

ESPN
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SAGARIN

MEMPHIS

Home of the Blues? Absolutely. But in every decade since the 1970s, the Tigers have risen up to remind the nation that Memphis is also home to a pretty special college basketball tradition. Relying on local talent like Larry Finch, Anfernee "Penny" Hardaway and Andre Turner, the Tigers made Final Four trips in 1973, '85 and 2008 and reached the NCAA Final in '73 and '08 (losing both times).

BEST TEAM: 2007-08 With a nine-point lead over Kansas at San Antonio's Alamodome, these Tigers were 2:12 away from the school's first national title. Then the wheels fell off. Turnovers, missed free throws and defensive lapses resulted in a crushing 75-68 overtime loss. Led by junior Chris Douglas-Roberts and freshman sensation Derrick Rose, John Calipari's squad had to "settle" for a two-loss season, against the most wins of any team in NCAA history (38).

BEST PLAYER: C KEITH LEE (1981-85) A 6'10" wizard from West Memphis, Ark., Lee led his high school team to two undefeated seasons before leading Memphis (then known as Memphis State) to 104 wins and four NCAA trips in his four seasons. Lee finished his career with the all-time school record of 2,408 points and 1,336 rebounds.

BEST COACH: LARRY FINCH (1986-97) An All-America guard on the Tigers' first Final Four team in 1973, Finch took over the Memphis program in 1986 and proceeded to win 220 games in his 11 seasons. All told, Finch competed in more than 500 games as a Tiger player

and coach, and participated in more than 300 wins.

GAME FOR THE AGES: In Finch's first season as head coach—a year dubbed the Season of Miracles—his Cardiac Kids had several come-from-behind wins. But perhaps none was as improbable as the Jan. 14, 1987, 59-58 win over Oral Roberts. Memphis trailed by seven points with :15 left, but wound up winning on John Wilfong's last-second three-pointer.

HEARTBREAKER: The difference between the verge of ecstasy and the edge of despair? For Memphis, that would be the last few ticks in the April 7, 2008, NCAA title game. The Tigers led Kansas by three when, with 2.1 seconds left, the Jayhawks' Mario Chalmers hit a miracle jumper. A desperation heave from Robert Dozier sailed wide and Kansas dominated overtime to win by seven.

FIERCEST RIVAL: Memphis and its in-state foe, Tennessee, met only 18 times from 1969 until their epic battle of Feb. 23, 2008, won by Tennessee, 66-62. Because of the proximity of the schools (382 miles), the Big Conference-Smaller Conference discrepancy and the alumni rivalries, these two schools—surprise!—simply don't like each other. More than half their meetings have been decided by four points or fewer. UT leads, 12-8.

FANFARE AND HOOPLA: Playing in the NBA home of the Memphis Grizzlies—the FedExForum—gives Memphis games a big-time feel. Nearby is one of the nation's biggest party destinations—Beale Street. Pre- and postgame revelry floods the downtown area on game days, making for one of the college basketball's best parties.

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FAN FAVORITE: F JOEY DORSEY (2004-08) Often prompting chants of "Joey! Joey! Joey!" during his career, the big teddy bear of a bruiser endeared himself to the Tigers faithful like few others. Though he was allegedly involved in several off-the-court altercations, Dorsey's supporters never gave up on him and serenaded him with one final round of "Joeys" during his last college game at the FedEx Forum in 2008.

CONSENSUS ALL-AMERICAS

1983, '85 Keith Lee, C
1993 Anfernee Hardaway, G/F
2008 Chris Douglas-Roberts, G

FIRST-ROUND PRO PICKS

1957 Win Wilfong, St. Louis (5)
1961 Wayne Yates, LA Lakers (4)
1969 Mike Butler, New Orleans (ABA)
1985 Keith Lee, Chicago (11)
1986 William Bedford, Phoenix (6)
1993 Anfernee Hardaway, Golden State (3)
1995 David Vaughn, Orlando (25)
1996 Lorenzen Wright, LA Clippers (7)
2002 Dajuan Wagner, Cleveland (6)
2006 Rodney Carney, Chicago (16)
2006 Shawne Williams, Indiana (17)
2008 Derrick Rose, Chicago (1)
2009 Tyreke Evans, Sacramento (4)

PROFILE

University of Memphis, Memphis, TN
Founded: 1912
Enrollment: 20,214 (15,813 undergraduate)
Colors: Royal blue and gray
Nickname: Tigers
Current arena: FedExForum, opened in 2004 (18,400)
Previous: Pyramid Arena, 1991-2004 (21,000); Mid-South Coliseum, 1964-91 (11,200); Memorial Fieldhouse, 1964-91 (4,000); Memorial Gym, 1929-51 (4,000); Normal Cage/YMCA/Messick HS Gym, 1920-29 (N/A)
First game: Dec. 14, 1920
All-time record: 1,382-810-1 (.630)

Total weeks in AP Top 20/25: 253

Current conference: Conference USA (1995-)

Conference titles:

Missouri Valley: 1 (1973)
Metro Conference: 3 (1982, '84 [tie], '85)
Great Midwest: 1 (1995)
C-USA: 6 (1996 [tie], 2004 [tie], '06, '07, '08, '09)

Conference tournament titles:

Metro Conference: 4 (1982, '84, '85, '87)
C-USA: 4 (2006, '07, '08, '09)

NCAA Tournaments: 22 (5 appearances vacated)

Sweet 16s (since 1975): 10
Final Fours: 3

NIT appearances: 16

Semifinals: 4
Titles: 1 (2002)

TOP 5

G Larry Finch (1970-73)
G/F Anfernee Hardaway (1991-93)
F Forest Arnold (1952-56)
F Ronnie Robinson (1970-73)
C Keith Lee (1981-85)

RECORDS	GAME	SEASON	CAREER
POINTS	48 Larry Finch, vs. Saint Joseph's (Jan. 20, 1973)	762 Dajuan Wagner (2001-02)	2,408 Keith Lee (1981-85)
POINTS PER GAME		24.0 Larry Finch (1972-73)	22.3 Larry Finch (1970-73)
REBOUNDS	28 Ronnie Robinson, vs. Tulsa (Feb. 25 1971)	501 Larry Kenon (1972-73)	1,336 Keith Lee (1981-85)
ASSISTS	15 Andre Turner, vs. South Carolina (March 7, 1986)	262 Andre Turner (1985-86)	763 Andre Turner (1982-86)

SEASON REVIEW											
SEASON	W-L	CONF.	SCORING	COACH	RECORD	SEASON	W-L	CONF.	SCORING	COACH	RECORD
1920-21	22-7-1			Fred Grantham	22-7-1 .750	1928-29	15-3			Zach Curlin	
1921-22	1-7			W.H. DePriest	1-7 .125	1929-30	16-8			Zach Curlin	
1922-23	6-4			Lester Barnhard		1930-31	14-2			Zach Curlin	
1923-24	4-9			Lester Barnhard	10-13 .435	1931-32	11-10			Zach Curlin	
1924-25	3-5			Zach Curlin		1932-33	7-6			Zach Curlin	
1925-26	4-5			Zach Curlin		1933-34	5-14			Zach Curlin	
1926-27	5-7			Zach Curlin		1934-35	5-15			Zach Curlin	
1927-28	10-11			Zach Curlin		1935-36	7-7			Zach Curlin	

SEAS.	W-L	CONF.	POSTSEASON	SCORING	REBOUNDS	ASSISTS	COACH	RECORD
1936-37	5-7						Zach Curlin	
1937-38	0-14						Zach Curlin	
1938-39	2-13						Zach Curlin	
1939-40	7-9						Zach Curlin	
1940-41	9-8						Zach Curlin	
1941-42	7-9						Zach Curlin	
1942-43	7-4						Zach Curlin	
1943-44	no team							
1944-45	3-6						Zach Curlin	
1945-46	7-4						Zach Curlin	
1946-47	11-7						Zach Curlin	
1947-48	13-10						Zach Curlin	173-184 .485
1948-49	11-10						McCoy Tarry	
1949-50	12-9						McCoy Tarry	
1950-51	17-8						McCoy Tarry	40-27 .597
1951-52	25-10						Eugene Lambert	
1952-53	10-14						Eugene Lambert	
1953-54	15-9						Eugene Lambert	
1954-55	17-5		NCAA FIRST ROUND				Eugene Lambert	
1955-56	20-7		NCAA FIRST ROUND				Eugene Lambert	87-45 .659
1956-57	24-6		NIT RUNNER-UP	Win Wilfong	21.0	Win Wilfong	12.4	
1957-58	15-7						Bob Vanatta	
1958-59	17-6						Bob Vanatta	
1959-60	18-5		NIT FIRST ROUND				Bob Vanatta	
1960-61	20-3		NIT QUARTERFINALS	Wayne Yates	17.5	Wayne Yates	14.4	
1961-62	15-7		NCAA FIRST ROUND	Hunter Beckman	21.3	Bob Neumann	10.5	
1962-63	19-7		NIT QUARTERFINALS	Hunter Beckman	18.5	Hunter Beckman	7.4	
1963-64	14-11			Bob Neumann	20.7	John Hillman	9.4	
1964-65	10-14			John Hillman	20.1	John Hillman	9.6	
1965-66	10-15			Mike Butler	19.2	Jimmy Hawkins	7.5	
1966-67	17-9		NIT FIRST ROUND	Mike Butler	17.1	Chuck Neal	6.6	
1967-68	8-17	2-14		Mike Butler	19.4	Mackie Don Smith	7.7	
1968-69	6-19	0-16		Richard Jones	21.7	Richard Jones	11.1	
1969-70	6-20	1-15		James Douglas	17.1	Don Holcomb	11.4	
1970-71	18-8	8-6		Larry Finch	18.4	Ronnie Robinson	14.2	
1971-72	21-7	12-2	NIT FIRST ROUND	Larry Finch	23.9	Ronnie Robinson	13.3	
1972-73	24-6	12-2	NCAA RUNNER-UP	Larry Finch	24.0	Larry Kenon	16.7	
1973-74	19-11		NIT QUARTERFINALS	Dexter Reed	18.4	John Washington	7.8	
1974-75	20-7		NIT FIRST ROUND	Bill Cook	19.0	Marion Hillard	12.5	
1975-76	21-9		NCAA FIRST ROUND	Bill Cook	18.8	Marion Hillard	11.2	
1976-77	20-9	2-4	NIT FIRST ROUND	Dexter Reed	17.0	John Washington	9.3	
1977-78	19-9	7-5		James Bradley	18.3	James Bradley	9.8	
1978-79	13-15	5-5		Rodney Lee	12.0	James Bradley	9.2	
1979-80	13-14	5-7		Otis Jackson	12.1	Hank McDowell	7.5	
1980-81	13-14	5-7		Hank McDowell	11.9	Hank McDowell	7.6	
1981-82	24-5	10-2	NCAA REGIONAL SEMIFINALS	Keith Lee	18.3	Keith Lee	11.0	
1982-83	23-8	6-6	NCAA REGIONAL SEMIFINALS	Keith Lee	18.7	Keith Lee	10.8	
1983-84	26-7	11-3	NCAA REGIONAL SEMIFINALS	Keith Lee	18.4	Keith Lee	10.8	
1984-85	31-4	13-1	NCAA NATIONAL SEMIFINALS	Keith Lee	19.7	Keith Lee	9.2	
1985-86	28-6	9-3	NCAA SECOND ROUND	William Bedford	17.3	William Bedford	8.5	
1986-87	26-8	8-4		Vincent Askew	15.1	Sylvester Gray	7.6	
1987-88	20-12	6-6	NCAA SECOND ROUND	Dwight Boyd	15.2	Dewayne Bailey	5.8	
1988-89	21-11	8-4	NCAA FIRST ROUND	Elliot Perry	19.4	Steve Ballard	6.8	
1989-90	18-12	8-6	NIT FIRST ROUND	Elliot Perry	16.8	Ernest Smith	5.7	
1990-91	17-15	7-7	NIT SECOND ROUND	Elliot Perry	20.8	Anthony Douglas	4.9	
1991-92	23-11	5-5	NCAA REGIONAL FINALS	Anfernee Hardaway	17.4	David Vaughn	8.3	
1992-93	20-12	7-3	NCAA FIRST ROUND	Anfernee Hardaway	22.8	Anfernee Hardaway	8.5	
1993-94	13-16	4-8		David Vaughn	16.6	David Vaughn	12.0	
1994-95	24-10	9-3	NCAA REGIONAL SEMIFINALS	Lorenzen Wright	14.8	Lorenzen Wright	10.2	
1995-96	22-8	11-3	NCAA FIRST ROUND	Lorenzen Wright	17.4	Lorenzen Wright	10.4	
1996-97	16-15	10-4	NIT FIRST ROUND	Cedric Henderson	16.0	Sunday Adebayo	7.0	
1997-98	17-12	12-4	NIT SECOND ROUND	Omar Sneed	20.9	Omar Sneed	9.2	
1998-99	13-15	6-10		Omar Sneed	16.7	Omar Sneed	7.5	
1999-2000	15-16	7-9		Kelly Wise	14.5	Kelly Wise	8.6	
2000-01	21-15	10-6	NIT THIRD PLACE	Kelly Wise	15.3	Kelly Wise	10.1	
2001-02	27-9	12-4	NIT CHAMPION	Dajuan Wagner	21.2	Kelly Wise	10.3	
2002-03	23-7	13-3	NCAA FIRST ROUND	Chris Massie	16.7	Chris Massie	10.8	
2003-04	22-8	12-4	NCAA SECOND ROUND	Sean Banks	17.4	Sean Banks	6.5	
2004-05	22-16	9-7	NIT SEMIFINALS	Rodney Carney	16.0	Duane Erwin	6.3	
2005-06	33-4	13-1	NCAA REGIONAL FINALS	Rodney Carney	17.2	Joey Dorsey	7.5	
2006-07	33-4	16-0	NCAA REGIONAL FINALS	Chris Douglas-Roberts	15.4	Joey Dorsey	9.4	
2007-08	38-2	16-0	NCAA RUNNER-UP	Chris Douglas-Roberts	18.1	Joey Dorsey	9.5	
2008-09	33-4	16-0	NCAA REGIONAL SEMIFINALS	Tyreke Evans	17.1	Shawn Taggart	7.6	
						Antonio Anderson	4.5	252-69 .785

Records don't reflect games forfeited or vacated. For adjusted records, see p. 521.

Coach's record adjusted to reflect games forfeited or vacated: 149-53, .738. For yearly totals, see p. 521.