

so blessed to have the opportunity to return to the Bay Area and coach at a world class university in an outstanding conference.”

Walters said his biggest goal is to prepare USF players for life after basketball, but that he intends to “win championships and hang banners” at War Memorial Gymnasium. Dedicated to a team axiom of “harder, smarter, and more together,” Walters said opponents can expect a physical game from the Dons in the future, especially in the paint.


Walters rounded out his coaching staff with assistants Danny Yoshikawa, former assistant coach at UC Santa Barbara, Jeff Linder, former assistant coach at Weber State, and Calvin Byrd, former assistant coach at Loyola Marymount who spent two seasons as an assistant at USF under Phil Mathews.

Prior to Florida Atlantic, Walters’ first collegiate coaching job came at Valparaiso, a two-year stint as an assistant under Homer Drew. The 2003-04 Hornets were 18-13 and advanced to the NCAA Tournament after capturing the Mid-Continent Conference with a record of 11-5.

Walters’ pedigree for coaching began as a player, receiving tutelage from some of the game’s legendary coaches. Roy Williams at the University of Kansas and the NBA’s Chuck Daly, Larry Brown, and Pat Riley all mentored Walters during his years as a player.

He starred for two seasons as a player at Kansas. In 68 starts under Williams, he averaged 15.6 points per game, leading the Jayhawks in scoring during both his junior and senior campaigns.

After graduating from Kansas in 1993 with a bachelor of science in education, Walters was selected by New Jersey as the 16th overall pick in the 1993 NBA Draft. He went on to play seven seasons in the NBA.

Walters and his wife, Deanna, have four children, Addison (11), Drew (9), Riley (6), and Gunner (4), and are expecting their fifth child. 

Heinser Grabs Top Tennis Honor




Heinser

USF freshman Jenni Heinser was named West Coast Conference Player of the Year and Freshman of the Year in April. Heinser is the first netter in USF program history to receive either the Player or Freshman of the Year honors for women’s tennis.

Heinser is currently the highest ranked WCC player, checking in at No. 79 in the ITA listing. USF’s Hilary Somers captured co-Coach of the Year honors as selected by her peers. It is the second time Somers has received the honor and first since 2003.

In addition to Heinser, four Dons captured all-league accolades. Mylene Martin earned second team honors in singles, while Jenny Sperry collected an honorable mention singles nod. USF’s doubles tandem of Sperry and Emma Taylor also garnered honorable mention selection.

Heinser is the first USF student-athlete to capture WCC Player of the Year accolades since Scott Cousins (player) and Patrick McGuigan (pitcher) swept the category in baseball during the 2006 season. In addition, Heinser is the first USF underclassman to earn player of the year selection since Aaron Chandler of men’s soccer was selected as a sophomore in 2004. 



USF Legends: Hall of Fame inductees (l to r) Serge Burenin '61, Staal Soebye '94, Wally Hayes, Wallace Bryant '82, Jamie Shadian '99, and Tad Tassone '73.

Six Join USF Hall of Fame

The University of San Francisco celebrated the career accomplishments of six student-athletes at the Fr. Hubert “Hub” Flynn Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner Feb. 15. The event, now in its 49th year, kicked off Homecoming Weekend 2008 festivities. Inductees included:

Wallace Bryant '82 (basketball), considered one of the finest centers in the West Coast Conference, and a two-time All-Conference honoree. Bryant teamed with All-Americans Bill Cartwright and Quintin Daily to lead USF to three consecutive WCC Championships and four NCAA tournament berths.

Serge Burenin '61 (basketball), a member of two conference championship teams who played in USF’s second NCAA tournament appearance. He twice earned All-Conference honors and was named second team All-American in his last year with the Dons.

Wally Hayes, head men’s athletic trainer for more than 20 years and ambassador for USF athletics.

Jamie Shadian '99 (basketball), a starting point guard who was instrumental in two West Coast Conference Tournament titles and subsequent NCAA tournament berths. She was twice named to WCC Championship All-Tournament teams.

Staal Soebye '94 (soccer), a midfielder who led the Dons to the 1991 West Coast Conference Championship. Soebye earned All-American first team honors in 1993 and 1994 as well as four-time first team conference recognition.

Tad Tassone '73 (baseball), a centerfielder who earned All-Conference honors in his sophomore and junior years and was a statistical leader in multiple categories.

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