



WELCOME BACK TO

K E R M I T D A V I S

THE 'SIP

Ole Miss
BASKETBALL

After leading Middle Tennessee to conference championships and NCAA Tournament runs, Kermit Davis returned to his home state as the 22nd head coach of the Ole Miss basketball program, as announced on March 15, 2018.

A native of Leakesville, Mississippi, Davis guided the Blue Raiders to league titles in seven of his last nine years in Murfreesboro, between Conference USA and the Sun Belt. Middle Tennessee is one of five programs he has led to conference championships in 36 years as an assistant and head coach.

An eight-time conference coach of the year, Davis is 34th among active Division I head coaches with 403 career wins, including stints at MT, Idaho and Texas A&M. He ranks 11th nationally in winning percentage over the last three years and 13th over the last seven.

Under Davis' watch, Middle Tennessee made the 2013, 2016 and 2017 NCAA tournaments and defeated No. 2 seed Michigan State and No. 5 seed Minnesota in back-to-back seasons. He boasts five NCAA Tournament appearances as a head coach between the Blue Raiders and Vandals.

With a 25-8 record in 2018, Middle Tennessee reached the 24-win mark for the sixth time in the last seven seasons, which in turn led to six postseason appearances during that period. The Blue Raiders won consecutive Conference USA regular season titles in Davis' final two years, posting a 33-3 mark in C-USA play.

Davis' Blue Raiders posted a 31-5 record in 2017, including a 17-1 mark in Conference USA play, setting a school record for overall victories and a C-USA record for league wins. Middle Tennessee swept the conference regular season and tourney titles on its way to a second consecutive NCAA Tournament berth that saw them top-ple No. 5 seed Minnesota, 81-72, in Milwaukee.

The Blue Raiders finished the 2016 season with a 25-10 mark and won their first Conference USA Tournament title just three years into their tenure. In the Big Dance, Davis led the Raiders to St. Louis as a No. 15

seed against Tom Izzo's No. 2 seed and second-ranked Michigan State Spartans, directing one of the biggest upsets in NCAA Tournament history as the Blue Raiders captured a 90-81 win to move into the second round.

Middle Tennessee was a giant killer under Davis, posting a 12-12 record against seven different Power 5 teams from 2012 through 2018. Over the final three seasons, the Blue Raiders boasted a 7-1 record against the SEC and Big Ten, including the two NCAA Tournament wins.

Defense has long been a staple for Davis' squads, as the Blue Raiders ranked top-two in C-USA in scoring defense in each of his final four seasons. That style of play has correlated to tremendous success on the road, including 23-3 record away from home over his last two campaigns.

With Davis' emphasis on academics, Middle Tennessee was one of only six teams in 2017 and one of only seven in 2016 with a 100 percent graduation rate and also win an NCAA Tournament game that season — joining Kansas, Villanova, Duke, Notre Dame and Butler in both seasons as well as Iowa in 2016. Davis has graduated 52 consecutive MT student-athletes that exhausted their eligibility.

Davis excelled in ramping up fan support during his tenure as well, frequently surpassing season attendance marks while averaging a home crowd of nearly 7,000 in his final season. A Murphy Center attendance record of 11,807 was set for Western Kentucky in 2004, while 11,802 fans were on hand for the Tennessee game in 2009.

Davis coached 25 all-conference players and five players of the year at Middle Tennessee and signed five top-25 recruiting classes, including the No. 11 class in 2004. He left Murfreesboro as the all-time winningest coach for both the school and the Sun Belt Conference.

Before arriving at Middle Tennessee in 2002, Davis spent five seasons as the associate head coach at LSU under John Brady. With Davis assembling multiple top-five recruiting classes, the Tigers captured the SEC title in

2000 and reached the Sweet 16 for the first time in 13 years.

In two tours of duty as Idaho head coach in 1997 and from 1989-90, Davis compiled a 63-29 record, the best three-year total in the program's history, and earned NCAA Tournament berths in 1989 and 1990.

Davis took the helm at Idaho before the 1989 season after two years as an assistant coach under Tim Floyd, and at the time, was the youngest Division I head coach in the nation at age 28. It was not the first time Davis had been the country's youngest head coach. When he was hired as the head coach at Southwest Mississippi Community College in 1984, he became the youngest junior college coach in the nation at age 24. His youth served him well at Southwest Mississippi, as he put together a 39-20 record in two seasons. His 1986 squad won 22 games, posting the school's first 20-win season in 17 years.

After spending two seasons as the head coach at Idaho, Davis went on to become the head coach at Texas A&M for the 1991 campaign. From Texas A&M, Davis moved on to serve as associate head coach at Chipola Junior College for two seasons before ascending to the top spot for the 1994 campaign. During his season as the team's head coach, Chipola finished the season ranked No. 4 in the national polls and posted a 27-5 record, giving the team the second-most wins in school history.

From Chipola, Davis moved on to serve as associate head coach at Utah State from 1995-96. With the Aggies, Davis coached under Larry Eustachy, and the pair combined to win the Big West championship in 1995.

The son of former Mississippi State head coach Kermit Davis Sr., the younger Davis played for the Bulldogs and graduated from MSU in 1982, before beginning his coaching career at his alma mater as a graduate assistant.

He and his wife, Betty, have two daughters, Ally and Claire.

Ole Miss
BASKETBALL

CAREER RECORD AS A HEAD COACH (ALL DIVISIONS):

469-263 (.641 pct. / 23 seasons)

CAREER RECORD AS A HEAD COACH (DIVISION I):

403-238 (.629 pct. / 20 seasons)

COACHING HONORS

- 1989 Big Sky Coach of the Year (league)
- 1990 Big Sky Coach of the Year (league)
- 2003 Sun Belt Coach of the Year (league)
- 2008 Sun Belt Coach of the Year (CollegInsider.com)
- 2010 Sun Belt Coach of the Year (CollegInsider.com)
- 2012 Sun Belt Coach of the Year (league, CollegInsider.com)
- 2012 NABC District 24 Coach of the Year
- 2013 Sun Belt Coach of the Year (league, CollegInsider.com)
- 2016 Daily News Journal Sportsperson of the Year
- 2017 Conference USA Coach of the Year (league)
- 2017 NABC District 11 Coach of the Year
- 2017 TSWA Coach of the Year



COACHING CAREER

Season	School	Position	Record/Postseason
1984-85	Southwest Mississippi CC	Head Coach	17-9
1985-86	Southwest Mississippi CC	Head Coach	22-11
1986-87	Idaho	Assistant Coach	16-14
1987-88	Idaho	Assistant Coach	19-11
1988-89	Idaho	Head Coach	25-6/NCAA First Round
1989-90	Idaho	Head Coach	25-6/NCAA First Round
1990-91	Texas A&M	Head Coach	8-21
1991-92	Chipola	Associate Head Coach	
1992-93	Chipola	Associate Head Coach	
1993-94	Chipola	Head Coach	27-5/State Semifinals
1994-95	Utah State	Associate Head Coach	21-8/NIT
1995-96	Utah State	Associate Head Coach	18-15
1996-97	Idaho	Head Coach	13-17
1997-98	LSU	Associate Head Coach	9-18
1998-99	LSU	Associate Head Coach	12-15
1999-2000	LSU	Associate Head Coach	28-6/NCAA Sweet Sixteen
2000-01	LSU	Associate Head Coach	13-16
2001-02	LSU	Associate Head Coach	19-15/NIT Second Round
2002-03	Middle Tennessee	Head Coach	16-14
2003-04	Middle Tennessee	Head Coach	17-12
2004-05	Middle Tennessee	Head Coach	19-12
2005-06	Middle Tennessee	Head Coach	16-12
2006-07	Middle Tennessee	Head Coach	15-17
2007-08	Middle Tennessee	Head Coach	17-15
2008-09	Middle Tennessee	Head Coach	18-14
2009-10	Middle Tennessee	Head Coach	19-14/CIT First Round
2010-11	Middle Tennessee	Head Coach	16-16
2011-12	Middle Tennessee	Head Coach	27-7/NIT Quarterfinals
2012-13	Middle Tennessee	Head Coach	28-6/NCAA First Four
2013-14	Middle Tennessee	Head Coach	24-9
2014-15	Middle Tennessee	Head Coach	19-17/CIT First Round
2015-16	Middle Tennessee	Head Coach	25-10/NCAA Second Round
2016-17	Middle Tennessee	Head Coach	31-5/NCAA Second Round
2017-18	Middle Tennessee	Head Coach	25-8/NIT Second Round

NOTEWORTHY

- Nine seasons of 24 or more wins as a head coach
- Eight-time conference coach of the year
- Winningest head coach in Middle Tennessee history
- Winningest head coach in Sun Belt Conference history
- Youngest Division I head coach in the nation at Idaho at age 28
- Youngest junior college coach in the nation at Southwest Mississippi at age 24

EDUCATION: Bachelor's (1982); Master's (1984) - Mississippi State

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING ABOUT DAVIS

ROSS BJORK

OLE MISS VICE CHANCELLOR FOR INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

"Kermit really kept rising to the top as sort of a no-brainer, matter of fact hire for us because of what he's done at Middle Tennessee. With his connections to this region, it's just a perfect fit and a great hire for us."

CHRIS MASSARO

MIDDLE TENNESSEE DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

"It has been an incredible experience for me personally and professionally working with Kermit (Davis) the past 13 years. There have been some watershed moments that will always be embedded in our school's history during his time as head coach of the Blue Raiders. Speaking on behalf of the entire Blue Raider family, we will all miss Kermit and his family immensely. Ole Miss has made a great hire, and I know they will do well."

GIDDY POTTS

MIDDLE TENNESSEE SENIOR GUARD

"He gave me an opportunity to play Division I basketball, and that's something I'll always be thankful for. I've really enjoyed playing for him and learning from him, and I wish him the best. He is an incredible coach and person, and we are all happy for him to have such a great opportunity back in his home state with his family."

TIM FLOYD

FORMER NBA/NCAA HEAD COACH

"It's a home run hire. They knocked it out of the park. Ole Miss has crushed it."

JOHN BRADY

LSU HEAD COACH (1997-2008)

"Together, we got the LSU program going in the right direction, and I can tell you from first-hand experience that Kermit knows how to build a program."

DAVE ODOM

WAKE FOREST HEAD COACH (1989-2001)
SOUTH CAROLINA HEAD COACH (2001-08)

"I totally endorse that decision. It's an excellent choice."

TONY BARNHART

SEC NETWORK ANALYST

"Kermit Davis is a helluva coach."

VAN CHANCELLOR

HALL OF FAME WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACH
OLE MISS (1979-96)

"Ross Bjork has hit a home run with this decision - wait and see. I have talked with numerous men's basketball coaches, and they all say the same thing - Kermit Davis Jr. is a 'coaching machine.'"

GARY PARRISH

CBS SPORTS COLLEGE BASKETBALL WRITER

"Simply put, this is a hire respected in basketball circles."

RICK CLEVELAND

RENOWNED MISSISSIPPI SPORTSWRITER

"A safe hire? No, Ole Miss crushed it with Kermit Davis Jr."

TIM BRANDO

FOX SPORTS BASKETBALL ANNOUNCER

"Kermit Davis is a tremendous hire Ole Miss Basketball. Magnificent work at Middle Tennessee and his impact in Oxford will be felt immediately."





Ole Miss BASKETBALL

ALL HE DOES IS WIN

403 CAREER WINS

34TH AMONG ACTIVE HEAD COACHES

	Winning Percentage	National Rank	Wins	National Rank
LAST 3 SEASONS	.779	11TH	81	13TH
LAST 7 SEASONS	.743	13TH	179	15TH

- Ranks 124th all-time in career wins and 34th among active head coaches

- Coached Middle Tennessee to 179 wins in the last seven seasons, the most by any school in the state of Tennessee during that span

- This season, led the Blue Raiders to a nation-best 12 road wins as Middle Tennessee went 12-2 in true road games

- Coached one of the biggest upsets in NCAA Tournament history, leading No. 15 seed Middle Tennessee to a win over No. 2 seed Michigan State in the 2016 NCAA Tournament

- One year later, led Middle Tennessee back to the NCAA Tournament as a No. 12 seed, where they beat No. 5 seed Minnesota

- Other wins over Power 5 schools include Auburn, Ole Miss, Tennessee, UCLA and Vanderbilt



Ole Miss BASKETBALL

GIANT KILLER

12 WINS VS. POWER 5 SCHOOLS

(LAST 7 SEASONS)

7-1 VS. SEC AND BIG TEN SCHOOLS OVER THE PAST 3 SEASONS.

SEC BIG



Ole Miss BASKETBALL

HELPED 5 PROGRAMS WIN CONFERENCE TITLES:



(1989, 1990)



(1994)



(1995)



(2000)



(2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018)

- As a head coach, has lead his teams to 14 conference championships (10 regular season, four conference tournaments)

- Serving as associate head coach, helped Utah State and LSU earn conference titles; took LSU to the Sweet 16 to conclude a 28-6 campaign

- Won nine conference championships (seven regular season, two conference tournaments) at Middle Tennessee over the past nine seasons