The AVCA History Commission was formed as a subgroup to the AVCA Diversity Development Team on December 1, 2020. The History Commission’s purpose is to recognize, amplify, and celebrate the rich and diverse history of the sport of volleyball. The first phase of the Commission’s work will explore the contributions of Black Americans to the sport of volleyball. Phase 1 is timed to coincide with the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the American Volleyball Coaches Association.

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PATRICIA “PAT” KENDRICK
Patricia “Pat” Kendrick is a native of Lorton, Virginia and a graduate of Hayfield Secondary School. From Hayfield, Kendrick moved on to George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia as a two-sport athlete in volleyball and track & field. Pat would be GMU’s first conference champion in track & field winning the 100-meter hurdles in 1979. She was also one of the top players for the Patriot’s women’s volleyball program from 1978-82.

After graduating from Mason, she served two years as assistant women’s volleyball coach and one year as assistant men’s volleyball coach. In 1985, she was elevated to head women’s volleyball coach and became the fifth head coach in program history.

This would be the start of a successful 30-year run as the leader of the George Mason women’s volleyball program.

Just a few accomplishments while at the helm of Mason women’s volleyball...

- Coached six GMU volleyball student-athletes to a total of 10 Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Player of the Year awards, including three-time winner Aline Pereira
- Coached six CAA Rookie of the Year awardees and two CAA Setters of the Year
- Eight-time CAA Coach of the Year
- Six-time Virginia Coach of the Year
- 467 wins

After two-year stint on the volleyball staff at Virginia Tech, Kendrick was appointed head coach at NAIA Xavier University of Louisiana on February 23, 2017. In four seasons through the adapted 2020-2021 competition schedule, the Golden Nuggets have a win-loss record of 92-23 and have yet to lose a Gulf Coast Athletic Conference (GCAC) match during Coach Pat's tenure. In addition to three regular season championships, the program has won three consecutive conference tournament championships resulting in three automatic bids to the NAIA National Championship tournament in her first three complete seasons. She was named GCAC and AVCA NAIA Southeast Region Coach of the Year in 2018 and 2019.

In addition to legendary status as a coach, Coach Kendrick continues to be a great champion for the game of volleyball and a mentor to many. She has served in various roles as a coach and instructor with USA Volleyball, served on the NCAA D-I Women’s Volleyball Rules Committee, and served a two-year term as chair of the GCAC volleyball coaches committee after being appointed in July 2018.

Former USA Volleyball CEO Doug Beal had this to say about Xavier’s hiring of Coach Kendrick...

"I congratulate Xavier for hiring Pat. She has terrific experiences at college, but also with USA Volleyball in the High Performance Program…working and nurturing some of the top talent in our country. Pat is a player’s coach and cares deeply about each student-athlete. She knows the game at a high level, can communicate that knowledge and I’m sure she will help Xavier reach new levels of success with the program. Congrats on getting a great coach and a great person."

Thanks to the George Mason University and XULA for contributing to this article.
AVCA DDT HISTORY COMMISSION

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ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH
COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
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