

MARK CAMPBELL NAMED SACRAMENTO STATE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL'S HEAD COACH

By Robert Barsanti

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – After a nationwide search, Sacramento State has named Mark Campbell the head coach of the women's basketball program. Sacramento State Director of Athletics Mark Orr made the announcement on Friday.

"I am incredibly excited to announce Mark Campbell as the new head women's basketball coach," said Orr. "We are thrilled to welcome him and his wife, Ashley, and daughters Maley and Makay, to Sacramento.

"Starting this search, we were confident that we would find a new head coach that brought not only experience, but also a proven record of recruiting and building programs. No one has been more successful in that aspect than Coach Campbell and I have full confidence that he will be successful again here at Sacramento State."

Campbell will become the sixth head women's basketball coach in Sacramento State's Div. I era after previously spending seven years with Oregon, most recently as the team's associate head coach.

"It is an honor to be named the next head coach for Sacramento State's women's basketball's program," said Campbell on Friday. "I knew I wanted to be selective in accepting a head coaching position, and Sacramento State checked all my boxes. We have an opportunity here to compete at an elite level and help Sacramento State women's basketball take the next step forward.

"Ultimately it's about these young ladies and their experience. I'm looking forward to working with each of them, my staff and the department as we work hard to build a championship culture.

"I want to thank Director of Athletics Mark Orr and President Nelsen for allowing me this opportunity. I also want to thank my family - my wife Ashley, and my daughters, Maley and Makay," Campbell added. "Their love and support means everything to me and they are all just as excited as I am to join the Hornet family."

RELATED LINKS: [One-on-One with head coach Mark Campbell \(video\)](#)

In Campbell's seven seasons with the Ducks, he helped lead Oregon to three straight Pac-12 regular season titles, two Pac-12 Tournament championships, and five consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances, including a trip to the Final Four in 2019. He worked with Oregon's guards, created the Ducks' defensive game plan, and was the team's lead recruiter, working relentlessly to bring top talent to the Ducks.

Campbell was responsible for recruiting Sabrina Ionescu, one of the most decorated student-athletes in the sport's history and the No. 1 overall pick in the 2020 WNBA Draft. Ionescu was joined in the top 10 of the 2020 draft by teammates Satou Sabally (No. 2) and Ruthy Hebard (No. 8), both of whom Campbell also played a huge role in bringing to Eugene.

Under Campbell's guidance, Oregon landed its first ever No. 1 ranked recruiting class in 2020, just two years after netting the nation's No. 3 ranked class in 2016.

"Coach Campbell is obviously a winner, but even more obvious he is a recruiter," said Sacramento State President Dr. Robert Nelsen. "He recruited Sabrina Ionescu as well as Paul George. We are excited to see what he will do with Sac State Women's Basketball and who he will bring here. Stingers Up!"

"I want to thank President Nelsen for the role he played in helping us bring Coach Campbell to Sacramento State and for his unending support for me and our athletic department," added Orr.

"I also want to thank the hiring committee for their efforts in finding Coach Campbell, including Markus Jennings, Brian Berger, Dr. Maureen Smith, Cheryl Boyes, and Austin Sparks."

Prior to joining Oregon, Campbell served on staff at Oregon State, beginning as an assistant before being promoted to associate head coach for the 2013-14 season. Campbell proved instrumental in the recruiting efforts of the Beavers. He was an integral part of turning around a program that went from 9-21 in 2010-11 to an NCAA Second Round appearance in 2014.

Before heading to Corvallis, Campbell spent two seasons with the men's program at Saint Mary's serving first as the team's director of operations before becoming an assistant coach under Randy Bennett. Preceding his stint at Saint Mary's, Campbell spent the 2007-08 season as an assistant coach for the Pepperdine men's program under Vance Walberg.

From 2005-07, Campbell coached at Clackamas Community College in Oregon City, Ore., helping the Cougars to the 2007 Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) Championship.

During his playing days, Campbell played at Cal Poly and Clackamas CC before transferring to Hawai'i for his final two seasons, guiding the Warriors to an NCAA Tournament bid in 2002 and NIT appearance in 2003. Starting all but one game, he is the winningest two-year player in Hawai'i's history and led the team to a school-record 27 wins in 2001-02. He was a WAC all-defensive team pick as a senior and was a two-time WAC all-academic selection. In June of 2016, Campbell was inducted into the

Clackamas CC Hall of Fame. In 2012 and 2013, Campbell was selected to attend Nike's renowned Villa 7 Consortium, which brings together university athletics directors and the country's elite assistant coaches in an effort to prepare the next generation of college basketball head coaches.

Campbell earned a degree in liberal studies from Hawai'i in 2004, adding a master's degree in education from George Fox in 2006. A native of Mt. Vernon, Wash., he is married to the former Ashley Smith, who played basketball at Vanderbilt and is from Oregon City. The couple has two daughters, Maley and Makay.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT COACH CAMPBELL

"The level of commitment, honesty, and character that Coach Campbell shows in his recruiting and his coaching is truly unique. By giving him the reins, Sacramento State is making the right move. I've been a fan of Mark's and am now a fan of Sacramento State." - **Sabrina Ionescu**, *New York Liberty, No. 1 overall pick, 2020 WNBA Draft*

"Coach Campbell showed a sincere interest in me, my family, and my career, and I'll always be grateful to him for that. He attracts a winning mentality and is sure to continue to do the same at Sacramento State. Congratulations to Mark and to Sacramento State." - **Satou Sabally**, *Dallas Wings, No. 2 overall pick, 2020 WNBA Draft*

"Mark has been an incredibly valuable piece of my coaching staff over the last seven seasons and is more than ready to be a head coach. He is a tireless worker and tremendous recruiter, and we are grateful for everything he has done for our program and student-athletes. Sacramento State is getting a terrific head coach, and we wish Mark and his family all the best in this new opportunity." - **Kelly Graves**, *Oregon Head Women's Basketball Coach*

"Mark Campbell is a builder and an investor in people. He and his wife Ashley will build winning people as well as a winning program. Sacramento State made an excellent hire!" - **Cori Close**, *UCLA Head Women's Basketball Coach*

"Mark Campbell is a great leader of people at all levels. His high character as a person attracts other people to him and the program that he leads. Sacramento State has hired one of the top young head basketball coaches in the country." - **Randy Bennett**, *Saint Mary's Head Men's Basketball Coach*

MEN'S SOCCER HELPS SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER TO CHILDREN AT UC DAVIS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

By Robert Barsanti

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – For the 19th consecutive year, the Sacramento State men's soccer team made one of its most important road trips of the season – a holiday visit to the UC Davis Children's Hospital.

The 19th Annual Holiday Visit to UC Davis Children's Hospital looked a little different this year with COVID-19 restrictions in place. There were no soccer games in the hallways of the Pediatric Unit or video games and art projects with the patients and student athletes. Wanting to instill the sense of giving back to the community, men's soccer head coach Mike Linenberger worked with UC Davis Children's Hospital staff to coordinate the toy donation drop off to continue the long tradition of men's soccer donating to UC Davis Children's Hospital.

"Our guys look forward to this visit every year," said Linenberger. "Obviously we weren't sure what exactly we'd be able to do this year, but we were very happy to work with the UC Davis Children's Hospital staff to find a way to continue this event."

The student athletes from the Sacramento State men's soccer team delivered toys to the front of the hospital to Michelle Linenberger MSN Ed, RN, Children's Hospital Nurse Educator and Diana Sundberg CCLS, Child Life and Creative Arts Therapy Manager, to distribute to pediatric patients through out the Children's Hospital.

"This is our nineteenth year and we are so happy to keep this tradition alive," said Michelle Linenberger. "The generosity and kindness from the men's soccer program is very much appreciated and we look forward to bringing them back into the hospital next year."

The Sacramento State men's soccer program has been making its Annual Holiday Visit to UC Davis Children's Hospital since 2002, each year delivering gifts and spreading holiday joy to children at the hospital.

HORNET BASEBALL TO PLAY IN HISTORIC INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT

By Robert Barsanti

SACRAMENTO, Calif. - The Sacramento State Hornets baseball team will travel to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, to participate in a historic international tournament from August 13-18, 2019.

The tournament will be hosted by the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds with most games played at Tourmaline West Stadium on the UBC campus. In addition to the Hornets and Thunderbirds, two Japanese programs - the University of Tokyo and Keio University - will participate in the four-team tournament.

For the Hornets, the tournament will be a program first. Sacramento State baseball has never participated in an international tournament.

"This is a special experience for us to compete against international competition and we are excited for this once in a lifetime opportunity," said head coach Reggie Christiansen of the upcoming tournament. "With nine Canadian-born players on our roster, it makes the whole experience that much more unique as they get a chance to again compete on their home soil."

The two teams from Japan will also be making history for their country, becoming the first Japanese universities to compete on Canadian soil. UBC is hosting the tournament after doing a tour of Japan last summer, during which it visited both the University of Tokyo and Keio University.

The tournament will feature a round-robin format followed by two semifinals and culminating in a championship game on the final day of the tournament, Sunday, August 18. A full schedule is available below.

Although the trip to Canada is the first for the Hornets as a program, it is not Sacramento State baseball's first interaction with the country. Nine players on the Hornets roster are Canada natives, including junior third baseman Steven Moretto, who grew up in Coquitlam, just outside of Vancouver.

"I've been looking forward to this tournament ever since we first found out about it," said Moretto. "Personally, I'll have a chance to play in front of some family and friends for the first time. I've also played against a number of guys who are now at UBC, so taking them on again will be a lot of fun."

"With Sacramento State having such a strong Canadian connection," Moretto continued, "it's going to be really cool to have my teammates see where nine of us

come from. That, plus the opportunity to play against some of the best players from Japan is going to make this a really great week of baseball!"

While much of the trip will be filled with practice and competition, the tournament includes a built-in off day on Friday to allow the teams a day for sightseeing and cultural experiences.

"This is a unique opportunity not just on the field, but also off the field," added Christiansen. "Our players will get to interact with the teams and players from Japan as well as the UBC program. It will be an awesome experience for our players to learn from and interact with teams from other parts of the world. It will also provide our 2020 team a chance to start building relationships with one another as we gear up for the fall."

Sacramento State is coming off a successful 2019 season that included 40 wins and a thrilling WAC Tournament Championship. The Hornets advanced to their third NCAA Regional tournament in the last six seasons, defeating and eliminating No. 18 UC Santa Barbara from postseason play. Nearly all the players from the 2019 squad will return for the 2020 season.

For fans able to or interested in making the trip north, single-game tickets and tournament packages are on sale now. Details can be found online at GoThunderbirds.ca/baseballclassic. Tickets will also be available at the gate.

Collegiate Baseball Classic Schedule

Aug. 13-18, 2019

Tuesday, August 13

Sacramento State vs Keio University – 6:30 p.m.
UBC vs University of Tokyo – 7:00 p.m. – Nat Bailey Stadium

Wednesday, August 14

Keio University vs University of Tokyo – 2:30 p.m.
Sacramento State vs UBC – 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 15

University of Tokyo vs Sacramento State – 2:30 p.m.
Keio University vs UBC – 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 17

Semifinal Game 1 – 2:30 p.m.
Semifinal Game 2 – 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, August 18

Consolation Final – 11:00 a.m.
Final – 3:00 p.m.

