



NJSIAA TRAILBLAZER

Vicky Picott graduated from Hightstown in 1987 after a prolific basketball career and continued that success at Rutgers, where she had a career so exceptional that she was later inducted into the school's Athletic Hall of Fame.

At Hightstown, where she also played soccer, Picott was an All-Mercer County, All-State and All-America honoree after leading the school to its first and only Group 4 state basketball championship. She was recruited by powerhouse schools across the country, but decided to stay close to home at Rutgers.

At Rutgers, she became one of the most prolific players in program history, and was recognized as a three-time Street & Smith Honorable Mention All-American and Kodak District II All-American as a senior.

She helped Rutgers to four straight NCAA Tournament appearances and one Atlantic 10 Tournament title. A sleek and mobile forward, Picott finished her career with 1,792 points and 1,029 rebounds, leading the team in the category in three of her four years, and remains among RU's all-time leaders with 257 steals.

Averaging 14.6 points per game and 8.4 rebounds per contest over her career, Picott finished among the Scarlet Knights' best in free throws (378) and free throw attempts (542). Picott, who served as team captain as a junior and senior, was the 1988 Atlantic 10 Freshman of the Year, named second-team all-conference as a sophomore and first-team as a junior and senior. Sharing MVP honors with Lyn Ust as a junior and senior, she helped the team to a 94-29 record in four seasons. During her senior campaign, she averaged 18.3 points en route to being named the New Jersey Basketball Coaches & New Jersey Sportswriters Association Player of the Year. Picott also won silver and bronze medals at the US Olympic Festival and played for the USA Junior National Team.

Following her collegiate career, Picott played with the Women's Professional Basketball Association in Luxembourg where her team, Etzella, advanced to the Luxembourg Cup Championship.

She then went into coaching, first as a student assistant at Rutgers, before moving to the high school ranks in 1993-94 as the freshman girls basketball coach at Hightstown.

Picott returned to the collegiate ranks as an assistant at Drexel for the 1994-95 season and at Temple from 1995 through 2000. She then joined the staff of fellow Hightstown alum Melanie Balcomb at Xavier until 2002, when Balcomb moved on to Vanderbilt. Picott joined her staff there, where she remained for the next 11 years. She most recently coached at Houston.

Picott, who was inducted into the Rutgers Athletic Hall of Fame in 1998, was also part of the inaugural class of the Mercer County Basketball Hall of Fame in 2018.

