



## **Kay Yow/WBCA Cancer Fund® Information**

### **Mission:**

The Kay Yow/WBCA Cancer Fund® is a 501 c(3) charitable organization committed to being a part of finding an answer in the fight against women's cancers through raising money for scientific research, assisting the underserved and unifying people for a common cause.

### **Announcement:**

The Kay Yow/WBCA Cancer Fund® was announced during The Jimmy V Classic on December 3, where Rutgers faced Maryland. The Kay Yow/WBCA Cancer Fund®, in partnership with The V Foundation for Cancer Research, will raise money in the fight against women's cancers. It was appropriate to announce this Fund during the Jimmy V Classic because of the connection between the late Jim Valvano, former North Carolina State head men's basketball coach, and the late Kay Yow, former North Carolina State head women's basketball coach.

### **Donation Information:**

Donations to the Kay Yow/WBCA Cancer Fund® can be made by calling 1-800-4JimmyV or by donating online at [www.JimmyV.org](http://www.JimmyV.org). Donations can also be mailed payable to the Kay Yow/WBCA Cancer Fund® to the following address: Kay Yow/WBCA Cancer Fund / Attn: Megan Smith / 4646 Lawrenceville Hwy / Lilburn, GA 30047.

### **Kay Yow/WBCA Cancer Fund® Quick Facts**

1. The Kay Yow/WBCA Cancer Fund® launched on December 3, 2007 as the first women's initiative that the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) has chosen in its 28-year history. The Fund is also the newest women's initiative for The V Foundation.
2. The Kay Yow/WBCA Cancer Fund® will raise money for scientific research and to assist the underserved in an effort to fight against women's cancers.
3. The WBCA and The V Foundation launched an Event-in-a-Box campaign during the WBCA National Convention in April 2008 to raise money for the Fund. WBCA members,

institutions, fans and communities are challenged to run one of the four events each year.

### **Kay Yow Quick Facts**

The late Kay Yow, former North Carolina State University head women's basketball coach, was a past president and founding member of the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA), and a galvanizing voice for the Association. Yow was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 1987, and passed away on January 24, 2009, after facing her third bout with the disease.

The 2006-07 season, her 32nd with the Pack, may have been the most tumultuous, but also maybe the most rewarding. Four games into the season, Yow was forced to take a leave of absence because of progression in her breast cancer. In all, Yow missed 16 games before making a triumphant return to the bench in a Wolfpack win over long-time rival Virginia on January 26.

The club began to feed off the emotion that Yow returned with and led her troops to 10 wins in their next 11 games, which included her 700th career victory and a win over No. 2 North Carolina. That evening on Senior Night, the Reynolds Coliseum court was christened "Kay Yow Court". Not to be out done, two weeks later the Pack downed the then unbeaten and top-ranked Duke Blue Devils in the ACC Tournament. From that point on, the Wolfpack were the darlings of the women's basketball world. With fans rooting for NC State from across the country, the club earned its 11th trip to the "Sweet 16".

In her 38 years as head coach at the college-level, Coach Yow was one of only six Division I head women's basketball mentors to achieve 700 career victories. Yow guided her squads to 20 of the 27 NCAA Tournaments, 11 trips to the Sweet 16, and a trip to the Elite Eight and Final Four in 1998. Yow was part of an elite group of nine Olympic coaches chosen to lead USA Basketball in the pursuit of an Olympic gold medal in women's basketball. During the 2008-09 season, Yow became only the third women's basketball coach in NCAA Division I history to coach 1,000 games at one institution.

Yow won the inaugural Jimmy V ESPY for Perseverance at the 2007 ESPY Awards. Yow was named national Coach of the Year eight times. She is a member of numerous halls of fame, including the Women's Sports Hall of Fame, the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Hall of Fame, the AIA Hall of Faith, the Raleigh Sports Hall of Fame, the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame and the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

### **Kay Yow Quotes**

"I am so honored and blessed to have the opportunity to establish the Kay Yow/WBCA Cancer Fund in partnership with The V Foundation. Despite all the games that I have coached and all the great opponents that I have battled on the court, breast cancer has by far been the toughest

opponent I have faced. My hope is that this funding will help to change the lives of many men and women who face this opponent daily. Cancer is something that touches everyone's life and it is important to understand that we all can make a difference. Each of you can be a part of finding an answer. Join me today and let's beat cancer once and for all!"

"I want to do something. I want to be a part of finding an answer."

"I feel like I had zero control over getting cancer, but I have 100 percent control over how I will respond to dealing with cancer."

"When life kicks you, let it kick you forward."

"Kay, don't wallow in self pity. You know you will drown. It's ok at moments to have some pity but swish your feet and get out. Just swish and get out"

"I normally shun the spotlight, but I don't mind being the platform."

"I want the WBCA to help find a cure."

"I have a big vision. I want people to know that the coaches of women's teams are stepping forward to commit to making a difference. We have coaches who have breast cancer or have been affected by breast cancer, and we will have more in the future. If we push we can make a difference. I want people to hear WBCA and think about helping people."

"I'm battling an opponent, the greatest opponent, the greatest foe that I've battled. The home court of the archrival is nothing in comparison to this."

"Don't let the urgent get in the way of the important."

## **Other Quotes**

**Nick Valvano (The V Foundation Chief Executive Officer)** - "It seems so natural that The V Foundation would team up with Jim's friend and former North Carolina State University coaching colleague to fight this disease. Kay and Jim shared a passion for winning and that passion will now also be applied to fighting cancer with hopefully the same winning result they had on the court."

**Beth Bass (Women's Basketball Coaches Association Chief Executive Officer)** - "The WBCA is ecstatic to be part of the Kay Yow/WBCA Cancer Fund. Kay was a great leader and friend to the WBCA for many years. This Fund will take our Association to another level for a much greater cause. I am certain that our membership will embrace this new and exciting initiative and get very involved in making a difference beyond the court."

**Pat Summitt (University of Tennessee head women's basketball coach)** – "Kay Yow was a pioneer of the game. She provided leadership. She was and still is admired and respected by

her peers. She was a role model, not only as a basketball coach, but more importantly in her fight against breast cancer. She was passionate. Her kids love her and they love playing in that program and that is how she touched people in so many different ways. It was not just with cancer, but what she did on a daily basis to impact and influence others.”

**Geno Auriemma (University of Connecticut head women’s basketball coach)** – “Kay fought really hard as a player, as a coach, and the fact that she fought breast cancer just as hard and just as competitive appeals to your competitive spirit as a coach. Kay was in the fight of her life and you want to be in that corner. You want to be part of that fight.”

### **Coaches and Supporters Remember Coach Yow and her Legacy**

#### **John Swofford- ACC commissioner**

“What an impact Kay had on so many. Whether one of her players, an opposing coach, a friend, an associate in the world of sports or one who observed her grace, dignity, elegance, kindness and competitive spirit from a distance, you couldn’t help but be touched by her presence in our world. Kay was a very special lady. All of us associated with the ACC will miss her immensely, and our thoughts and prayers go out to her family, loved ones and team.

#### **Beth Bass - WBCA CEO**

“Words cannot even begin to express the impact that Coach Yow had on me personally and on this Association. I have known her for 32 years, and she is by far one of the most amazing people I have had the opportunity to get to know. Her legacy and impact will continue to live on even in her passing through her Foundation leading us toward a cure. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her friends and family. This is a very sad day for all of us.”

#### **Marsha Sharp - Kay Yow/WBCA Cancer Fund President**

“What a sad day for all of us with the loss of such a dear coach, friend and mentor, Kay Yow. It is humbling to serve as the President of the Kay Yow/WBCA Cancer Fund, and to have the opportunity to uphold her legacy of faith, integrity, inspiration and leadership through the Fund. I am positive that she would want us all to unite and find a way to continue the battle that she fought for years. We WILL find a cure for cancer.”

#### **Nick Valvano - CEO of The V Foundation for Cancer Research**

“I am honored to have a Fund established in partnership with The V Foundation that bears the name of Kay Yow. Her courage, faith and legacy will continue to live on in the hearts of those she helped to inspire throughout her coaching career and battle with cancer.”

#### **Herb Sendek - Arizona State Head Men's Basketball Coach and former NC State men's coach**

I am grateful for the time we shared with Kay. She was gentle, caring and full of love. She was strong in her faith and was inspiring to us. She will remain with us in special and everlasting ways.

#### **Sylvia Hatchell - North Carolina Head Women's Basketball Coach**

“Kay was a real treasure to me. She was a jewel of a person, an outstanding coach, but more than anything a dear friend. She always represented herself and NC State with tremendous honor, grace and style, and her presence and competitive spirit will be greatly missed in the ACC. I don't know of anyone in the world of women's basketball that doesn't owe a debt of gratitude to Kay. She will truly be missed, and our thoughts and prayers are with her staff and

her players."

**Dick Baddour - Director of Athletics at UNC**

"It is with a profound sense of sadness that we learned of the passing of Kay Yow. She was a wonderful person, a Hall of Fame coach, a giant in college athletics and an inspiration to everyone who faces tremendous adversity and challenges. We celebrate her grace, dignity and the determination she displayed on the court and while battling cancer for more than 20 years. Coach Yow's spirit elevated the rivalry between our two schools and the game of basketball. Sylvia Hatchell and Beth Miller, our senior women's administrator, competed against Coach Yow's teams for 30-plus years, yet counted her as one of their dearest friends. That says a lot about the person she was and the class she displayed. I know everyone at the University of North Carolina joins me in expressing our deepest sympathies to the Yow family and the NC State community."

**Joanne P. McCallie - Duke Head Women's Basketball Coach**

"It was just so mixed. She has been such a warrior in terms of her fight and her struggle, but a part of me is just feeling great for her to be going home to a better place for her now. It's hard to describe the feeling; it's hard to put it into words. I've never seen a woman or known a woman to share a story, her story, so eloquently under such incredible conditions. The courage that she showed, a lot of people are afraid. They're afraid to share their story. Kay was never afraid. I just know that it had to be a very peaceful thing for her. I've not known her very long, and I don't know her extremely personally, but I feel like I know her character, and I think that's the interesting thing about Kay Yow. You may not know her personally or had lunch perhaps, but the reality is you know her character and you know what she stands for. In our hearts, our thoughts, our prayers go out to North Carolina State and the entire North Carolina State family, that incredibly talented team. It's much more personal and direct for them. We grieve with them, but we also celebrate with them. There's a lot to celebrate there."

She transcends the basketball community. She's been a historic leader in a very difficult circumstance for women's health and issues. It transcends the game of basketball, and she was able to use the game of basketball in its proper context to make people better, to help people, to communicate. I still can never get over how 'pink' took over. The thing I'll always think about with Kay is how she made pink. She made pink something special. For the longest time, pink was something soft and feminine and suddenly it became this courageous fight that everyone's been united in, and that was one her many legacies. She made pink more beautiful than pink could ever be."

**Pat Summitt - Tennessee Head Women's Basketball Coach**

"My heart goes out to the Yow family and the N.C. State Wolfpack nation on the passing of a truly remarkable lady and a dear friend in Kay Yow. In the two decades she fought the disease, Kay never allowed herself to be victimized by cancer. Kay never pitied herself. Instead, she tried to bring awareness to the horrible disease that was robbing her of her life. Through her foundation in conjunction with the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) – The Kay Yow/WBCA Cancer Fund, in partnership with The V Foundation for Cancer Research, she did all that she could do to help others. That was just Kay. Helping to get the cancer fund off the ground put Kay on a mission. She fought for cancer funding the same way she fought the disease... positive and determined every step of the way. Kay was passionate about life and coaching. She was a giver and she gave so much to every life she touched. She made a difference in the lives of so many people, not just the life lessons she shared with her student-athletes at Elon or North Carolina State."

Summitt on coaching with Kay Yow in the 1984 Olympics:

"I was a young coach of 32 when I was asked to coach the 1984 Olympic Team. When I decided who my number one assistant would be, I knew that I had to choose someone who would be loyal...who knew the game...someone I could trust and someone with great wisdom. When it came time to make that decision, I picked Kay Yow. Kay had great wisdom. She had a special way of telling you things that you really didn't want to hear but needed to. Kay was not a 'yes' woman. She accepted the challenge of helping me to bring home the first gold medal to the United States in women's basketball. It was a daunting task but Kay made it so much easier by helping to relieve the pressure.

"She was an excellent communicator and had such a great rapport with our Olympic players. I learned so much from her on how to better communicate with your players. She definitely always knew the pulse of our team and had a calmness about her that was so settling to me as a young coach trying to bring home the gold while playing in front of the home team USA fans. Those memories that I shared with Kay will last a lifetime and I will always look back at them fondly and think of her."

#### **Gail Goestenkers - Texas Head Women's Basketball Coach**

Today is a sad day for all of women's basketball. Kay was loved and respected by everyone, and we all feel blessed to have been a small part of her life. Our game is forever changed because of her. Kay's impact on the players she had the opportunity to coach and teach, and the impact on her colleagues and friends, cannot be measured. She touched everyone in such an incredible way that we all felt like we were good friends of Kay's. I have nothing but love and respect for her. Her legacy will live on forever in our game.

#### **Jody Condradt - Former Texas Head Women's Basketball Coach**

"Kay was an impact leader in our sport and was truly and widely beloved. She had a rare level of optimism and sense of calm in the face of her health adversity. Just as she shared her love of basketball and competitiveness, she shared her passion and desire to fight cancer. Her lasting legacy is 4Kay -- part of the V Foundation. None of us could leave a more important message behind."

#### **Katie Meier - Miami Head Women's Basketball Coach**

"The sadness that everyone is feeling right now is from the void that is now in our lives. Kay Yow touched everyone that met her and millions that never had the opportunity. Her indomitable spirit and courage was an inspiration to all the people and families that have fought breast cancer. This classy and joyful woman is what coaches across the country try to model ourselves after. Her faith and dignity is what we try to instill into our student-athletes everyday. I have been truly blessed to have shared part of my life and memories with this beautiful woman."

#### **Cristy McKinney - Clemson Head Women's Basketball Coach and former player at NC State**

"This is a hard day for me personally and professionally. I was fortunate to be a member of Coach Yow's first N.C. State team. That opportunity helped shape my career and my life. Coach Yow has been my coach, my mentor and my friend for 34 years. She was a remarkable, strong and passionate woman who was always there for the Wolfpack women family. Although I feel a lot of sadness today, I also feel some peace because I know Coach Yow is in a better place. Her faith allowed her to be the woman she was. The world lost a special person today, but Heaven gained a special angel."

#### **Brenda Freese - Maryland Head Women's Basketball Coach**

"Coach Yow might be gone, but she's touched so many lives and inspired so many people that her legacy will live on forever. She's a giant in our game and for all the right reasons. When I first got to the ACC, it didn't take long to figure out that Coach Yow was always about what was good for the sport and good for others. As a coach, she always got the most out of her team and they were always incredibly well prepared. Obviously, with her sister Debbie as my boss, we shared a connection. A couple weeks ago we got the message that things weren't going well, so our players wrote cards to Coach Yow expressing our support. If there's a team in heaven, I know she's already coaching it. In this time of grief, our hearts and thoughts are with the Yow and N.C. State families."

**Nancy Lieberman - ESPN basketball analyst and Basketball Hall of Fame member**

"I don't know if there is anyway to sugar coat this. I love Kay Yow! For her lifetime of giving to her faith, friends and all of us in the basketball community. Her reach has touched generations and will influence how we go forward and treat people in the future. She is a Hall of Fame Woman!

**Kay Yow/WBCA Cancer Fund® Information:**

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