

Kevin Nickelberry

Head Coach • Libya National Team • 2009 | Hampton University • 2006-2009

Associate Head Coach • Holy Cross College • 1999-01

Assistant Coach • Clemson University • University of North Carolina at Charlotte • Monmouth University

PROGRAM BUILDER. RECRUITER. PLAYER DEVELOPER. DEFENSIVE SPECIALIST.

I have a history as a program builder. At every job I have taken, jobs that one could call challenging, I have found a way to establish success. At Hampton we won 15 games my first year while starting four freshmen and averaged more than 16 wins and 10 conference wins for three seasons. At Clemson we went from 10 wins in my first year to 19 wins after my third year which set up the best five-year stretch in school history. At Holy Cross we took over a program that had three straight seasons of single-digit wins and turned it into a 22-win team by the end of my second season. In all, teams I have coached have averaged 4.7 more wins by the third year after my arrival and 8.2 more wins per year by the fourth year after my arrival.

I have done this while being recognized as one of the Top 15 up-and-coming head coaches in the country. I have done this while being recognized as one of the Top 25 recruiters in the country as an assistant. At every coaching position I have held, I have been instrumental in bringing in one of the best recruiting classes at that time in school history. At Clemson we had two Top 25 recruiting classes that have resulted in the school's recent unmatched success. At Charlotte we had a Top 20 recruiting class. At Monmouth we had the school's best-ever recruiting class. As head coach at Hampton I had two Top 60 recruiting classes, which is unrivaled in MEAC history.

I have done this through player development. As coach, it is imperative that once I get players that I help them get better. My success as a player developer is evident by the fact that four of my players have been named conference player of the year and 12 have earned all-league honors. Seven of the players I recruited have been named either rookie or newcomer of the year and 11 have earned all-rookie honors.

I have done this while learning from the best coaches in the country and becoming one of the game's most respected defensive teachers. For us to have success, we must be strong on defense. The basic characteristic of my teams is their tenacity on defense. My teams get in the face of the opponent and take them out of their games. In my first year at Hampton we were ranked 168th (68.6 ppg) in Division I in scoring defense. By the end of my third year we were ranked 12th (59.4 ppg). At Charlotte we went from 191st (6.8 spg) in steals to 51st (8.5 spg) in two years. At Clemson we went from, ironically, 191st (6.8 spg) in steals to second (11.0 spg) by the end of my third year.

Coaching Philosophy - From day one, our program's goal will be to win the league championship. We will have an immediate impact in the league. Individual goals will be based upon on-going evaluations of each player's skills and his role on the team. My preferred style of play is up-tempo while sharing the ball on offense and defensively taking teams out of their comfort zone. My players will learn that the little things sometimes make the difference; an offensive rebound on a free throw or a pass deflection on defense that leads to a turnover. To do this, we will define each player's role in terms that players understand.

Recruiting - Successful recruiting is the lifeblood of a championship basketball program. Recruiting players with good character and the desire to earn their college degrees underlies my philosophy. My staff and I will work with the administration to bring in only those prospects who meet the school's academic and social standards. As for playing ability, my staff and I will follow the "Three R's" of recruiting: Recruit shooters; Recruit size; Recruit smart.

Academics - Because a coach is a teacher, one of my top responsibilities to this school, every player, and his family is to provide the resources and motivation that he needs to earn his degree. We will have mandatory study halls, academic progress meetings, and academic support services to ensure that my student-athletes give the proper commitment to their studies. I will work tirelessly with the faculty and staff to make sure my team achieves maximum academic results.

Marketing & Media - College basketball arenas with the best home court advantage all have excellent student sections. I want to have Midnight Madness and Spirit Night to help promote the program. And I pride myself on always having and maintaining a strong relationship with the media. I am candid, sincere, and willing to share my thoughts.

Fundraising & Alumni Relations - Because the support of alumni and friends is so important, I will take our program to them. I will conduct numerous speaking engagements, along with postgame receptions with fans, alumni, and boosters. It is imperative for me to be active with them because they are the biggest and most loyal fans of the program.

Community Involvement - Our program must help develop and nurture an enthusiastic campus following and community support. Community outreach helps generate sincere interest in our program and, just as importantly, builds a sense of civic responsibility in our players, which will help them with important skills once they graduate. The most important component toward community involvement is winning because it attracts members of the community to our games.



Kevin Nickelberry

Personal

Born October 15, 1964 **Hometown** Washington, D.C.

Family wife – Mamie; sons – Kyan and Kelby

Education

B.A., Communications, Virginia Wesleyan University, 1986

Experience

Head Coach, Libya National Team, 2009-present

- Led team to the second round of the African Championship (defeated South Africa, Egypt and Morocco - Libya was previously 0-6)
- Led team to the second round of the Arab Cup in Morocco (defeated Syria, Lebanon, and the United Emirates with only Libyans on roster - no import players)
- 11-1 record against Turkey's senior, junior, and university national teams - defeated Kosovo twice by large margins
- Coordinated all duties of scouting and signing of players for the 2009 Libya National Basketball Team
- Organized and directed training camps in preparation for the 2009 Mediterranean and Moroccan games as well as Africa Championships in Libya
- Handled all responsibilities necessary to run a national team, including game preparation and media obligations
- Certified FIBA Coach and Villa 7 Consortium participant

Head Coach, Hampton University, 2006-2009

- Rated No. 15 among the Top 25 "Up-and-Coming" college basketball coaches by *The Sporting News* and www.hoopscooponline.com in 2008
- After taking over program with APR sanctions, raised team APR and GPA to its highest level in 10 years
- Averaged 10 conference wins a season for three years
- 20 non-conference wins over three years, including George Mason & Portland State (2008-09), VCU & Tulsa (2007-08)
- Recruited 13 freshmen in first three years (most in the MEAC), while collecting 49 Division I wins (second-most among MEAC schools)
- Had two recruiting classes rated in the Top 60 nationally
- Consistently placed among the MEAC Top 3 of every defensive category and among the NCAA Top 25 in at least two categories
- Hampton went from 168th in Division I in scoring defense to 12th by the end of his third season
- Developed the Kevin Nickelberry Basketball Camp that included over 800 children
- Began a radio show that had seven sponsors, including Chrysler and McDonald's
- Helped fundraise over \$100,000 for locker room upgrades, murals, and arena improvements

Assistant Coach, Clemson University, 2003-06

- Recruited nine players on the Tigers' 2007-08 and 2008-09 NCAA Tournament teams
- Clemson went from 10 wins in first year to 19 wins after third year which set up current streak of four consecutive 20+-win seasons
- Named one of the top assistant coaches in the nation by *Basketball Times*, *Rivals.com*, and *Hoop Scoop*
- Recruited two consecutive Top 40 recruiting classes - 25th in 2004-05 and 36th in 2005-06
- Competed in the 2004-05 NIT, Clemson's first postseason tournament appearance since 1999
- Won a first round game in the 2005-06 NIT, the first postseason tournament win in seven years
- Coached Vernon Hamilton, who was named to the 2005-06 ACC All-Defensive Team
- Coached Sherrod Ford, who was named to the All-ACC third-team in 2004-05

Assistant Coach, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, 2001-2003

- Recruited and coached Eddie Basden, the second player in Conference USA history to win "Player of the Year" and "Defensive Player of the Year" awards in the same season
- As Recruiting Coordinator, signed the No. 1-rated center prospect in the country, four Top 100 prospects, as well as two Top 20 recruiting classes
- Finished 18-12 overall in 2001-02 (11-5 in C-USA), earning an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament

Associate Head Coach, Holy Cross College, 1999-2001

- Joined a program that had three straight seasons of single-digit wins and turned it into a 22-win team by the end of his second season
- Advanced to the 2001 NCAA Tournament with a 22-7 record to win Patriot League regular season title
- Coached two Patriot League "Players of the Year" (Tim Szatko & Patrick Whearty)
- Recruited two Patriot League "Rookies of the Year" (Tim Szatko & Nate Lufkin)

Assistant Coach, Monmouth University, 1998-99

- Recruited highest ranked recruiting class in the school's history (Rahsaan Johnson & Alpha Bangura)

Assistant Coach, Howard University, 1994-98

- Recruited highest ranked recruiting class in the school's history (Jabari Outtz & Xavier Singletary)

Head Woman's Coach, Columbia Union College, 1991-94

Postseason Appearances (4) NCAA Tournament – 2001, 2002 **NIT** – 2005, 2006



Did you know?

Nickelberry was rated No. 15 among the "Top 25 Up-and-Coming" head coaches in Division I Basketball by hoopscooponline.com and *The Sporting News* in 2008.

"Kevin Nickelberry quietly has built himself into one of college basketball's premier recruiters. Perhaps he's been too quiet. His accomplishments in helping to identify and attract promising players haven't gotten nearly the attention merited. Anyone who knows the game, knows talent is the primary ingredient in building a winning program. Locating players who fit in a given program is not as easy as Kevin makes it look."

– Mike DeCourcy, *The Sporting News*

"When you look at Hampton, they have a really good basketball team and they've recruited really well. What Kevin Nickelberry has done with this team in just a year's time has been great and they should be really proud of that."

– Mayland Head Coach Gary Williams

"Kevin has overachieved, especially in recruiting at all of his stops. I have known him since he was a student in college and have followed his career ever since. He has made great advancements in the profession."

– Clemson Head Coach Oliver Purnell



Year-by-Year Records

Head Coach

Year	School	Record	Accomplishments
2008-09	Hampton	16-16	Swept MEAC champ Morgan St.
2007-08	Hampton	18-12	NCAA Top 25 in FG defense, Top 50 in scoring defense and steals
2006-07	Hampton	15-16	One of three NCAA teams to start four freshmen in 15 gms.
1993-94	Columbia Union	13-11	NAIA Playoffs
1992-93	Columbia Union	17-10	NAIA Playoffs
1991-92	Columbia Union	13-11	NAIA Playoffs
6 seasons		92-76	

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