



## MARYLAND TERRAPINS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



# Brenda Frese

*Head Coach • Arizona '93*

*Third Year at Maryland*

*Sixth Year as a Head Coach*



Looking to resurrect a struggling women's basketball program, Maryland got what it was looking for when it successfully courted 2002 *Associated Press* National Coach of the Year Brenda Frese. Frese has not disappointed fans in College Park. Making amazing turnarounds her calling card, she led the Terrapins to an unexpected run to the second round of the 2004 NCAA Tournament and mentoring the team to its first tournament victory in 12 years. Described as dynamic, overachieving, determined and enthusiastic, the 34-year-old coach has compiled an 85-61 (.582) career record in five seasons, while turning programs around at each of her stops.

In what was supposed to be the second year of the rebuilding process, Frese instilled confidence into a Maryland squad that went 4-12 in ACC play in 2002-03 and was depending on players with limited experience, including two highly touted high school All-Americans in Shay Doron and Kalika France. In building that confidence, the Terps believed they were better than the preseason eighth-place pick and ran out to a tie for third in the ACC with an 8-8 mark, double the conference win total from each of the last two seasons and their best showing since the 1996-97 campaign. Collecting 18 wins on the season, almost double the previous season's total and the most since 1996-97, Maryland was rewarded with an NCAA Tournament bid, its first since 2000-01, and was the only 12th seed in the tournament to advance when it upset fifth-seeded and future ACC opponent Miami (Fla.), 86-85. At season's end, the Terps received votes in the final ESPN/USA Today Coaches Poll.

There was a long list of accomplishments for the Terps by the end of the season. Maryland reached the ACC Tournament semifinals for the first time since 1998 and nearly defeated top-seeded and five-time conference champion Duke. Maryland averaged a 12.3-point margin of victory in its conference wins, sweeping Wake Forest and Clemson, its first sweep of any team in three years. Statistically, the team improved its scoring, 3-point shooting and free throw percentages, ending the year ranked 18th in the nation from behind the 3-point arc. Making nine television appearances on the season, including four national broadcasts, the Terps drew a Comcast Center-record 13,446 fans to the final home game of the season versus the Blue Devils, the second-largest crowd in ACC women's basketball history.

Her first season at the Terps' helm was the rebuilding year it was predicted to be. With a roster short on depth but high on effort, Frese led Maryland to a 10-18 record, narrowly missing wins at several junctures. Frese's Terps also notched several positive steps in her first year including: breaking 100 points in a game for the first time since Dec. 28, 1993, winning their first ACC road game since Feb. 19, 2001, drawing a crowd of 5,078 — the largest at a Maryland women's basketball game to date since Feb. 24, 1996 — and bringing home their first win from Florida State since the 1995-96 campaign.

Frese has not slowed down despite the team's success in 2003-04. She

continues to diligently work the recruiting trails. Regarded as one of the top recruiting coaches in the country, she nabbed the second-rated recruiting class in the nation, according to the Blue Star Report, adding more excitement to the New Era of Maryland Women's Basketball. Four of the nation's top recruits signed National Letters of Intent to play with the Terrapins beginning the 2004-05 campaign.

One of college basketball's rising stars, Frese fits with Maryland's legacy of success. At Minnesota, she earned AP National Coach of the Year honors as well as Big Ten Coach of the Year recognition for turning the Gophers' 8-20 program into a 22-8 team and a top 25 contender in 2001-02. One of the biggest one-season turnarounds in NCAA history, Minnesota set a then-school record with 22 wins and tied for second in the Big Ten with an 11-5 conference mark. Frese also took the Gophers to what was only the school's second NCAA Tournament appearance. The Golden Gophers earned a fifth-seed in the NCAA Tournament and defeated UNLV in the first round before being eliminated by three points in the second round by North Carolina.

Frese's revitalization of the Minnesota program rocked the Big Ten establishment, as her team's 10-win improvement in conference play marked the biggest one-year improvement in Big Ten history. Moreover, the 11 Big Ten wins were three more than Minnesota totaled in the previous six seasons combined. The Golden Gophers had also achieved their highest ranking in school history to that point when Minnesota was listed 14th in the *Associated Press* Top 25 in mid-February and garnered a No. 18 national ranking in the final regular season AP poll. Undoubtedly, Frese had arrived.

Frese started her head coaching career during the 1999-2000 season at Ball State, a program that had gone 66-169 in the nine seasons prior to her arrival. She guided the Cardinals to a 16-13 showing in 2000 and garnered Coach of the Year honors in the Mid-American Conference. Frese led Ball State to a then-school best 19-9 mark in 2000-01, capturing the school's second back-to-back winning seasons in Ball State history. Her final year at Ball State, the 2000-01 team received votes in the AP poll, climbing as high as No. 28 in the country.

Frese's enthusiasm has been contagious for the fans of her teams as well, as support increased significantly at both Minnesota and Ball State under her leadership. Buoyed by the best start (9-1) in school history, the Golden Gophers finished the season ranked 19th nationally in home attendance average (4,360), including an average of 8,828 fans during the second half of the campaign when the team moved to Williams Arena from the Sports Pavilion.

Frese's Gophers attracted the top four crowds in school history, including a record attendance of 12,142 vs. Michigan State and a crowd of 11,389 vs. Indiana. The 2000-01 Ball State team posted a 10-2 home record and set a single-season home attendance record.



# 2004 NCAA Second Round

## MARYLAND TERRAPINS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

She launched her Division I coaching career in 1994 as an assistant coach at Kent State University, helping the Golden Flashes to records of 20-8 (1994) and 17-10 (1995) during her two years there. The Cedar Rapids, Iowa, native then joined Bill Fennelly's staff at Iowa State as the Cyclones' recruiting coordinator, where she assisted in another impressive turnaround, helping ISU to three NCAA Tournament appearances in four years. All told, the Cyclones posted a composite record of 84-38 with Frese as an assistant, including a 17-10 record in 1995-96 when Iowa State recorded the biggest one-season turnaround in school history. In 1997, the Cyclones made their first-ever appearance in the NCAA Tournament, a feat they duplicated in 1998 and 1999 with identical 25-8 records. In 1999, Iowa State was ranked among the nation's Top 25 for the entire season and came within one victory of reaching the Final Four.

During her stay at Iowa State, her 1998-99 recruiting class was ranked among the nation's top 10, and the Cyclones enjoyed tremendous success at the gate, drawing a record crowd of 12,337 vs. Santa Clara in the first round of an NCAA Tournament game played in Ames, Iowa, and rewriting Iowa State's single-season attendance mark multiple times.

Frese is a 1993 graduate of the University of Arizona, where she was a three-year letterwinner for the Wildcats as a guard. When injuries sidelined her during her senior season, she joined the Pima Community College coaching staff in Tucson, Ariz., as an assistant coach in charge of recruiting and scouting. Aside from her bachelor's degree in communications from Arizona in 1993, she also earned a master's degree in athletic administration from Kent State in 1995.

### Frese's Division I Coaching Career

Year	Position, Institution	Record	Pct.
1994	Asst. Coach, Kent State	20-8	.714
1995	Asst. Coach, Kent State	17-10	.630
1996	Asst. Coach, Iowa State	17-10	.630
1997	Asst. Coach, Iowa State	17-12	.586
1998	Asst. Coach, Iowa State	25-8	.758
1999	Asst. Coach, Iowa State	25-8	.758
2000	Head Coach, Ball State	16-13	.552
2001	Head Coach, Ball State	19-9	.679
2002	Head Coach, Minnesota	22-8	.733
2003	Head Coach, Maryland	10-18	.357
2004	Head Coach, Maryland	18-13	.581
<b>Head Coaching Record (5 yrs.)</b>		<b>85-61</b>	<b>.582</b>
<b>Overall Coaching Record (11 yrs.)</b>		<b>206-117</b>	<b>.638</b>



#### COACHING CREDENTIALS

- Associated Press National Coach of the Year (2002)
- Big Ten Coach of the Year (2002)
- MAC Coach of the Year (2000)
- Five NCAA Tourn. Appearances (1997, '98, '99, '02, '04)
- One NCAA Elite Eight (1999)

# What They Are Saying About Coach Brenda Frese...

"Coach Frese has a superb record of achievement as a head coach in two different Division I conferences. She is an over-achiever ... a dynamic and determined leader as a coach. Over time, she will put our program in a position to compete for the national championship as one of the elite women's basketball programs in the country."

—Maryland Athletics Director Deborah A. Yow



"Brenda is definitely one of the brightest young coaches in America. She's a great student of the game. She will be very successful at Maryland."

—Arizona Head Coach Joan Bonvicini



"Brenda is one of the bright young coaches in the game today. Maryland is very fortunate. She'll do an unbelievable job of adding to the great tradition that Chris Weller had started there."

—National Champion Connecticut Head Coach Geno Auriemma



"I think this is a great hire for the University of Maryland. Brenda will do a great job of continuing the great tradition of Maryland basketball. She is outstanding in all areas needed to lead a program to national prominence. She is hard working and extremely organized. She knows what it takes to find players who can succeed at this level."

—Iowa State Head Coach Bill Fennelly

"Brenda is one of the young dynamic coaches in the game. Obviously, with my being an Old Dominion player, I have known of the Maryland program for years and where it has been and what it has achieved. If you give Brenda time, she will make Maryland one of the top teams not only in the ACC, but I think Maryland has the potential to be a Top-10 team for a long time to come."

—Basketball Hall of Famer and ESPN Basketball Analyst Nancy Lieberman



"I think the University of Maryland made a good choice in hiring Brenda. She is obviously an up-and-coming coach and she did a great job at the University of Minnesota while she was there. She worked for me so I feel I know her a little better than some other people. I think she will do a great job there, I think it was a good hire and I think that five years down the road, the University of Maryland will have a very good team on their hands."

—Kent State Head Coach Bob Lindsay



"Brenda is a proven coach. I'm excited about her youth and enthusiasm. I think she's going to do a tremendous job for Maryland. I congratulate her and I look forward to her being able to make the same type of turnaround she made with the Minnesota program."

—ESPN Basketball Analyst Vera Jones



"Brenda brought life to the potential that we all knew this team, program and community had. We thank her for bringing that potential to life and wish her well. I know she'll be a great coach at Maryland."

—Minnesota Women's Athletics Director Chris Voelz

2004 NCAA Second Round





## MARYLAND TERRAPINS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



# Jeff Walz

*Assistant Coach • Northern Kentucky '95  
Third Year at Maryland  
10th Year Overall*



With 10 years of collegiate coaching experience, Jeff Walz is serving his third season with the Terrapins after stints at Minnesota, Nebraska and Western Kentucky. Walz's career highlights include helping guide his teams to six NCAA Tournaments, including helping the Terps to the 2004 NCAA Tournament, and one WNIT appearance.

"Jeff is extremely talented in many areas. He does a tremendous job on the floor in practices, games and with player development," said head coach Brenda Frese. "He is extremely organized and efficient and its shows in everything he does for our program."

In two seasons in College Park, the Terps have made marked improvements while Walz has been on the sidelines. Both years, Maryland has seen its scoring average improve and, won 18 games in 2004, the most since 1996-97, including the program's first NCAA Tournament victory in 12 years. He also assisted in the Terrapin coaching staff's recruiting efforts to sign the No. 2 recruiting class in the nation in 2004.

A scholarship player for Northern Kentucky from 1990-93, Walz was with Frese at Minnesota for one year after coaching for four seasons at Nebraska. At Minnesota, he worked with the posts and centers, including 2002 Big Ten Freshman of the Year Janel McCarville, while also taking on scouting and recruiting efforts for the Gophers during the staff's 22-8 season.

While with the Cornhuskers from 1997-2001, Walz was involved with

all aspects of the program, from coordinating the Huskers' recruiting efforts to tracking student-athletes' academics, to scheduling and camps. He helped Nebraska to a school-record three-straight NCAA Tournament appearances (1998, 1999, 2000) and also coached the L.A. Sparks' No. 1 draft pick in the 2000 WNBA Draft, Nicole Kubik. By his final year at Nebraska, Walz was in charge of conducting individual development workouts as well as opponent scouting.

Walz began his collegiate coaching career at Western Kentucky in 1996 after serving as the team's administrative assistant the previous season. He started coaching at the middle and high school levels in 1992 and was an AAU coach from 1995-96. During his career, he has guided such players as 1999 NCAA champion and WNBA standout Ukari Figgs, the University of Tennessee's Kyra Elzy, Ohio State standout Marita Porter and 1996 National High School Player of the Year Jaime Walz, his sister, who now coaches the girls' high school team at their alma mater, Highlands High School.

He attended Northern Kentucky University on a basketball scholarship, graduating with a bachelor of science in secondary education in May 1995. Walz earned his master's in education in August of 2000 from Western Kentucky.

Walz exchanged vows with Kim Kumfer on May 17, 2003. The couple reside in Crofton, Md.



# Erica Floyd

*Assistant Coach • Ohio State '93  
Third Year at Maryland  
11th Year Overall*



Ohio State standout and 11-year assistant coaching veteran Erica Floyd completed Brenda Frese's sideline staff when she, too, made the move from Minnesota to Maryland before the 2002-03 season. Floyd coached with Frese during coaching stints at Minnesota and Kent State and has helped to rebuild the Terrapin program which reached the 2004 NCAA Tournament.

"Erica does a tremendous job with our players and with establishing relationships in the community," said Frese of Floyd. "She is also a big asset in recruiting and is committed to making our program the best it can be."

Floyd's contributions in two years at Maryland have seen the Terps win more games since 1996-97 in 2004 (18), double their Atlantic Coast Conference win total from four in 2002-03 to eight in 2003-04, and win an NCAA Tournament game for the first time in 12 years. Her recruiting efforts have also helped the Terrapin coaching staff nab the No. 2 recruiting class in the nation in 2004.

At Minnesota, Floyd assisted not only in on- and off-campus recruiting, but also with scouting and film breakdown. The position coach for forwards and centers, she helped guide 2002 Big Ten Freshman of Year Janel McCarville, and also led the Gophers' community service efforts. Minnesota experienced the biggest one-year turnaround in Big Ten history

in Floyd's year there, going 22-8 after inheriting a program that had been 8-20 the previous season.

She called Cleveland State home from 1998-2001 and served the Viking program in all capacities. She coached Audra Cook, 2000 Midwestern Collegiate Conference Player of the Year while at Cleveland State and was in charge of coordinating team travel and assisting in recruiting efforts both on- and off-campus. She continued to lend her experience to the forwards and centers and also aided in monitoring academics, scouting and coordinating summer camps.

Floyd joined the coaching ranks at Kent State from 1994-98 where she coached alongside Frese, who was an assistant at the time. A position coach for forwards and centers, she assisted with various aspects of the program including coordinating team travel, scouting and summer camps. A Kent, Ohio, native, she also served as the school's assistant marketing director from 1995-98.

Floyd played at Ohio State from 1989-92, graduating with a bachelor of science in education in 1993. She was on the Buckeye team that shared the 1989 Big Ten title, and as a captain her senior season was also voted Most Improved Player. Following her senior year of high school, Floyd was named the 1988 Gatorade Ohio High School Player of the Year.

Floyd is single and resides in Columbia, Md.



## 2004 NCAA Second Round



## MARYLAND TERRAPINS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



# Joanna Bernabei

*Assistant Coach • West Liberty '97  
Second Year at Maryland  
Seventh Year Overall*



Joanna Bernabei enters her second year as an assistant coach at Maryland, after being hired in June 2003. Bernabei came to College Park from West Virginia and, in her first season, helped Maryland reach the second round of the 2004 NCAA Tournament while assisting in the recruiting of the second-best recruiting class in the nation which comes to College Park beginning the 2004-05 season.

"Joanna is very passionate and her knowledge on the floor has been a big asset to our team," said head coach Brenda Frese. "She works extremely hard in our recruiting efforts and has developed tremendous contacts all over the country."

Bernabei served two years at West Virginia as an assistant coach for the Mountaineer women's basketball team where she was a scout, position coach and recruiting coordinator. Before her time as a Mountaineer, Bernabei had a two-year stint at Eastern Kentucky where she was responsible for scouting, individual player development as well as serving as the recruiting coordinator. She gained head-coaching experience in 1998 at West Virginia Wesleyan where she compiled an 18-9 record and a third-place finish in the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WVIAC), while also acting as the school's senior women's administrator.

Bernabei attended West Liberty State where she was a three-time Division II All-American and a four-time first team All-WVIAC selection as a point guard. Named 1997 WVIAC Player of the Year, she currently holds the NCAA Division II career assist record of 1,107 and the single-game record for most assists at 24 which she set against West Virginia State (Feb. 8, 1997). She is one of a handful of players, men or women, to record more than 1,000 points and 1,000 assists in a career, finishing her stellar career with 1,317 total points.

Bernabei also holds NCAA records for assists average per game (9.5) and the school and conference marks for assists in a game, season (294) and career. She led her team to an 80-36 record over four years and is listed on West Liberty's Top 20 All-Time Best Athlete list. She is the first woman to be named first team All-West Virginia Athletic Conference for four years and was West Virginia's 1993 High School Player of the Year.

Bernabei earned her bachelor's degree in exercise physiology in 1997 from West Liberty and a master's degree from Eastern Kentucky in physical education in 1999.

Bernabei recently married Joe McNamee in her hometown of Weirton, W. Va., on May 22, 2004. The couple now lives in Columbia, Md.



# Mark Pearson

*Director of Basketball Operations • Iowa State '96  
Third Year at Maryland  
Eighth Year Overall*



Head coach Brenda Frese took care of all the details when she built her staff at Minnesota and brought that winning formula, intact, to Maryland, including Director of Basketball Operations Mark Pearson. In his third year, Pearson oversees the general operations of the basketball program, especially the planning of team travel.

"Mark does a tremendous job of overseeing all of our team travel and coordinating our office from top to bottom," said Frese. "Mark does a great job organizing and makes sure everything runs smoothly while also serving as our director of summer camps."

While Pearson was with Frese in Minnesota, he handled team travel, scheduled practices, coordinated camps and assisted with community service. His experience before Minnesota was vast and varied, including knowledge of both the business and the coaching worlds.

Prior to joining the Gophers' athletic department, Pearson spent two years in the sales department of Reuters, Inc., in Ankeny, Iowa.

From 1997-99, he was an assistant basketball coach at Iowa Central Community College and was involved in everything from recruiting and scouting, to summer camps, to overseeing student-athletes' academic performances.

He spent two years as an Iowa Central Junior College player before continuing his education at Iowa State. He served as a graduate assistant and manager of the Cyclone men's basketball team from 1993-97. During that time, Iowa State made three trips to the NCAA Tournament, including a Sweet 16 appearance in 1997.

Pearson earned his bachelor's degree in finance from Iowa State in 1996 and a master's of education in sports management from Iowa State in 2003.

Pearson and his wife, Jennifer, reside in Laurel, Md. Their son, B.J., celebrated his third birthday on March 1, 2004. The couple's youngest child, Natalie, celebrates her first birthday on July 27, 2003.