

Nell Fortner is one of the most accomplished and respected figures in international women's basketball, known for her transformational leadership, competitive excellence, and unwavering advocacy for the growth of the game.

In 2025, Canada Basketball named Fortner as the new Head Coach of the Senior Women's National Team, marking a bold new chapter as the team prepares for the 2026 FIBA Women's Basketball World Cup. An Olympic gold medalist, FIBA World Champion, former WNBA coach and executive, and recently retired NCAA head coach at Georgia Tech (2025), Fortner brings unmatched experience across all levels of the sport.

She holds the distinction as the winningest coach in USA Basketball women's history, compiling a remarkable 101–14 record, and capturing gold medals at both the 1998 FIBA World Championship and 2000 Sydney Olympic Games. Her trailblazing coaching career also includes leading the inaugural WNBA Indiana Fever team as Head Coach and General Manager, and steering powerhouse programs like Purdue, Auburn, and Georgia Tech to national tournament success—including a historic Sweet 16 run with Georgia Tech in 2021.

Fortner has been honored as Coach of the Year in three Power Four conferences—the Big Ten, SEC, and ACC—highlighting her ability to build winning cultures wherever she leads. As a former two-sport athlete at the University of Texas, she was an All-SWC basketball player and a national champion in volleyball. Her broadcasting tenure with ESPN further extended her influence as a trusted voice in women's sports.

With decades of elite experience, Fortner is a compelling and empowering keynote speaker who shares authentic lessons on leadership, resilience, team-building, and the pursuit of excellence—on and off the court.