



**CHERYL MILLER • F • USC**

Four straight California state championships in high school were only the beginning for the future Hall of Famer, who kept right on winning titles when she arrived in college. The sister of NBA star Reggie Miller led USC to an NCAA championship as a freshman in 1983, then repeated the feat as a sophomore, earning MVP honors both times. Miller's fame and success was instrumental in helping the women's tournament gain credibility in its early days.



**MAYA MOORE • F • UCONN**

The former Lynx star is the winningest women's basketball player in NCAA history, going 150-4 over her four seasons with the Huskies, including four straight Final Fours. And while she powered back-to-back undefeated championship seasons in 2009 and 2010, Moore was arguably at her most unstoppable in the national semifinals, where she averaged 28.5 points in four games and owns two of the five highest-scoring games in semifinal history.



**ARIKE OGUNBOWALE • G • NOTRE DAME**

She wore Kobe Bryant's No. 24, talked about her Kobe-style "mamba mentality," and then lived up to her hero's legend with the most clutch Final Four performance in history. With the 2018 semifinal against unbeaten UConn tied in the final five seconds, Ogunbowale nailed a 22-foot jumper to send the Irish to the finals. Then she outdid those heroics and delivered the Irish's first title in 17 years by hitting a miraculous off-balance three-pointer at the buzzer of a tie game against Mississippi State.



**CANDACE PARKER • F • TENNESSEE**

After winning MVP honors en route to the 2007 NCAA championship, Parker dislocated her left shoulder in the regional finals a year later. But Parker strapped a brace around her shoulder at the Final Four, ignored the pain, began driving to the basket rather than taking outside shots, and grabbed 15 rebounds in the semifinal win over LSU. In the title game, she scored 17 more and became a champion, and MVP, for a second time.



**BREANNA STEWART • F • UCONN**

In the boxscore categories, Stewart's history at the Final Four ranks among the Top 10. But in the most important statistic, Stewart's records will never be topped: Four consecutive national championships from 2013-16, and four consecutive MVP trophies. "There just hasn't been a player like Stewie in the women's game in a long, long time," coach Auriemma said of his star forward, who averaged 20.5 points in eight Final Four games, all victories.



**SHERYL SWOOPES • G • TEXAS TECH**

She went on to win four WNBA titles, three MVP awards and three Olympic gold medals, but the legend of Air Swoopes started in her final game for the Red Raiders, the NCAA championship game in 1993. Swoopes dominated Ohio State with 16-of-24 shooting and 11-for-11 from the line, a 47-point outburst that still stands as the highest scoring title game performance.



**DIANA TAURASI • G • UCONN**

Auriemma once summed up his team's three straight national championships from 2002-04 very succinctly: "We have Diana and you don't," the coach said, and never was that more true than in the Final Four. One of the best passers and outside shooters in the game, Taurasi scored 54 points at the 2003 Final Four and also contributed a game-clinching steal on the final play of the Huskies' semifinal win over Texas; a year later, it was a critical assist, a blocked shot and 34 points to capture the 2004 title.

**Coaches**



**GENO AURIEMMA • UCONN**

His Huskies are only 11-10 in national semifinals games, so what's the big deal? Well, two things: Those 21 semifinal games have come in the previous 30 tournaments, including 13 in a row — now 14. And even more incredible? Auriemma is a spotless 11-0 in championship games, his teams dominant when the pressure is greatest. The Italian-born 68-year-old coach, now in his 37th season at Connecticut, is the most successful coach in basketball history, having posted six undefeated seasons, six more with just one loss, and winning streaks of 90 and 111 consecutive games. The Final Four is obviously his biggest challenge — UConn has lost four straight semifinal games — but if the Huskies reach the finals, they're unstoppable, having won their 11 titles by an average of 15.6 points.



**LEON BARMORE • LOUISIANA TECH**

Born and raised in Ruston, La., Barmore was happy coaching high school basketball at his alma mater until Sonja Hogg, who had created the Lady Techsters program in the mid-1970s, asked him to become an assistant. Barmore helped Hogg and Louisiana Tech win the first women's NCAA tournament in 1982, and reach the title game, falling to Cheryl Miller and USC, in 1983. When Hogg left for Baylor a couple of seasons later, Barmore was promoted to head coach and won 86.9% of Tech's games over the next 16 seasons, at the time the highest winning percentage in basketball history. Barmore reached seven Final Fours, going 5-6 and rallying his team from a 14-point deficit against Auburn to win the 1988 national championship.



**PAT SUMMITT • TENNESSEE**

Not many coaches win the Presidential Medal of Freedom, but that reflected the effect that Summitt had on her blossoming sport. For all the games and championships the Lady Vols won under her leadership, Summitt said she was most proud of her players' achievements off the court: Every one of them who completed her eligibility graduated with a degree. Summitt's 18 Final Fours and eight national championships seemed untouchable until UConn's emergence. And a rivalry, sometimes caustic, grew between them, fueled by Auriemma's four title-game victories, the first coming in Minneapolis in 1995, against the Lady Vols. But Summitt, who died in 2016, went 21-10 in the Final Four and never failed to make the NCAA tournament.



**TARA VANDERVEER • STANFORD**

After leading Ohio State to four straight 20-win seasons, VanDerveer made a mistake, several peers told her, in accepting a job at Stanford in 1985, and when neither of her first two seasons with the Cardinal included a winning record, it appeared the critics were right. Five years and two national championships later, there were no more doubts. But VanDerveer, who owns more wins than any coach in women's college history but is 8-11 in the Final Four overall, endured 10 straight Final Four appearances without another title until a breakthrough last April, when her 29-year-wait ended with a 31-2 season and a thrilling 54-53 win over Arizona.