

Petra Jackson

Petra Jackson's childhood passion for basketball developed when she played with her brother in the driveway and received mentoring from her next-door neighbor, the great Hasan Houston, who told her to "just keep shooting." She honed her skills in pickup games supervised by her dad, a juvenile detention officer. At University City High School, she played varsity girls basketball, volleyball and softball for three years and competed in track and field. In her junior year, she led the basketball team to a 12-1 league record with a 22-point average per game. In her senior year, she averaged 25 points and 10.8 rebounds per game, and had a remarkable 38-point game.



**Petra
Jackson**
Class of 1982

She attended Southern Illinois University-Carbondale on a full athletic scholarship, accumulating 1,475 career points (fourth all-time at SIU-Carbondale). She led the Salukis to four 20-win seasons, including a perfect 18-0 conference record and a remarkable 25-4 overall record in 1985-1986 that earned SIU-Carbondale its first-ever consecutive NCAA Tournament bid.

In 1995, Jackson played for the St. Louis River Queens in the Women's Basketball Association, earning league MVP honors. She currently coaches the St. Louis Surge in the Global Women's Basketball League. She has also held head coaching positions at St. Louis Community College-Forest Park, Shoreline Community College and Block Yeshiva High School. Jackson served as an assistant coach at both Harris-Stowe University and Saint Louis University. Additionally, she coached a local AAU team with players from Visitation Academy, Wellston, Ladue, Rosati Kain, Vashon, Cor Jesu and Lafayette High Schools.

Throughout her coaching career, she has supported local causes and once served as an AAA/ACE Ambassador for the United Way of Greater St. Louis.