

Dean Smith having memory issues

Written by Mike Kelly
Sunday, 18 July 2010 09:28

Former University of North Carolina men's basketball coach Dean Smith is dealing with memory loss.

Smith's family wrote a personal letter to all of his former coaches and players and informed them of this present condition. Smith, a Hall of Fame coach who led the Tar Heels to a pair of national championships (1982 and 1993), is losing some of his remarkable memory that could recall even the smallest details of the past.

Smith, who is 79-years-old, retired in 1997 after 36 seasons with the Tar Heels as the winningest coach in Division I men's basketball. He has 879 victories, a mark passed a decade later by Bob Knight. He also won 13 Atlantic Coast Conference tournaments, and he took the Tar Heels to the Final Four 11 times.

In addition to coaching some of the game's biggest names - Michael Jordan among them - Smith oversaw a program that graduated more than 96 percent of its lettermen.

Despite his recent problems with memory loss, Smith still maintains an office in Chapel Hill and appears to be in good health. He frequently meets with former players, signs autographs and returns fan mail.

NOTES: Mix 102.3 FM is your home for Tar Heels' athletics in the High Country. Our first broadcast of UNC football will be on Saturday, September 4 when the Tar Heels take on LSU at Kenan Stadium in Chapel Hill. Game time is 8 pm, our coverage begins at 7 pm.