

LISA PAYNE – Women’s Basketball 1988-90

Lisa Payne, originally of Columbus, Ohio, played guard for two seasons for the Lady Rangers basketball team under head coach Evelyn Blalock. In those two seasons from 1988-90, KC had an impressive 56-6 combined record.

Lisa’s freshman year, KC was 21-4, but lost in the second round of the regional tournament. That was enough motivation for the 5’6” shooting guard to help the Lady Rangers construct a record-setting year during her sophomore campaign.

The 1989-90 Lady Rangers were led by Payne, a sophomore, to a 35-2 record. The team won the regional tournament, defeating Panola College, 101-75, which qualified them for the national tournament.

They were a talented and a determined group of players who won five-straight games in the national tournament to claim the national championship for the KC Lady Rangers for the second time in school history with a 95-83 victory over Emmanuel College out of Georgia.

Lisa was named the Kodak/State Farm Player of the Year in 1990, named the Champion Player of the Year and was named as a NJCAA All-American Honorable Mention.

She went on to play basketball for Louisiana Tech University from 1990-92.

At Louisiana Tech, she was named Newcomer of the Year her freshman year and led the Lady Techsters with 84 assists that season.

Both her freshman and sophomore year, Louisiana Tech won the ASC Tournament to qualify for the NCAA national basketball tournament under head coach Leon Barmore.