

Northwestern State

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Basketball

Southland Conference Champions 2004-05, 05-06
Southland Conference East Division Champions 2007
SLC Tournament Champions 2001, 2006
NCAA Tournament (2-2): 2001 (1-1), 2006 (1-1)

Game 1 • Season Opener

Northwestern State Demons (15-18 last year)
vs. Indiana Hoosiers (25-8 last year)

Saturday, Nov. 15 • 7 p.m. • Assembly Hall (17,357) • Bloomington, Ind.

Series: First meeting. Demons won their last game vs. a Big Ten team, beating Iowa 64-63 in the first round of the 2006 NCAA Tournament. NSU is 0-1 vs. Coach Tom Crean (83-67, 12/1/06)

Demon Sports Network radio • Big Ten Network TV



Date	Opponent	Time/Result
Nov. 15	at Indiana	6:00
Nov. 18	East Texas Baptist	7:45
	<i>LSU Invitational (in Baton Rouge)</i>	
Nov. 21	vs. Centenary	4:00
Nov. 23	at LSU	2:00
Nov. 28	vs. Alcorn State	4:30
Nov. 29	vs. Troy	4:30
Dec. 1	Centenary	7:45
Dec. 6	at Miami (Ohio)	2:00
Dec. 13	LSU-Shreveport	4:00
Dec. 17	at Grambling	7:00
Dec. 20	at Houston Baptist	2:05
Dec. 22	Southern-New Orleans	7:00
Dec. 27	at Arkansas (ESPN2)	5:05
Dec. 30	Miami (Ohio)	7:00
Jan. 3	at Oklahoma State	2:00
Jan. 10	*Nicholls	4:00
Jan. 14	*at Southeastern Louisiana	7:00
Jan. 17	*Texas A&M-Corpus Christi	2:00
Jan. 24	*at Nicholls	5:00
Jan. 28	*at Stephen F. Austin	7:00
Jan. 31	*Central Arkansas	2:00
Feb. 4	*at McNeese State	7:00
Feb. 7	*Texas-Arlington	2:00
Feb. 11	*Stephen F. Austin	7:00
Feb. 14	*at Central Arkansas	4:00
Feb. 18	*McNeese State	7:00
Feb. 21	*at Lamar (SLC TV)	7:05
Feb. 25	*Texas-San Antonio	7:00
Feb. 28	*at Texas State	4:00
Mar. 4	*at Sam Houston State	7:00
Mar. 7	*Southeastern Louisiana	2:00
2008	<i>Southland Conference Tournament</i>	
Mar. 12	Quarterfinals	TBD
Mar. 13	Semifinals	6:00 or 8:30
Mar. 15	Championship Game	12 Noon

*SLC games; all times Central; Home games in bold

Demon Pronunciations

Aramie Brooks	AIR-uh-me
John Conine	CO-nine
Keithan Hancock	KEITH-un
Damon Jones	Duh-MONN
McConathy	McCONN-uh-the
Deividas Petravicius	DAVID-us PETRRAY-ee-chus
Kalem Porterie	KAY-lum PORT-err-ee
Natchitoches, LA	NACK-a-dish
Bossier City, LA	BO-sure City
Kountze, TX	KOONTS
Klaipeda, Lithuania	CLAY-ped-duh
Panola JC	Pun-NOLA

Tippling off 2008-09 in one of college basketball's shrines

Northwestern State begins its 95th basketball season, and its 10th under the direction of Mike McConathy, playing one of the nation's top programs in one of the sport's iconic venues.

That's nothing new. McConathy has always had an aggressive scheduling approach in non-conference play. NSU annually plays at Oklahoma State (winning in 2005), and visits Arkansas again this year along with LSU.

The Demons have also recently played at Mississippi State (winning in 2005), Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Louisville, Missouri, Wichita State and Marquette.

The last two season openers have come at Louisville and Stanford.

The Demons have an all-time record of 1,275-994. McConathy begins his 26th season overall as a head college coach (including 16 at Bossier Parish Community College) needing 3 wins to reach 500 in his career. He is 145-135 at Northwestern State.

Rare matchup against the Big Ten

The Southland Conference had its best overall RPI in years last season, ranking 17th among the 32 Division I conferences. But the biggest SLC splash in recent years came on March 17, 2006, when Northwestern State stunned Big Ten Conference Tournament champion Iowa 64-63 in the first round of the NCAA Tournament at Auburn Hills, Mich.

There are three players remaining from that team, none who played in the game: seniors Keithan Hancock and Kalem Porterie, and junior Michael McConathy. Hancock and McConathy were redshirted that season.

Under coach Mike McConathy, NSU is 1-2 against Big Ten foes, losing twice to Illinois -- 96-54 in the first round of the 2001 NCAA Tournament, and a very competitive 69-51 loss to the No. 1-ranked Illini on Dec. 30, 2004 in the Las Vegas Classic, in a game that had a margin of 8-12 points until the final two minutes.

Young squad with seven new faces

The Demons have 10 freshman or sophomores on their 17-man roster. There are seven newcomers - six freshmen and a junior college transfer. The squad has four sophomores, three juniors and four seniors. Among the seniors, only guard Keithan Hancock and forward Kalem Porterie have been in the NSU program since high school.

Back from last year's team is 51% of the scoring (1,234 of 2,437 points) and 40% of the rebounding (484 of 1,218 rebounds). Seven players on this team started at least once last year with a total of 71 starting assignments. The returning starters are guards Hancock and Michael McConathy.

There is not a player on the team who has averaged scoring in double figures for an entire season. Senior guard Keithan Hancock did score 10.2 ppg in Southland Conference play last season. However, there are 8 players who scored in double figures at least once last year, and who combined to post 42 double-figure games.

It's been six seasons since Demons have counted so heavily on youth

Not since the 2002-03 season -- six years ago -- have newcomers had such a prominent role and impact on the NSU team as this year's young players might

Last year, the top five scorers were veterans while only three newcomers ranked in the top 10 scorers. A year earlier, four of the top five scorers were veterans and only three newcomers ranked among the team's top 10 scorers.



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DEMON QUICK FACTS

Name: Northwestern State University
 Founded: 1884 as Louisiana Normal School
 Location: Natchitoches, Louisiana
 Enrollment: 9,111
 Nickname: Demons
 Conference: Southland
 All-Time W/L: 1,275-994 (.562)
 Colors: Purple & White with Orange trim
 Arena: Prather Coliseum (3,400)
 Head Coach: Mike McConathy
 Alma Mater: Louisiana Tech (1977)
 Record: 145-135 (.516, 10th season)
 Career Record: 497-294 (.628, 26th season)
 Starters R/L: 2/3
 Lettermen R/L: 9/5
 Newcomers: 8
 Website: www.nsudemons.com

DEMONS ON THE AIRWAVES

Northwestern State basketball games can be heard live on the Demon Sports Network. The network includes flagship station KZBL-FM (100.7) in Natchitoches along with KTEZ-FM (99.9) in Many, KVCL-FM in Winnfield (92.7) and KSYR-FM (92.1) in Shreveport. All Demon games are broadcast by Patrick Netherton on play-by-play.

NSUDEMONS.COM

NSU's official athletic website can be found at www.nsudemons.com. Updated statistics, game notes, player bios, schedules and features are listed.

LISTEN TO GAMES ON THE INTERNET

All of NSU's games can be heard on the internet, free of charge, by logging on to www.nsudemons.com and clicking the "Listen to the Game" link.

WATCHING GAMES AND HIGHLIGHTS

The half-hour magazine-style television show spotlighting Northwestern State athletics, "Nside Demon Sports," is available online each week, free of charge, at www.nsudemons.com

All home games and some road games are webcast on the [nsudemons.com](http://www.nsudemons.com) site. The home games are free of charge.

INTERVIEW POLICY

During the week, Player interviews should be set up through SID Doug Ireland at least one day in advance to minimize demands on the student-athletes' busy schedule. Brief face-to-face post-practice interviews may be conducted if time permits, but academic and travel responsibilities could preclude those opportunities. The Demon basketball program is very committed to being accessible to the media and we will make every effort to accommodate your needs. Please work with us and plan in advance whenever possible to facilitate the best possible arrangements for all parties.

Interviews with Coach McConathy or any assistant coach can be arranged by calling administrative assistant Colene Bonnette at (318) 357-4274.

A regular Sixth Man Club luncheon is held on Wednesdays at noon. Antoon's Riverfront Restaurant will be the site of the 2007-08 luncheons, beginning at the outset of the conference season. This is the optimal time for access to Coach McConathy and players.

In the three previous seasons, only one newcomer (Luke Rogers in 2005-06) ranked among the top five in scoring and no more than two newcomers ranked in the top 10.

The 2002-03 team included 12 freshmen. The core of that group won two straight SLC championships and won that NCAA Tournament game over Iowa in 2006, their senior season. Four were four-year starters.

Demons rely on rotation system again

Ninth-year coach Mike McConathy has brought unprecedented success to Northwestern State by typically using a wave substitution pattern which often results in a fresh five-man rotation entering the game every 3-4 minutes, deep into the game.

The Demons typically use the system, except for injuries or fouls, through at least halftime and often into the final 8-10 minutes. Not coincidentally, the Demons often surge near the end of each half as well-rested players with fresh legs hit the floor and create problems for opponents who haven't gone as deep into their bench.

The system also serves NSU well late in the season and in postseason play, with more players able to contribute and fatigue not being as big a factor for the Demons as it is for foes.

Starting lineups are not nearly as significant, or as stable, in McConathy's system as they are for most teams. Last year, there were 13 different starting combinations, involving 12 players, in 33 games.

Tonight's lineup still up in the air

The decision might not be made until 10 minutes before tipoff as to which five players hit the floor first. As of Friday, coach McConathy was leaning toward the following rotation:

Starters: PG Michael McConathy, 2G Damon Jones, SF Deividas Petravicius, F William Mosley and C Kalem Porterie.

Second Wave: PG Dominic Knight, 2G Keithan Hancock, G-F Dominic Knight, F C.J. Clark, C Devin White

Also in play: 2G Dwayne Watkins, F Charles Clark, C Aramie Brooks.

Demons' double-figure dozen made NSU again USA's deepest team in 2007-08

Northwestern last year got double digit scoring from 12 different players, topping Navy (which had 11) for the deepest roster in the country.

It was the third time in four seasons the Demons had that distinction.

Trey Gilder had 29 double-figure outputs. Colby Bargeman had 19, Keithan Hancock had 12, while Damon Jones had 9 and Gerrell Thomas 7. C.J. Clark had 6, Deividas Petravicius and Devin White had 5, Jerry Moody and Michael McConathy had 3, and Logan McConathy and Dominic Knight each had 1.

Two 2008 seniors playing professionally

Trey Gilder was the 30th pick in last Friday's NBA Developmental League Draft, going to the Colorado 14ers. The 6-9 forward is beginning training camp Sunday in Denver.

Colby Bargeman has emerged as a star in England, scoring 20-plus per game for the Worthing Thunder in the English Basketball League.

They are among 11 Demons recruited in the Mike McConathy era who are playing professional basketball, nine overseas.

McConathy combo is one of a handful of father-son(s) teams in Division I

With junior guard Michael McConathy and sophomore guard Logan McConathy playing for their dad, head coach Mike McConathy, the Demons are more family-oriented than ever.

There are no other father-sons combos in major college basketball. There are several dads who are coaching one son, however.

An incomplete list: At Pepperdine University, Vance Walberg is the head coach and his son Jason Walberg is on the team. Hawaii first-year coach Bob Nash has his son Bobby on the team. Mike Davis at UAB has his son Michael.

As far as we can tell -- this is only the second time ever that a father has coached two sons at the same time. At BYU, Roger Reid had two sons on his 1994-95 squad. Oklahoma State's Eddie Sutton coached Sean and Scott Sutton, but they never played on the same team.

Michael and Logan were among 40 sets of brothers playing together in Division I last season.

McConathy boys honoring legacy

Junior guard Michael McConathy and sophomore guard Logan McConathy are honoring their family history and Demon basketball tradition with their jersey numbers.

Michael wears the No. 14 that was retired in 2002 after being worn from 1947-51 by his



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"Grandpa Johnny," first-round NBA Draft pick Johnny McConathy.

Logan wears the No. 5 jersey, also retired in 2002, belonging to the Demons' first All-America player, Charles "Red" Thomas -- who was John McConathy's head coach after legendary H. Lee Prather hung up his whistle in 1949.

The McConathy boys got permission from "Grampa Johnny" and Coach Thomas to wear their numbers.

Hancock family tradition comes to a close

When senior guard Keithan Hancock ends his career in March, assuming he does not return as a graduate assistant coach next season, it will end a 12-year stretch in which one of three Hancock brothers was part of the Demon basketball program.

Oldest brother Josh played point guard for NSU from 1997-2001. He was a pivotal figure in the Demons' first-ever trip to the NCAA Tournament in his senior season, then remained in the program as a graduate assistant coach and then a fulltime assistant coach during the first season that middle brother Tramaine transferred in from junior college. Tramaine played for the Demons from 2003-05, helping NSU win its first regular-season Southland Conference title in 2004-05 as a senior.

Keithan arrived in 2004-05 as the most accomplished of the three brothers at Kountze (Texas) HS. He led KHS to the Texas Class 3A state championship, when his older brothers had their teams fall one win shy of the championship game in their careers.

While the older brothers were primarily point guards and tenacious defenders who weren't typically big scorers, Keithan has lived up to their billing as the most explosive shooter in the family. He was a redshirt on the 2005-06 SLC championship team that won an NCAA Tournament game, and played for the 2006-07 SLC East Division championship team.

Homecoming for coach Mark Slessinger

Beginning his ninth season as an assistant coach at Northwestern State, Mark Slessinger is enjoying a visit home. He is a Bloomington native and his parents live here.

"Sless" handles scheduling for the Demons. Last year, he was able to realize another goal when he arranged a visit to Texas Tech and a game against Coach Bob Knight's team; as it turned out, shortly before Coach Knight's retirement. That late December weekend, retired Bloomington sports editor Bob Hammel was visiting Coach Knight and the two kindly autographed Hammel's book on Knight as a gift to Slessinger. Hammel sat next to the Demons' bench.

Sless's mom is Hoosier basketball usher

Barbara Slessinger is beginning her 29th year as an Assembly Hall usher, handling seating in the end zone bleachers adjacent to the IU bench. She's taking the night off, however, and says she will be cheering for both teams.

His 89-year-old grandmother will be wearing IU earrings and a purple blouse.

Notre Dame's Mike Brey is a former Demon

Fighting Irish head coach Mike Brey played point guard for the Demons from 1977-80 and ranks seventh in school history with 311 assists, an average of 4.3 per game. He left NSU after his junior season following a coaching change and finished his playing career at George Washington near his Maryland home.

Also in school at Northwestern at that time: highly successful Alabama baseball coach Jim Wells, Denver Broncos defensive line coach Bill Johnson, former Ole Miss football coach and now New Orleans Saints defensive line coach Ed Orgeron, Philadelphia Eagles assistant strength coach Barry Rubin, College Football Hall of Fame running back Joe Delaney, and two more future All-Pro football stars, Mark Duper and Bobby Hebert.

NSU nasty vs. SLC foes over last 4 seasons

Over the past four seasons (since the start of 2004-05), the Demons are 55-19 (.743) overall, including 31-8 (.795) at home, against their Southland Conference foes.

Demons have sparked in SLC Tournament

Northwestern is riding a string of four straight SLC Tournament championship game appearances. The Demons are 9-3 in the last four conference tournaments. Their last first-round loss came to Southeastern Louisiana in 2003.

Northwestern is the first SLC team to make four straight tournament championship game appearances since Louisiana-Monroe in 1990-93. No team has made five straight tourney finals.

If the Demons do it again, they will have the best sustained streak of SLC Tournament success in the five decades of league history. Northwestern has played in six SLC Finals in nine seasons, matching ULM's run in the 1990s.

In 1993, ULM won the last of four straight tourney titles resulting in NCAA appearances. Since then, no SLC team has won the tournament crown in consecutive years.

Demons try to halt OOC blowout string

Until last season, a big margin of defeat had been unusual for the Demons since the oldest members (4-year players on the squad, forward Kalem Porterie and guard Keithan Hancock) came on board. They've experienced only 10 20-point+ losses in their careers since 2004 --

2007-08 Preseason SLC Coaches Poll

East Division

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Stephen F. Austin (10 1st place votes) | 65 |
| 2. Northwestern State (1) | 51 |
| 3. Southeastern Louisiana (1) | 48 |
| 4. McNeese State | 31 |
| 5. Nicholls | 28 |
| 6. Central Arkansas | 23 |

West Division

- | | |
|------------------------|----|
| 1. Texas Arlington (9) | 63 |
| 2. Lamar (3) | 54 |
| 3. Sam Houston State | 46 |
| 4. Texas-San Antonio | 39 |
| 5. A&M-Corpus Christi | 26 |
| 6. Texas State | 18 |

but seven last year. Three opened the season and another four followed at LSU, Arkansas, Texas Tech and Oklahoma State.

The Demons haven't suffered a 20+ point loss in SLC play in 86 games dating back to the 2002-03 season. Texas State pounded the freshman-laden Demons 95-62 on 2/8/03.

Demons getting it done in the classroom

When the NCAA issued its third annual Academic Progress Rate reports last spring, the NSU basketball program again ranked highly and atop state and conference peers.

In 2006, the Demons ranked alongside Harvard, Yale, North Carolina, Villanova, Penn, Air Force and Navy, among the 35 men's basketball programs in Division I with the best APR score. The Demons had a 981 APR (perfect score is 1,000), well ahead of the national men's hoops average of 927. That earned NSU "public recognition" from the NCAA for being among the top 10% in men's basketball APR.

The 2007 report saw Northwestern State receive a 975 APR, 43 points higher than the national average. It wasn't quite enough to earn top 10% status, but the score did once again place Demon basketball atop the list in Louisiana and in the Southland Conference.

NSU again led the SLC in the 2008 APR report and was second to Tulane in Louisiana. The 950 score ranked 70th nationally, well ahead of the average 918 score.

NSU extra tough in Prather Coliseum

Northwestern is 47-10 (.824) in Prather Coliseum in the last 3 seasons, 9-5 last year. The Demons were 15-2 at home in 2004-05 and 14-0 three years ago, when the Demons were among only eight teams to finish the season perfect at home. They were 9-3 in 2006-07.

The Demons are 83-33 (.716) at home under ninth-year head coach Mike McConathy. This is the 42nd season in Prather Coliseum, with Northwestern's all-time record in the building at 338-190 (.640).



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A "Demon" in the Rough - Mike McConathy

26th season overall • 497-294 career record (.628) • 145-135 (.519) in 10 seasons at NSU

Times have changed with Coach Mike in charge

When he was hired as head coach at his father's alma mater in March 1999, Mike McConathy took the helm of a basketball program that was, to put it kindly, struggling.

Prior to Coach Mike's arrival, NSU had only five winning seasons in 24 years of NCAA Division I competition. The high points of modern-day Demon basketball before McConathy were a stunning upset win on Dec. 7, 1988 at Rupp Arena to hand Kentucky its first home-opening loss in 21 seasons, and a 1994 NCAA team scoring title. Five previous coaches, including a couple who had been highly successful elsewhere (Wayne Yates, J.D. Barnett), had tried and been unable to establish success.

Then, and now:

Then - 5 winning seasons in 24 years, 5 straight losing seasons going into 1999-2000

Now - 5 winning seasons in 9 years, including 3 in the last 4

Then - no 20-win seasons an 24 years of Division I membership; only one since 1960

Now - back-to-back 20-win seasons in 2004-06; 79 wins last four years; all-time best 26-8 mark in 2005-06

Then - no postseason tournament appearances

Now - 2-2 record in two NCAA Tournaments (2001, 2006)

Then - no conference championship in 13 seasons in the SLC and 3 in the Gulf Star Conference

Now - Southland Conference regular-season championships in 2005, 2006; SLC Tournament titles in 2001, 2006; 2007 SLC East Division championship

Then - no conference tournament championship game appearances

Now - 6 SLC Tournament championship game appearances in 9 seasons (2000, 2001, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008), with two wins (2001, 2006)

Then - attendance for NSU home games in Prather Coliseum was about 1,200 per game.

Now - in 14 home games in 2005-06, the Demons set an all-time record with an average of 2,340 fans. In 12 home games in 2006-07, the Demons averaged 2,071 per home game, and in 14 at home last season, it was a 1,512 average - seating capacity, baseline to baseline, is 3,400.

Then - no national television appearances, 4 regional television appearances

Now - 11 national telecasts (4 on CBS, 7 on ESPN/ESPN2/ESPNU), 11 regional telecasts in nine seasons; an ESPN2 appearance on Dec. 27 at Arkansas

Then - Demons had won 62% of their home games in 33 seasons in Prather Coliseum

Now - Demons have won 72% of their home games (83-33) under Coach Mike, including a 47-10 record (83%) since the start of 2004-05

Then - NSU's graduation rate for basketball was below par nationally

Now - The Demons have graduated 35 of their 44 seniors who have played under Coach Mike. NSU ranked in the top 10% in the 2006 NCAA Academic Progress Rate report, joining fellow NCAA Tournament entries such as North Carolina, Villanova, Air Force and Penn and ranking alongside other institutions such as Harvard and Yale.



Noteworthy on Coach Mike

- Two of his former assistant coaches, Dave Simmons (McNeese State) and Buzz Williams (Marquette) have become head coaches of Division I programs. Simmons is in year three at McNeese, one of NSU's biggest rivals.
- He is the first Northwestern State head coach in any sport to receive a multiple-year contract, getting a four-year package at a base of \$99,000 per year in spring 2006 and having the package extended and upgraded last spring. Louisiana law requires one-year contracts unless guaranteed with private funds.
- Southern Cal head coach Tim Floyd and McConathy were roommates and teammates at Louisiana Tech, where they were recruited by future NBA head coach (Jazz, Bulls, Pistons) Scotty Robertson. Floyd and McConathy stay in contact.
- He is married to his college sweetheart. Connie McConathy manages the Bossier Parish Community College branch located on the NSU campus in Natchitoches.
- His father, Johnny, starred for Northwestern in 1947-51 and was the No. 5 pick in the 1951 NBA Draft, going to Syracuse.
- He does a live pregame radio interview courtside on the Demon Sports Network. In the half hour before tipoff at home games, he doesn't sequester himself in the locker room or his office. He goes through the stands and into the booster room, greeting fans. He's also typically out visiting around the court pregame for road games.
- On Saturday mornings before home and day-trip road games, he and his coaching staff cook a pancake breakfast for the team after shootaround.
- He is on the voting panel for the ESPN/USA Today coaches' Top 25 poll for the second straight season.

McConathy's Magic

THE COACH

McConathy at Northwestern State

1990-00	17-13	1st NSU berth in SLC tourney final; most wins at NSU in 18 years
2000-01	19-13	NCAA Tournament win; SLC tourney champs
2001-02	13-18	Win over NCAA Tournament entry Siena
2002-03	6-21	Youngest team in NCAA D-I; top 8 scorers freshmen
2003-04	11-17	Youngest team in NCAA D-I; started 5-0 in SLC
2004-05	21-12	First SLC title; most wins since 1974; SLC tourney finalist; SLC Coach of the Year
2005-06	26-8	SLC title, SLC tourney title, NCAA First Round win
2006-07	17-15	SLC East Division title; SLC tourney finalist
2007-08	15-18	4th straight SLC tourney final
9 seasons	145-135	Six SLC Tournament title game appearances, 2 NAAs

McConathy at Bossier Parish CC

1983-84	10-16	
1984-85	16-16	
1985-86	15-16	
1986-87	24-8	NJCAA Region 23 Tournament
1987-88	22-9	NJCAA Region 23 Tournament
1988-89	19-12	NJCAA Region 23 Tournament Semifinalist
1989-90	24-8	NJCAA Region 23 Tournament
1990-91	22-11	Miss-Lou champion; NJCAA Region 23 semis
1991-92	15-15	
1992-93	28-9	NJCAA Region 23 Tournament Semifinalist
1993-94	28-6	Miss-Lou, Region 23 champions, NJCAA tourney
1994-95	25-7	Miss-Lou champion, Region 23 runner-up
1995-96	23-9	Miss-Lou champion, Region 23 runner-up
1996-97	28-9	Miss-Lou & Region 23 champ; 7th in NJCAA tourney
1997-98	27-3	Miss-Lou champ; 3rd nationally in final NJCAA poll
1998-99	26-5	Miss-Lou champ; 8th nationally in final NJCAA poll

16 seasons 352-159 won 69% of his games, including 79% in last 7 years

• In 13 of his last 14 seasons, BPC participated in the NJCAA Region 23 Tournament after finishing either first or second in the Miss-Lou Conference

• The Cavellers won six straight Miss-Lou Conference championships from 1994-99

• BPC won two NJCAA Region 23 championships

• The Cavellers were NJCAA Region 23 finalists two more times

• Twice, Coach Mac led Bossier Parish to the NJCAA Tournament

THE PLAYER

Mike "Opie" McConathy

1973-74	12.3 ppg	Starter as a true freshman at Louisiana Tech
1974-75	16.8 ppg	All-Southland Conference, second team
1975-76	24.7 ppg	All-America, honorable mention; SLC Player of the Year; 13th leading scorer in NCAA D-I
1976-77	27.5 ppg	1st Team All-SLC; 7th leading scorer in D-I
Career	20.7 ppg	(98 games, 2,033 points)

• Today he ranks 10th all-time in career scoring average in Southland Conference history

• Tied Louisiana Tech single-game scoring record with 47 vs. Lamar, 2/23/76 (14-21 FGs, 19-20 FTs)

• Set Prather Coliseum single-game scoring record with 45 vs. NSU, 12/11/76 (16-26 FGs, 13-15 FTs)

• Scored 41 points vs. East Tennessee State, 11/29/76 (15-23 FGs, 11-16 FTs)

• Scored 41 points vs. NSU, 2/28/77 (14-23 FGs, 13-14 FTs)

• Scored 41 points vs. McNeese, 2/24/77 (15-25 FGs, 13-16 FTs)

• Scored 40 points vs. Lamar, 2/13/75 (15-25 FGs, 10-11 FTs)

• Holds school records for free throws made in a game (19 vs. Lamar, 2/23/76), season (200, 1976-77) and career (465), and most free throw attempts in a season (246, 1976-77)

• Holds school record by hitting 16 of 16 free throws vs. Southern Mississippi, 2/9/77

• Chosen to play in Big Apple Classic, New York City, 1977

• Drafted by Chicago Bulls, 1977, fourth round of NBA Draft

• Signed at La. Tech by Scotty Robertson, future NBA head coach, assistant coach and scout

• Coached by Emmitt Hendricks, who was the owner of Nicky's Mexican Restaurant in Natchitoches before his death

• Inducted in the Shreveport-Bossier Sports Foundation Hall of Fame for his playing career at Airline and in college

"Mike is remarkably relaxed in this pressure cooker. You can tell his players hold a reverence toward him. If you didn't meet him, you'd think he was too good to be true. He's a quality human being, more concerned about his kids getting through school and doing well in life than anything else, and they know it."

-- Bill Raftery, CBS Sports

2006 NCAA Tournament

"Mike McConathy is a great leader... he's very humble, has a great deal of class and can flat out coach the game... if I had a son, I'd want him to play for Coach Mike."

-- Rick Pitino (current Louisville coach)

CBS Sports, 2001 NCAA Tournament

"There's something special going on in the basketball program at Northwestern State. It's a winning attitude that's built on the family atmosphere that Coach McConathy and his staff have established. You just don't see enough of those values passed along today in college athletics, but it's alive and well in Natchitoches with Coach Mike and his Demons. The homecourt atmosphere at Prather Coliseum is outstanding. I hope I can come back again. I know I'll be hearing more good things about Northwestern State basketball for years to come."

-- Dr. Jerry Punch, ESPN announcer/analyst

"Mike is one of the finest college coaches in the country. He knows the game through and through. The thing that sets him apart is the way he coaches life first, then basketball. His players respond to him because they realize he has their best interests as his first priority. They're all important to him and so they give him their all. He's the kind of coach I want my grandsons to play for."

-- Scotty Robertson, former NBA head coach (Jazz, Bulls, Pistons)