



KANSAS LEGEND BIOGRAPHY

Lynette Woodard (1959-present)

The name Lynette Woodard is associated with basketball greatness at the high school, college, national and international level. She has received numerous honors for basketball contributions at all these levels and continues to keep basketball in her life through her coaching.



Woodard was born in Wichita, Kan., where she started playing basketball by shooting a stuffed sock and learning from her brother. By the age of 10, Woodard was playing ball with the boys in the neighborhood as an equal competitor. In ninth grade at Marshall Junior High, she was asked to join the Wichita North High School junior varsity basketball team but declined. She preferred to wait one year and join the varsity team, which she did.

In high school, Woodard dominated the game. At 5'11", she was versatile enough to play any position on the floor and led her team to the state championship in 1975 and 1977. She was chosen as a High School All-American her senior year and decided to attend the University of Kansas for college ball.



While at KU, Woodard set numerous school records, many of which still stand today. She is the most prolific scorer in women's basketball history at the college level with 3,649 points in her four seasons. She also still holds eight school records. Woodard led the Lady Jayhawks to three straight Big Eight conference championships and was later named Conference Player of the Decade for the 1980s.

Woodard had already gotten to experience international basketball competition during her college years as a member of the World University Games championship team in 1979. She was also chosen as one of 12 members of the United States women's basketball team to play in the 1980 Olympics, but the team did not compete due to the U.S. boycott. After college, she returned to international play in the Italian women's professional league and led the league in scoring.

In 1984, Woodard was a member of the gold medal-winning U.S. Olympic team in Los Angeles. Following this competition, Woodard made history by becoming the first female Harlem Globetrotter. She toured with the team for two years before returning to international competition again, playing three years for the women's professional basketball league in Japan.



Upon returning home to Kansas, Woodard served as Athletics Director for the Kansas City, Mo. School District for two years. Finally, in 1997, she got to live her dream of playing professional basketball in the U.S. with the Cleveland Rockers and Detroit Shock after the establishment of the WNBA. Woodard has been elected to the National High School Sports Hall of Fame, the University of Kansas Athletic Hall of Fame, and, in 1992, became the first female to be enshrined in the GTE Academic All-American Hall of Fame. She now works as a financial services representative and assistant coach for the women's basketball team at KU.

