Philly University Women’s Basketball Coach
Tom Shirley Wins 500th Game

Together, Shirley and Men’s Coach Herb Magee are one of the most winning basketball coaching teams in NCAA history

Philadelphia, January 6, 2006 – Philadelphia University Women’s Basketball Coach Tom Shirley won his 500th career game yesterday when the Lady Rams posted a 90-81 victory on the road against Felician College.

Shirley, in his 25th year of coaching, is the eighth active Division II women’s coach to reach that milestone. Along with Men’s Basketball Coach Herb Magee, who recently hit the extraordinary milestone of 800 career wins, coaches Shirley and Magee are the fourth winningest coaching team in NCAA history. Together, the Philadelphia University coaches have earned 1,302 wins, putting them behind only Bob Knight and Marsha Sharp at Texas Tech, Northern State’s Don Meyer and Curt Frederickson and Arizona’s Lute Olson and Joan Bonvicini.

“This is a great accomplishment, but I’m only a small part of the equation,” said Shirley. “In 25 years of coaching, I’ve had the great fortune of coaching several outstanding student-athletes. They are the real reason for the success that I have had, making the plays on the court.”

“Tom Shirley is an accomplished coach and a great mentor to student athletes. We are thrilled that he reached this significant milestone in his career,” said Philadelphia University President James P. Gallagher. “At Philadelphia University, we are proud to have two of the best basketball coaches in the country on our team.”

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Through nine games this season, Shirley’s team is off to a 6-3 start overall, including a 4-2 mark in the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC). In last night’s win at Felician, juniors Meg Abele and Nicole Mechell scored 24 points and 23 points, respectively, to lead the Lady Rams. Junior guard Kate McNulty went a perfect 6-6 from the free-throw line in the waning moments to secure the win for Shirley, for a game total of 18 points.

Coach Shirley came to Philadelphia University (then Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science) in 1989 as head women’s basketball coach and associate director of athletics. In 1992, he became director of athletics, a position he still holds.

In 1992, Shirley was named the American Women’s Sports Federation Division II National Coach of the Year, as well as the Converse District Coach of the Year.

In addition to his duties as coach and administrator at Philadelphia University, Shirley also serves as a member of the NCAA Division II Championships Committee and chairs the NCAA Division II Retention Committee, as well as serving on the regional committee for women’s basketball.

Philadelphia University, founded in 1884, is a private university with 3,200 full- and part-time students enrolled in more than 40 undergraduate and graduate programs. The University includes Schools of Architecture, Business Administration, Design and Media, Engineering and Textiles, Liberal Arts and Science and Health.