Tom Crean: The Team and the Exciting Comeback of Hoosier Basketball



This Is Indiana: Tom Crean, the Team, and the Exciting Comeback of Hoosier Basketball by Kevin Brooks

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Tom Crean, the former head coach of Indiana University's men's basketball team, is a legendary figure in college basketball. Crean led the Hoosiers to four NCAA Tournament appearances, including an Elite Eight appearance in 2016. Under Crean's leadership, the Hoosiers won two Big Ten Tournament championships and finished in the top 25 in the Associated Press Top 25 Poll four times.

Crean's success at Indiana was due in large part to his ability to build a strong team culture. He emphasized hard work, dedication, and teamwork. He also had a knack for identifying and developing talent. Under Crean's guidance, several Indiana players went on to have successful careers in the NBA, including Victor Oladipo, Cody Zeller, and Yogi Ferrell.

The Early Years

Crean was born in Michigan City, Indiana, in 1966. He grew up playing basketball and was a standout player at Michigan City High School. Crean went on to play college basketball at Indiana State University, where he was a three-time All-Missouri Valley Conference selection.

After graduating from Indiana State, Crean began his coaching career as an assistant coach at Western Michigan University. He then spent five seasons as an assistant coach at Marquette University before being named the head coach at Indiana University in 2008.

The Resurgence of Indiana Basketball

When Crean arrived at Indiana, the program was in a state of decline. The Hoosiers had not made an NCAA Tournament appearance since 2008, and they had finished in the bottom half of the Big Ten Conference standings in each of the previous three seasons.

Crean quickly began to turn things around at Indiana. In his first season, the Hoosiers finished 12-20, but they showed signs of improvement. The following season, the Hoosiers finished 21-13 and made their first NCAA Tournament appearance under Crean.

In the 2012-13 season, the Hoosiers made a run to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament. The following season, they won the Big Ten Tournament championship and earned a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament. The Hoosiers advanced to the Elite Eight that season, where they lost to eventual national champion Duke.

Crean continued to have success at Indiana in the following seasons. The Hoosiers made two more NCAA Tournament appearances under his leadership, and they finished in the top 25 in the Associated Press Top 25 Poll four times.

Crean's Coaching Style

Crean is known for his intense and demanding coaching style. He is a tough but fair coach who expects his players to give 100% effort at all times. Crean is also a master motivator who knows how to get the most out of his players.

Crean's coaching style has been praised by many of his former players. Victor Oladipo, who played for Crean at Indiana from 2010 to 2013, said, "Coach Crean is the best coach I've ever had. He's tough, but he's also fair. He demands a lot from his players, but he also gives them everything he's got."

Crean's Legacy

Tom Crean left Indiana University in 2017 after nine seasons as head coach. He finished with a record of 166-135 at Indiana, including a 6-6 record in the NCAA Tournament.

Crean's legacy at Indiana is one of success and resurgence. He took over a program that was in decline and turned it into a consistent winner. He also helped to develop several players who went on to have successful careers in the NBA.

Tom Crean is a true Hoosier legend. He will always be remembered for his contributions to Indiana University basketball.

Tom Crean's story is one of perseverance, leadership, and success. He took over a struggling Indiana basketball program and turned it into a winner. Crean's success at Indiana was due in large part to his ability to build a strong team culture and to develop his players on and off the court. Crean is a true Hoosier legend, and his legacy will continue to inspire Indiana basketball fans for years to come.



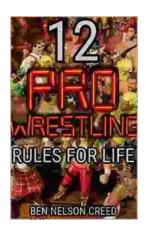


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