

# Insight on Coaching – Guest Bio

*Mary Wise*

*Head Coach, University of Florida Volleyball*

## **Introduction**

As the head coach of the University of Florida volleyball team, Mary Wise has led her team to 17 consecutive SEC Championships—that's one every year since her first season at UF.

She is the first coach in NCAA history to win 100 straight games and has the highest winning percentage in the history of NCAA Division I athletic coaches with at least ten seasons of coaching (.906).

She was recently voted by USA Volleyball as the "All Time Great Coach," has won the SEC "Coach of the Year" award ten times and is the only female in NCAA history to coach in the national championship match.

At the age of 21, Coach Wise became the youngest Division I coach ever hired. Wise has gone on to lead her teams to the Final Four seven times; making her the only female in NCAA history to coach in more than one Final Four match.

With her emphasis on academics in addition to athletics, members of the Gator volleyball team under Wise have combined to earn 87 Academic All-SEC honors since 1991 as well as 16 Academic All-American honors.

## **Experience**

Prior to guiding the Gators, Wise honed her talents at Kentucky as an assistant for five years from 1986-90. During her progression from a graduate assistant to an associate head coach, the Wildcats won a pair of SEC titles and advanced to the NCAA Tournament three times.

Before moving on to Lexington, KY., Wise had previously served as the head coach at Iowa State from 1981-84. At the time of her hire, she became the youngest Division I head coach in history before eventually guiding the Cyclones to an 81-63 record, which also included a second-place finish in the Big Eight Conference.

Before her coaching career began Wise was a dean's list student and standout setter on Purdue's 1979 and 1980 Big Ten Championship teams.

## **Education**

- Wise graduated from Purdue in 1981 with a bachelor's degree in physical education after a standout career as a setter for the Boilermakers.

## **Professional Affiliations, Publications and Recognition**

Her influence stretched even farther after Wise was the lead editor for the book *Volleyball Drills for Champions*. She also produced a series of videos titled "Foundations for Successful Volleyball." She has won many accolades throughout her coaching career, including: two time AVCA National Coach of the Year, USA Volleyball All-Time Great Coach and 10-time SEC Coach of the Year.