



Travis HUDSON ('94)



In the past 25 years, **Travis Hudson ('94)** has turned the WKU Volleyball program into a consistent conference champion and a player on the national stage.

Hudson, who grew up in Bee Spring in Edmonson County, came to WKU with a goal of becoming the first person in his family to earn a college degree. He worked two jobs while pursuing a bachelor's degree in Business Management with a Marketing emphasis. He graduated in 1994.

Hudson joined the WKU Volleyball program in the early 1990s, served as an Assistant Coach for three years and was Interim Head Coach on two occasions. In 1995, Hudson was named Head Coach at the age of 24, making him the nation's youngest head coach at the time.

His first team finished with a 7-26 record and the next two teams went 18-17 and 9-22. Then in 1998, the team posted a 26-10 record and has never finished below .500 since, as Hudson has built WKU into a championship-caliber program that has appeared in 12 NCAA Tournaments.

Hudson's Lady Toppers earned 10 Sun Belt Conference regular-season championships and five conference tournament championships. Since joining Conference USA in 2014, WKU Volleyball has won five of six possible regular season and tournament championships.

In 2018, WKU Volleyball posted its 19th straight 20-win season, and Hudson earned his 600th win as Head Coach. In 2019 the team made history again by reaching the 30-win mark for the eighth time in 10 seasons and earning the No. 15 national seed. More than 9,500 fans attended the first-ever NCAA Volleyball Tournament matches held in Diddle Arena. WKU closed with a 32-2 record to secure the team's best-ever season winning percentage of .941.

After the 2019 season, Hudson was named the AVCA South Region Coach of the Year for the sixth time of his career and won conference Coach of the Year honors for the eighth time. Hudson has also worked with USA Volleyball, helping guide the USA Women's Junior National Training Team in 2017 and the U.S. Women's Collegiate National Team in 2019.

Hudson continues to push his players to climb higher on the court and in the classroom. The Lady Toppers boast a 100 percent graduation rate in Hudson's tenure and have earned numerous academic awards. The program also supports Hope for Harlie and the Friends of Jaelyn Foundation, a charitable, non-profit organization that strives to enhance and strengthen the support system built around children with pediatric brain tumors.

Hudson and his wife, Cindy, live in Bowling Green. They have two sons, Andrew and Tyler, an incoming WKU freshman.