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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SIDDLE, WOODS TO ADDRESS GWSHOF SPEAKERS LUNCHEON

WILMINGTON, North Carolina – The leaders of UNCW’s NCAA Division I basketball programs will be the featured speakers for the second installment of the Greater Wilmington Sports Hall of Fame’s Speakers Luncheon Series.

Seventh-year men’s coach Takayo Siddle and fourth-year women’s coach Nicole Woods are set to appear on Friday, Sept. 11, 2026, at Pine Valley Country Club, 500 Pine Valley Drive, Wilmington, N.C. The luncheon will be held from 11:45-1 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 each and may be purchased by contacting Louise McColl, GWSHOF chair, at louisemccoll18@gmail.com or 910-233-0999. The deadline for buying tickets is Sept. 9, 2026.

Siddle begins his seventh season on the sidelines this fall and has returned to the Seahawks to the national stage with five straight 20-win campaigns – a first in school history.

One year ago, Siddle notched the school’s 12th postseason appearance and third under his watch with an automatic berth to the 2026 National Invitation Tournament (NIT). The Seahawks won the school’s fourth outright and league-record 10th Coastal Athletic Association (CAA) regular season championship.

Overall, Siddle has compiled a 133-54 record in the Port City, including 126 wins over the last five seasons. The Seahawks have won 27 games three times under the North Carolina native, the second-highest total in the program’s 75-season history, and racked up a record 15 home sellouts last season.

In 2025-26, Siddle became the fourth Seahawk skipper to earn a pair of CAA Coach-of-the-Year honors, joining Jerry Wainwright, Brad Brownell and Kevin Keatts. He won his first award in the stirring 2021-22 campaign that resulted in a CAA regular season crown and the program's first postseason championship at the College Basketball Invitational.

Siddle returned UNCW to the NCAA Tournament in 2025 for the first time in eight years after winning the CAA Tournament Championship. The Seahawks have reached the CAA title game three times in six seasons under Siddle.

Woods, an experienced collegiate coach and tireless recruiter, continues to elevate the women's program. Last fall, the Seahawks advanced in the CAA Tournament for the first time since 2020-21.

In her second year at UNCW, Woods revitalized the program during the 2024-25 campaign. The Seahawks won 14 games, improving their win total of 2023-24 by nine victories, to advance to the second round of the CAA Tournament.

UNCW won eight conference games in 2024-25, matching the previous total from the past four seasons combined, including a 65-57 victory against Stony Brook, the defending regular season champions, and a 67-61 victory in the CAA opener against Campbell, the 2025 CAA Tournament runner-up.

Woods continues to showcase her strong ability to recruit and build relationships with student-athletes. She has recruited high-level transfers, including 2023-24 CAA Sixth Player of the Year Jania Hall, who reached the 1,000-point milestone as a Seahawk, and four-star recruit and UNC Chapel Hill transfer Ali Zelaya, who went on to earn CAA Defensive Player of the Year and All-CAA and All-Defensive Team accolades.

College basketball analyst Debbie Antonelli, a commentator for ESPN, Big Ten Network, CBS, Fox Sports Net and Westwood One Radio, was the first speaker in the luncheon series on July 24, 2026.