

How did he get there?

A look at the career of a legend

Lute Olson

► Career Record:

- 663-235 (.738) in 29 years overall
- 471-143 (.767) in 19 years at Arizona
- 167-91 (.647) in nine years at Iowa
- 24-2 (.923) in one year at Long Beach St.
- Pac-10 Championships – 9 (1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1993, 1994, 1998, 2000)
- Final Four Appearances – 5 (1980-Iowa, 1988, 1994, 1997, 2001)
- National Championships – 1 (1997)
- 18 straight NCAA Tournament appearances (second most in history behind North Carolina's 26)

► Awards/Honors

- Big Ten Coach-of-the-Year – 2 (1979, 1981)
- World Championship Team Coach – 1986
- Pac-10 Coach-of-the-Year – 6 (1986, 1988, 1989, 1993, 1994, 1998)
- Pima County Sports Hall of Fame – 1999
- Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame – 2002

► Milestone Wins

- Win No. 1 – Dec. 12, 1973 Long Beach State 84 Puget Sound 55
- Win No. 100 – Feb. 3, 1979 Iowa 97 Minnesota 71
- Win No. 200 – Feb. 25, 1984 Arizona 69 Oregon State 58
- Win No. 300 – March 27, 1988 Arizona 70 North Carolina 52 (West Regional Final)
- Win No. 400 – Feb. 13, 1993 Arizona 94 Washington state 72
- Win No. 500 – Feb. 11, 1996 Arizona 79 Cincinnati 76
- Win No. 600 – Jan. 8, 2000 Arizona 68 Stanford 65

► 5 Best Players

- **Sean Elliot** – One of the greatest players in the history of Arizona. He is the all-time leader in points, field goals and free throws, just to name a few.
- **Steve Kerr** – One of two players in UA history to have his number retired. Kerr has had one of the best NBA careers ever for an Arizona athlete.
- **Khalid Reeves** – Even though he never had the kind of NBA career some expected, he was a great college player. His 1993-1994 was one of the best in UA history. He averaged 24.2 points, the most ever for a Wildcat.
- **Damon Stoudamire** – One of the best to play the point guard position at Arizona. Many have followed — Terry, Bibby, Gardner — but all are still compared to him.
- **Ronnie Lester** – Was an All-American for Olson in the year the Hawkeyes went to the Final Four.

► 5 Best Wins

- **Kentucky, 1997.** After defeating three No. 1 teams leading up to this game fifth seeded Arizona won the national title 84-79 in overtime at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis.
- **Georgetown, 1980.** Iowa's "Fabulous Few" defeated Georgetown 81-80 on a three-point play by Steve Waite with only five seconds to go to put Olson's Hawkeyes in the Final Four.
- **Kansas, 1997.** Considered one of the greatest upsets in school history, Arizona beat the No. 1-ranked Jayhawks 85-82 to advance to the Final Four.
- **North Carolina, 1988.** An Olson first at UA. The school's first-ever Final Four appearance was locked up after this 70-52 victory against the Tar Heels.
- **Cincinnati, 1996.** Olson gets his 500th win on a full-court buzzer-beater by Miles Simon.

— Compiled by Maxx Wolfson and Jeff Lund

Lute Olson: A Timeline

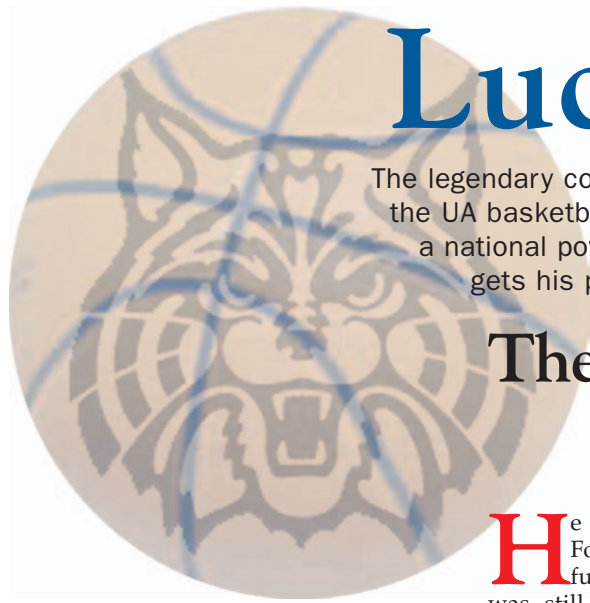
BY JEFF LUND
Assistant Sports Editor

- 1973 – Begins coaching career at Long Beach State. Finishes first season with 24-2 record.
- 1979 – Leads Iowa to Big Ten title, and NCAA Tournament (First Round).



- 1980 – Iowa reaches Final Four — Olson's first.
- 1983 – Last postseason appearance with Iowa (Midwest Regional).
- 1983 – First season at Arizona – Team finishes 11-17 (eighth in Pac-10).
- 1986 – Olson gets first Pac-10 title, finishes 23-9 and reaches first round of NCAA tournament.
- 1988 – Arizona reaches first-ever Final Four, finishing 35-3 (17-1 first in Pac-10). Loses to Oklahoma in semi-final.
- 1991 – Arizona wins a share of fourth straight Pac-10 title.

- 1995 Damon Stoudamire – 7th / Toronto
- 1996 Joseph Blair – 35th / Seattle
- Ben Davis – 43rd / Phoenix
- Reggie Geary 56th / Cleveland
- 1998 Mike Bibby 2nd / Vancouver
- Michael Dickerson 14th / Houston
- Miles Simon 42nd / Orlando
- 1999 Jason Terry 10th / Atlanta
- A.J. Bramlett 39th / Cleveland
- 2001 Richard Jefferson 13th / New Jersey
- Gilbert Arenas 31st / Golden State
- Michael Wright 39th / New York
- Loren Woods 46th / Minnesota



Lucky Lute

The legendary coach who turned the UA basketball program into a national powerhouse finally gets his place in the Hall

The story of Tucson's leading man

BY DAVID STEVENSON
Staff Writer

Off the court

How do you feel about Lute Olson being inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame?

— Compiled by Jeff Lund



"It's definitely overdue."

— **Monica Armenta,**
men's basketball secretary



"I think it's wonderful that coach Olson is being recognized appropriately."

— **Lydia Burch,**
Olson's secretary of 20 years



"He should have gotten in a couple years ago, but any time you get into the Hall of Fame it's great."

— **Senior forward Luke Walton**



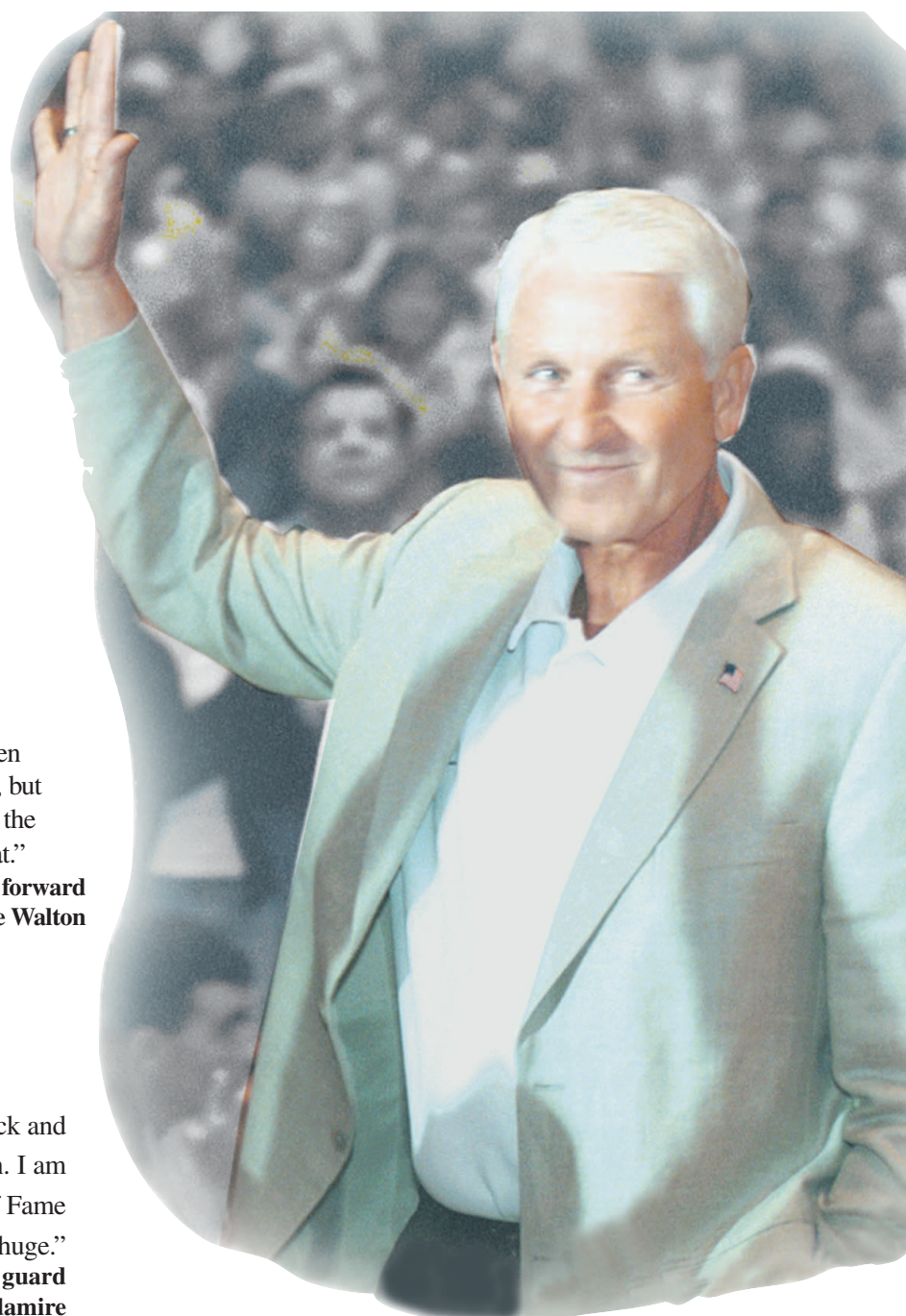
"I just have to sit back and look at my situation. I am playing for a Hall of Fame coach — that's huge."

— **Sophomore guard Salim Stoudamire**



"It's a great honor. He has really helped the program. I can't be more proud of him."

— **Senior guard Julie Brase,**
granddaughter of Lute Olson



Lute Olson's Wildcats in the NBA draft

- 1984 Leon Wood – 10th / Philadelphia
- 1985 Pete Williams – 89th / Denver
- Eddie Smith – 158th / Denver
- 1988 Tom Tolbert – 34th / Charlotte
- Steve Kerr – 50th / Phoenix
- 1989 Sean Elliott – 3rd / San Antonio
- Anthony Cook – 24th / Phoenix
- 1990 Jud Buechler – 38th / Seattle
- 1991 Brian Williams – 10th / Orlando
- 1992 Sean Rooks – 30th / Dallas
- 1993 Chris Mills – 22nd / Cleveland
- Ed Stokes – 35th / Miami
- 1994 Khalid Reeves – 12th / Miami

- 1995 Damon Stoudamire – 7th / Toronto
- 1996 Joseph Blair – 35th / Seattle
- Ben Davis – 43rd / Phoenix
- Reggie Geary 56th / Cleveland
- 1998 Mike Bibby 2nd / Vancouver
- Michael Dickerson 14th / Houston
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Top: Lute Olson gives his team instructions during a timeout of a game in McKale Center.

Bottom: Olson walks next to fellow inductee Larry Brown earlier this summer. Both will be officially enshrined tonight. Olson's 10-minute pre-recorded tape will be played at the ceremony because he is attending his son's wedding in Italy.

(Above) File Photo (Left) The Associated Press

OLSON

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when they whizzed by his house to show their appreciation during all hours of the day — a little too radical for Olson's liking, his long-time assistant Jim Rosborough said.

"He was swamped with people all of the time, even though they were being nice. They just wanted to talk to him," Rosborough said. "I think it got too pressure-packed and overwhelming for him."

It was the tranquility of the desert that lured him away. A smaller city and a crippled basketball program was the perfect setting for Olson to seek refuge from the disturbances of the Midwest. But rather than giving up the winning in order to leave a more peaceful life, Olson simply brought his ways with him.

One of the components of his success was his wife, Bobbi. She became the first lady of Wildcat basketball and accompanied him on the recruiting trips. When prospects toured the Arizona campus, she cooked them breakfast and told them she hoped they would be part of the family. She held fundraising events, spearheaded numerous charity drives and attended every Wildcat basketball game.

Bobbi died of ovarian cancer in the middle of the 2001 season after a two-year battle with the disease. The players honored her by writing her name on their uniforms for the next game, but struggled to maintain focus in the following weeks as Olson went on a leave of absence. Olson would return to his familiar post on the UA sideline after five games, and together they played out the season dedicated to Bobbi. The court in McKale Center, which was once named Lute Olson Court, was changed to Lute and Bobbi Olson Court.

"Basketball was so good because it gave everyone an outlet after the events of his wife. It was therapeutic for everyone and it made you realize that life is very precious,"



Photo courtesy of Arizona Basketball
Olson with his 1977 Iowa coaching staff. (From left to right) Head coach Lute Olson, assistant coaches Tony McAndrews, Jim Rosborough, Floyd Theard.

assistant coach Josh Pastner said.

The Wildcats ran off five straight victories in the post-season but fell short of their national championship dream with a 10-point loss to Duke.

This year will be no different than the others. Olson will wear the same game-day outfit — the khaki slacks and blue blazer.

He'll still have the same silver hairdo and prowl the sidelines barking orders or take his regular seat on the bench next to his long-time assistant, Rosborough. Plus, his team is back in its common position in preseason polls — sitting on the top as No. 1. It's quite possible he could win his 10th conference title and play deep into his 19th-consecutive post-season appearance.

And who would bet against him? So far, everything along the way has given no one reason to. Especially since Olson is now in a place he calls home.

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Keeping company with the very best

Tomorrow, the Basketball Hall of Fame will welcome six new members into its family. Joining UA head coach Lute Olson will be five other legends, including players, a coach and an entire team.

BY JOSH BOGORAD
Staff Writer

Earvin 'Magic' Johnson

As a 6-foot-9 point guard, Earvin "Magic" Johnson had the ability to confuse defenses in a way no one else could. Every game was a personal highlight reel for the "Magic Man." Whether it was his patented baby hook shot, behind-the-back passes that seemed to be generated from nowhere or his clutch ability whenever the game relied on him, Magic delivered.

Magic was a 12-time All-Star in a 13-year career. He helped lead the Los Angeles



Lakers to five World Championships.

In spite of all his accomplishments on the court, Magic's biggest win has come against the HIV virus. Ten years after being diagnosed with HIV, Magic Johnson will enter the Hall of Fame tomorrow with the virus undetectable in his body. It has

been called a medical miracle and an impossible occurrence, yet for anyone who saw him on or off the court, they simply call it "Magic."

Drazen Petrovic

Drazen Petrovic's impact on the NBA can be felt now more than ever. For the growing number of foreign players entering the NBA with success today, Petrovic helped pave the way. This Croatian superstar pioneered the European movement into the NBA. As one of the first European players to reach star status in the United States, Petrovic proved that the basketball world had more to offer America than a brief workout. Petrovic won the first



of his two Silver Medals in the 1988 Summer Olympics and once scored an incredible 112 points in a Croatian League game in 1985.

This was enough for the NBA to take notice, and Petrovic finally burst into the league with the Portland Trailblazers in 1989 and later played for New Jersey.

Unfortunately, Petrovic's career would be cut short before he could gain the popularity he deserved. In 1993, Petrovic was killed in a car accident in Germany.

Larry Brown

Normally, when a coach moves around a lot it is the sign of an unsuccessful career. For Larry Brown, however, it is the sign of discovering talent and victories everywhere he goes. Larry Brown has coached college or professional basketball for the past 30 seasons. He has had a winning record in 26 of those seasons even while leading teams such as the Los Angeles Clippers and Denver Nuggets. Brown currently resides at



No. 9 on the all-time NBA wins list, and is the only NBA coach to ever earn a playoff spot with six different NBA teams. In 1980, he led the UCLA Bruins to a national championship, and 20 years later he led the Philadelphia 76ers to their first NBA Finals since 1982. Perhaps more impressive than all his other achievements, Brown has

actually taught Allen Iverson that the four other guys on the court with the same shirts as him are his teammates.

Kay Yow

Kay Yow ranks fifth on the all-time list for wins by a female college coach. At Elon and North Carolina State, Yow has broken into the "W" column 625 times in just 22 seasons. Yow has always kept her teams in the national spotlight. Teams under Yow have finished in the Associated Press Top 20 poll 16 out of 22 seasons. She has won coach of the year honors four times in her storied career and is the



only female coach to ever win gold at the Olympics and the World Championships. Before women's basketball gained the current popularity it has, Yow remained committed to winning. She has won two national championships with N.C. State, and in 1988 she was inducted into the Women's Sports Hall of Fame.

In 2000, she entered the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. Her induction tomorrow will complete her legacy as one of the finest female coaches of all time.

The Harlem Globetrotters

In 1927, when the Harlem Globetrotters became a professional basketball team, many people said they were a joke. Seventy-five years later, they had no idea what an amazing joke they would turn into. Contrary to popular belief, it wasn't until the early '40s that the Globetrotters became an "entertainment-first" basketball team. Before the Globetrotters started making their way around the world as a comedy



act, they proved to the basketball world that they had talent. Several basketball experts have said that the Globetrotters induction was a long time coming. Among them are the Washington Generals — the team that lost to the Globetrotters an estimated 15,000 times — who can finally say at least they were beaten by a Hall of Fame team, and Scooby-Doo and Shaggy, who never would've found all those ghosts without the help of the Globetrotters.

► 1993 – Olson wins sixth Pac-10 title (NCAA First Round).
► 1994 – Arizona reaches Final Four (Olson's third). Pac-10 Champions. Loses to Arkansas in semi-final.

► 1997 – Arizona wins National Championship, topping Kentucky 84-79 in national final.
► 1998 – Arizona wins eighth Pac-10 title under Olson.

► 1999 – Arizona ties with Stanford for Pac-10 title (Olson's ninth).
► 2001 – Olson's fifth Final Four (loses to Duke in Final).

If you watch ...

2 p.m. today – ESPN Classic College Basketball
1997 NCAA National Championship
Arizona vs. Kentucky

7 p.m. today – ESPN Classic
2002 Basketball
Hall of Fame Induction
Ceremonies – LIVE

