

Rick Barnes Honored As Master Coach

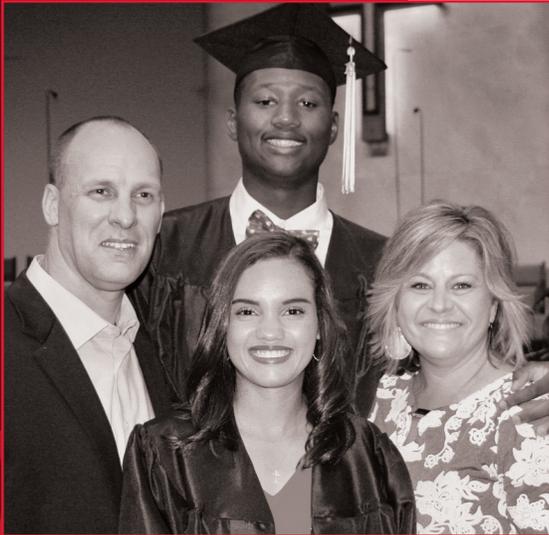
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Game-Changing
Master Coach Award



**NATIONS OF
COACHES**

A Higher Level of Play

30 Second Timeout with Tommy



I have a son, Noah, and a daughter, Izzy, who will begin college this fall. It reminds me that, as parents and coaches, we have limited time to invest in the young people entrusted to us. For coaches, they are lucky to get four years of direct influence on their players. They are cramming a lifetime of lessons into a small amount of time. That is why our work at Nations of Coaches is so important. We help coaches leverage their position to leave a legacy of excellence- on and off the court.

I stand amazed at how God is taking back His game because of your faithfulness and generosity. He is tearing down walls to show coaches and those around them His perfect love.

In our last newsletter, I shared with you how Isaiah 55:8-9 would guide our work for 2019...

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways HIGHER than your ways...”

Much like our staff and board, our donors have been called to a HIGHER way and you have responded. You continue to blow us away with your prayers, encouragement, and gifts. The following pages highlight this work made possible by you. Thank you for being on our team.

In HIS Game,
Tommy Kyle, Executive Director
Nations of Coaches

A JOB WELL DONE

Recently, we said goodbye to one of the best teammates we had at Nations of Coaches. Jack Lovelace has been with NOC since the beginning. Jack came on board with NOC as Director of Character Coaching and later moved into the Chief Operating Officer role. Under his watch, over 200 Character Coaches have been trained, giving has reached new heights, and countless coaches, their families and student-athletes have been shown the love of Jesus. He has shepherded the organization through its infancy and now into a season of tremendous growth with a pastor's heart. Tommy Kyle, NOC Executive director said this about Jack:

“I could not have asked for a better and more loyal partner for the past decade than Jack. Jack was the ‘glue’ that holds together our staff and helped us function at a higher level. We are going to miss him dearly but are so excited to see what this next chapter holds for him, his wife, Jess, and his children, Jackson and Caroline.”

Jack has been called to take a pastor position at First Baptist Church in Decatur, Alabama. We believe wholeheartedly that God is going to use Jack in the same way at FBC Decatur as He has at NOC. Thank you, Jack, for a decade of dedication and service to coaches and their families.



Mission in Minneapolis:

Nations of Coaches Serves Coaches at the Final Four

The Final Four is the pinnacle for the college basketball season. This year's event, held in Minneapolis, did not disappoint with buzzer beaters and overtime thrillers. For us, the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) Convention, which is held in conjunction with Final Four games, gives our team a great opportunity to interact with over 2,500 coaches and their spouses. Here are some highlights of our work at the 2019 Final Four and NACB Convention.



NABC Convention Booth

2,500 coaches attended the annual NABC Coaches Convention. We use our booth at the Convention to see old friends and develop meaningful relationships with plenty of new coaches.



The Coaching Edge

200 coaches attended an informational session that highlighted the work done through our Character Coaching Program. NOC Board member Coach Rick Barnes spoke about the importance of discovering the "Why" you coach. Coaches Jayson Gee (NOC Board member) and Barclay Radebaugh (former NOC Board member) shared about what they do to create the complete player both on and off the court through character coaching, mission trips, and champions academy. Coach Dana Ford provided details on how he balances life as a coach, husband and father.



The Gathering

140 coaches' wives took a break from the excitement to be loved on at this breakfast event. The basketball season is extremely difficult on a coach's wife. The Gathering is all about them. Powerful speakers, including Marianne Jones, Hope Radebaugh, and Jackie Quinn, challenged and encouraged coaches wives to pray fervently for their husbands, their families, and their own hearts, as they live this intense lifestyle.



Worship Service

On Sunday, 600 coaches, spouses and others took a timeout from basketball and gathered to worship. Attendees heard inspirational messages from Donnell Jones (NABC Chaplain and NOC Character Coach, University of Maryland), Coach Dana Ford (Missouri State) and Jim Haney (Executive Director, NABC).



Celebrate Marriage Luncheon

150 coaches and spouses shared lunch and many laughs at this annual event that is a hit with coaches. The couples heard inspirational messages about cultivating stronger marriages and fun games that brought them closer to each other.



Final Four week affords us the opportunity to connect with and serve a great number of coaches. Thank you for your support, both in prayers and financially, which makes this possible year after year.





Coaches & Spouses Retreat *A GAME-CHANGER!!*

In May 2019, fifty couples gathered for two and a half days at the beautiful WinShape Retreat Center for our Game-Changer Marriage Retreat. These amazing couples were challenged and encouraged to keep Christ at the center of their marriages and to truly cherish one another as they navigate through life together.



WinShape Retreat Center in Rome, Georgia



Engaging learning sessions



Fantastic food and fellowship



Greetings and goody bags!

"We are changed, we are growing, and we are so glad we packed our bags, loaded up the car, left the house and the coaching worries behind to hear the question, 'Do you cherish your spouse?'"



Coaches and wives break-out groups

*"After 31 years of marriage, I walked away from the NOC Game Changer marriage retreat understanding how God desires to take us deeper, even after so many years together. To love your spouse is one thing, but to **CHERISH** your spouse is a 'game-changer' in developing and maintaining intimacy."*



Speaker Gary Thomas

"Thank you, NOC, for showcasing God's heart in marriage."



Fun and games with Pete Wehry (center)



Free time and prayer time

“GOD IS MIGHTY”

Michelyn Kemp gives a play-by-play of how God provided for her and her husband, Coach Jason Kemp, during a time of uncertainty and upheaval, through two Nations of Coaches events.

“I’m certain we were one of the first couples to enroll for the Game Changer Retreat as I registered the minute the invitation hit my inbox. As the weeks passed, a change was ultimately made at Jason’s former university. I panicked! See, I follow through with obligations and had checked the box that we would be present. But, how were we going to manage in this time of transition? Being proactive, I emailed Jacci Lightfoot to notify her of our plight. She refused to remove us from the registration and assured me that God had a plan!”

“Well, our God is mighty even in times of doubt. I highly considered foregoing the Final Four in Minneapolis as there were so many unknowns. However, my mother insisted that I be courageous and steadfast in God’s plan for our family, and I boarded that flight!”

“Towards the end of the Nation of Coaches Brunch, Pete Wehry was on-stage for the Game Changer Retreat Transportation

Voucher. Pete wearily stumbled, giving the excuse that he did not have his glasses, over the pronunciation of the winner’s name.

It was at that time that I knew that we had won the transportation voucher and began rising. God has a funny way of revealing himself and his plan for you. See, at the NABC church service, Jason and I were prayed over by Coach Jayson Gee. I don’t know what he prayed but something tells me he asked God to bring us to that retreat. We are forever grateful.”

“The retreat itself was more than I could have imagined. Far too often we allow a transition, active recruiting period, or something else to interfere with our precious marriages. It was a time to commune with other coaching couples and made us realize that we are not alone. We, as a couple, feel more

prepared to walk faithfully in our basketball journey and look forward to additional retreats to come.” – Michelyn Kemp



Jason and Michelyn Kemp at the NOC Marriage Luncheon at the Final Four

“You Loved Us...”

Coaches are planners by nature. Every second of their day is meticulously coordinated to maximize efficiency. This often goes for their families as well.

What happens when those plans get interrupted with the worst gut punch imaginable? For the Soucie family, that is what happened in September 2018 when Kendra was told she had Stage 3 cancer. Brad, Kendra’s husband, is an Assistant Coach at Liberty University, where he works with his best friend Ritchie McKay.

One of Kendra’s favorite stories from the Bible is of the Good Samaritan. Before her diagnosis, Kendra thought of the story through the lens of the helper, the Samaritan. Now, she feels like “the broken down person on the side of the road that needs help.” When Kendra and Brad needed help, Nations of Coaches was there. Through our Coaches’ Benevolence Fund, we blessed the Soucie family with a monetary gift that has helped with their rising medical bills.



Kendra and Brad Soucie with their children

“Nations of Coaches is a beautiful and needed ministry. The support they give coaches and their families is a gift. As Nations of Coaches pours into coaches, there is an amazing ripple effect like a pebble being thrown in a pond. The lives of countless players and their families are being changed for eternity through your impact on coaches.” Kendra Soucie

Brad, Kendra and their three children have been leaning on their faith like never before. They tell others God is using this evil cancer to bring about something good that will point others to God.

When Kendra was asked if there is a message

she could send to NOC supporters who have made the Coaches Benevolence Fund possible, she said, “Our family stands amazed at the goodness of God to us through those that would give sacrificially and love us as we walk this unexpected road.” Brad and Kendra are already dreaming about what life will look like when they are on the other side of this storm. They are anxious and excited to help others walk the difficult road after a medical crisis.

Thank you for allowing us to be present for coaches and their families, in the highs and lows of life, tangibly showing them God’s love.

6th Annual Legacy Summit Takes a Deep Dive Into Courageous Leadership



Dale Clayton speaks with Coach Earl Grant

LEGACY SUMMIT - COURAGEOUS -

“Our goal is not only to come alongside and serve coaches but also to challenge coaches to rise to the higher calling of their profession for greater transformational impact on their teams,” said Ted Quinn, NOC Regional Director, and Legacy Summit organizer.



Sport Spectrum's Jason Romano (left)

Leading with courageous leadership in today's world of college basketball was the thread that brought 120 coaches and special guests to the 6th Annual Nations of Coaches Legacy Summit held on May 22nd at Chick-fil-A Corporate Headquarters in Atlanta, GA. The elite one-day leadership event inspired and challenged coaches from across the country.

“Nations of Coaches is on the front edge of raising up a generation of transformational leaders for Christ. I always leave their events more fully equipped to lead.”

– Jeff Clark, Associate Head Coach, Indiana Wesleyan University

Taking its cues from James Naismith, who invented basketball “to win men for the Master through the gym,” Nations of Coaches annually offers the Legacy Summit as a cutting-edge program to equip and empower coaches to leave a legacy of excellence.

“This clinic is more important and more beneficial than any X’s and O’s clinic I have ever been to.”
– Allen Corbin, Head Men’s Basketball Coach, Webber University.

In this year's program, *National Association of Basketball Coaches* Chaplain, Donnell Jones of Grace Covenant Church-DC challenged the attendees in his opening session to “Be Strong.” 2019 Naismith College Coach of the Year and leader of the Tennessee Vols, Rick Barnes followed with his story of “Courageous Coaching: Coaching from a Biblical Perspective.” Allan Houston,



Gleaning insight from top level speakers

former NBA star and current Senior Advisor with the New York Knicks walked us through his “Fundamentals of Life” and how that has shaped the impact he has on others. Coaches and others in attendance were given an inside view of one of the best small college programs in the nation as Head Coach Greg Tonagel

“You can go anywhere to get good information, but this is more than that. The Legacy Summit is about giving coaches the tools to be transformational in their day-in-day-out interactions. It’s helped me in every context of my life.”

– Neal Young, Head Men’s Basketball Coach, Covenant College

and Associate Head Coach Jeff Clark of Indiana Wesleyan University challenged us to think differently about how we coach in “Fearless to be 3rd.” The day wrapped up with President and Chief Operating Officer of Chick-fil-A, Tim Tassopoulos and his wisdom to guard your heart in order to “Win the Heart” of those you serve.

Tennessee's Rick Barnes Receives 2019 Master Coach Award

Rick Barnes, Head Coach at the University of Tennessee was named the 2019 recipient of the prestigious Nations of Coaches Master Coach Award during the 2019 Legacy Summit. The Master Coach Award is given to a coach that demonstrates a proven record of leading like the "Master Coach", not only on the court, but also in his personal and family life, and within his community. The recipient is honored with a beautiful trophy and the official Master Coach Award Ring designed and presented by Baron Rings. Previous award recipients are Phil Worrell (2014), Gary Waters (2015), Dale Clayton (2016), Mike Lightfoot (2017), and Ron Bradley (2018).

Barnes is one of the most decorated and accomplished head coaches in college basketball. The 2019-20 campaign will be his fifth at Tennessee and his 33rd as a head coach. Barnes is the reigning Naismith College Coach of the Year after guiding Tennessee to a school-record 31 wins and a Sweet Sixteen appearance in 2018-19. Barnes' Hall of Fame-worthy resume is highlighted by 692 career Division I head coaching wins, the seventh-most among active coaches.

Barnes' commitment to his players' academic achievement cannot be overstated. His teams have posted a perfect 1,000 score in five of the last six multi-year APR reports as well as perfect single-year APR scores every year from 2005-06 through 2014-15. In 32 overall seasons as a Division I head coach, Barnes has led his teams to 24 total NCAA Tournament berths, seven Sweet Sixteens, three Elite Eights and one Final Four in 2003. Barnes has coached 26 total NBA Draft picks, including 15 first-round selections. Coach Barnes has coached eight players who have combined to win a dozen NBA Championships.



Rick Barnes (3rd from left) was presented the NOC Master Coach Award by Ron Bradley (2018 award recipient), Tommy Kyle, and Dale Clayton (L to R.)

After humbly and gratefully receiving his award, Barnes exhorted the other coaches in attendance:

"Don't let this business that we're in eat you up. What's most important is every day you get up and you've got young people in your life and they're looking at you... and when they leave, what do you want them to say about you? The greatest thing one of my players can say about me is 'He loved Jesus Christ and he told me that story.'"

Coach Barnes' success on the court is well known, but the eternal impact he is having off the court (with current and former players, fellow coaches, UT employees, and thousands of people he connects with at speaking engagements) is impossible to measure. He and his wife, Candy have a son, Nick, and a daughter, Carley. They are the proud grandparents of Avery, Caleb, Emma, and Isla.



WHAT IS YOUR LEGACY?

Do you want to ensure Nations of Coaches is able to continue impacting lives in college basketball? Making a legacy gift to NOC assures our work will continue for years to come. There are numerous tax benefits a donor receives by making a legacy gift and the gift can be structured to invest in our ministry both now and the future. A legacy gift is truly a slam dunk! Talk to your financial advisor to discuss if a legacy gift is right for you.

UPCOMING NATIONS OF COACHES ACTIVITIES

July 2019
Summer Coaches Ministry
Recruiting Evaluation Sites

September 9 - 10, 2019
Character Coach Training
Decatur, Alabama

September 30 - October 2, 2019
Home Team Marriage Retreat
(Character Coaches and Spouses)
Rome, Georgia

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