

Bernadette McGlade

Bernadette McGlade has maintained a high profile in sports, beginning with her days as an All-State basketball player at Gloucester Catholic High School right up to the current day as long-time Commissioner of the Atlantic 10 Conference.

Growing up in a sports-minded family as one of 10 children, she was an All-State basketball player who totaled more than 1,000 points and 1,000 rebounds in high school. She averaged more than 20 points and 15 rebounds as a senior, when the Rams went 29-2 and won the NJSIAA Group 1 state title for the third time in four years.

She went on to play at North Carolina, where she graduated in 1980 and ranks as the second-leading rebounder (1,251) and leading rebounder-per-game (10.3) in school history. Her No. 14 jersey hangs from the rafters at Carmichael Arena.

She was immediately hired at age 23 to be the first full-time head coach at Georgia Tech, where she guided the program for seven years.



Bernadette then shifted into administration, where she first worked at the Atlantic Coast Conference for 11 years as assistant commissioner.

She was hired as Atlantic 10 Conference commissioner in 2008, making her one of the few women to lead a major NCAA Division 1 conference.

Aside from leading the league through rounds of conference realignment that expanded the league to its current roster of 14 schools, she negotiated television contracts with ESPN, CBS and NBC that have raised the conference profile.

Not only is she the longest-serving commissioner in the conference's 50-year history, she has served as head of the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament Selection Committee in 1999 and 2000, and was a five-year member of the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament Selection Committee. She was also a past president of the Collegiate Commissioners Association.



She has received many honors, including Women's Basketball Coaches Association National Administrator of the Year in 2000, and recognition as player as part of the ACC 50th Anniversary team.



Bernadette is a member of the South Jersey Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, and also the Gloucester Catholic Hall of Fame. Her Gloucester Catholic team was also inducted into the school Hall of Fame.

In November of 2025, she announced that she'll be retiring as Atlantic 10 Conference at the conclusion of this academic year.

