

# Head Coach Pete

# STRICKLAND



**2000 BIG SOUTH CONFERENCE COACH OF THE YEAR**  
**1999-2000 TEAM RANKED 3RD NATIONALLY IN 3-POINT FG PCT.**  
**1999-2000 9TH MOST IMPROVED TEAM IN NCAA DIVISION I**  
**2002-03 MOST WINS IN NINE YEARS, INCLUDING TWO WINS OVER NCAA TOURNAMENT TEAMS**

Head coach Pete Strickland enters his sixth year at the helm of the Coastal Carolina University men's basketball program coming off the team's best season in nine years. Last year's team posted a 13-15 record, the most wins since the

regular season. The 1999-2000 squad also gained national attention by placing third in NCAA Division I in three-point field goal percentage and by posting the ninth-most improved RPI in the nation. Strickland has also produced three members of the Big South's All-Rookie Team, including the 1999 Rookie of the Year Steve Miles.

Coastal garnered even more national attention during the 1999-2000 season when senior Matt Gladieux erupted for 27 points and the Chants nearly upset 13th-ranked Ohio State on the road. Gladieux completed the season by being selected First Team All-Conference and to the GTE Academic All-America All-Region Team. Freshman Clint Reed was named to the Big South's All-Rookie Team.

In addition to his continued rebuilding of the Coastal Carolina program, Coach Strickland is also proud that he has been able to assist some former Chanticleers in continuing their playing careers professionally. Through contacts that he made during his days of playing professionally in Europe, he

has helped several former Chanticleers embark on their pro careers overseas, most recently Torrey Butler.

Strickland came to Coastal Carolina after serving as an Assistant Coach on Oliver Purnell's staff at the University of Dayton from 1994 to 1998. Strickland helped to turn a struggling program into a championship

1993-94 squad won 15 games.

Strickland, the fourth head coach at CCU after accepting the post on April 17, 1998, has led the program from single digit wins to Big South Conference respect in the past five years. Last season, that respect was never more evident than Coastal Carolina's win in the first-ever nationally televised game from Kimbel Arena, as the Chants defeated then-defending champion

Winthrop in front of a standing-room-only crowd. Senior forward Torrey Butler was the 2003 Big South Conference Player of the Year and became the first Chant ever named All-American twice in his career, as he was named to the *Associated Press* Honorable All-American team.



The 2000-01 season again brought national recognition to the Coastal Carolina basketball program as Torrey Butler earned his first *Associated Press* Honorable Mention All-American honor after being tabbed the 2001 Big South Conference Player of the Year. Strickland's squad, devastated by injuries all season, tied for fourth in the conference race, despite losing three starters by season's end.

In his second season, the Chants were picked to finish at the bottom of the Big South race prior to the start of the 1999-2000 season, but Strickland earned Coach of the Year honors after leading the Chants to a third-place finish in the

team in four years. The Flyers posted six victories over top-25 opponents in his last two seasons on the staff, and the 1997-98 squad won the Atlantic 10 Conference's West Division regular season championship and advanced to the NIT's second round.

From 1991 to 1994, Strickland also helped to resurrect the Old Dominion program as he helped lead the Monarchs to three consecutive post season tournaments as an assistant coach. In just his first season at Old Dominion, he helped Coach Purnell lead the program to the Colonial Athletic Association Championship and earn a bid to the NCAA

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# Head Coach Pete

# STRICKLAND



Tournament. The Monarchs then went 42-18 in the next two seasons, won back-to-back regular season conference titles and played in the NIT both years.

Strickland, a native of the Washington, D.C. area, played for Basketball Hall of Famer Morgan Wootten at DeMatha Catholic High School, in Hyattsville, Maryland. As a senior, he helped lead the team to the DC City Championship and was named First Team All-State. Strickland then attended the University of Pittsburgh, where he was a four-year letterwinner, a three-year starter and two-year captain for the Panthers. He completed his

playing career as the career assists leader at Pittsburgh. Strickland graduated from Pittsburgh with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech and Theater in 1979.

After graduating from college, he coached and played for the Neptune Basketball Club in Cork, Ireland from 1980 to 1982. In 1980, the team posted an 18-0 record and won the Division II National Championship. Strickland then coached one season at Mt. St. Michael Academy in Bronx, New York, before rejoining

**Siblings:** Suzanne, Curt, Sara  
**Degree:** Speech and theatre arts  
**Dream job:** This one  
**Greatest basketball accomplishment:** 2003-04 Chanticleers  
**Most prized possession:** Family  
**Best athlete I've played against:** Norm Nixon  
**Favorite moment in a basketball game:** Tip. If we are winning, the buzzer!  
**Favorite arena:** Kimbel Arena  
**Favorite sports hero:** Cal Ripken, Jr., Bill Russell  
**Favorite sports team:** Baltimore Orioles, Washington Redskins  
**When I played basketball as a kid, I pretended I was:** Earl "The Pearl" Monroe  
**A surprise player on this year's team will be:** Antwan Green  
**Favorite food:** Mary Catherine's homemade salad dressing  
**Favorite TV show:** Law and Order  
**Favorite midnight snack:** Cereal  
**Favorite sports movie:** Remember the Titans  
**Craziest ambition:** To work 9-5  
**Person in history I'd like to meet:** Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Jr., Pope John Paul, Winston Churchill  
**My advice to youngsters is:** You don't have to be 'bad' to be tough  
**Best thing about being a coach:** Daily opportunities to make a difference  
**What three people (dead or alive) I'd invite to a dinner party:** Dad, Mom and my family (who never met them)  
**If I weren't coaching college basketball, I'd be:** Working part time at Pirate's Watch Miniature Golf Course  
**If I had one CD to listen to, it would be:** "We Came to Play" - The Persuasions  
**What was your parents' favorite saying:** If you don't have anything good to say, don't say anything at all  
**What is one thing you can't get through the day without:** Breakfast  
**Before a basketball game, I:** Prepare first, try to relax next  
**If I could bring anything from my hometown to the Coastal campus, it would be:** Ledo's Pizza  
**The first five players I'd select for my basketball "Dream Team" would be:** Tiny Archibald, Earl "The Pearl" Monroe, Bill Russell, Paul Silas, Michael Jordan  
**Which player -- male or female -- would you like to go one-on-one against:** Someone older  
**Biggest celebrity I've ever met:** John Wooden  
**The thing I like most about Coastal:** Size, location and diversity

## Strickland's Coaching Legacy

Coach Strickland has had many people contribute to the Coastal men's basketball program since his arrival in 1997. Many have made impacts after moving on, with two former assistants helping their teams to postseason berths, including a NCAA "Sweet 16" appearance.

Those assistants (and their current location) are:

- Neal Berkman (1998-99) - Assistant Coach - Siena (2003 NIT)
- Ganon Baker (1998-00) - Shake 'n' Bake Basketball Training and Workouts
- Baker Neal (1998-00) - Resides in Huntington, W.Va.
- Lewis Preston (1998-00) - Assistant Coach - Notre Dame (2003 NCAA Sweet 16)
- Silas Cheung (2000-01) - Head Coach - Urbana (Md.) High School
- Don Burgess (2000-02) - Assistant Coach - VMI
- Enda Byrt (2000-02) - Resides in Cork, Ireland
- Ted Jeffries (2001-03) - Assistant Coach - William & Mary
- Mark Kost (2002-03) - Assistant Coach - Coastal Carolina Women's Basketball
- Scott McClary (2002-03) - Head Coach - Marymount (Va.)

Coach Wootten at his high school alma mater as the assistant varsity coach and head junior varsity coach at DeMatha. After three years at DeMatha, Strickland coached one season at Ravenscroft High School in Raleigh, North Carolina, before beginning his college coaching career at the Virginia Military Institute. He served as an assistant coach to Joe Cantafio at VMI from 1988 to 1991.



Pete and his wife, Mary Catherine, have three children — Meaghan (17), Michael (15) and Conor (10).

Torrey Butler (left) and Tony Darden (right) show off their diplomas from Coastal Carolina University. These two, along with Derrick Robinson, graduated last year from CCU, continuing the tradition of academic excellence in the basketball program.



# ASSISTANT COACHES

## ASSISTANT COACH JOHN BENNETT



John Bennett is in his first season as an assistant basketball coach at Coastal Carolina University. His duties on Head Coach Pete Strickland's staff include all aspects of on-floor coaching.

"John's abilities as a coach encompass the whole gamut of our responsibilities," Head Coach Pete Strickland said. "He has a honed ability to communicate with players and colleagues, as well as his very comprehensive understanding of the game. I'm excited he is with us!"

Bennett arrived at Coastal Carolina after spending the past three seasons at Frostburg

State University. There he was an assistant varsity coach and head coach of the school's junior varsity program. For both teams, he was involved with recruiting, scouting opponents, practice preparation and on-court coaching.

Prior to Frostburg State, Bennett was an assistant coach at Pfeiffer University for two seasons. He also served as the head coach of the men's junior varsity team and volunteer assistant with the women's program.

Bennett graduated from Pfeiffer in 1998, earning a bachelor's degree with summa cum laude honors in English. While at Pfeiffer, he was a two-year starter for the Falcons, earning academic all-conference accolades his senior year. Previously, Bennett had also played two years of college basketball at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Bennett resides in Myrtle Beach.

**Siblings:** Felecia  
**Major:** Bachelor's - English; Masters - Education  
**Most prized possession:** One good knee (used to be two good knees)  
**Best athlete I've played against:** Rod Strickland  
**Favorite moment in a basketball game:** Hit buzzer beater in high school against arch rival  
**Favorite arena:** Cameron Indoor/Kimbel Arena  
**Favorite sports hero:** Arthur Ashe  
**When I played basketball as a kid, I pretended I was:** Joe Dumars  
**A surprise player on this year's team will be:** Mihai Raducanu  
**Favorite food:** Buffalo Chicken Wings  
**Favorite midnight snack:** Taco Bell late night  
**Favorite TV show:** Friends  
**Favorite sports movie:** The Fish That Saved Pittsburgh  
**If I had one CD to listen to, it would be:** Polka Classics - The Remixes  
**Worst thing about being a coach:** The wait before a game  
**If I could have an ESPN SportsCenter highlight, it would be:** Tap dunk on anybody  
**What was your parents' favorite saying:** Oh my, what did you do?  
**One word to describe my play on the court:** Slow  
**My biggest pet peeve is:** Wet bread  
**The first five players I'd select for my basketball "Dream Team" would be:** Michael Jordan, Larry Bird, Magic Johnson,  
**Nobody Knows that I'm:** An excellent square dancer  
**With a Million Dollars, I'd:** Buy you a "K" car, a nice Reliant automobile  
**Title of my life story:** Things Would Be Better If Helen Hunt Was Here  
**Who would play ME in the movie:** Michael Clark Duncan

## ASSISTANT COACH JAMIE KACHMARIK



Jamie Kachmarik starts his first year as an assistant basketball coach at Coastal Carolina University. He will serve as the recruiting coordinator, as well as assist in all on-court coaching.

"Jamie hit the ground running," Head Coach Pete Strickland said. "Few young assistants bring the combination of enthusiasm and intelligence to recruiting, teaching and scouting that Jamie has brought to Coastal. His experience with people has been 'A+' as well."

Kachmarik has spent the last three years as an assistant basketball coach at William and Mary, where he coordinated scouting and

basketball operations, along with assisting with recruiting and on-court coaching. During his time there, he helped recruit two top-100 classes by *The Hoop Scoop*.

The 28-year-old Kachmarik started his coaching career at Ohio State, serving as the video coordinator for Jim O'Brien's squad that won the Big Ten title and went to the 1999 Final Four. While there, he was highly involved in scouting breakdown and development of the O'Brien's team camp, that increased from 12 to 75 high school teams in three years.

Kachmarik is a 1997 graduate of Bowling Green State University, where he was a student assistant for then head coach Jim Larranaga. During his tenure, he helped the Falcons to a 22-10 mark, a Mid-American Conference regular season title and a berth in the NIT.

Kachmarik and his wife Cori live in North Myrtle Beach.

**Nickname(s):** Kachi  
**Dream job:** Head college Division I basketball coach  
**Greatest basketball accomplishment:** Going to the 1999 Final Four on the Ohio State coaching staff  
**Most prized possession:** My golf clubs  
**Favorite arena:** Madison Square Garden  
**Favorite sports hero:** Jack Nicklaus  
**When I played basketball as a kid, I pretended I was:** Magic Johnson  
**A surprise player on this year's team will be:** Moses Sonko  
**Favorite line from a movie (and the movie):** "He's on the 18th tee at Augusta, the Cinderella story - a former greenskeeper about to become the Masters champion." - Caddyshack  
**Favorite pre-game meal:** Chicken Marsala  
**Favorite TV show:** ESPN SportsCenter  
**Favorite midnight snack:** Chocolate Chip Cookies  
**Person in history I'd like to meet:** JFK  
**My advice to youngsters is:** Shoot for the stars  
**What three people (dead or alive) I'd invite to a dinner party:** John Wooden, Bobby Knight, Sparky Anderson  
**What is one thing you can't get through the day without:** Diet Coke  
**If I could bring anything from my hometown to the Coastal campus, it would be:** Polish music  
**If I could have an ESPN SportsCenter highlight, it would be:** Making birdie to win the Masters  
**Which player -- male or female -- would you like to go one-on-one against:** Tiger Woods  
**Title of my life story:** Living My Dream  
**Who would play ME in the movie:** Darrell Hammond  
**Biggest celebrity I've ever met:** John Wooden  
**The thing I like most about Coastal:** Family atmosphere  
**If I had one CD to listen to, it would be:** Frank Sinatra's Greatest Hits

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# SUPPORT STAFF

## ASSISTANT COACH JOHN KEFALAS



John Kefalas is in his second season as an assistant basketball coach at Coastal Carolina University. His duties on Head Coach Pete Strickland's staff include all aspects of on-floor coaching.

"John represents a sound, experienced voice that resonates strongly with our players, our assistants and with me," Head Coach Pete Strickland said. "And it is a voice that will remain present. John's background speaks for itself."

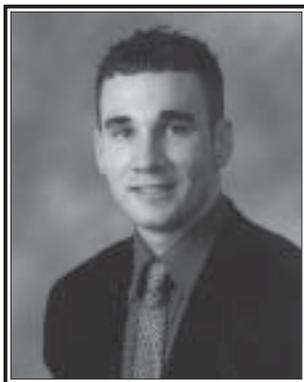
Kefalas returns to the basketball floor, as he comes to Coastal Carolina with extensive coaching experience. His career began at St. John's College High School in Washington, D.C.

in 1967, working with that program for three years under the legendary Joe Gallagher. He then worked at Gonzaga High School, the same school that produced current Chanticleer Brandon Newby. His contacts in the basketball world go beyond the high school level, as he has been close with former collegiate and professional head coach, the late Frank McGuire, who led North Carolina to the 1957 NCAA title, and current Indiana Pacers President Donnie Walsh.

Kefalas played both football and basketball at DeMatha High School in Hyattsville, Maryland, playing on the court for the recently-retired legend, coach Morgan Wootten. He then attended the University of Oklahoma and American University. A former businessman in Washington D.C., John and his wife of 34 years, Carolyn, have two children, John (30) and Ashleigh (18) and reside in Ash, North Carolina.

**Nickname(s):** Johnny K.  
**Siblings:** Arthur and Chris  
**Dream job:** To have a school that would help underprivileged kids succeed  
**Greatest basketball accomplishment:** Playing on DeMatha's first National Catholic Basketball Championship team  
**Most prized possession:** Family  
**Best athlete I've played against:** Dave Bing  
**Favorite arena:** Madison Square Garden  
**When I played basketball as a kid, I pretended I was:** Bob Cousy  
**Favorite line from a movie (and the movie):** "If you build it, they will come." - Field of Dreams  
**Favorite food:** Pasta  
**Favorite TV show:** The Sopranos  
**Favorite midnight snack:** Oreos and ice cream  
**Craziest ambition:** Ride a horse with my daughter  
**Person in history I'd like to meet:** Patton  
**My advice to youngsters is:** Choose friends wisely  
**If I had one CD to listen to, it would be:** Neil Diamond  
**What is one thing you can't get through the day without:** Diet Coke  
**One word to describe my personality off the court:** Bubbly  
**If I could have an ESPN SportsCenter highlight, it would be:** When Coastal beat Winthrop on national TV  
**My biggest pet peeve is:** A basketball player that doesn't play defense - take a charge.  
**Nobody Knows that I'm:** A nice guy  
**Strangest Habit:** I tuck my napkin in the collar of my shirt to make sure there are no accidents  
**Title of my life story:** Keeping the Faith  
**Who would play ME in the movie:** Al Pacino  
**Biggest celebrity I've ever met:** Frank Sinatra  
**The thing I like most about Coastal:** The basketball players that I'm blessed to help coach

### STUDENT ASSISTANT PATRICK BURNETT



Patrick Burnett is in his third year as a student assistant with the Coastal Carolina men's basketball program.

A native of Philadelphia, Pa., Burnett played high school basketball at Father Judge High School in Philadelphia. He is majoring in elementary

education at Coastal Carolina.



### STUDENT ASSISTANT JACLYN MYERS

Jaclyn Myers is in her second year as a student assistant with the Coastal Carolina men's basketball program.

Myers came to Coastal from Herndon, Va.. She served as manager of the varsity men's basketball team at Bishop O'Connell High School in

Arlington, Va. for two years. At Coastal, she is majoring in marine science.

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## Did You Know?

Coastal Carolina continues to have an international flavor on its squad. On the current roster, six players have spent time overseas in recent years. Mihai Raducanu is originally from Romania and now calls Canada home. Clint Reed and Anthony Susnjara came directly to Conway from Australia, while Matthijs Reinders arrived at Coastal from the Netherlands. Pele Pelay lived in Africa, while Moses Sonko came to the U.S. from Sierra Leone and has spent the last three years in Rhode Island.