

The Clemson Tigers Head Coach Nancy Harris

Nancy Harris begins her 14th season at the helm of the Clemson women's tennis program after leading the Tigers to their eighth straight NCAA Tournament appearance and their eighth consecutive top-20 final national ranking in 2010. The Clemson Tigers join an elite group of schools that have reached the NCAA Final Four twice in the last eight years: Cal-Berkley, Duke, Florida, Stanford and UCLA. Only fourteen schools since 1988 have reached an NCAA Final Four. Clemson is proud to have accomplished this feat twice making them one of ten universities to be recognized for this outstanding achievement.

In 2010 Harris led Clemson to a fourth straight "Sweet 16" appearance and the program's 9th consecutive NCAA tournament in 2010. The team finished the season ranked 11th in the nation with a 24-6 record. In ACC conference play the Tigers ended 3rd with a 9-2 record. The ACC Conference is considered by many the toughest conference in the nation with six teams ranked in the Top 15 ITA National ITA poll almost every year. The Tigers hosted the NCAA 1st and 2nd rounds of the NCAA National Championship for the 7th consecutive year defeating the UGA Bulldogs marking a second time in the 2010 season to advance with the final 16 teams of the NCAA National Championship in Athens. Falling to Stanford the eventual 2010 National Champions the Tigers finished another "Tiger Strong Season" as one of the nation's top programs. Individually Clemson's Josipa Bek and Keri Wong finished with All ACC and All American honors. Nelly Ciolkowski was named ITA Carolina Region Rookie of the Year.

Four players from the 2009 squad were named All-Americans giving Harris and Clemson the most of any nationally. The four honorees were also a program high and quite an accomplishment for a team with just eight members. In singles, the Tigers were the only team in the country to boast two players ranked in the top 15 during the regular season as Ani Mijacika remained a constant at the top of the polls and a stellar fall season quickly propelled Josipa Bek into the top 10. Both received bids to the NCAA Singles Championships and won their first-round matches. Bek reached the round of 16 in singles and advanced to the quarterfinals in the national doubles tournament with Ina Hadziselimovic to earn All-America status. Under Harris's guidance, Bek became the first freshman in school history to be named an All-American in singles and doubles.

Harris led Clemson to a third straight Sweet 16 appearance and the program's eighth consecutive NCAA tournament in 2009. The Tigers posted a 19-8 overall record and finished third in the ACC with a 9-2 record. They spent every week ranked in the top 15 and were ranked 11th in the final poll.

Harris coached Mijacika back into the number-one spot in the singles poll and she remained atop the rankings for six straight weeks. With Mijacika headlining the group at #4, four players were ranked in the final ITA singles rankings for the second straight season and just the third time in school history. Bek finished the year at #13 to give Harris and Clemson two players ranked in the top 15 for the first time ever. A pair of doubles teams was also listed in the final rankings.

The 2008 Clemson team completed one of the greatest turn around seasons in program history, rallying from a 5-9 record on Mar. 22 to win the final seven matches of the regular season and the ACC Championship. The Tigers earned a bid to the NCAA Tournament for the eighth consecutive season and played host to their fifth straight regional, advancing to the NCAA round of 16 for the fourth time. Clemson was then ranked 13th in the final Fila/ITA Tennis poll, marking the sixth straight top-20 finish for Harris's squad and four national rankings in the top 13 in five years.

Harris coached Mijacika and Carol Salge to All-America honors in doubles after the duo earned the fourth seed in the NCAA Doubles Championship and ranked fourth in the final poll. Both also received bids to the singles tournament and were two of four Tigers listed in the final singles rankings of 2008. Estefania Balda and Laurianne Henry helped the 2008 team become just the second in Clemson history to have more than three players ranked at the end of the year.

In 2007 with a predominantly freshman team (five of ten players) Harris led the Tigers back to the NCAA National Championship when Clemson defeated the University of Virginia in the second round of the regional tournament advancing to the NCAA "Sweet 16". The Tigers fell to Cal-Berkley in their final match in Athens, GA. This marked the third time in four years Clemson would advance to the Final 16 round of the national championship while recording their third top 11 national ranking in three of the four past years.

The 2007 team marked Clemson history with the most number of consecutive weeks in the top 10 rankings and shared the ACC Regular Season title with Ga. Tech. The Clemson Tigers were the only team in the nation to defeat the national champion, Ga. Tech and national runner-up UCLA during the 2007 season. The Tigers claimed three All ACC Academic honors and two ITA All Academic honors. The first ACC Freshman of the Year-Ani Mijacika was named for Clemson while Mijacika and Federica van Adrichem became the first NCAA Final Four doubles team named for Clemson. Mijacika and van Adrichem were named NCAA All Americans. The team posted a remarkable 22-5 record with losses to top 10 teams only.

Harris led Clemson to back-to-back NCAA Final Four appearances in 2004 and 2005, becoming the only Clemson women's sports coach to go to consecutive Final Fours, and guided a 2006 Tiger team with just two upperclassmen to a 17-8 overall record and a #18 final ranking. Clemson played host to an NCAA regional for the third straight year in 2006, winning its opening round match before falling in the regional final. Harris coached Carol Salge and Federica van Adrichem to appearances at the NCAA singles tournament, while van Adrichem claimed the Southeast Regional Championship title during the fall season. The Tigers posted an upset over Georgia early in the year, marking Clemson's first win in Athens since the 1984-85 season. Overall, Harris guided Clemson to victories over five teams ranked in the top 25 during the year, which gave the Tigers a total of 32 under her tutelage. In 2006 ACC action, Clemson recorded an 8-3 ledger to finish fourth in the regular season play and reached the semifinals of the conference tournament for the third straight year.

The 2005 team finished the year with a 22-9 overall record and earned the #3 ITA ranking during the season, which marked the highest a Clemson team has been ranked nationally under Harris and in program history. Harris notched her 100th victory as head coach of the Tigers in 2005 and coached two players to All-America honors, the third national award winners in Harris's tenure. Julie Coin received her second All-America recognition in singles after advancing to the final eight of the NCAA Singles Tournament. She also finished the year ranked #2 in the country, the highest final singles ranking ever for a Clemson player. Harris also coached Coin and Alix Lacelarie to a #10 ranking in the final ITA doubles poll, which earned the Tiger duo All-American honors in doubles.

Harris's 2004 team is arguably the most successful in program history. She led the Tigers to the NCAA Final Four in 2004, which was the first time in Clemson athletic history that any women's team reached an NCAA Final Four event. Clemson finished the 2004 season ranked fifth in the final Intercollegiate Tennis Association poll, which is the highest final national ranking both under Harris and in program history. Harris reached several other milestones during the 2004 season, including leading the team to her first ACC Regular Season title and her first ACC Tournament Championship. The 2004 team's 26 wins are the most for the Tigers under Harris and tie for the third-best win total in program history. Harris coached her first All-American, Julie Coin, to a Final Four appearance at the NCAA Singles Tournament and also coached her first ACC Player of the Year (Coin) and ACC Tournament Most Valuable Performer (Alix Lacelarie) in 2004. Harris was named the ITA Southeast Region Coach of the Year for the 2003-04 seasons' accomplishments. The USTA of South Carolina also selected her as the 2004 Coach of the Year.

In 1998, her first season at the helm of the program, Harris led the team to an appearance in the NCAA Tournament. In 1999, she guided then-freshman Carmina Giraldo to a 54th-place national ranking and an appearance in the NCAA Individual Singles Tournament. In 2000, the Tigers made their ninth appearance in the NCAA Tournament after finishing third in the ACC. Clemson transposed its win-loss record from the 1998 season and finished the season ranked 28th with a 15-7 mark overall. In 2000, Giraldo earned a second berth in the NCAA Singles Tournament and a #28 final national ranking in singles. In 2002, Clemson reached the second round of the NCAA Championship, upsetting 16th-ranked William & Mary in the first round. Harris led the 2002 Tigers to a 14-11 overall record and a final national ranking of 34th. Alix Lacelarie advanced to the second round of the NCAA Singles Championship and Milena Stanoycheva won the ACC Flight Championship at number six singles. During the 2003 season, Harris led the Tigers to a 19-6 record, a final ITA ranking of 19th, a second-place ACC regular season finish and the team's second consecutive trip to the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Academics have always been a priority for Harris, as evidenced by the success that her teams have enjoyed in the classroom in recent years. She has coached ten ITA Scholar Athletes during her tenure at Clemson and the Tigers were named an ITA All-Academic Team in 2002 and 2003. Harris has also coached 27 athletes who have been named to the ACC Honor Roll and four Clemson student athletes have been named to the ACC All Academic Team since its inception in 2006. The Tigers have recorded a cumulative team GPA of 3.0 or better in each of Harris's ten years with the program.

Prior to her time at Clemson, she was a head coach at Auburn University in Montgomery for nine seasons, during which time she coached both the men's and women's teams for five years. She led the women's team to the national championship once and the men's team to the same honor twice. Harris is a five-time National Coach-of-the-Year Award recipient, having won the award in 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996 and 1997. In her nine years as the head women's coach at Auburn-Montgomery, Harris coached 36 All-Americans and four Academic All-Americans. Harris is the first and only woman to date in U.S. collegiate tennis history to lead both a men's and women's team to national championships titles. In 2006 she was named to the Auburn University of Montgomery Sports Hall of Fame.

Harris competed professionally under the guidance of tennis great Pancho Segura from 1978 to 1982. She achieved a WTA world ranking of 226 before falling to injury. Her long and impressive resume includes participation in three Grand Slam events: Wimbledon, the U.S. Open and the Australian Open. Harris is fluent in Spanish which she learned while playing abroad.

After leaving the tour in 1983 she returned to school to complete her university degree. In 1984 she graduated cum laude in biology from the College of Sciences at the University of Alabama. From 1983-89 Harris served two local tennis clubs in Montgomery, Alabama, as Tennis Director and Head USPTA teaching professional where she taught over 600 families of juniors from the surrounding community. The next challenge Harris chose to undertake was coaching at the collegiate level. Her first job was at Auburn University at Montgomery, where she served as the women's coach for nine seasons and the men's coach for five years. "It was a lot of fun, but at the same time it was very challenging."

Harris took the challenge head on and had great success, leading both teams to national championships. The Auburn-Montgomery women's NAIA National Championship title in 1992 marked the first time a women's tennis team from the state of Alabama won a national championship. She also led the women's team to four national runner-up finishes (1991, 1993, 1994 and 1997). Harris led the AUM men's tennis team to two NAIA National Championships (1995 and 1996), becoming the first female to coach a men's team to a national championship.

Harris was attracted to Clemson for many reasons. She was especially impressed with the level of support Clemson offers the student athletes. Clemson established Vickery Hall in 1991 to assist student athletes academically. Due to their rigorous schedule of traveling and practice, time can be very limited. "There is tremendous support for a student-athlete to have the opportunity to succeed. I really feel the student is well cared for at Clemson. A great

example is Vickery Hall. I have never seen anything like it; it is truly unique. It offers our players every opportunity to move forward academically while maintaining a busy schedule. We are very fortunate to have this support for our student-athletes." Harris is a coach who gives of her time freely and is completely devoted to her athletes. This is another reason she was drawn to Clemson. At Auburn University Montgomery, she was responsible for the coaching, academic counseling and administrative aspects of both tennis teams. "I wanted to offer my players more," says Harris, "This includes more of my time on the tennis court and more time devoted to the student-athletes. They can play at a higher level if they are given more personal attention. Since I have been at Clemson, I have had more time to be on the court coaching the athletes and I enjoy that so much."

Harris has had a life filled with activity and success. "I feel whatever road you take in life, it is most important to give your best effort and to perform as well as you can. By giving your best you know exactly where you stand and can make good decisions about your future. That is what I always tried to do, whether as a student or as an athlete." To say the least, she has succeeded. Harris is married to Jose Caban. Caban is a professor in Clemson University's School of Architecture.

Clemson Tiger Tennis Camp Head Professional, Camp Owner

For over thirty years in the sport Harris has played collegiate tennis (University of Alabama 1976-77), played as a Professional Athlete (1977-82), served as Director of Tennis and USPTA Head Professional of two major clubs in Montgomery, AL (1983-89), served as Head Coach for Men's and Women's Tennis (Auburn-Montgomery, 1989-1997) and currently serves as Head Coach for the Clemson Tigers Women's Tennis Program (1997- Present). Coach Nancy Harris loves the game and believes in giving back to the sport that has given her so much. She is a natural teacher and loves being on the court with the players. The Clemson Tiger Tennis Camp has given Harris the opportunity to work with juniors while remaining a top NCAA Division I coach. "I love working with the juniors; they keep my inspiration for the sport alive, and make me realize how much I love teaching the game. I am very much honored to direct Clemson Tiger Tennis Camp and am excited for our juniors to have this opportunity to learn our sport in such a wonderful environment".