

WESTERN CAROLINA

CATAMOUNT COACHES AND STAFF





LARRY HUNTER

HEAD COACH, 4th season at WCU; 29th as a Head Coach – (Ohio, 1971)



Larry Hunter, one of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) leaders in coaching victories, was named Western Carolina University's 17th head men's basketball coach all time on April 29, 2005.

Known for his offensive prowess, Hunter brought an up-tempo offense to Cullowhee and the Catamounts responded by

making a school-record 221 3-pointers, while tying or setting the single-game school record for 3-pointers made in a game on six occasions. **WCU again surpassed the school benchmark for treys with 237 made 3-pointers last season (2007-08).**

Hunter, whose teams posted winning records in 23 of his 28 seasons as a head coach, boasts an overall record of 543-282 and currently ranks as the 12th winningest active coach in the country. He additionally ranks 58th on the NCAA Division I all-time head coaching victories list and is 97th on the NCAA all-division list for head coaching victories. During his time as a head coach, Hunter has made 11 overall NCAA tournament appearances, while making seven as an assistant coach.

While his first year at Western was just his third losing season as a head coach, posting a 13-17 mark, Hunter's inaugural season with the Catamounts saw many positives. Western nearly doubled its win total from the previous season. Also, its 7-7 record and third place finish in the SoCon North was its best in the league since posting the same record for the 1996-97 season, while placing second that season. Key wins in his first season included: a win over Bowling Green in the season opener — WCU's first season opening win over an NCAA Division I team since defeating Georgia Tech to start the 1980-81 season; a win over Chattanooga — snapping an eight-game losing streak to the Mocs; a win at Davidson — snapping Davidson's 19-game home winning streak which was the third longest in the NCAA at the time; and defeating SoCon North Champion Elon late in the season — setting up a battle for a first-round bye at the league tournament.

Western has rewritten the school record books under Hunter: the Catamounts have set school records for 3-pointers made (237 in 2007-08); attempted (699 in 2006-07) and 3's per game (7.65 in 07-08) in a season, as well as making at least 12, 3-pointers in a single-game nine times, including a school-record 15 treys on three different occasions.

Hunter came to Western Carolina after four years as an assistant coach at North Carolina State, the final three serving as associate head coach. In his first season at N.C. State (2002), the Wolfpack reached the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) championship game and received their first NCAA Championship bid since 1991. N.C. State would go on to reach at least the ACC Tournament semifinals in each the last three years as well as receiving bids to the NCAA Championship. In 2004, Hunter coached Julius Hodge, who was tabbed ACC Player of the Year and consensus All-

America. This past season, the Wolfpack made an impressive run at season's end and defeated defending NCAA Champion Connecticut to reach the Sweet 16. N.C. State was just one of 21 teams in the nation to play in the NCAA Championship in each of the last four years.

Hunter spent 12 years (1989-2001) as head coach at Ohio University prior to his stint in Raleigh. Five years after taking over the Bobcat basketball program (1993-94), he led Ohio to a 25-8 record and was tabbed the Mid-American Conference (MAC) Coach of the Year, winning both the league's regular season and tournament titles. The following year, the Bobcats won the pre-season National Invitation Tournament (NIT), went 24-10 and reached the second round of the postseason NIT. At Ohio, he coached 16 All-MAC performers and four first-team Academic All-MAC selections. Among those

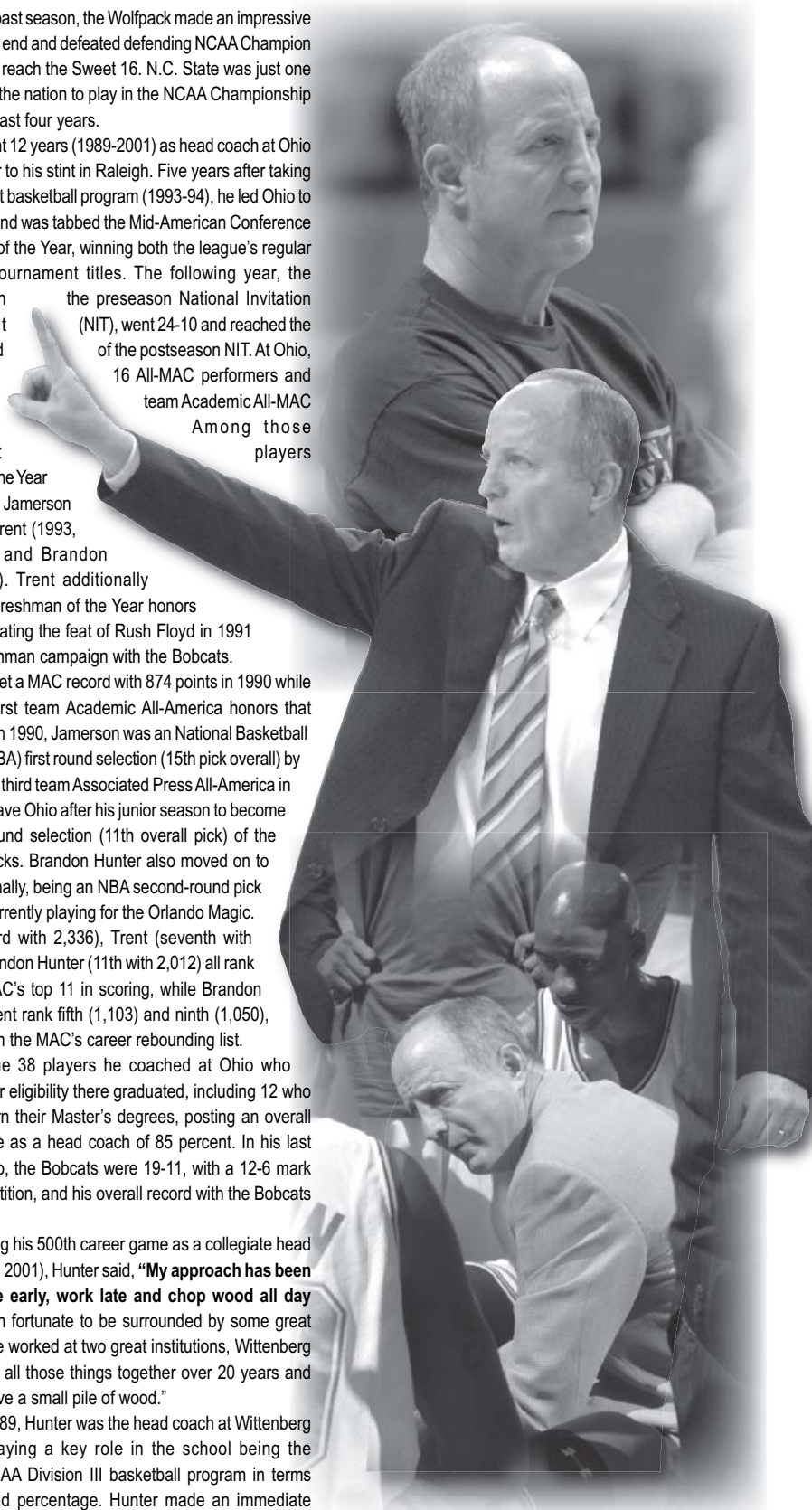
standout players were Player of the Year honorees Dave Jamerson (1990), Gary Trent (1993, '94 and '95) and Brandon Hunter (2003). Trent additionally earned MAC Freshman of the Year honors in 1993, duplicating the feat of Rush Floyd in 1991 during his freshman campaign with the Bobcats.

Jamerson set a MAC record with 874 points in 1990 while taking home first team Academic All-America honors that season. Later in 1990, Jamerson was an National Basketball Association (NBA) first round selection (15th pick overall) by Miami. Trent, a third team Associated Press All-America in 1995, would leave Ohio after his junior season to become a NBA first round selection (11th overall pick) of the Milwaukee Bucks. Brandon Hunter also moved on to play professionally, being an NBA second-round pick in 2003 and currently playing for the Orlando Magic. Jamerson (third with 2,336), Trent (seventh with 2,108) and Brandon Hunter (11th with 2,012) all rank among the MAC's top 11 in scoring, while Brandon Hunter and Trent rank fifth (1,103) and ninth (1,050), respectively, on the MAC's career rebounding list.

Thirty of the 38 players he coached at Ohio who completed their eligibility there graduated, including 12 who went on to earn their Master's degrees, posting an overall graduation rate as a head coach of 85 percent. In his last season at Ohio, the Bobcats were 19-11, with a 12-6 mark in MAC competition, and his overall record with the Bobcats was 204-148.

After winning his 500th career game as a collegiate head coach (Jan. 23, 2001), Hunter said, **"My approach has been simple: Arrive early, work late and chop wood all day long.** I've been fortunate to be surrounded by some great people and I've worked at two great institutions, Wittenberg and Ohio. Add all those things together over 20 years and you start to have a small pile of wood."

From 1976-89, Hunter was the head coach at Wittenberg University, playing a key role in the school being the winningest NCAA Division III basketball program in terms of victories and percentage. Hunter made an immediate





LARRY HUNTER VS. ALL OPPONENTS AT WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

Appalachian State.....	0-7
Atlanta Christian.....	2-0
Belmont.....	0-1
Bowling Green.....	2-0
Cincinnati.....	0-1
Clemson.....	0-1
College of Charleston.....	1-4
Chattanooga.....	3-3
The Citadel.....	4-1
Davidson.....	1-4
Dayton.....	0-1
East Carolina.....	1-0
Elon.....	3-4
Furman.....	2-2
Gardner-Webb.....	0-2
Georgia.....	0-1
Georgia Southern.....	1-3
High Point.....	0-1
Illinois.....	0-1
Indiana.....	0-1
Presbyterian.....	1-0
Radford.....	0-1
Rice.....	0-1
Maryland.....	0-1
Methodist.....	1-0
Mississippi.....	0-1
Montreat.....	1-0
North Carolina Central.....	1-0
North Carolina State.....	0-1
UNC Asheville.....	2-1
UNC Greensboro.....	3-4
Northern Iowa.....	0-1
Purdue.....	0-1
Saint Mary's (Calif.).....	0-1
South Carolina.....	0-2
Toccoa Falls.....	2-0
Virginia Tech.....	0-1
Wofford.....	3-3
Xavier.....	0-1
Overall.....	34-58

impact after taking over the helm, winning National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) National Coach of the Year honors in 1977 after becoming the first coach in NCAA history to win a national championship in his first season at a school. During his 13 years in that position, his team turned in a 305-76 record and made four NCAA Division III Final Four appearances (national title in 1977, national runner-up in 1983 and third place in 1980 and 1987).

He coached three national players of the year at Wittenberg, including Tyrone Curtis (1981), Tim Casey (1985) and Brad Baldrige (1991), as well as having 21 all-conference honors bestowed upon his players. In addition to coaching those national players of the year, four of Wittenberg's top five career scorers were coached by Hunter, including the school's all-time leader Steve Iannarino (1,973). Hunter won a total of 12 Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) titles, six regular-season championships and six tournaments. For his success, Hunter was inducted into the Wittenberg University Hall of Honor in 1996 and received the school's Honorary Alumnus Award in 1997.

Hunter, who got his start in coaching as an assistant coach at Marietta College from 1971-73, graduated from Ohio in 1971 with a B.S. in Education, majoring Social Studies Comprehensive. He earned his Master of Science in Physical Education from Ohio in 1973, then spent three seasons (1973-76) as an assistant coach at Wittenberg. He got his first taste of postseason play while serving on the Wittenberg staff, reaching the NCAA Division III championship game in 1976.

In addition to his coaching resume, Hunter produced a basketball instructional video, "Drills, Skills and Moves: Post Play Moves & Drills."



Head Coach Larry Hunter and his wife, Mary

All-Time ACTIVE Winngingest Head Coaches

1. Mike Krzyzewski, Duke 803
2. Jim Calhoun, Connecticut 774
3. Jim Boeheim, Syracuse 771
4. Bob Huggins, West Virginia 616
5. Tom Penders, Houston 608
6. Gary Williams, Maryland 604
7. Homer Drew, Valparaiso 593
8. Roy Williams, North Carolina 560
9. Bo Ryan, Wisconsin 556
- Ben Braun, Rice 556
11. Mike Montgomery, Cal 547
- Cliff Ellis, Coastal Carolina 547
- Pat Douglass, UC Irvine 547
- 🐾 14. LARRY HUNTER, Western Carolina 543 🐾
15. Rick Byrd, Belmont 541
16. Rick Pitino, Louisville 521





LARRY HUNTER – YEAR-BY-YEAR COACHING CAREER

YEAR	POSITION	COLLEGE	RECORD	COMMENT
1971-72	Assistant Coach	Marietta College	6-17	1st year as a basketball coach
1972-73	Assistant Coach	Marietta College	10-15	
Two Seasons			16-32	
1973-74	Assistant Coach	Wittenberg Univ.	22-4	Ohio Athletic Reg. Season & Tournament Champs NCAA Division II Elite Eight
1974-75	Assistant Coach	Wittenberg Univ.	20-8	Ohio Athletic Tournament Champions NCAA Division II Elite Eight
1975-76	Assistant Coach	Wittenberg Univ.	24-5	Ohio Athletic Regular Season Champions NCAA Division III National Runner-up
Three Seasons			66-17	
1976-77	Head Coach	Wittenberg Univ.	23-5	Ohio Athletic Regular Season Champions NCAA Div. III National Champs; NCAA Div. III Coach of the Year
1977-78	Head Coach	Wittenberg Univ.	16-7	Ohio Athletic Regular Season Champs
1978-79	Head Coach	Wittenberg Univ.	23-6	Ohio Athletic Tournament Champions
1979-80	Head Coach	Wittenberg Univ.	29-3	Ohio Athletic Tournament Champions 3rd place at NCAA Div. III Championship
1980-81	Head Coach	Wittenberg Univ.	28-3	Ohio Athletic Reg. Season & Tournament Champs Tyrone Curtis named NCAA Div. III Player of the Year
1981-82	Head Coach	Wittenberg Univ.	21-10	Ohio Athletic Tournament Champions
1982-83	Head Coach	Wittenberg Univ.	26-6	Ohio Athletic Tournament Champions NCAA Div. III National Runner-up
1983-84	Head Coach	Wittenberg Univ.	18-9	
1984-85	Head Coach	Wittenberg Univ.	27-4	Ohio Athletic Reg. Season & Tournament Champs Tim Casey named NCAA Div. III Player of the Year
1985-86	Head Coach	Wittenberg Univ.	23-5	
1986-87	Head Coach	Wittenberg Univ.	25-8	Ohio Athletic Tournament Champions 3rd place at NCAA Div. III Championship
1987-88	Head Coach	Wittenberg Univ.	20-7	
1988-89	Head Coach	Wittenberg Univ.	27-3	Ohio Athletic Regular Season Champions
13 Seasons			305-76	
1989-90	Head Coach	Ohio Univ.	12-16	Dave Jamerson named MAC Player of the Year
1990-91	Head Coach	Ohio Univ.	16-12	Rush Floyd named MAC Freshman of the Year
1991-92	Head Coach	Ohio Univ.	18-10	
1992-93	Head Coach	Ohio Univ.	14-13	Gary Trent, MAC Player & Freshman of the Year
1993-94	Head Coach	Ohio Univ.	25-8	MAC Regular Season & Tournament Champs MAC Coach of the Year; Trent Player of the Year NCAA Championship 1st Round
1994-95	Head Coach	Ohio Univ.	24-10	Won preseason NIT; 2nd round of postseason NIT Gary Trent named MAC Player of the Year & 3rd team AP All-America
1995-96	Head Coach	Ohio Univ.	16-14	
1996-97	Head Coach	Ohio Univ.	17-10	
1997-98	Head Coach	Ohio Univ.	5-21	
1998-99	Head Coach	Ohio Univ.	18-10	
1999-00	Head Coach	Ohio Univ.	20-13	
2000-01	Head Coach	Ohio Univ.	19-11	
12 Seasons			204-148	
2001-02	Assistant Coach	N.C. State Univ.	23-11	ACC Tournament Final; NCAA 2nd Round
2002-03	Associate Head	N.C. State Univ.	18-13	ACC Tournament Final; NCAA 1st Round
2003-04	Associate Head	N.C. State Univ.	21-10	ACC Tournament Semifinal; NCAA 2nd Round
2004-05	Associate Head	N.C. State Univ.	21-14	ACC Tournament Semifinal/ NCAA Sweet 16
Four seasons			83-48	
2005-06	Head Coach	Western Carolina	13-17	Set school record for 3-pointers made
2006-07	Head Coach	Western Carolina	11-20	Freshman Nick Aldridge named All-SoCon
2007-08	Head Coach	Western Carolina	10-21	Brandon Giles All-SoCon; School record for 3's
2008-09	Head Coach	Western Carolina		
Fourth season			34-58	

MARIETTA COLLEGE NOTES:

- Recruiting efforts by Hunter over his two seasons on staff helped Marietta win their only men's basketball conference championship in 1974-75.

WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY NOTES:

- Hunter helped have an immediate impact on the Wittenberg program as an assistant coach with either the regular season or tournament championship in the Ohio Athletic Conference and three-consecutive NCAA Elite Eight appearances, advancing to the National Championship game in '75-76.

WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY NOTES:

- Hunter played a key role in Wittenberg becoming the winningest NCAA Division III basketball program in terms of victories and percentage.
- Four of Wittenberg's top five scorers played for Hunter, including all-time leader Steve Iannarino (1,973).
- Had 21 all-conference honors bestowed upon his players during his 13 years.
- Recruited Brad Baldrige and coached him for his first two years. Baldrige went on to be named NCAA Division III Player of the Year in 1991.

OHIO NOTES:

- Three of the top 11 scorers in MAC history played for Hunter, including Dave Jamerson (3rd with 2,336); Gary Trent (7th with 2,108) and Brandon Hunter (11th with 2,012). Hunter (1,103) and Trent (1,050) rank fifth and ninth, respectively, on the MAC career rebounds list.
- Brandon Hunter, who Larry Hunter recruited and coached for two years, went on to earn MAC Player of the Year honors in 2003.
- In 1989-90, Dave Jamerson set a MAC record with 874 points in a season;
- Jamerson was an NBA first round pick and played three years in the NBA. Trent was an NBA first round pick and played nine years in the NBA. B. Hunter was a second round NBA pick in 2003 and played three years in the league.

N.C. STATE NOTES:

- Reached the ACC Tournament semifinal or final in each of his four years with the program;
- Advanced the NCAA Championship in each of his four years with the program.

WESTERN CAROLINA NOTES:

- WCU set a school-record by making 221 3-pointers in a season in 2005-06 ... One year later, the Catamounts eclipsed that mark with 226 treys in '07-08, doing so again with 237 in his third season in Cullowhee;
- Brandon Giles was named All-SoCon in 2007-08, joining Nick Aldridge ('06-07) and David Berghoefer ('05-06).

Larry Hunter: 28 year head coaching record: 543-282



WADE O'CONNOR

ASSISTANT COACH, 1st season at WCU – (Bridgewater State, 1971)



Wade O'Connor, the former head coach at St. Catharine (Ky.) College, was added to Western Carolina head coach Larry Hunter's coaching staff as an assistant coach in mid-August, 2008.

O'Connor comes to Cullowhee from St. Catharine College in Kentucky, where he coached former Catamount forward, Arnold Gore, who graduated back in the spring of 2008. All told, 15 of his former players moved on to NCAA Division I and II programs.

In his first year as head coach at St. Catharine, O'Connor helped lead the Patriots to a 23-8 overall record. For the past four seasons, O'Connor led the Patriot Program to a 94-29 overall record.



During the 2005-06 season, the Patriots finished 25-6 overall and captured a share of the Tennessee Junior and Community College Athletic Association (TJCCAA) regular season championship, the first in school history. The team was ranked as high as 16th in the country by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). In his first season, O'Connor helped lead the Patriots to a 24-8 overall record and was ranked as high as 17th in the country by the NJCAA.

Prior to coming to St. Catharine College, O'Connor spent 10 years among the NCAA D-I coaching ranks. From 1994-96, he was a member of Billy Donovan's staff at Marshall University where the Thundering Herd Marshall won the Northern Division Championship of the Southern Conference in 1994-95. Jason Williams, point guard of the 2006 NBA World Champions Miami Heat, was a member of the Marshall team during O'Connor's tenure with the Thundering Herd.

O'Connor then moved to the University of Dayton, from 1996-2000 under current Clemson coach, Oliver Purnell. During the 1997-98 season, the Flyers posted a 21-12 record and earned a bid in the NIT tournament and finished 22-9 with an Atlantic-10 Western Division championship in the 1999-2000 season. Dayton made NCAA Tournament for the first time in 10 years.

From 2000-04, O'Connor was the recruiting coordinator for Tulane University in Conference USA. During that time, Tulane was the second-most improved teams in victories in the NCAA and the 2002-2003 recruiting class was ranked 29th in the country out of 327 Division I schools. While at Tulane, O'Connor helped develop future NBA player, Linton Johnson, of the Phoenix Suns.

All told, O'Connor has also coached and developed 31 former players who have played professionally in Europe.

Over the past thirteen years, O'Connor has coached with 13 different head coaches, including the likes of Donovan at Marshall, who is currently the head coach of the 2006 and '07 back-to-back NCAA Champion Florida Gators; Purnell at Dayton; Shawn Finney and Dave Dickerson at Tulane; Ron Jirsa and Donnie Jones at Marshall University; and Gregg Marshall at Wichita State, among others.

O'Connor is a 1994 graduate of Bridgewater State College in Bridgewater, Mass., where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education. He and his wife, Kim, have three children; son, Collin, and twin daughters, Hannah and Sydney.

WADE O'CONNOR – AT A GLANCE:

Name: Wade E. O'Connor

Born: July 13, 1971

Education:

Bridgewater State College in Bridgewater, Mass. – BS in Physical Education, 1994

Playing Experience:

Bridgewater State College (1991-92)

Massasoit Community College (1990-91) – NJCAA Region XXI Runner-Up

Coaching Experience:

St. Catharine (Ky.) College, Head Coach (2004-08) – Overall record: 94-29

Tulane Univ., Assistant Coach (2000-04)

Univ. of Dayton, Assistant Coach (1996-00)

Marshall Univ., Administrative Assistant (1994-96)

East Bridgewater HS, Varsity Assistant Coach/JV Head Coach (1992-94)



Assistant Coach Wade O'Connor and his wife, Kim, and their children Collin, Hannah and Sydney



ANQUELL McCOLLUM

ASSISTANT COACH, 5th season at WCU – (Western Carolina, 2000)



In the summer of 2004, the Western Carolina basketball program welcomed back one of its all-time greats when **Anquell McCollum** was named assistant coach. McCollum, the consensus 1996 Southern Conference Men's Basketball Player of the Year, enters his second season as an assistant coach. When Larry Hunter was named Western's 17th head coach in April, keeping McCollum was one of Hunter's first acts. McCollum retains his role in recruiting, coaching the guards and involving the team in community services

McCollum moves to the Catamount athletics department after spending the past year (2003-04) working as the assistant director of admissions for Western Carolina University. Prior to that, he worked one year as a computer skills teacher at Spring Lake (N.C.) Middle School and played professional basketball abroad from 1996-2000.

McCollum, a native of Fayetteville, N.C., and a product of E.E. Smith High School, led Western Carolina to one of its most successful seasons in school history. After a 3-10 start to the 1995-96 season, including a loss to Division II Coker, the McCollum-led Catamounts rallied to win 11 of their final 13 regular season games to finish with a 10-4 league mark and the SoCon South Division Championship, the program's first-ever SoCon title. Then, Western won three games in the SoCon Tournament, including an upset over Davidson that ended the Wildcats' 19-game winning streak, to capture the Catamounts' only tournament championship. McCollum's team-high 21 points in the first round of the 1996 NCAA Championship helped the 16th-seeded Catamounts pull off a near upset over top-seed Purdue, falling 73-71 to the Boilermakers in the West Regional. (The game was tied at 71-71 with under three minutes to play.)

McCollum, a member of WCU's 12-man, All-20th Century Team, was a two-time, first team All-SoCon selection and finished his career as the WCU and SoCon all-time leader in both 3-pointers made (245) and attempted (670). He currently ranks third on both league lists for treys, while ranking sixth on the WCU all-time scoring list with 1,777 career points. McCollum additionally ranks eighth on the WCU career list for field goals made (622), 10th on the WCU career 3-point field goal percentage list (.366), 10th on the WCU career assists list (315) and fifth on the WCU career steals list (147). He appears on the WCU single-season lists a total of seven times, including his WCU single-season record of 99 3-pointers made, and owns WCU single-game records for

best free throw percentage (18-of-18 versus Marshall in 1996).

McCollum's career got off to an impressive start as he was named to the SoCon All-Freshman team for the 1992-93 season, starting 13 of the team's final 14 games at point guard. As a sophomore (1993-94), he dished out 3.5 assists per game against SoCon competition to rank fifth in the league, feeding the conference's Player of the Year Frankie King, while ranking second in minutes played (34.5) and 18th in scoring (12.1 ppg). Also, he earned the first of three SoCon All-Tournament honors. As a junior (1994-95), he earned both first team All-SoCon and SoCon All-Tournament honors, ranking fourth in the conference in scoring (17.8 ppg) and ranking among the top 10 in five other categories. He and King, who won his second Player of the Year honor, helped the Cats reach the 1995 SoCon Tournament final, falling 63-61 to Chattanooga in the title game.

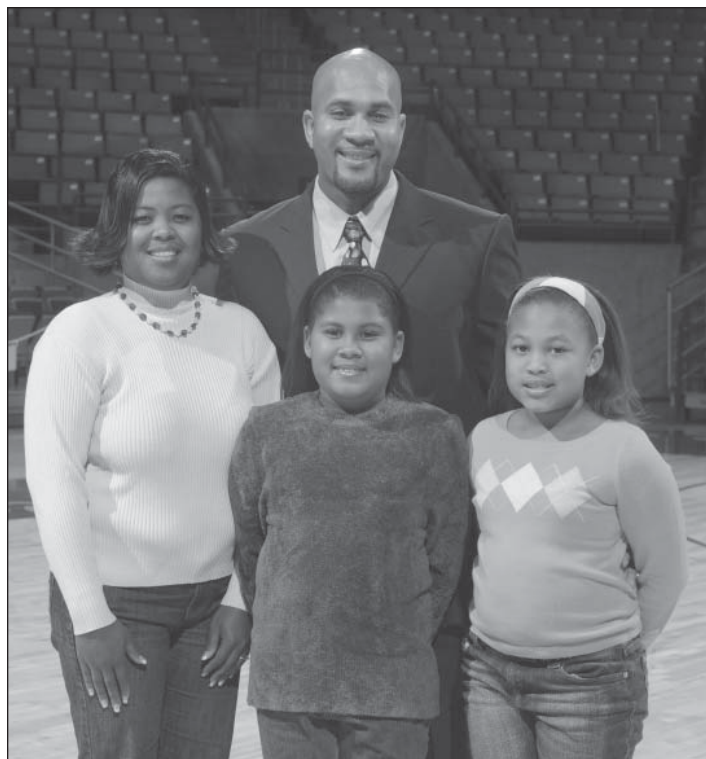
As a senior, McCollum made it three straight SoCon Player of the Year honors for Western as he was tabbed the league's top player after leading the league and ranking fifth nationally in scoring 25.0 ppg. He additionally ranked 16th nationally in 3-pointers made and earned 1996 SoCon Tournament MVP honors. McCollum scored a total of 751 points in 1995-96, which ranks fifth on the school's single-season list.

After his career at Western (1992-96), McCollum spent four seasons playing basketball professionally. His first stop was playing in France for the 1996-97 season. From 1997-99 he played professionally in Venezuela. Also during that span he played in Columbia (1998) and Hong Kong (1998). He additionally played one season (2000) in the Dominican Republic, while playing in the United States Basketball League for the Treasure Island Tropics as well.

He returned to Cullowhee in 2000 when he completed his B.S. in Computer Information Systems at Western. He is married to the former Marie White and the couple has two daughters, Jhimya (10) and Aaliyah (8).

ANQUELL McCOLLUM – AT A GLANCE:

Name: Anquell Demetruis McCollum
Born: August 24, 1973 in Fayetteville, N.C.
Education:
 Western Carolina Univ., in Cullowhee – BS in Computer Information Systems, 2000
Playing Experience:
 Western Carolina, 1992-96 – 1995 SoCon Runner-Up, 1996 SoCon Champion
 * 1996 Southern Conference Player of the Year*
 Played Professionally from 1996-2000 in France; Venezuela; Columbia; Dominican Republic; and in the United States Basketball League (USBL)
Coaching Experience:
 Western Carolina Univ., Assistant Coach (2004-pres.)
Family:
 Wife, Marie; Daughters Jhimya (10) and Aaliyah (8)



Assistant Coach Anquell McCollum and his wife Marie and their two children Jhimya (middle) and Aaliyah (right)



ANDRE GRAY

ASSISTANT COACH, 1st season at WCU – (Methodist, 1998)



Andre Gray, who comes to Western after one season at Gardner-Webb, joined the WCU men’s basketball coaching staff in late April, 2008.

“Andre Gray comes to Western Carolina very highly recommended and will bring a great deal of energy and enthusiasm to our staff,” said Hunter. “He has played and worked at the collegiate level under some outstanding coaches. He has Division I recruiting experience and contacts which should be of help to our existing staff. He is a quality person who will quickly gain the respect of our players and

who will represent Western Carolina Basketball very well.”

Gray joined the coaching staff at Big South Conference member, Gardner-Webb, in July 2007. He helped the Runnin’ Bulldogs to a 16-16 overall record and a 9-7 league mark last season.

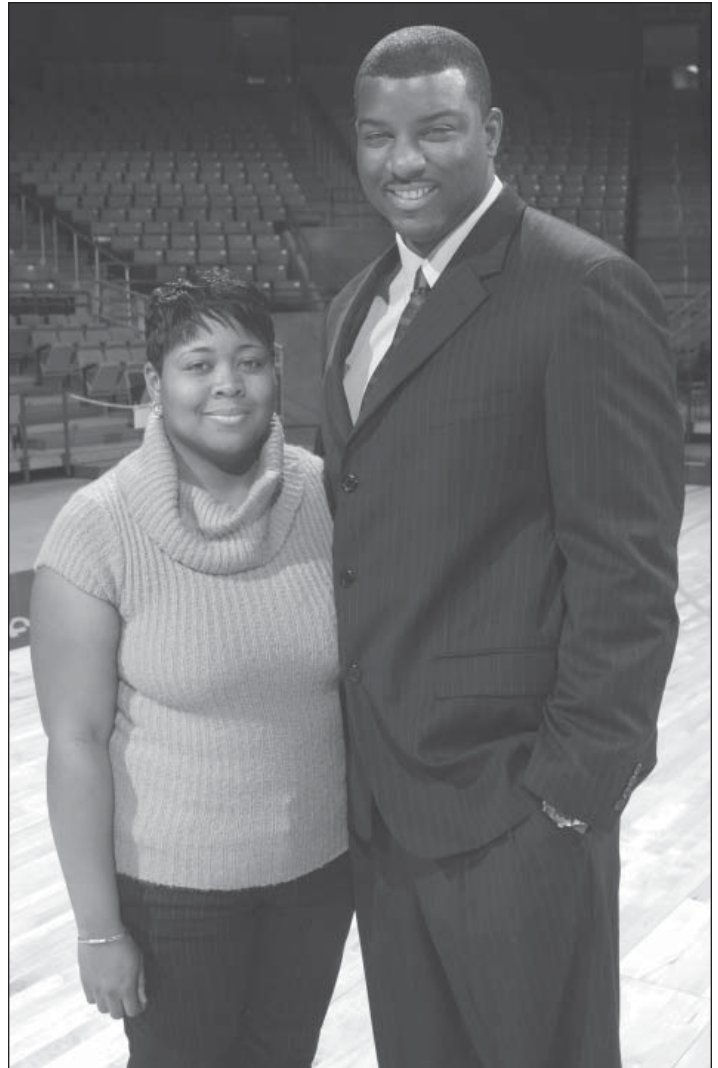
Prior to his stint with Gardner-Webb, Gray was an assistant at Wingate University for four seasons. The Bulldogs made the NCAA Division II tournament in back-to-back seasons in 2006 and 2007, capturing the South Atlantic Conference Championships both seasons. In the latter, Wingate advanced to the NCAA Division II Elite Eight, winning the South Atlantic Region championship.

Gray was a varsity letter winner at Methodist after transferring from Fayetteville State. During the 1996-97 season, Methodist won the Dixie Intercollegiate Athletic Conference / USA South regular season and tournament championships to garner a berth in the NCAA Division III National Tournament where it advanced to the Elite Eight.

He graduated in May 1998 with a B.S. in Physical Education, and returned to his alma mater as the top men’s basketball assistant coach in 2001, while also serving as the recruiting coordinator and junior varsity head coach. With Gray back on the bench as a coach, the Monarchs claimed the 2003 DIAC/USA South Atlantic Conference regular season championship, and posted a 22-6 league record in his two seasons.

Gray’s coaching career began at Clayton Middle School in Clayton, N.C., as the head boy’s basketball coach. He then parlayed that experience into an assistant’s position at J.F. Webb High School in Oxford, N.C., as an assistant on the boy’s varsity squad, while maintaining head coaching status with the boy’s junior varsity team, with both positions helping him move him to the collegiate ranks.

A native of Elizabethtown, N.C., Gray has extensive camp experience as well, including the prestigious Five Star Camp. Gray has also worked basketball camps at Duke, Wake Forest and Old Dominion.



Assistant Coach Andre Gray and his wife, Taruis

ANDRE GRAY – AT A GLANCE:

Name: Andre R. Gray

Education:

Methodist College in Fayetteville, N.C. – BS in Physical Education (1998)

Playing Experience:

Methodist College, 1995-98

Fayetteville State Univ., 1992-95

Coaching Experience:

Gardner-Webb Univ., Assistant Coach (2007-08)

Wingate Univ., Assistant Coach (2003-07) – ‘06-07 SAC Tournament Champions

Methodist College, Assistant Coach (2001-03)

J.F. Webb HS, Varsity Assistant / Junior Varsity Head Coach

Clayton Middle School, Head Boy’s Coach

Family:

Wife, Taurus



TOM TISDALE

ATHLETIC TRAINER, 5th season at WCU – (California Lutheran, 1988)



Tom Tisdale is in his fifth year in the Catamount athletic training room, and is working his fourth season with the men's basketball team. The San Diego, Calif., native worked with the WCU men's and women's track & field teams in his first season in Cullowhee, and was the athletic trainer for the 2008 Southern Conference Champion Catamount women's soccer team.

Prior to assuming full-time duties in the Catamount athletics department, Tisdale spent the spring and summer months working as an athletic trainer in professional baseball over the past 19 years. In addition to working spring training with the Major League club, he

has served as head athletic trainer with the Tampa Bay Rays' Triple A, minor league team, the Durham Bulls, from 2002-06. Previously, he worked with the club's Double A team in Orlando.

Three seasons ago, Tisdale, a member of the Professional Baseball Athletic Trainers Society, was named International League Athletic Trainer of the Year.

Before coming to Western Carolina for the winter months, Tisdale worked in the Salisbury University athletic training room from 2001-03, assisting with all sports in 2001, men's soccer in 2002 and volleyball in 2003.

Tisdale's relationship with minor league baseball began in 1989, where he worked with the Texas Rangers organization until 1995. Also during that time (1993-94), he worked as an athletic trainer in Venezuela with the winter ball league. Between stints with the Rangers and Devil Rays, Tisdale served two seasons (1996-97) as head athletic trainer with the Saint Paul Saints, an independent minor league team that featured the likes of J.D. Drew, Darryl Strawberry and Jack Morris.

Tisdale received his B.S. in Physical Education from California Lutheran in 1998. At the end of 2008, he completed work on his Masters' degree from California University of Pennsylvania.



Tom Tisdale (middle) with student athletic trainer, Ashley Lake (right)



Western Carolina Athletic Training Staff: Head Athletic Trainer Steven Honbarger; Assistant Athletic Trainer Emily Martin; Assistant Athletic Trainer Jonathan Mitzel; Assistant Athletic Trainer Tom Tisdale; Assistant Athletic Trainer Lynette Mount; Assistant Athletic Trainer Brandon King.



DANIEL HOOKER

ASST. ATHLETICS DIRECTOR / MEDIA RELATIONS

5th season at WCU – (Western Carolina, 2001)



Daniel Hooker is amidst his fifth season working in the Western Carolina Athletics Department, and his second full season as the primary sport contact for Cata-mountain Men's Basketball after taking over midway through the 2006-07 season.

In addition to overseeing the day-to-day operations of the WCU Media Relations Office, Hooker serves as the primary sport contact for Catamount football, men's basket-ball, baseball and men's & women's golf.

Prior to returning to Cullowhee in 2004, Hooker spent four years in Charleston, S.C., working for two minor league sports franchises. He got his start in the Lowcountry with the Charleston Swamp Foxes arenafootball2 team, serving as the Director of Media & Public Relations for three years. He also worked one season for the Charleston Lowgators of the National Basketball De-velopment League (NBDL) as an Account Executive and Game Day Assistant.

He got his start working a pair internships, first with the Thomasville Hi-Toms - a Coastal Plains League summer wooden bat team based in central North Carolina. He also worked as the Public Affairs Assistant with the Southern Conference for the 2001-02 season where he was the primary contact for women's soccer, vol-leyball and wrestling, while also assisting with football and men's basketball.

Hooker will also take turns behind the microphone in helping deliver play-by-play and color analysis along side "Voice of the Catamounts," Gary Ayers. His radio experience began in 1997 as a student announcer on WWCU-FM in Cullo-wee where he served as an on-air personality for daily shifts, as well as helped start a weekly, interactive sports talk show which covered Catamount athletics. He continues that role currently with "In the Litterbox," heard weekly on WWCU.

His sportscasting experience includes broadcasting Lady Catamount basket-ball, Catamount baseball, a season as the play-by-play announcer for the Thom-asville Hi-Toms and two seasons as a color analyst for the Charleston Swamp Foxes. He also spent one season on the sidelines during the Catamount Sports Network's coverage of Catamount football in 2001.

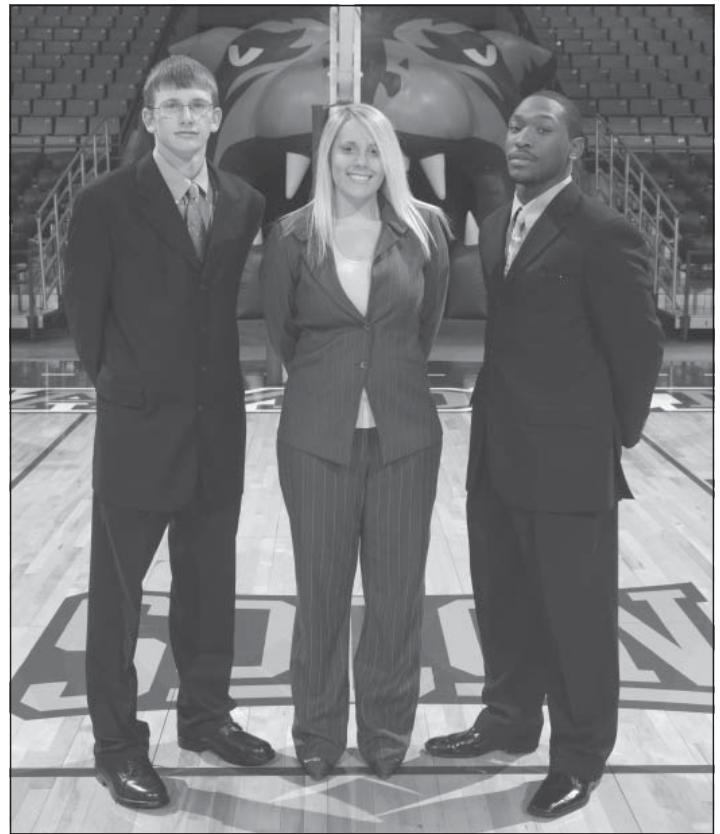
Hooker got his start in Sports Information in the mid-1990s by doing statistics for Eastern Randolph HS football and baseball, while also working as a sports stringer for his hometown newspaper, the *Liberty News*.

While a student at Western, Hooker served as the sports editor for the school newspaper, the *Western Carolinian*, for two years. He also served as a student assistant with the WCU Sports Information Office all four years.

Hooker is a 2001 cum laude graduate of Western Carolina University where he earned a BS in Communications, while pursuing a double-major in Sport Manage-ment with a concentration in Sports Information.



2008-09 WCU MBK STUDENT MANAGERS



Jennings Dess (left) – 1st season
Lindsay Sain (middle) – 1st season
Derek Butler – 3rd season





BRAD OHRT

HEAD STRENGTH & CONDITIONING COORDINATOR

2nd year at WCU – (Appalachian State, 1994)



Brad Ohrt was hired as the Head Strength and Conditioning Coordinator on March 25, 2007. Ohrt, who is returning to WCU for a second time, spent the past year as the assistant strength coach with the National Football League's Miami Dolphins.

Ohrt has a wealth of experience at the collegiate level, serving on strength and conditioning staffs at six different stops prior to making the jump to the NFL. He served as the Director of Strength and Conditioning from August of 2005 until February of 2007 at Western Kentucky, overseeing a full-time staff of three while working directly with the Hilltopper football program. Previously, Ohrt had held a similar position at the Univ. of Louisiana-Lafayette where he

was responsible for developing and implementing programs for Ragin' Cajun football, men's basketball and baseball, while also assisting with soccer, softball, volleyball and men's and women's track programs.

Ohrt returns to Cullowhee for a second time, spending one year on staff at Western Carolina from 2001-02. He worked directly with both the Catamount and Lady Catamount basketball teams, as well as with the Catamount football and baseball teams while also assisting with seven other programs.

Prior to his first stint at Western, Ohrt spent three years as the Assistant Strength and Conditioning coach at the University of Southern California where he worked primarily with the Trojan men's and women's basketball team. While in Los Angeles, he also assisted with the football program. He also spent the 1997-98 season as the head Strength and Conditioning Coach at Wingate in his first full-time role.

Ohrt is a 1994 graduate of Appalachian State, earning his degree in exercise science. While in Boone, he was a three-year letter-winner for the Mountaineer football team, garnering All-Southern Conference accolades as an offensive lineman in 1993 and '94. He also earned first-team All-America honors from The Sports Network and Don Hansen's Football Gazette, and was a third-team Associated Press All-American in his final season.

A native of New Ulm, Minnesota, he earned his Master of Education degree in sports administration from the University of Kansas in May of 1997, working as a graduate assistant with the Jayhawks' athletic programs. He is also a certified member of both the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) and the College Strength and Conditioning Coaches Association (CSCCA).

BRYAN TATUM

ASSISTANT STRENGTH & CONDITIONING COORDINATOR

1st year at WCU – (West Liberty State, 2005)



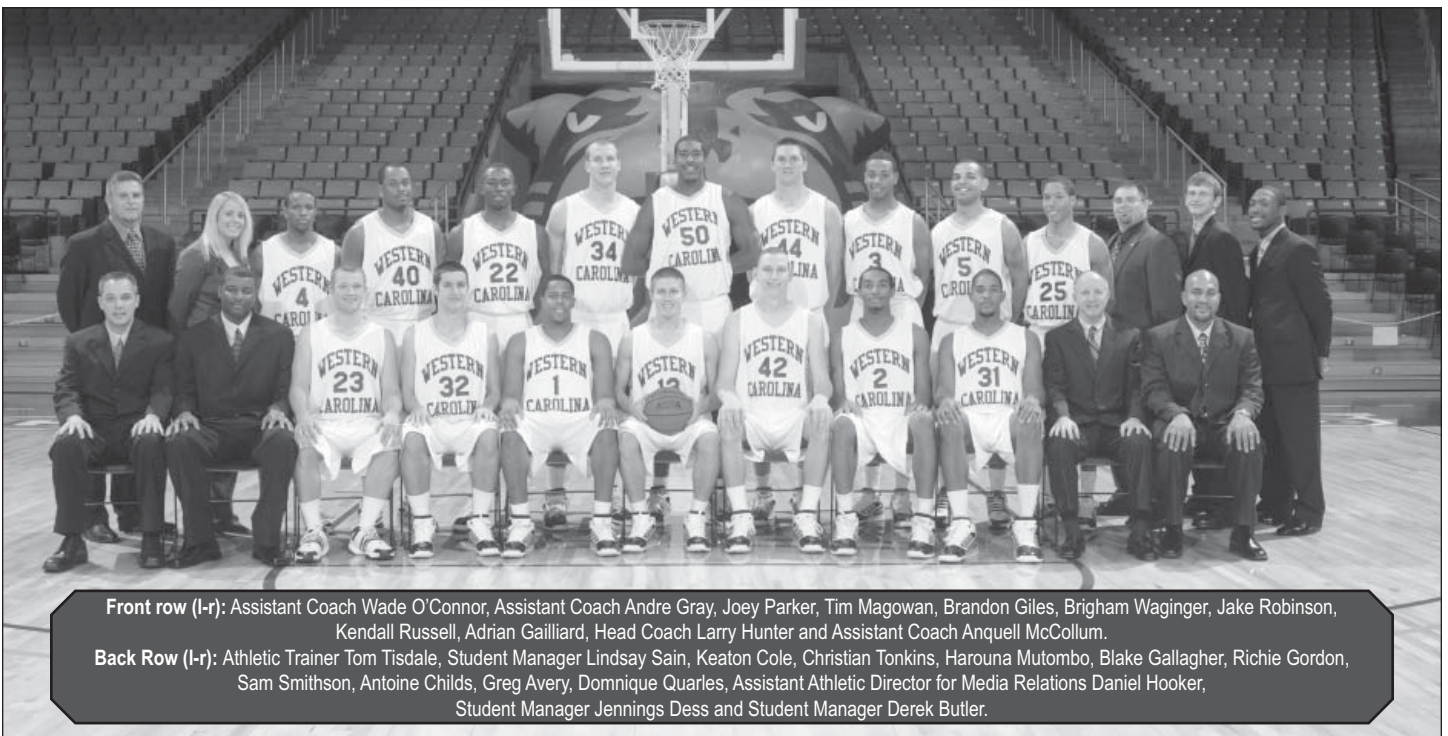
Bryan Tatum came to Western Carolina as the Assistant Strength and Conditioning Coordinator during the summer of 2008. He spent the last two years as the Assistant Strength & Conditioning Coordinator at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Ky.

Tatum played football at West Liberty State College in West Liberty, W.Va., earning his Bachelor's of Science degree in Exercise Physiology, with a minor in Physical Therapy, in 2005. He was a team captain his junior and senior seasons, and was also a part of the conference championship squad in 2000. In 2002, Tatum was an All-West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference selection at defensive back.

Following his graduation, Tatum stayed on staff at West Liberty, serving as the Strength & Conditioning Coach, while also working as an Assistant Football and co-Head Track & Field Coach for the Hilltoppers.

Tatum completed his Master's in Exercise Physiology in 2008 while working at Western Kentucky.

WESTERN CAROLINA CATAMOUNTS



Front row (l-r): Assistant Coach Wade O'Connor, Assistant Coach Andre Gray, Joey Parker, Tim Magowan, Brandon Giles, Brigham Wager, Jake Robinson, Kendall Russell, Adrian Gailliard, Head Coach Larry Hunter and Assistant Coach Anquell McCollum.

Back Row (l-r): Athletic Trainer Tom Tisdale, Student Manager Lindsay Sain, Keaton Cole, Christian Tonkins, Harouna Mutombo, Blake Gallagher, Richie Gordon, Sam Smithson, Antoine Childs, Greg Avery, Dominique Quarles, Assistant Athletic Director for Media Relations Daniel Hooker, Student Manager Jennings Dess and Student Manager Derek Butler.