

## NEWS RELEASE

2017 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

### A 'WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH' SALUTE TO SETON'S KAREN SELF GIRLS' BASKETBALL COACH IS A WINNER ON AND OFF THE COURT



*Coach Karen Self shares a courtside moment with Kendall Krick, who won a Division I basketball scholarship to Marist College in New York. – Photo by Rory Self*

CHANDLER, Ariz., March 5, 2019 – Seton Catholic Prep is celebrating Women's History Month by saluting a woman who is making Arizona sports history: Seton Girls Basketball Coach Karen Self.

Self led the Lady Sentinels to another successful season this year, including a 25<sup>th</sup> consecutive, region championship and a second-place finish in the 4A state tournament. Shadow Mountain of Phoenix won the state championship, thwarting Seton Catholic's bid for a "four-peat."

Despite the loss, Self's program is widely viewed as one of the best high-school basketball programs in the state—boys or girls. Many believe it is a matter of time before Self achieves the most wins of any high-school basketball coach in Arizona history.

The record is held by retired Girls Basketball Coach Miner Webster with 816 wins, but Self, who is still coaching, is in hot pursuit.

"Coach Self has created a culture of winning that permeates the entire campus," Seton Catholic Principal Victor Serna said. "She sets a high

expectation on character, academic excellence and service for her players."

Athletics Director Matt Mayo added, "She not only knows how to win, but her leadership and development of our student-athletes on and off the court is exceptional."

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Several of Self's players have gone on to the college and pro ranks, including Liz Holter, University of the Incarnate Word, Sarah Barcello and Kendall Krick (Marist College), twin sisters LeeAnne and Jenn Wirth (Gonzaga University), and their older sister Christina Wirth (Vanderbilt University and WNBA).

Self came to Seton Catholic in 1992, one year after graduating from Arizona State University. She attended ASU on a basketball scholarship and also competed in the shot put and discus for the Sun Devils. In addition to being a stellar coach, she is a respected educator: The Arizona Council on Economic Education selected her as its 2015 "Teacher of the Year."

The mother of four (including 17-year-old triplets) teaches her athletes that there is more to life than winning. Over the years, Self's players have raised awareness and funds for multiple nonprofit organizations and causes. This year's designated charity was Donate Life AZ in honor of the late Tiffany Tate-Eckes. Self and the team dedicated the 2019 season to Tate-Eckes, a Seton Catholic assistant coach who passed away in September after a lifetime of major health issues.

Self's coaching philosophy is simple: "Glorify God by using the talents you have been given. Bring your best every day; compete and have fun!"

#### **Karen Self's Major Coaching Accomplishments:**

- 10 state titles - more than any girls' or boys' prep basketball coach in Arizona history
- 25 consecutive, region championships
- Career record of 710-144 (83% winning percentage)
- 4A-6A Coach of the Year 2017
- Arizona High School Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame induction, 2017
- Women's Basketball Coaches Association finalist (the only Arizona high school coach) for the U.S. Marine Corps/WBCA National High School Coach of the Year, 2017
- With Self as coach, Seton was one of only four girls teams invited to the 2016 and 2017 DICK'S Sporting Goods High School Nationals, held annually in New York and televised live on ESPN

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- National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) National Coach of the Year, 2017
- National High School Athletic Coaches Association (NHSACA) National Coach of the Year Finalist, 2017
- USA Basketball Mentor Coach
- Women's Basketball Coaches' Association (WBCA) Mentor Coach
- The Spirit of Cotton Award, presented by the Phoenix Suns in memory of Coach Cotton Fitzsimmons, 2008

#### **About Seton Catholic Preparatory**

A 2017 National Blue Ribbon School, Seton Catholic Preparatory is a diocesan, coeducational high school in Chandler, Arizona, open to students of all faiths and dedicated to academic excellence, leadership and loving service to others. For more than 60 years, Seton Catholic has served the East Valley of Phoenix as the only Catholic college preparatory high school, serving young men and women from parochial, private, charter, public and home schooling backgrounds. Seton Catholic graduates earn scholarships to and attend an array of selective colleges and universities, including state, private and Ivy League schools as well as service academies. Seton Catholic is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, and the Western Catholic Education Association. [www.setoncatholic.org](http://www.setoncatholic.org).

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