



Nick Harlan Class of 2023

Nick graduated from Oroville High School (OHS) in 1996 and played baseball and basketball all four years and football as a freshman. He was a member of Block O, basketball, team captain and All Eastern Athletic in baseball his senior year. He also was a member of the Spirit Week Committee and the Nazarene Church.

After graduation, Nick went to Feather River Community College in Quincy, CA where he played first base for two seasons, was team captain, received all-conference honors and earned his Associate of Arts degree in 1999. He was then awarded a scholarship to York College (now York University), in Nebraska, where he played baseball, helped the team set a single season record for wins and received his BA degree in General Studies. He is currently pursuing his Master's degree in sports management.

Nick then returned to Feather River College, where he served as their assistant baseball coach for two years with the team reaching the California Final Four and awarded the California Pepsi Team Scholar Award with a team accumulated GPA of 3.4. During this time, he also served as an Associate Scout for the Philadelphia Phillies.

In 2004, Nick was hired as head baseball coach at his alma mater, York College, where his teams compiled a 325-170-win loss record over his nine years there. During his tenure as head coach, his team won five conference championships and earned a berth in five regional tournaments. The team was in the national Top 25 for four consecutive seasons and one of those years ranked number eight in the nation. In 2013, the Panthers earned a #1 seed in the Joliet, Illinois regional and advanced to the National Association Intercollegiate Athletic (NAIA) Conference World Series, where they were awarded the Hank Burbridge Champions Character Award as the team that best exemplified the five core values of the NAIA – Integrity, Respect, Responsibility, Sportsmanship and Servant Leadership. In 2010, Nick was named Midlands Collegiate Athletic Conference Coach of the year.

In 2013, Nick was hired at the University of Central Arkansas (UKA) as the Bears associate head coach and pitching coach and it was their most successful year in the last ten. The team won a school record 42 games and four of Nick's pitchers were taken in the Major League Baseball draft. The team also won their conference tournament and advanced to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Regional Tournament, falling in the title game and one win away from the Super Regional.

In 2021, Nick was promoted to head coach following the retirement of their long-time head coach Allen Gum, 2011-2021 and a winning percentage of .769. Gum was the winningest coach in UKA history. Nick's 2022 team posted a 24–29-win loss record and a 15-13 home record. In 2023, the Bears went 23-31 with another winning home record of 16-13.

On March 21, 2023, Nick's UKA Bears played Jay Johnson's Louisiana State University (LSU) Tigers at Alex Box Stadium on the Tiger campus. The game was not only the first ever matchup between the two Division 1 schools, but also a dream come true for LSU head coach Jay Johnson and UKA coach Nick. The last time Harlan and Johnson shared a field was in 1995 when both were infielders for the OHS Tigers. Both are just second year coaches in their respective programs, Jay coming from a highly successful career at PAC-12 powerhouse Arizona University. Jay was inducted into the OUHSD Hall of Fame in 2017. Jay and Nick are the only two alumni in OHS history to reach the level of head baseball coach at a division 1 university.

Nick is passionate about using athletics as a platform for teaching lessons about life and faith. He has built his career around helping athletes find their passion, make good choices and live with a higher purpose. His UKA Bears annually hosts Prospect Camp for high school students, a Junior Bears Camp for youths ages 9-14 and a Big Brother program for children in grades two through six. The team also hosts a Baseball Buddies for Miracle League of Arkansas and assists with playground project at area Day-Care Centers.

Nick married UKA alumna, Lindsay Spivey in 2014 and they share a home in Conway, Arkansas with their daughter Hazel and son Walker.