

Weekly Wisdom

June 29, 2016



Pat Summitt

Pat Summitt died on Tuesday (6/28/16). I didn't like her much, but I respected her. I hated watching her coach. She was firey, yelled at her players and the referees. She was the women's



basketball coach at Tennessee for 38 years. Her lifetime win percentage was an astonishing 84% (1,098-208). She was the winningest basketball coach, male or female, of all time. President Obama awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2012, recognized, with the Congressional Gold Medal, as the nation's highest civilian awards.

According to USA Today, "Pat Summitt is our John Wooden," Baylor women's coach Kim Mulkey said in comparing Summitt to the legendary men's basketball coach at UCLA. "No matter how many national championships (other coaches) win, there will never be another Pat."

Summit had begun to worry about her health during the 2010-11 season when she



drew a blank on an offensive set during a game, then sought a diagnosis at the renowned Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Washington Post columnist Sally Jenkins — who wrote biographies with Summitt and considered Summitt her best friend — wrote that the coach almost punched the first doctor who told her she was beginning to experience dementia. When a second advised her to retire immediately, Summitt said, "Do you know who you're dealing with?"

She learned to shoot hoops in a barn loft with her brothers, became an All-America basketball player at the University of Tennessee-Martin and won a silver medal on the 1976 U.S. Olympic team. When Summitt coached the USA to gold at the 1984 Games in Los Angeles, she became the first in U.S. Olympic basketball history to play on and coach medal-winning teams.

 **ESPN** 
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Every Pat Summitt-coached player who completed her eligibility at Tennessee graduated.

Every player. In 38 years.

This is, in my opinion, the most impressive stat I saw yesterday...The graduation rate for Summitt's players who completed eligibility at UT is 100%.

Wow! Just wow!

I write *Weekly Wisdom* as the Executive Director of Human Resources at Central Washington University. Having an eye for meaningful things, I include my own observations and thoughts, ideas I've recently encountered, and/or topics that are of current importance. I like to think that others will find reading *Weekly Wisdom* worth their time.

Staci Sleigh-Layman