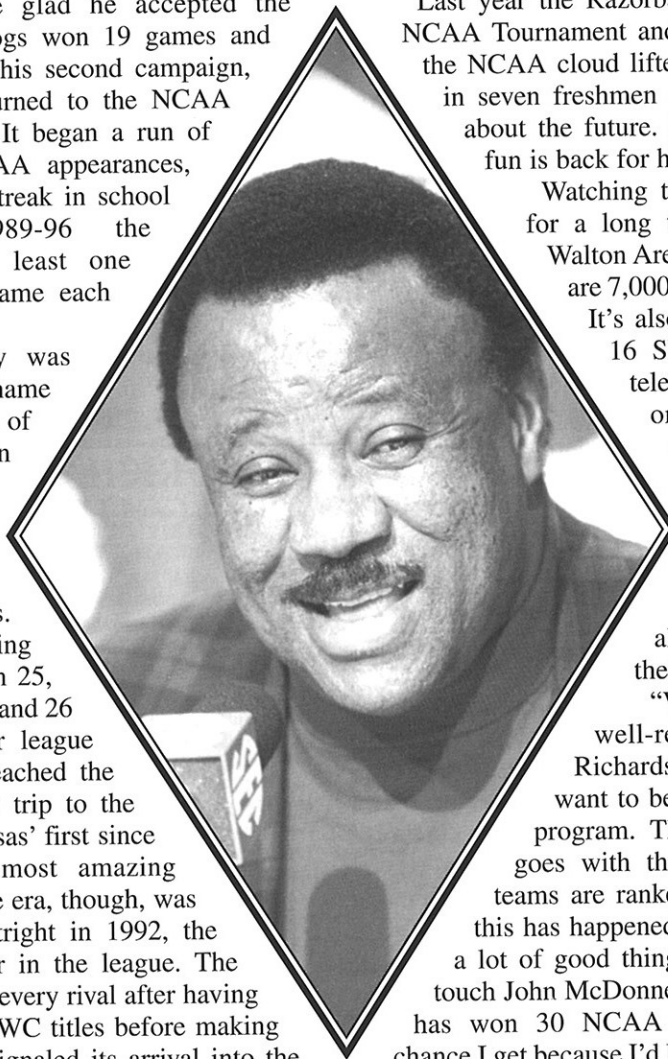
Last year the Razorbacks were back in the NCAA Tournament and won 24 games. With the NCAA cloud lifted, Richardson brought in seven freshmen who have him excited about the future. Richardson figures the fun is back for his program.

Watching the Hogs has been fun for a long time. That's why Bud Walton Arena is sold out and there are 7,000 fans on the waiting list.

It's also why 12 of Arkansas' 16 SEC games will be on television as will all but one non-conference contest. The Hogs are CBS and ESPN regulars. They are also regulars in the top 25. Several pre-season magazines already have Arkansas in their top 15 for 1999.

"We're obviously a well-recognized program," Richardson says. "We always want to be thought of as a top-10 program. There is a pressure that goes with that but the really good teams are ranked every year. I'm glad this has happened at Arkansas. There are a lot of good things going here. In fact I touch John McDonnell (UA track coach who has won 30 NCAA championships) every chance I get because I'd like a little of his success to rub off on me. Our football program is exciting again with Houston Nutt as coach. We have a fabulous new baseball park and our golf and tennis programs are strong. It's a great tribute to Coach Broyles. There is not another athletic director like him."

And there's not another basketball coach like Nolan. The interest he has created has been staggering. There is year around attention paid to Razorback basketball. All summer Hog followers want to know who will be the new starting lineup, interest in fall recruiting is hot, preseason workouts bring eager anticipation and the season



NCAA
Tournament

1
9
9
2

SEC
West
Division
Champions

1
9
9
2

NOLAN RICHARDSON

NCAA
Final
Four

1
9
9
0

SWC
Champions

1
9
9
0

itself never seems to last long enough. Then it's spring recruiting and back to summer conversations again. Appetites for news about Razorback basketball are never satisfied.

Richardson's players appreciate him, too. They know he will stand with them through difficult times. He can stick with them through adversity

"The way Nolan coaches and his style of play are the wave of the future. He will be the coach of the '90s in college basketball."

-Frank Broyles during the 1989 NCAA Tournament

because he's been through so much himself. They also know they'll play. Richardson likes to play 10 or 11 players regularly.

"We always play a lot of people," Richardson says. "We come at our opponents with fresh players. When our recruits look at statistics, they can see how many players we use in a game and how many minutes they play. It's a positive for us. Besides, Vince Lombardi used to say, 'Fatigue makes cowards of us all.' We want the other team to be fatigued, not us."

Richardson has been appreciated wherever he's been. He was a community hero at Tulsa where he became the first coach to lead his team to 50 victories in his first two seasons at the major college level. The Hurricane finished 26-7 and won the NIT championship in his initial season. His second squad was 24-6 and played in the NCAA Tournament. His best team at Tulsa was 27-4 with an NCAA Tournament appearance.

He became as popular for his polka dot attire as he was for his victories while coaching the Hurricane. Tulsa fans couldn't wait to see which dots Richardson had on when he came out of the locker room for each game. Before his arrival, Tulsa's program was noted more for empty seats than fans in the stands. By mid-season of his first year there, Hurricane basketball tickets became the hottest items in town.

His career didn't begin at Tulsa. In 10 years as head coach at Bowie High, he compiled a 10-year record of 190-80. Three times he was named Coach of the Year. Since then he has been inducted into the El Paso Hall of Fame and has been named an outstanding alumni of Bowie, where he was an excellent multi-sport letterman as well.

He left Bowie to become head coach at Western Texas Junior College and his reputation for winning communities and basketball games with class and enthusiasm began to spread. In three years at the Snyder, Texas school he built an

incredible 101-14 record, took his team to three national junior college tournaments and won the national juco crown with a 37-0 team in his final season. After giving tickets away to community businesses before his first year, Richardson had fans begging for seats soon thereafter.

Richardson was a standout athlete before going into coaching. He starred at Bowie, then earned all-conference honors at Eastern Arizona Junior College as a freshman. He transferred to Texas-El Paso where he was a three-year starter. He averaged 23 points per game as a sophomore. Before his junior season UTEP hired Haskins and Richardson became a smothering defender. He never has forgotten the defensive lessons.

A 1963 graduate of UTEP, Richardson had brief tryouts with the San Diego Chargers of the American Football League and the Dallas Chaparrals of the American Basketball Association before going into coaching.

Born Dec. 27, 1941, Richardson and his wife, Rose, have three grown children, Madalyn, Bradley and Nolan III, a member of Arkansas' coaching staff. Richardson is a superb golfer.

NOLAN RICHARDSON'S MAJOR COLLEGE RECORD

Career Record: 433-155 (.736), 18 years

Record at Arkansas: 314-118 (.727), 13 years

Total NCAA Appearances: 13 (25-12 / .676)

Arkansas NCAA Appearances: 10 (25-9 / .735)

NCAA Championships: 1, 1994

NCAA Final Four Appearances: 3, 1990, 1994, 1995

NIT Appearances: 4 (2 at Arkansas)

1981	Tulsa	26	7	.788	NIT Champs
1982	Tulsa	24	6	.800	NCAA
1983	Tulsa	19	12	.613	NIT
1984	Tulsa	27	4	.871	NCAA
1985	Tulsa	23	8	.742	NCAA
1986	Arkansas	12	16	.429	—
1987	Arkansas	19	14	.576	NIT
1988	Arkansas	21	9	.700	NCAA
1989	Arkansas	25	7	.781	NCAA
1990	Arkansas	30	5	.857	NCAA (Final Four)
1991	Arkansas	34	4	.895	NCAA (Elite Eight)
1992	Arkansas	26	8	.765	NCAA
1993	Arkansas	22	9	.710	NCAA (Sweet Sixteen)
1994	Arkansas	31	3	.912	NCAA Champs
1995	Arkansas	32	7	.846	NCAA Runners-Up
1996	Arkansas	20	13	.606	NCAA (Sweet Sixteen)
1997	Arkansas	18	14	.563	NIT
1998	Arkansas	24	9	.727	NCAA
Total		433	155	.736	

League Championships: 1989 Southwest Conference, 1990 Southwest Conference, 1991 Southwest Conference, 1992 Southeastern Conference, 1994 Southeastern Conference.

Division Championships: 1992 SEC West, 1993 SEC West, 1994 SEC West, 1995 SEC West.

National Coach of the Year: 1994.

Conference Coach of the Year: 1990 SWC, 1991 SWC, 1998 SEC

NOLAN RICHARDSON'S WESTERN TEXAS JC RECORD

1978	WTJC	29	9	.763	National JC Tourney
1979	WTJC	35	5	.875	National JC Tourney
1980	WTJC	37	0	1.000	National JC Champs

Total (3 years) 101 14 .878