



Carla TAYLOR

HEAD COACH
22nd Season



In 21 seasons as head coach Taylor has been through it all with the Wildcats. She has coached Weber State against 96 different schools during her tenure and has coached WSU in games in 23 different states. She has coached the most games against Eastern Washington, Montana, and Northern Arizona, all of which she has faced 45 times during her career with the Wildcats.

Carla Taylor's (CT) loyalties to Weber State began when she signed her letter of intent to play for the Wildcats and continued as she was hired as one of the youngest head coaches in Division I at the age of 26 in 1988.

Taylor was a player and two-time team captain from 1980-84. She was a four-year starter and averaged 10.5 points, 3.8 rebounds, and 2.8 assists per game, despite having two ACL reconstructive knee surgeries during her playing career.

She was a member of the 1982 Wildcat team that competed in the Women's National Invitational Tournament (WNIT). CT currently ranks 12th among the all-time scoring leaders at Weber State with 1,122 career points. She is also ninth all-time in assists with 301 in her career for an average of 2.81 per game. In 1984, Taylor was the Gold Watch recipient for the Senior Female Outstanding Career Award at Weber State.

Not only was Taylor a team captain for the wom-

Off the court with Carla...

Birthdate: April 29, 1961
Birthplace: LaGrande, Oregon
Alma Mater: Weber State '84
Dream vacation: Attend the Olympics
Craziest ambition: Own a guided fly-fishing company in Montana
I would most like to have dinner with: Barbara Streisand
In 20 years I plan to be: Retired and traveling the world
Last book I read: The Last Lecture
Favorite food: Sushi
Favorite movie: On Golden Pond
Favorite TV Show: Oprah
Favorite sports teams: Weber State Wildcats
CD I'm listening to now: Madonna
My best basketball memory: Finally winning a Big Sky Championship and cutting down the nets.
Before each game I like to: Have time to myself
When I'm not coaching I'm most likely: Riding my bike.
What I like best about coaching at WSU: The challenge...I love to be challenged. And of course, the players.
One word that best describes me when I'm coaching: Intense
One word that best describes me OFF the court: F.U.N.

The 2009-10 season will mark the 22nd season for Carla Taylor as the head coach of the Weber State women's basketball program. Taylor has been associated with the Wildcat women's basketball team for over 26 years as a player and coach. She has the second-most wins among coaches in Big Sky history and has produced 23 All-Big Sky First Team selections and five District 7 Kodak All-Americans. In 21 seasons as head coach Taylor has amassed a career record of 292-300 at Weber State. She is 174-144 all-time in Big Sky Conference games. Heading into this season she has coached the Wildcats in 592 games.

In 2008-09, the Wildcats went 10-19 overall and 5-11 in the Big Sky Conference. The Wildcats finished league play in a tie for seventh and outside the conference tournament for the second-straight year.

Prior to 2007-08, the Wildcats had strung together 12-straight appearances in the Big Sky Tournament and had advanced to the championship game in four of the previous six years.

en's basketball team, she was also a member of the Wildcat track and field team. As a track and field athlete, Taylor qualified for, and competed in, the javelin at the 1982 NCAA Division II Track and Field Championship held in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Taylor's success did not end with her playing career. In fact, it was just beginning. Prior to becoming the head coach at Weber State, she



Carla Taylor's Coaching Highlights

Three-time Big Sky Coach of the Year (1996, 2002, 2003)
District VII Coach of the Year (2001-02)
13 Big Sky Conference Tournament appearances
12-straight Big Sky Conference Tournament appearances (1996-2007)
Career record 292-300
Career Big Sky Conference record 174-144

Overall Accomplishments

129 Academic All-Conference Performers
39 All-Conference Performers
7 Top 25 WBCA National Top 25 Team GPA rankings
5 Kodak All-Region Performers
3 20-plus win seasons
2 Big Sky Conference Championships
2 NCAA Tournament Appearances



C.T. celebrates following her first Big Sky Championship in 2002.

spent two years at Morgan High School in Morgan, Utah, teaching and coaching volleyball, basketball, and boys and girls track. Following her high school coaching career, Taylor spent a year at the University of Utah as an assistant basketball coach. She had previously spent a year there as a graduate assistant coach following her playing career.

In 1988-89, her first season as head-coach of Weber State, she had the best turnaround record in the nation, finishing with a record of 17-9 and were 10-6 in the Big Sky, finishing in a tie for third and making the Big Sky Conference Tournament. The Wildcats also qualified for post-season play in 1991.

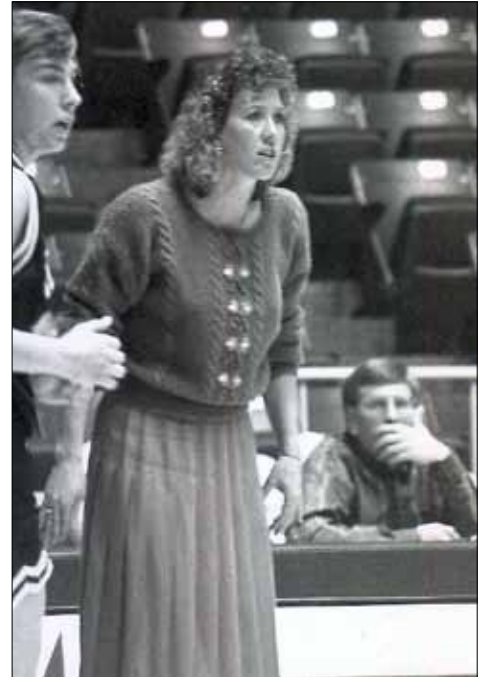
The 1995-96 season marked one of the best in CT's tenure and in the history of Weber State. Taylor was named Big Sky Conference Co-Coach of the Year after leading her team to the Big Sky Championship finals and a 17-12 record. After beating Eastern Washington in the quarterfinals and downing Boise State in overtime in the semifinals, the Wildcats ran out of steam, falling



to Montana in the championship game. In the 1998-99 Big Sky season, the Wildcats looked to take the conference by storm as they won six of their first eight games. They were also being recognized nationally for their stingy team defense that ranked 24th in the nation with a 59 points allowed per game average. The 'Cats finished the season losing five of the final nine conference games including a loss to Montana in the Big Sky Tournament, but showed that they were a team on the rise in the conference.

The 2001-02 season was a season of firsts for Taylor and the 'Cats. They produced the first 20-win season, finishing with a record of 22-9. They also won their first Big Sky regular season championship (tied with Montana State), the first Big Sky Championship, and the first trip for the school to the NCAA tournament, losing to Stanford in the first round. Other firsts for WSU during the year were: First time to host a Big Sky Championship; First time to have a Wildcat player named the Big Sky Most Valuable Player (Stephanie Stanger); and the first time to have a Wildcat named as the Big Sky Tournament MVP (also Stanger).

The 2002-03 season was an encore to the previous year. The Wildcats put together a 19-8 regular season record, including an 11-3 conference record, which netted the team a Big Sky regular season co-championship with Montana State. For the second-straight year the 'Cats hosted the conference tournament, and defeated Eastern Washington and Montana State to post their sec-



ond-straight Big Sky title and another trip to the NCAA tournament where they faced Ohio State.

During the 2003-04 season the Wildcats finished with a 17-11 record last year and were 11-3 in Big Sky Conference action. In 2004-05 the Wildcats again finished with an 11-3 Big Sky regular season record for the fourth straight season. The Wildcats advanced to the tournament final before falling to Montana. Weber State posted a 21-8 overall record, the third best record in school history. The team was led by senior Julie Gjertsen who was named Big Sky Co-MVP.

In 2005-06 Taylor again led the Wildcats to the Big Sky Championship game. Weber State finished with a 15-15 record and a 7-7 conference mark to finish in fifth in the league standings. The 'Cats defeated Eastern Washington in the first round and then defeated host Idaho State in the second round, to become the first team in conference history to defeat the No. 1 seed in the second round of the tournament. The 'Cats fell to Northern Arizona in the championship game but advanced to the title game for the fourth time in the last five years. Also during the season she coached her 500th game at Weber State.

The Wildcats posted a 17-14 overall record during the 2006-07 season. WSU also finished 11-5 in Big Sky play, ending up in a tie for second place in the league standings. The Wildcats started the conference season 6-0, their best conference start in school history.

WSU advanced to their 14th overall appearance and 12th straight appearance at the Big Sky Tournament. The Wildcats beat Portland State in the First Round before losing to eventual tournament champion Idaho State in the Second Round.

Carla Taylor Year-by-Year

YEAR	OVERALL	BIG SKY	FINISH
1988-89	17-9	10-6	t-3rd
1989-90	10-18	6-10	t-6th
1990-91	14-14	10-6	t-3rd
1991-92	12-15	7-9	6th
1992-93	4-22	3-11	7th
1993-94	7-19	6-8	t-4th
1994-95	15-11	5-9	6th
1995-96	17-12	9-5	t-2nd
1996-97	15-13	9-7	5th
1997-98	7-20	7-9	5th
1998-99	11-16	10-6	4th
1999-00	14-15	10-6	4th
2000-01	14-15	9-7	5th
2001-02	22-9	11-3	t-1st
2002-03	21-9	11-3	t-1st
2003-04	17-11	11-3	t-2nd
2004-05	21-8	11-3	2nd
2005-06	15-15	7-7	t-4th
2006-07	17-11	11-5	t-2nd
2007-08	12-16	6-10	t-6th
2008-09	10-19	5-11	t-7th
20 yrs.	292-300	174-144	
	(.493)	(.547)	



C.T. AGAINST ALL OPPONENTS

Air Force2-3	Kansas State0-2	St. Martin's1-0
Arizona0-3	Louisiana Tech0-1	St. Mary's1-2
Arkansas State0-1	Long Beach State0-2	San Diego0-2
Boise State9-14	Loyola Marymount6-0	San Francisco1-1
Boston College1-0	Mercer1-0	San Jose State2-1
Bradley0-2	Mesa State2-0	Southern Illinois0-2
Brigham Young5-15	Miami0-1	Southern Utah6-8
Cal Poly1-1	Michigan1-0	Stanford0-1
Cal Poly Pomona0-2	Minnesota0-1	Tenn.-Chattanooga0-1
Cal State Fullerton1-1	Montana7-40	Texas-Arlington1-0
CS Northridge6-6	Montana State20-25	Texas A&M C-C2-0
Chapman College1-0	Montana Tech1-0	Texas-Pan American2-0
Colorado0-1	MSU-Billings0-1	Texas-San Antonio0-1
Colorado State3-5	Navy1-0	UC Irvine2-0
Delaware1-0	Nebraska0-3	UC Riverside3-0
Denver0-2	Nevada7-2	UC Santa Barbara1-1
Drake0-2	New Mexico0-2	UNLV1-0
Eastern Michigan1-1	New Mexico State1-0	US International1-0
Eastern Montana0-1	North Texas1-1	Utah4-20
Eastern Wash.37-10	Northeastern1-0	Utah State4-1
Elon1-0	No. Arizona28-19	Utah Valley2-2
Florida Atlantic1-0	Northern Colorado4-3	UTEP1-0
Georgia0-1	Northern Iowa1-2	Vanderbilt0-1
Georgia Tech0-1	NW Nazarene2-0	Washington1-0
Gonzaga3-2	Ohio State0-1	Washington State0-3
Grand Canyon1-0	Oklahoma State0-1	West Virginia0-1
Hawaii0-2	Oregon0-3	Western Carolina0-1
Idaho12-8	Pacific1-2	Westminster College1-0
Idaho State23-22	Portland6-2	Wisc.-Milwaukee1-0
Iowa0-2	Portland State15-13	Wyoming6-10
Iowa State1-0	Sacramento State23-3	Youngstown State0-1
James Madison1-0	Saint Louis2-0	
Kansas1-1	St. Joseph's0-1	

advising WSU's administration and athletic department on gender-equity issues, representing the university on Big Sky Conference committees that focus on enhancing opportunities for women in athletics, and being an advocate for women's teams at Weber State.



C.T. prepares to fly in an F-16 at Hill Air Force Base as an Honorary Commander for the 388th Squadron.

As impressive as the Wildcat program has been on the court, it has been equally impressive off of it as well. The team has consistently been named to the WBCA Honor Roll of Top 25 Academic Teams and Taylor has produced 118 Big Sky Academic All-Conference selections.

In January 2005 Taylor was honored as recipient of the Athena Award, a national award program presented by the Women in Business committee of the Ogden/Weber Chamber of Commerce. Off the court, Taylor has served as a basketball clinician throughout the Northwest, and is actively involved in community speaking engagements. She has served as an Honorary Commander for the 388th Equipment Maintenance Squadron at Hill Air Force Base and flew in an F-16 in September 2006.

Taylor has served on the WBCA's prestigious All-American selection committee for three separate terms. She has also served as the Big Sky Conference's representative for two consecutive terms with the WBCA. She recently completed a second term on the Women in Business Executive Board. In 2006 Taylor served as a GOAL (Greater Ogden Athletes Legacy) Foundation member.

A native of North Powder, Oregon, Taylor received her bachelor's degree in Physical Educa-

tion, with minors in Health and History, from Weber State in 1984. In 2007 she was also named as the Senior Women's Administrator at Weber State. In that role Taylor will be responsible for



Carla with her father (right) and WSU Athletic Director Jerry Graybeal at her 500th game at Weber State on March 2, 2006



Rachelle GARDNER-SAYERS

ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH
13th Season



coach and the next nine years as a full-time assistant coach with the Wildcats.

A native of Absarokee, Montana, Gardner-Sayers graduated from Weber State in June 1997 with a degree in English and in 2006 she earned her master's degree in Business Administration from Regis University. She is married to Keith Sayers and they are the parents of two daughters Keetyn, age 4, and Taylor, age 1.

Former Wildcat standout Rachelle Gardner-Sayers begins her tenth season as an assistant coach at Weber State. Her responsibilities include the scouting of opponents, promotions, development of the Fast Break Club, assisting with recruiting and assisting with on-the-court responsibilities, with emphasis on guard development and offensive schemes. She is also responsible for monitoring the student-athletes progress in the classroom.

Gardner was a four-year letter winner at Weber State and a two-year starter in the No. 2 guard position from 1993-96, playing for head coach Carla Taylor. She led the Wildcats in scoring her junior year with 14.9 points per game and was named to the Big Sky All-Conference First Team. The second leading scorer her senior year (11.8 ppg), she helped lead the Wildcats to a second place finish at the Big Sky Championship and was a Big Sky Honorable Mention pick. Gardner was also a Big Sky Academic All-Conference selection for two years and the WSU team MVP in 1995.

For her career Gardner averaged 9.4 points, 2.5 rebounds and 1.8 assists per game and is currently the 13th all-time leading scorer in Wildcat history with 1,009 points, just behind Stephanie Stanger and Carla Taylor. She ranks fourth in Weber State history in career-three pointers made with 149, which ranks 15th in Big Sky history. Rachelle is also ninth in WSU history in 3-point percentage at .323. In 1995-96 she made 56 3-point field goals which is the tenth best single-season total in Weber State history.

Gardner has been instrumental in the success of Wildcat individual camps. Through her years as a player and coach, they have grown to near capacity each summer. She also assists Taylor in running the High School Jamborees.

A native of Absarokee, Montana, Gardner graduated from Weber State in June 1997 with a degree in English and in 2006 she earned her master's degree in Business Administration from

Off the court with Rachelle...

Birthdate: February 14, 1972

Birthplace: Billings, Montana

Alma Mater: Weber State '97

Dream vacation: Anywhere warm

Craziest ambition: Run a marathon

I would most like to have dinner with:

Magic Johnson or Tina Turner

In 20 years I plan to be: Paying for college

Last book I read: The Last Lecture

Favorite food: Hot Wings

Favorite movie: August Rush

Favorite TV Show: Biggest Loser

Favorite sports teams: Pittsburgh Steelers and Los Angeles Lakers

CD I'm listening to now: Whatever Sara Tuomi burns for me

Favorite CT quote: "This isn't tiddley winks."

What I like best about coaching at

WSU: The players, and who doesn't want to coach at their alma mater?

When I'm not coaching I'm most likely: Chasing my girls around

One word that best describes me

when I'm coaching: Competitive

One word that describes me OFF the

court: Busy

Former Weber State standout Rachelle Gardner-Sayers begins her 13th season as a coach with the Wildcats. In October 2007 she was elevated to the position of Associate Head Coach after serving for ten seasons as an assistant coach for the Wildcats.

As an assistant coach with the Wildcats Gardner-Sayers has overseen the recruiting as well as coached the guards and perimeter play. She was a four-year player at Weber State and a two-year starter from 1993-96, playing for Carla Taylor. She led the Wildcats in scoring her junior year with 14.9 points per game and was named to the Big Sky All-Conference First Team. The second leading scorer her senior year (11.8 ppg), she helped lead the Wildcats to a second place finish at the Big Sky Championship and was a Big Sky Honorable Mention pick. Gardner was also a Big Sky Academic All-Conference selection for two years and the WSU team MVP in 1995.

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Regis University. She is married to Keith Sayers. They are the parents of two daughters Keetyn, age 5, and Taylor, age 2.



Ashley **ELLIOTT**

ASSISTANT COACH
1st Season



Wyoming where she twice earned First-Team All-Mountain West Conference honors in addition to being recognized with Kodak/WBCA All-America Honorable Mention honors her senior season. Elliott was a four time Mountain West Conference Scholar Athlete and played in every game of her collegiate career. She earned her Bachelors of Science in business administration from Wyoming in 2005.

Ashley comes to Weber State from Arizona State University where she spent the last two seasons as a Graduate Assistant for the Women's Basketball team. At Arizona State she assisted the team in all day-to-day operations as well as serving as the teams film coordinator. ASU reached the Elite Eight her final season as a Graduate Assistant. Ashley received her Master's Degree in Higher and Postsecondary Education in May 2009.

Prior to ASU, Elliott played professionally overseas for two seasons with the Uni-Neuchatel Basketball Club in Neuchatel, Switzerland. Elliott played collegiate basketball at the University of

Off the court with Ashley...

Birthdate:



Heath **ALEXANDER**

ASSISTANT COACH
1st Season



Alexander received his Bachelor of Science degree in exercise and movement from the University of Oregon in 1998.

Heath enters his first year as an assistant under head coach Carla Taylor. Prior to joining the staff at Weber State, Heath spent three years as an assistant at Colorado State under head coach Jen Warden.

Prior to his stint at Colorado State, Alexander was an assistant coach at Oregon State where he was a member of the staff from 2001-2005. During that time the Beavers were invited to the WNIT for three consecutive seasons.

Off the court with Heath...

Birthdate:



John **HENDERSON**

HEAD WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
TRAINER



John is in his first season as the head Women's Basketball Athletic Trainer. As the team's trainer, he provides sports medicine coverage for varsity athletic practices and competitions.

John received his bachelors degree in athletic training from Weber State University and is a licensed and certified athletic trainer. He is a certi-

fied strength and conditioning specialist and is currently completing a masters degree in Human Movement.

John also works with BASICS Sports Medicine, which partners with Weber State University to provide one of the best Human Performance Centers in Utah. At BASICS, he assists with the rehabilitation of sports and orthopedic injuries. As an athletic trainer, John adds additional expertise in the prevention, recognition and treatment of sports related injuries. John also works

with program development among schools, city recreation departments and the medical community.

John lives in South Weber with his wife Yvette and two sons, Derek and Marcus.



Kathleen **NIELSEN**

TEAM DIETICIAN AND NUTRITIONIST



Kathleen Nielsen serves as the team dietician and nutritionist for the Weber State women's basketball team. Nielsen is the Director of Food and Nutrition Services at McKay-Dee Hospital Center, near Weber State University in Ogden. She has worked in that capacity since 1990. Nielsen has worked as a team dietician for the Weber State athletic department since January 2002.

Nielsen is a registered Dietician and a member of the American Dietetic Association and the Utah Dietetic Association. She currently serves on the Utah Health Facility Administrators Certified

Dietitian Licensing Board. She has been instrumental in developing the Eating Disorders Program that began in 1983 at McKay-Dee and has worked with nearly 300 eating disorder patients since 1983.