Head Coach

Rod Barnes

In his first season in Atlanta, former Naismith National COACH OF THE YEAR Rod Barnes brought RENEWED ENERGY and interest to the Georgia State program while laying the groundwork for FUTURE SUCCESS. Now Barnes has the Panthers poised for a BREAKOUT SEASON in year two.
A NEW ERA in Georgia State basketball is underway with former Naismith National Coach of the Year Rod Barnes at the helm of the Panther program.

In his first season in Atlanta, Barnes brought renewed energy and interest to the Georgia State program while laying the groundwork for future success.

Now Barnes has Georgia State poised for significant improvement in year two with the influx of talented players that he has recruited as well as continued skill development for the returnees.

ABOUT ROD BARNES

Name.............................................................. Rodrick K. Barnes
Date of Birth.................................................. January 8, 1966
Hometown....................................................... Satartia, Miss.
Family.................................................. Maried to the former Bridgett Davis
Three sons: Brandon, Bray and stepson Corey
Education............. Mississippi, 1988 (B.A., Business Management)
Bentonia (Miss.) High School
Playing Career......... Four-year letterwinner at Ole Miss, 1985-88
All-SEC, Honorable mention All-America
Coaching Career.........Head Coach, Georgia State, 2007-present
Assistant Coach Oklahoma, 2006-07 (1 season)
Head Coach, Mississippi, 1998-06 (8 seasons)
Assistant Coach, Mississippi, 1993-98 (5 seasons)
Assistant Coach, Livingston, 1990-93 (3 seasons)
Coaching Honors.......................... 2001 SEC Coach of the Year
2001 Naismith National Coach of the Year

POISED FOR BREAKOUT YEAR

Despite inheriting an undermanned squad, Barnes made the Panthers competitive in virtually every game in 2007-08 by emphasizing effort, defense, and fundamentals. State's 9-21 record is deceiving because Barnes' charges suffered 10 losses by five points or fewer, including six defeats that came down to the final possession.

The highlight of Barnes' first season was the Panthers' stunning upset of Colonial Athletic Association champion and NCAA Tournament team George Mason.

Barnes' first Georgia State squad featured a top-five scorer in the CAA in guard Leonard Mendez and a top-five rebounder in forward Rashad Chase. Mendez earned third-team all-conference honors, the Panthers' first all-CAA selection.

While maximizing the potential of the players he inherited, Barnes quickly got to work to upgrade the Panthers' talent base. First he attracted five transfers from Atlantic Coast Conference, Southeastern Conference and Big East schools in Joe Dukes (Wake Forest), Trey Hampton (Mississippi), Xavier Hansbro (Mississippi), Bernard Rimmer (Mississippi State) and Dante Curry (South Florida). His first recruiting class featured a Top 20 prep player from Georgia in James Fields and a highly-regarded junior college transfer in Chris Echols.

The positive influence of Barnes is also manifested off the court with improved academic performance, community outreach and media exposure.

Barnes, who spent eight years as the head coach at the University of Mississippi, was tabbed by Georgia State President Dr. Carl Patton and Director of Athletics Mary McElroy on March 19, 2007.

"Our athletics strategic plan is to develop one of the top teams in the Colonial Athletic Association and compete regularly for postseason opportunities. We know Coach Barnes knows what discipline, attitudes and work habits it takes to do that and we are delighted to have him lead our Georgia State program," said McElroy upon hiring Barnes.

"His reputation for academics and graduation for the student-athletes also shows he understands what the college experience is about. He has been successful as both a player and a coach, and our student-athletes should benefit from his knowledge and experience."

The 42-year-old Barnes is an 18-year veteran of college coaching and was an assistant coach in 2006-07 at the University of Oklahoma.
He was honored as the Naismith Coach of the Year as well as the Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year in 2000-01, when he led Ole Miss to its most successful season ever. His squad set a school-record for wins with a 27-8 record, advanced to the NCAA Sweet 16 for the only time in school history and achieved a final national ranking of No. 9 in the USA Today/ESPN coaches’ poll.

A former All-Southeastern Conference player at Ole Miss, Barnes holds the distinction of being the only person in SEC history to earn All-SEC honors as a player and then be named SEC Coach of the Year.

FOUR POSTSEASON TRIPS AT OLE MISS

Barnes compiled a 141-109 record in eight seasons at Ole Miss (1998-2006), guiding the Rebels to four postseason bids, including three appearances in the NCAA Tournament.

While producing three 20-win seasons, Barnes reached the 100-win plateau in just five seasons, faster than any coach in school history.

He also spent five seasons as an assistant coach at Ole Miss under Rob Evans before being elevated to head coach on April 9, 1998.

Barnes made an immediate impact at the helm as his first Ole Miss squad recorded the first NCAA Tournament win in school history with a 1999 first-round victory over Villanova. Two years later, the Rebels picked up NCAA Tournament wins over Iona and Notre Dame to reach the Sweet 16 for the first and only time in Ole Miss history.

In addition to coaching the only three NCAA Tournament victories in school history, Barnes was part of five of the six NCAA appearances in Ole Miss annals as head or assistant coach, and he was on the bench for five of the school’s first seven 20-win seasons. The Rebels captured the SEC West division title three times during his 13 seasons in Oxford.

Barnes coached the two teams that scored the most points in Ole Miss history with the 1998-99 team totalling 2,540 points and the 2000-01 team putting up 2,496 points.

His accomplishments were also evident in his selection as an assistant coach for the 2001 USA Basketball team that competed in the World University Games in Beijing, China.

During his tenure as head coach, four Rebel players garnered all-conference recognition, including 2001 all-American Rahim Lockhart. Several of his players also earned professional basketball opportunities, including 2004 National Basketball Association draft pick Justin Reed. Barnes also tutored another future NBA standout, Ansu Sesay, as an Ole Miss assistant coach.

Barnes began his coaching career as an assistant coach for three seasons (1990-93) at Livingston University, now known as the University of West Alabama, before returning to his alma mater in 1993.

Rod Barnes Has Coached:
1 SEC Scoring Champion
2 SEC Rookies of the Year
1 SEC Player of the Year
1 SEC Sixth Man of the Year
10 Conference Academic Honor Roll Students
12 All-Conference Players
Barnes’ personal beliefs stress the importance of seeing student-athletes graduate with skills, interest and a desire to lead productive lives over and above any athletic success.

**STANDOUT PLAYER IN SEC**

Barnes was a four-year letterwinner at Ole Miss, playing for head coaches Lee Hunt and Ed Murphy. One of just two players in school history to score more than 1,000 points and have more than 400 assists, he was also the first Ole Miss player to collect 500 points, 100 rebounds and 100 assists in a season.

As a senior in 1988, he was an honorable mention all-American by The Sporting News while earning first-team all-SEC honors from the coaches as well as second-team accolades from Associated Press and third-team mention from United Press International.

Barnes, who grew up on a farm in Satartia, Miss., led Bentonia High School to back-to-back state titles in 1982-83 while earning all-state honors three times.

He is a 1988 graduate of Mississippi with a degree in business management.

Barnes is married to the former Bridgett Davis and has three sons, Brandon, Bray and stepson Corey.

**THE ROD BARNES LEDGER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Position, School, Honors/Postseason</th>
<th>Record</th>
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<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>Head Coach, Georgia State University (1 season)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Assistant Coach, Oklahoma</td>
<td>16-15</td>
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<td>Head Coach, Mississippi</td>
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*B Now known as University of West Alabama

Barnes is the only person in SEC history to earn All-SEC honors as a player and then be named SEC Coach of the Year.
Paul Graham, a former head coach at Washington State, is in his second season as an assistant coach on the Georgia State staff.

Graham possesses more than 30 years of coaching experience, including 25 years at the collegiate level. He has been an assistant coach at four different major programs and helped each one reach the NCAA Tournament.

“I feel very fortunate to have a coach with Paul’s experience and ability on our staff,” said head coach Rod Barnes. “I’ve known him for a long time, and he has been an outstanding coach and recruiter with successful programs in major conferences”

Before coming to Georgia State in October 2007, Graham spent the previous four years (2003-07) as an assistant on the staff at Colorado. That followed a four-year stint as the head coach at Washington State from 1999-2003.

He enjoyed a highly successful tenure as an assistant coach at Oklahoma State from 1992-99, when he was part of a coaching staff that led the Cowboys to a 150-72 record with five NCAA Tournament appearances, highlighted by a berth in the 1995 NCAA Final Four.


Graham has helped coach and recruit a number of outstanding players in his career, including NBA first-round draft picks Brooks Thompson, Bryant Reeves and Desmond Mason at Oklahoma State, Luc Longley at New Mexico and Jon Koncak at SMU.

Before joining the college ranks, Graham served as the head coach at Justin F. Kimball High School in Dallas, Texas, from 1974-82, compiling an impressive 111-40 record in eight seasons.

Graham graduated from North Texas State University in 1974 with a bachelor’s degree in physical education, and then he earned his master’s degree in education administration from Prairie View University in 1979. While at North Texas, he qualified for the NCAA Track and Field Championships in the high hurdles.

Born March 11, 1951, in Kansas City, Kan., Graham was an all-city selection and member of a state championship basketball team at Sumner High School as well as a state track champion in the high hurdles and 60-yard dash.

Graham and his wife, Vanessa, have two children, Nicholas and Brittany. Brittany is a member of the Georgia State women’s basketball team.
William Small, a 14-year veteran of college coaching in the Southeast, is in his second season as an assistant coach on Rod Barnes’ Georgia State staff.

“William Small has excellent ties and knowledge of recruiting in the Southeast,” said Barnes. “We are excited to have him on our staff at Georgia State because he is well thought of and respected. Just as good as his reputation as a coach and recruiter is his reputation as a person. No doubt, he is an asset in helping us take this program to a higher level and developing our student-athletes.”

Small came to Georgia State after one season at Tulane, where he served under head coach Dave Dickerson. He helped the Green Wave to a 17-13 record, which marked the school’s highest victory total since 1999-00 and included a 9-7 mark in Conference USA.

Small previously spent one season (2005-06) under Don Maestri at Troy after two years at Western Kentucky. His tenure as an assistant to Darrin Horn at WKU was highlighted by a 22-9 record in 2004-05, when the Hilltoppers earned their first postseason win in 10 years during a trip to the National Invitation Tournament. Small helped recruit 2005 Sun Belt Freshman of the Year Courtney Lee.

Prior to his stint at Western Kentucky, Small served three seasons (2000-03) at Southeastern Louisiana, helping the Lions establish school records for Southland Conference wins in back-to-back seasons.

After beginning his coaching career as a graduate assistant at NCAA Division II program Delta State in 1994-95, Small spent two years as an assistant coach at Cowley Community College in Kansas and then served at Alabama-Huntsville in 1997-98 and Tennessee-Martin in 1999-00.

Small played collegiately at Belhaven College in Jackson, Miss., where he earned his bachelor’s degree in 1993.

A native of Winona, Miss., Small has a daughter, Chiya.
Scepter Brownlee enters his second season as an assistant coach at Georgia State. He joined head coach Rod Barnes' Panthers' staff in 2007 after one year as an assistant at Southeast Missouri State.

"Scepter Brownlee is a young, bright, up-and-coming coach," says Barnes. "We are excited to have him on the staff because he's worked with coaches who emphasize the up-tempo and pressing style of defense that we want to use. Scepter is an asset in recruiting and coaching for Georgia State.”

At SEMO, where he worked under head coach Scott Edgar, Brownlee was involved in all aspects of recruiting, on-court coaching and player development while serving as the team’s academic liaison.

Brownlee spent the 2005-06 season as a graduate manager at the University of Tennessee, where he worked under national coach of the year Bruce Pearl and helped the Volunteers enjoy one of their most successful seasons ever. Ranked as high as No. 8 in the nation during the season, Tennessee posted a 22-8 record and earned a No. 2 national seed in the NCAA Tournament.

Brownlee began his coaching career at Colby Community College in Colby, Kan., serving as assistant coach and recruiting coordinator in 2004-05. Two players that he recruited earned all-conference honors as freshmen, including the league's freshman of the year, Jamaul Warren.

A native of Fort Wayne, Ind., Brownlee was a two-year letterwinner as a point guard at the University of San Francisco. As a senior in 2003, he garnered four athletic awards with the Arthur Zief Most Inspirational Player Award, the Sixth Man Club Team Captain Award, the Coaching Staff Senior Award, and the Jackie Robinson USF African American Athlete of the Year Award.

He also played one year at Glen Oaks Community College in Centreville, Mich., after transferring from Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne.

Brownlee earned a bachelor of arts degree in sociology from San Francisco in 2003.
Jeff Conarroe, who worked with Rod Barnes at the University of Mississippi, is in his second year with the Georgia State program as director of basketball operations.

Conarroe previously worked under Barnes for three years at Ole Miss, serving as administrative aide in 2005-06 after two years as a graduate assistant. He then spent the 2006-07 season as director of video operations at the University of Alabama Birmingham before coming to Georgia State.

"Jeff was an important hire for me because he knows my vision and how to get us there," said Barnes. "His multi-dimensional skills and knowledge of how to get things done right will be an asset for our program."

At Ole Miss, Conarroe was responsible for the video program as well as numerous logistical and administrative functions, including camps, on-campus recruiting, fund-raising, marketing and outreach programs.

Conarroe began his coaching career as an assistant coach at Colorado College, his alma mater, in 1999-00. He also served an internship with the United States Olympic Committee, working with Olympic and Paralympic athletes preparing for the 2000 Olympic Games.

He then spent two years (2001-03) as the head junior varsity coach and varsity assistant for Monarch High School in Louisville, Colo., helping the varsity program reach the state’s final eight in Class 5-A both seasons. From there, he moved to Ole Miss.

A native of Aspen, Colo., Conarroe was a three-year letterman at Colorado College, where he served as team captain as a senior and earned the program’s Tiger Award for inspiration.

He graduated cum laude from Colorado College in 1999, earning a bachelor of arts degree in economics. He added a master of business administration from Mississippi in 2004.

Conarroe is married to the former Mary Everett.
**CHRISTOPHER JORDAN**

Assistant Director of Basketball Operations

Alma Mater: Georgia State, 2005

Third Year at Georgia State

Christopher Jordan begins his second season as Georgia State’s assistant director of basketball operations after one year as a graduate assistant.

In his current role, he coordinates team travel, orders equipment and handles many other administrative functions for the program.

Jordan is very familiar with Georgia State athletics, having previously served in various capacities in the department and as a student manager and graduate assistant for the basketball team.

He has earned a pair of degrees from Georgia State, receiving his bachelor’s degree in marketing in 2005 and then adding a master of science in sport administration in 2007.

While working toward his master’s degree, he served an internship with the NBA Charlotte Bobcats and WNBA Charlotte Sting in 2006. He also completed an internship with the marketing department for Georgia Tech athletics in 2006 and served as a graduate assistant in marketing for Georgia State athletics in 2005 before working with the basketball program in 2006-07.

**KEN COGGINS**

Head Strength & Conditioning Coach

Alma Mater: Mississippi State, 1986

First Year at Georgia State

Georgia State head strength and conditioning coach Ken Coggins possesses more than two decades of experience developing collegiate and professional athletes.

Coggins joined the Georgia State staff in May 2008 from Charleston Southern, where he was the program’s first full-time strength and conditioning coach and worked with all sports in one year there.


Coggins has worked with high-profile professional athletes, including NBA standout Derek Fisher of the Los Angeles Lakers, with whom Coggins worked at Arkansas Little Rock.

Coggins, 47, earned his B.S. degree in fitness management and exercise physiology from Mississippi State University in 1986. A member of the Collegiate Strength & Conditioning Association, he is certified by the National Association of Speed-Strength & Conditioning and the International Sports Association (Speed-Strength Certification) and is a graduate of the Speed-Strength & Quickness Training Seminar at the Sports Conditioning Institute.

He has also traveled extensively to broaden his knowledge, studying at the Lenin Institute for Physical Culture in Moscow, Russia; the German Institute of Physical Culture and Sports Science in Leipzig, Germany; and the Bulgarian Institute of Physical Culture and Sports.

Coggins and his wife, Tina, have a 13-year-old daughter, Lauren.
DENA FREEMAN-PATTON

Assistant Director of Athletics - Student-Athlete Development
Alma Mater: Liberty
Third Year at Georgia State

Dena Freeman-Patton, in her second year as Georgia State’s assistant director of athletics for student-athlete development, serves as the academic advisor for the men’s basketball program.

She returned to Georgia State in March 2007 after serving as academic advisor and then academic coordinator from 1997-2002.

In between, Freeman-Patton worked at Maryland (2005-07) as an associate director of academic support and career development and at North Carolina State (2002-05), where was as an academic coordinator.

Freeman-Patton lettered in basketball at Liberty University, where she earned her bachelor’s degree in sports management from in 1996. She added a master’s in sports administration from Georgia State in 1999.

Freeman-Patton is Division Director Elect for the National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics and former Life Skills Committee Chair.

The Baltimore, Md., native is married to Samuel Patton and has a son, Cameron, 7.

BOB MURPHY

Assistant Director of Athletics - Sports Medicine
Alma Mater: Marietta College, 1998
Second Year at Georgia State

Bob Murphy, assistant director of athletics for sports medicine, is in his second year at Georgia State and his first year working with the men’s basketball program. He originally came to Georgia State in 2007 as head athletic trainer and was elevated to assistant athletic director in 2008.

Murphy joined the State staff from the United States Military Academy in West Point, N.Y., where he served as assistant athletic trainer, working with the football, men’s basketball and baseball teams.

He previously taught pharmacology to undergraduate athletic training students at Dominican College. He serves as secretary and treasurer for the College Athletic Trainers’ Society.

Murphy earned his bachelor of science degree in sports medicine at Marietta College in 1998, and then he completed his master of science degree in exercise science at Syracuse in 2000.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Murphy is married to the former Josephine Lee.