

10-2-2014

Central Washington University Basketball Coaching Staff

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Recommended Citation

Central Washington University Athletics, "Central Washington University Basketball Coaching Staff" (2014). *Basketball*. Book 106.
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CWU COACHING STAFF

GREG SPARLING

Head Coach (5th Year, 78-45)

In just four seasons, Central Washington University head basketball coach Greg Sparling has compiled quite an impressive record.

Sparling, who reached his 31st birthday only last summer, is nearing the 100-win plateau and already has three conference titles and three conference Coach-of-the-Year awards to his credit.

Sparling needs just 22 wins this season to become only the third coach in school history to reach the 100-win plateau. He would join the legendary father-son coaching combination of Leo and Dean Nicholson in that exclusive club.

In his first four seasons, Sparling has compiled a record of 78-45, winning 63.4 percent of his games. Last year he guided the Wildcats to a record of 24-5 and a No. 1 ranking in the West Region in their first season at the NCAA Division II level and was voted the PacWest Conference Coach-of-the-Year.

CWU defeated Hawaii Pacific 76-56 in the PacWest Conference championship game to win its third consecutive conference title. The 'Cats also won Pacific Northwest Conference titles in both the 1997 and 1998 seasons under Sparling's guidance.

In both of those seasons, CWU won two games at the NAIA national tournament in Tulsa to reach the quarterfinal round after coming into the tournament unseeded.

In three trips to the NAIA national tournament, including the 1994-95 season when he took over after the death of Gil Coleman, Sparling led CWU to five victories.

A 1993 graduate of CWU in art with a minor in art history, Sparling was an assistant to Coleman for three seasons.

He replaced Coleman after Gil became ill in February, 1995 and guided the Wildcats to a 6-4 record, including a 2-1 mark after being officially named the interim coach upon the death of Coleman on Mar. 6.

Under Sparling, the Wildcats posted a 15-15 record in his rookie campaign, reaching the semifinal round of the PNWAC playoffs where they lost to regular-season champion Seattle University. He then led the 'Cats to 18-11 and 19-13 seasons in their final two years as the NAIA level.

The CWU head mentor, who coached CWU's junior varsity in 1991-92, was the Wildcat co-captain in his senior season when he averaged 9.0 points and 5.7 rebounds. He also blocked 26 shots and was one of the team's top three-point shooters, converting on 36 percent (18 of 50). Twice he was selected CWU's Inspirational award winner.

Sparling played two seasons at Highline Community College after graduating from Juanita High School in Kirkland before transferring to Central.

At Juanita, where he played under Coleman, Sparling earned three letters in basketball and won second team all-league honors. He was the team captain and Most Improved award winner in his senior season.

At Highline, he was a NWAACC all-star in his sophomore campaign and was twice voted the team captain. He was also the Inspirational award winner in his sophomore season.

Misc: Born 6-4-68 at Seattle. Has two brothers, one of whom (Don) played in Kansas City Royal baseball organization. Married Kristin Lesparance, a former CWU track-and-field athlete, in Aug., 1995. They have two sons, Coleman Michael, 2, and Jacob Arthur, who was born Apr. 30.

TODD NEALEY
Assistant Coach (2nd Year)

Todd Nealey, 25, is in his second season on Central Washington University's coaching staff. He is also completing work on a degree in communications.

Prior to joining the coaching staff, Nealey played one year at CWU earning Pacific Northwest Conference all-star honors in the 1996-97 season at the point guard position. He was also selected as the winner of the Ken Broches Coaches award.

Nealey averaged 11.9 points and had 150 assists to help lead the Wildcats to the PNWAC title and a quarterfinal berth in the NAIA national tournament. His assist total was the eighth best single-season mark in school history.

The CWU guard had three games in which he was credited with 10 or more assists, including a conference record 13 against Simon Fraser. He also scored 31 points in a game against Western Washington, the most points ever for a CWU point guard.

Nealey is a 1993 graduate of LaCrosse High School where he earned nine letters, including two in football, four in basketball and three in baseball. In basketball, he earned all-state honors.

He played two seasons at Big Bend and one at Northwest College prior to enrolling at CWU. At Big Bend, he was a two-time NWAACC all-tournament selection. At Northwest, he earned NCCAA (National Christian Collegiate Athletic Association) All-American honors. He was the team captain at both schools.

Last spring Nealey played professional basketball in Australia. He averaged 24 points per game for the Burnie Tigers in Tasmania and was selected to start in the league's all-star game.

Misc: Born 12-15-74 at Spokane. Communications major. Has one brother and one sister. Father (Tedd) played basketball at Whitworth. Brother (Troy) is redshirt on this year's basketball team. Was ASB representative in high school and ASB president at Big Bend.

ERIC DAVIS
Assistant Coach (1st Year)

Eric Davis, a key player on two of CWU's last three conference championship basketball teams, is in his first season as an assistant coach for the Wildcats.

Davis, 23, graduated from CWU last spring with a degree in special education and currently serves as a special education teacher at Ellensburg High School.

Davis is a 1994 graduate of Ephrata High School where he was a standout basketball player and also lettered in cross country, soccer and golf.

He then played two seasons at Walla Walla Community College where he averaged 18.7 points, 3.6 rebounds and 3.2 assists to earn team captain and Co-MVP honors in his sophomore season.

Davis played the sixth-man role for CWU during the 1996-97 season. He averaged 8.4 points per game and led the team in three-pointers made with 61. He keyed a second-half comeback win against Azusa Pacific in the NAIA national tournament, hitting on five-of-seven three-point shots and finishing with 17 points.

After redshirting in the 1997-98 season due to an ankle injury, he averaged 5.2 points per game last season and was selected the team's Most Inspirational award winner.

Misc: Born 7-12-76 at Wenatchee. Was a class representative in high school. Was on school chess team. Has one sister.

TYCE NASINEC

Assistant Coach (1st Year)

Tyce Nasinec, a starter on three CWU conference championship basketball teams, moves to the bench this winter and will serve as an assistant coach for the Wildcats while he finishes up work on his degree in business.

Nasinec completed his four-year career last winter as the sixth leading scorer in school history with 1,457 points. He also ended up as CWU's No. 2 all-time leader in three-pointers made (198). He also ranks third in career steals (187) and fourth in assists (325) and is the only non-point guard ranked in the top five in assists.

Nasinec, 23, graduated from Rogers High School in Puyallup in 1995 where he lettered in football and basketball. In football he played quarterback and safety and was voted Rogers' team captain and Defensive Back-of-the-Year.

In basketball, he averaged 23 points per game and earned second team all-state honors.

After playing significant minutes in his freshman season at CWU during which he averaged 6.6 points and 2.4 rebounds per game, he moved into the starting lineup and averaged 12.2, 16.6 and 14.3 points per game during his sophomore, junior and senior seasons.

Nasinec earned Pacific Northwest all-conference honors and was a NAIA honorable mention All-American during his junior season. Last year, he earned PacWest first-team all-star honors.

He won a total of six different team awards, including Most Valuable Player honors last season, during his playing career. He was a three-time co-captain. He also won the Ken Broches Coaches award in his freshman season and the Willie Strange Hustle Award in his sophomore campaign.

Misc: Born 6-22-76 at Seattle. Has two brothers.