THE COACHES
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 two seasons in Atlanta, Barnes has brought renewed energy and interest to the Georgia State program while laying the groundwork for future success with strong recruiting and an emphasis on work ethic and fundamentals.
Now in his third season at the helm, Rod Barnes looks for his Panthers to build on the momentum of their strong finish to the 2008-09 season. Georgia State posted a 12-20 record but won five of its last seven games, with the only losses coming to Colonial Athletic Association champion and NCAA Tournament team VCU. State's 8-10 record in the CAA and eighth-place finish in league play represent its best showing since joining the league four years ago, and the Panthers earned victories over three of the top five teams in the standings in Old Dominion, Northeastern and Hofstra.

Guard Joe Dukes gave GSU an all-CAA honoree for the second straight year. The versatile senior is one of three returning starters, along with sharp-shooting guard Trae Goldston and rugged forward Trey Hampton, also seniors. The Panthers return a total of nine letterwinners and welcome a promising cast of newcomers recruited by Barnes and his staff.

The positive influence that Barnes exerts on the Georgia State program is evident off the court with strong academic performance, community outreach and media exposure.

The Panthers have performed extremely well in the classroom since Barnes' arrival. All four seniors who have completed their eligibility under Barnes have graduated, and this year's group of six seniors are all on target to earn degrees in the coming year. Georgia State posted a grade point average of better than 2.8 for the 2008-09 year, including eight players at 3.0 or better and two student-athletes, Kevin Lott and Ousman Krubally, receiving the Colonial Athletic Association Commissioner's Award.

Barnes, who spent eight years as the head coach at the University of Mississippi, was tabbed by the Georgia State administration on March 19, 2007, after one year as an assistant coach 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.

Barnes, 43, is a 20-year veteran of college coaching who has averaged better than 16 wins per year in 10 seasons as a head coach. The former All-Southeastern Conference player at Ole Miss 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.
Barnes took over the Georgia State program in 2007-08, and despite inheriting an undermanned squad in his first season, he made the Panthers competitive in virtually every game of 2007-08 by stressing effort and defense. 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 a stunning upset of conference champion and NCAA Tournament participant George Mason. His 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 to become the Panthers' first all-CAA selection.

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 earned professional basketball opportunities, including 2004 National Basketball Association draft pick Justin Reed. Barnes 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.

Barnes' personal philosophy stresses the importance of seeing student-athletes graduate with skills, interest and a desire to lead productive lives over and above any athletic success.
BARNES

2001 Naismith National Coach of the Year
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Position, School, Honors/Postseason</th>
<th>Record</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>Head Coach, Georgia State</td>
<td>12-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>Head Coach, Georgia State</td>
<td>9-21</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>Assistant Coach, Oklahoma</td>
<td>16-15</td>
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<td>2005-06</td>
<td>Head Coach, Mississippi</td>
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<td>2001-02</td>
<td>Head Coach, Mississippi</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NCAA (l. UCLA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000-01</td>
<td>Head Coach, Mississippi</td>
<td>27-8</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SEC West Champions</td>
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<td></td>
<td>NCAA Sweet 16 (d. Iona; d. Notre Dame; l. Arizona)</td>
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<td>1999-00</td>
<td>Head Coach, Mississippi</td>
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<td>NIT (d. Charlotte; d. SW Missouri State; l. NC State)</td>
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<td>1998-99</td>
<td>Head Coach, Mississippi</td>
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<td>NCAA Second Round (d. Villanova; l. Michigan State)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SEC West Champions; NCAA (l. Valparaiso)</td>
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<td>1992-93</td>
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<tr>
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* Now known as University of West Alabama
Paul Graham, a former head coach at Washington State, enters his third 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 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 under Eddie Sutton at Oklahoma State from 1992-99. He was part of an OSU 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 GSU women’s basketball team.
William Small, a 15-year veteran of college coaching in the Southeast, begins his third 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. He then served at Alabama-Huntsville in 1997-98 and at 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 third 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.

He and his wife, Dawna, have a daughter, Kennedi, 14.
In his third year with the Georgia State program, Jeff Conarroe serves as director of basketball operations.

Conarroe previously worked under head coach Rod 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 begins his third 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.

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, 48, earned his B.S. degree in fitness management and exercise physiology from Mississippi State 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 14-year-old daughter, Lauren.
Dena Freeman-Patton, in her third year as Georgia State’s assistant director of athletics for student-athlete development, serves as the academic advisor for the men’s basketball and baseball programs.

Under her supervision, Georgia State student-athletes have improved their grade point average each year, reaching an all-time high GPA of better than 3.0.

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 she was as an academic coordinator.

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

She is on the Board of Directors 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, 8.

John Anderson is in his first year at Georgia State, serving as head athletic trainer for the men’s basketball program. He arrived at Georgia State in August 2009 after one year as assistant athletic trainer in charge of men’s basketball at Indiana State.

Anderson also possesses extensive experience in professional sports, highlighted by four years (2004-08) as assistant athletic trainer and assistant strength coach with the NBA’s Milwaukee Bucks.

That followed stints as head athletic trainer with the Asheville Altitude of the NBDL (2001-04), the Grand Rapid Hoops of the IBL (2001) and the Yakima Sun Kings of the CBA (1999-01). He has also worked with the Seattle Seahawks and Seattle Mariners organizations.

Anderson earned his bachelor’s degree in exercise science from Arizona State in 1996 and then his master’s degree in exercise and movement science from Oregon in 1999. He is a certified member of National Athletic Trainers Association as well as a certified strength and conditioning specialist.