Head Coach Josi Kest Directs UA Women Basketball Teams to All-Time Bests

Ken McDonald

On her way to becoming The University of Akron’s winningest women’s basketball coach, Jodi Kest had, over her twelve seasons from 2006-18, five of the best seasons since the sport began in 1974. Those seasons were 18-14 in 2009-10, which earned her Mid-American Conference Coach of the Year honors; two 23-10 seasons in 2012-14; 22-9 in 2014-15; and 19-14 in 2015-16. Her 2013, 2015 and 2016 teams earned National Invitational Tournament bids and her 2013-14 squad captured the University’s one and only MAC Tournament Championship. In the process, Kest developed six of the most
outstanding players in the program’s history led by All-American Rachel Tecca, 2009-14, the University’s all-time high scorer and rebounder with 2,317 points and 1,109 rebounds. The others were first team All-MAC teammates, Hanna Luburgh—holding UA’s all-time single season scoring record with 734 points; Kara Murphy; Sina King; Hannah Plybon; and Kacie Cassel, who led the nation with a record 7.8 assists in a game in 2013.