



NEWS

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Philadelphia University's Legendary Men's Basketball Coach Herb Magee Notches 903rd Career Win, Tops Record of Bobby Knight

Coach Magee earned # 903 when the PhilaU Rams beat Goldey-Beacom 76-65 in front of a joyous home court crowd

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 23, 2010 – Philadelphia University men's basketball coach Herb Magee topped the all-time career wins record of Bob Knight when he notched his 903rd win on Tuesday, Feb. 23, in front of an exhilarated home court crowd.

With his latest win, Magee becomes the winningest men's coach in basketball history with all games played in the NCAA.

"Herb Magee has long been a Philadelphia University icon and, with this record-setting win, he cements his rightful place as one of the greatest college basketball coaches of all time," said Philadelphia University President Stephen Spinelli Jr. "Herb Magee belongs in the Basketball Hall of Fame."

Magee, renowned as a coach, player and "shot doc" to top NBA stars, tied Knight's record of 902 all-NCAA career wins on Saturday, Feb. 20, when a three-point shot at the buzzer by freshman Jim Connolly put the Rams on top 70-67.

Magee has had an extraordinary career during his 50 seasons as a player and coach at Philadelphia University. He became the number one all-time Division II men's basketball coach in NCAA history on February 1, 2007, when he earned win 829 in a heart-stopping double-overtime win against Wilmington College to break the mark previously held by Winston-Salem State's Clarence "Big House" Gaines.

A Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame nominee and Pennsylvania and Philadelphia Sports Hall of Famer, last season Magee passed former Kentucky Coach Adolph Rupp's NCAA record of 877 wins and former North Carolina coach Dean Smith's NCAA record of 879 career wins.

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In just his third year of coaching, Magee led the Rams to a 1970 NCAA National Championship, and has taken his team to the NCAA Tournament 24 times.

At 68, Magee is still at the top of his game and respected throughout the basketball world as perhaps the greatest shooting coach of all time. Just ask Charles Barkley, Malik Rose, Sebastian Telfair and Jameer Nelson, among those who have sought the “shot doc” out to improve their jump shots. Or talk to his friends and colleagues in the tight-knit Philly coaching community, people like Villanova’s Jay Wright, Temple’s Fran Dunphy and St. Joe’s Phil Martelli.

Magee also is a highly respected coaching mentor, and many of his former assistants and players have gone on to top coaching jobs, including Pat Chambers at Boston University, Sean Kearney at Holy Cross and Steve Donohue at Cornell.

Sure, he’s had opportunities to move to DI and NBA teams, but Magee has chosen to stay close to his family and hometown of Philadelphia. Having lost both his parents by age 13, this 5’10” kid from West Philadelphia was a playground legend during the time of Earl Monroe, Wali Jones and Walt Hazzard, and starred at famed West Catholic High along with lifetime friends and future coaches Jim Lynam and Jim Boyle.

After his playing days, he was drafted by the Celtics, but instead chose to make his mark as a coach, becoming head coach at his alma mater in 1966. Remarkably, Magee has won more than 1,100 games with the Rams, including his years as a player and coach.

A two-time All-America selection at what was then Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science, Magee ended his college career as the Rams’ top scorer and today remains the team’s third all-time high scorer with 2,235 career points – an extraordinary achievement in the era before the three-point shot.

Herb Magee is a Philly legend who exemplifies the tenacity and hometown loyalty of every Philadelphia fan. Considering Magee’s career as a coach and player, his contributions to basketball and his dedication to his student athletes, well, these are remarkable achievements by a man who continues to rewrite basketball history.

Philadelphia University, founded in 1884, is a private university with 3,350 students enrolled in more than 50 undergraduate and graduate programs. As the model professional university for the 21st century, the University focuses on professionally oriented programs that prepare students for successful careers, with a strong foundation in the liberal arts and a commitment to engaged, real-world and collaborative learning. Philadelphia University includes Schools of Architecture, Business Administration, Design and Media, Engineering and Textiles, Liberal Arts, and Science and Health.