Now in his fourth season at the helm of the Panther program, Rod Barnes has a squad with a decidedly new look. Following the graduation of six seniors from last year’s squad, the GSU lineup will feature eight new players, including four freshmen, three junior college transfers and one player who redshirted last season.

While these new Panthers lack experience, they will give Barnes his most athletic GSU squad yet. The Panthers’ lone returning starter is senior guard Marques Johnson, who started 20 games at point guard and contributed 2.6 points and 2.3 assists per game. In terms of production, the top returnee is junior wing Jihad Ali, who averaged 5.4 points and 2.8 rebounds off the bench.

“We’re looking for some of our older guys to step up, but we also need some of these new players to establish themselves early,” said Barnes.

A look at the Panthers:

POINT GUARDS
Senior Marques Johnson stepped in last season after transferring from NC State and started 20 of the final 24 games at point guard and contributed 2.6 points and 2.3 assists per game. At 6-5, he has excellent size, and he sees the floor well and distributes the ball.

“Having Marques at the point is key because there is no substitute for the experience that he brings at the position,” said Barnes.

Junior James Fields, a backup at both guard positions, has earned playing time as a defensive specialist. The Savannah, Ga., native averaged 3.3 points, 1.4 rebounds and 0.9 steals while playing 16 minutes a game last season.

Freshman Devonta White of Alpharetta, Ga., is Georgia State’s point guard of the future, but he should push for playing time right away. Although he lacks size, he is a true point guard who combines court vision with exceptional speed and quickness as well as scoring ability. He was an all-state selection at Centennial High School in Georgia’s largest classification, averaging 17 points, 6.1 rebounds, 7.0 assists and 2.4 steals.

“He’s a pure point guard who played in a lot of big games and had a lot of success in high school and on the AAU circuit,” said Barnes. “He needs to get bigger and stronger, and he needs experience, but we expect him to be the future of running our basketball team.”

Another option at the point could be junior college transfer Josh Micheaux, a 6-6 junior from Missouri City, Texas and Lee College who is the son of Larry Micheaux of the famed Phi Slamma Jamma teams at the University of Houston. Although he is primarily a wing player, Micheaux has experience at the point, and in addition to good passing skills, he brings size and defensive ability.

WINGS
Georgia State’s top returning scorer and rebounder is junior wing Jihad Ali, a 6-5 native of Atlanta who averaged 5.4 points and 2.8 rebounds off the bench and was second on the team with 25 three-pointers. He came on strong late last the season, averaging 8.9 ppg and 3.6 rpg over the final nine games, highlighted by a career-best 22 points in a win over George Mason.

“We think Jihad can be a go-to guy offensively because of his skills and his experience,” said Barnes.

Also returning on the wing is 6-4 senior Dante Curry, known for his shooting ability. Curry averaged 2.2 points last season but looks to return to his form of the previous year, when he averaged 6.9 points with seven double-figure scoring games.

The Panthers should get added scoring punch at the off guard from sharp-shooting freshman Javonte Maynor of Snellville, Ga., an all-Metro selection at South Gwinnett High School.

“Javonte is a really good three-point shooter with great range,” said Barnes. “We lost a lot of scoring from last year’s team, and we think he can fill the role of instant offense off the bench. When I watched him play, he would get points in bunches.”
Another freshman who can add shooting and scoring is Rashaad Richardson, a 6-4 wing who also played at Oldsmar Christian Academy.

Junior college transfer Josh Micheaux of Missouri City, Texas, can play both wing positions, as well as point guard. At 6-6, he is long and athletic and a versatile defender. He also gives the Panthers a strong rebounder on the perimeter.

“Josh is a very big and athletic wing player who can defend several positions,” said Barnes. “He’s a great competitor and a really good rebounder for a wing. He’s going to play several positions, and we believe he has the build and the mentality to be a defensive stopper.”

Junior college transfer Brandon McGee and freshman Harold Doby are versatile frontcourt prospects who will play both forward positions.

The 6-7, 220-pound McGee was a highly-regarded junior college prospect at Wabash Valley (Ill.), where he averaged 14.1 points and 5.8 rebounds. The Chicago, Ill., native immediately bolsters the GSU frontcourt with scoring and rebounding.

Doby, 6-6, was an all-state player at Lucy Lane High in Augusta, Ga., before spending the last two seasons at Oldsmar Christian Academy in Oldsmar, Fla.

“The first thing you say about Harold Doby is that he’s a very versatile forward who has a high basketball IQ and is the ultimate competitor,” said Barnes. “We think he can develop into what people call a ‘glue guy’ because he doesn’t have to have the ball in his hands to help the offense and he doesn’t have to be the stopper to help you on the defensive end. We expect him to be one of the guys who gives you whatever you need, whether it’s an offensive rebound, a defensive play, a pass or a key basket.”

POST PLAYERS

Sophomore James Vincent of Columbus, Ga., is Georgia State’s top returnee in the post. At 6-10 and 250 pounds, he showed promise in limited play as a freshman but battled injuries that hampered his conditioning. He enters this season healthy, and he has the size and skills to give the Panthers a low post presence. Vincent contributed 2.0 points and 2.3 rebounds per game in 26 contests as a freshman.

“James still doesn’t have a lot of experience, but I think he showed glimpses last season of being able to hold his own inside,” said Barnes. “He is healthy now, and that has allowed him to get in much better condition. We’re excited about his potential.”

Jamar Taylor is a former junior college player who enrolled at GSU last season and took a redshirt year. The junior from Charleston, S.C., has grown to 6-9 and 225 pounds and should give the Panthers rebounding and defense as a backup post player.

“Jamar has worked hard and really improved,” said Barnes. “Because he can rebound and block shots, he can make an impact on the defensive end.”

One of the most highly-regarded prospects in Georgia State’s class of newcomers, Eric Buckner is a 6-10 power forward who combines scoring and rebounding with excellent shot-blocking ability. The junior from Ehrhardt, S.C., spent the last two years at Gulf Coast C.C., where he was an all-conference selection who averaged 9.6 points, 5.5 rebounds and 1.0 blocks per game, despite missing several weeks with a broken hand.

“Many would say that he is the most highly-recruited player in this class, and I think he can be everything that has been written about him and maybe more,” said Barnes. “He has great athleticism, he runs the floor very well, and he’s very good shot blocker and rebounder. He’ll play center and forward for us, and I think he will be very coachable.”

Another talented junior college prospect, Brandon McGee, could play small forward when teaming with both Buckner and Vincent, or line up at power forward when either Buckner or Vincent are not in the game. The 6-8, 220-pounder from Chicago, Ill., averaged 14.1 points and 5.8 rebounds last season at Wabash Valley C.C. (Ill.).

“Brandon McGee has the potential to be an all-conference performer,” said Barnes. “He’s an inside-outside type of player; he has perimeter skills, but he’s a really good inside scorer and rebounder. He’s another guy who can play the two forward positions and has a high basketball IQ.”

Georgia State’s final newcomer is Florida State transfer Jordan DeMercy, who will sit out the 2010-11 season per NCAA rules. A part-time starter in two-plus seasons with the Seminoles, the 6-7 wing player averaged 3.7 points and 2.1 rebounds last season.
2010-11 ROSTER

JIHAD ALI
F • 6-5, 200 • Jr.-R
Atlanta, Ga.

DANIEL BROWN
G • 6-3, 190 • Sr.
College Park, Ga.

ERIC BUCKNER
F • 6-10, 210 • Jr.
Ehrhardt, S.C.

DANTE CURRY
G • 6-4, 195 • Sr.-R
Orlando, Fla.

JORDAN DeMERCY
F • 6-7, 210 • Sr.
Norcross, Ga.

HAROLD DOBY
F • 6-6, 210 • Fr.
Augusta, Ga.

JAMES FIELDS
G • 6-3, 192 • Jr.
Savannah, Ga.

MARQUES JOHNSON
G • 6-5, 200 • Sr.-R
Fort Wayne, Ind.

JAVONTE MAYNOR
G • 6-0, 175 • Fr.
Snellville, Ga.

BRANDON McGEE
F • 6-7, 220 • Jr.-R
Chicago, Ill.

JOSH MICHEAUX
G•F • 6-6, 211 • Jr.
Missouri City, Texas

RASHAAD RICHARDSON
G • 6-4, 190 • Fr.
Charleston, S.C.

JAMAR TAYLOR
F • 6-9, 225 • Jr.-R
Charleston, S.C.

JAMES VINCENT
C • 6-10, 250 • Fr.
Columbus, Ga.

DEVONTA WHITE
G • 5-11, 160 • Fr.
Alpharetta, Ga.

ROD BARNES
Head Coach
4th Year at Georgia State

PAUL GRAHAM
Assistant Coach
4th Year at Georgia State

RAHEEM WALLER
Assistant Coach
1st Year at Georgia State

SCEPTER BROWNLEE
Assistant Coach
4th Year at Georgia State

JEFF CONARROE
Director of Operations
4th Year at Georgia State
## ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

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<th>Yr.</th>
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<td>Fr.</td>
<td>Augusta, Ga. (Oldsmar Christian Academy)</td>
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<td>6-3</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
<td>Savannah, Ga. (Urban Christian HS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Fort Wayne, Ind. (Snider HS/NC State)</td>
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<td>175</td>
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## COACHING STAFF

**Head Coach:** Rod Barnes (Mississippi, 1988), 4th Year at GSU  
**Assistant Coach:** Paul Graham (North Texas State, 1974), 4th Year at GSU  
**Assistant Coach:** Scepter Brownlee (San Francisco, 2003), 4th Year at GSU  
**Assistant Coach:** Raheem Waller (South Carolina State, 1999), 1st Year at GSU  
**Director of BB Operations:** Jeff Conarroe (Colorado College, 1999)  
**Asst. Dir. of BB Operations:** Christopher Jordan (Georgia State, 2005)  
**Athletic Trainer:** John Anderson (Arizona State, 1996)  
**Strength Coach:** Ken Coggins (Mississippi State, 1986)

## PRONUNCIATION

Jihad Ali .................. juh-HAAD ah-LEE  
Dante Curry ....................... DON-tay  
Marques Johnson .................. MARR-cus  
Javonte Maynor ................. juh-VON-tay  
Josh Micheaux ................. juh-MEE-shaw  
Devonta White ............... duh-VON-tay  
Scepter Brownlee ............ SEP-ter  
Jeff Conarroe ................. CON-uh-row
GEORGIA STATE PANTHERS

SEASON PREVIEW

BAHAMAS TRIP

Georgia State’s 2010-11 season got off to early start as the Panthers took an offseason international trip for the first time in school history.

GSU travelled to the Bahamas from Aug. 12-17 and played three games against local teams in Nassau, winning all three contests.

Jihad Ali scored in double figures in each contest, averaging 13 points. Harold Doby averaged 10 points and seven rebounds per game, while Josh Micheaux, averaged four steals. Brandon McGee had a rare “20-20” game with 22 points and 21 rebounds in the finale.

MAKING THE GRADE

The Georgia State basketball team has excelled in the classroom under head coach Rod Barnes.

In Barnes’s first three seasons, all 10 seniors have graduated, and one of this year’s seniors, Marques Johnson (right), has already earned his degree.

Barnes’ program achieved a record-setting performance last spring, earning its highest ever semester grade point average at 2.96, which raised the team’s cumulative GPA to 2.76, also an all-time high. The Panthers have posted a GPA of 2.75 or better for four straight semesters.

Last season, Jihad Ali became the first Panther to earn selection to the Colonial Athletic Association All-Academic team.


FOR THE RECORD

450 AND COUNTING

Georgia State has made at least one three-point field goal in 450 straight games, dating back to the 1994-95 season. The last team to hold the Panthers without a trey was Stetson on Feb. 18, 1995.

ON THE DEFENSIVE

In each of Rod Barnes’ first three seasons at the helm, Georgia State has played strong defense, allowing its opponents an average of 64.5 points per game. After Barnes’ first Panther team in 2007-08 allowed 66.2 points per game, GSU improved to 63.6 ppg allowed in 2008-09 and an almost identical 63.7 ppg last season.

The previous Georgia State record for fewest points allowed was 68.4 in 1999-00. In fact, before Barnes arrived, the only other seasons in which GSU allowed fewer than 70 points per game came in a three-year stretch from 1998-99 (69.6) through 2000-01 (68.7).

THE PANTHERS AT A GLANCE

STARTERS RETURNING

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<th>Name .........................</th>
<th>Pos.</th>
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OTHER KEY RETURNNEES

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KEY LOSSES

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NEWCOMERS

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ROSTER ANALYSIS

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<td>Freshmen</td>
<td>Illinois 1</td>
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42
2001 Naismith National Coach of the Year
Rod Barnes, former Naismith National Coach of the Year, enters his fourth season as the Georgia State University head coach.

In his first three years in Atlanta, Barnes has brought renewed energy to the Georgia State program while laying the groundwork for future success with recruiting and an emphasis on work ethic and fundamentals.

The positive influence that Barnes exerts on the Georgia State program is also 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. In three years, all 10 seniors who have completed their eligibility under Barnes have graduated, and one of this year’s seniors, Marques Johnson, has already earned his degree.

The spring 2010 semester saw the Panthers post a best-ever team grade point average of 2.96, which raised the program’s cumulative GPA to 2.76, also an all-time high. The team’s GPA has been 2.76 or higher for the last four semesters.

Under Barnes, Ousman Krubally, Kevin Lott, Jihad Ali, Trae Goldston, James Fields, and Daniel Brown have received the Colonial Athletic Association Commissioner’s Academic Award, and in 2009-10, Ali became the first Panther to be named to the CAA All-Academic team.

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.
GEORGIA STATE PANTHERS

HEAD COACH ROD BARNES

Barnes, 44, is a 21-year veteran of college coaching who has averaged 16 wins per year in 11 seasons as a head coach, posting a record of 174-170. 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.

In 2008-09, 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 in five seasons in the league, and the Panthers earned victories over three of the top five teams in the standings in Old Dominion, Northeastern and Hofstra.

The Panthers also posted a 12-20 record in 2009-10 but suffered five CAA losses by five points or fewer while facing the league’s most difficult slate. Senior guard Joe Dukes earned all-CAA honors for the second straight year, giving the Panthers an all-conference performer in each of Barnes’ three seasons. Most importantly, every one of Barnes’ six seniors earned his degree.

ROD BARNES and his wife, Bridgett, with sons Brandon (right) and Bray.

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 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.

Last winter, he was honored with his selection to the Ole Miss basketball All-Century team. Four players that Barnes coached during his tenure at Ole Miss also made the list: Ansu Sesay, Keith Carter, Rahim Lockhart and Justin Reed.

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. Brandon is a redshirt-freshman basketball player at Lipscomb University.

Every GSU senior under Coach Barnes has graduated, with a total of 11 Panthers earning degrees the last three years.
# ROD BARNES LEDGER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Position, School, Honors/Postseason</th>
<th>Record</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Head Coach, Career (11 seasons)</td>
<td>174-170</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Head Coach, Georgia State University (3 seasons)</td>
<td>33-61</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>Head Coach, Georgia State</td>
<td>12-20</td>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>Assistant Coach, Oklahoma</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Head Coach, University of Mississippi (8 seasons)</td>
<td>141-109</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005-06</td>
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<td>2004-05</td>
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<td>2001-02</td>
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<td></td>
<td>NCAA (l. UCLA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000-01</td>
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<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></td>
<td>NIT (d. Charlotte; d. SW Missouri State; l. NC State)</td>
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<td>1998-99</td>
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<td>NCAA Second Round (d. Villanova; l. Michigan State)</td>
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<td>1996-97</td>
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<td></td>
<td>All-SEC, Honorable Mention All-American</td>
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<td>1985-86</td>
<td>Player, Mississippi</td>
<td>12-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>1984-85</td>
<td>Player, Mississippi</td>
<td>11-17</td>
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* Now known as University of West Alabama

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**Rod Barnes Has Coached:**

1. SEC Scoring Champion
2. SEC Rookies of the Year
3. SEC Player of the Year
4. SEC Sixth Man of the Year
14. All-Conference Players
16. Conference Academic Honor Roll Students
Paul Graham, a former head coach at Washington State, enters his fourth 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 Georgia State graduate who lettered two years for the Panther women’s basketball team.
Scepter Brownlee enters his fourth 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, 15.
Raheem Waller joined the Georgia State program as an assistant coach in June 2010.

Waller came to Georgia State after one season at Florida A&M, where he was an assistant to Eugene Harris, a former GSU assistant coach.

He also served two seasons (2007-09) on Cliff Ellis’ staff at Coastal Carolina, as well as two years under Horace Broadnax at Savannah State. Waller began his coaching career with a one-year stint at Elizabeth City State University (2004-05).

“Raheem Waller is an excellent addition to our coaching staff and our program,” said Georgia State head coach Rod Barnes. “First of all, he is an Atlanta native who has strong ties not only to the city, but around the state of Georgia and in Florida.

“In addition to his recruiting abilities, his strength as a coach is working with big men, which is extremely important with the talented young post players we now have in our program.”

Waller enjoyed a three-year professional career, playing in the International Basketball League and United States Basketball League as well as internationally in Portugal, Belgium, Switzerland and Saudi Arabia.

A standout and team captain at South Carolina State University, Waller earned all-conference and all-tournament honors while leading the Bulldogs to a pair of NCAA Tournament appearances in 1996 and 1998. He earned his bachelor’s degree in industrial technology from South Carolina State in 1999.

Waller is married to the former Dominique Hemphill.
In his fourth 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, and their son, Caleb, was born in 2010.
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.


He also served as an assistant strength and conditioning coach at Memphis State (1988-90).

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 15-year-old daughter, Lauren.
Dena Freeman-Patton, in her fourth year as Georgia State’s assistant director of athletics for student-athlete development, oversees the support of all 345 Georgia State student-athletes.

Under her direction, the Panthers have improved their grade point average to an all-time high of better than 3.0 for the last two years, which includes the addition of a football program. The APR scores for the department are also at an all-time high.

Freeman-Patton has played a key role in the academic success of the men’s basketball program, which has a 100 percent exhausted eligibility graduation rate, including 11 graduates the last three years.

Freeman-Patton returned to Georgia State in March 2007 after serving as academic advisor and then academic coordinator from 1997-2002. In between, she 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.

She is on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics and former Life Skills Committee Chair. Georgia State University is a nationally-certified academic support program by this organization.

The Baltimore, Md., native is married to Samuel Patton and has a son, Cameron, 9.

John Anderson is in his second 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.

Anderson and his wife, Sandra, have a two-year-old son, Jacob.