

ANTICLEER
HOOPS PREVIEW
2002-03

JSU Gamecock Basketball 2002-03

Men's 2002-03 Roster

#	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown/Previous school
0	Emerson Brown	G	6-2	190	Jr.	Lithonia, Ga./Lithonia HS
1	Corneillus "Poonie" Richardson	PG	6-0	180	Sr.	Auburn/Lawson State CC
2	Anthony Wilson	G	6-3	190	Fr.	Tuscaloosa/St. Thomas More
4	James Denson	G	6-3	185	Jr.	Walnut Grove, Miss./E Central CC
10	Josh Burr	G	6-0	175	Fr.	Tyrone, Ga./Fayette County HS
11	Brad Peters	G	6-4	185	Fr.	Snellville, Ga./South Gwinnett HS
13	Jay Heard	G	6-3	210	Sr.	Oxford/Auburn
15	Carl Brown	F	6-8	240	Fr.	Birmingham/Jackson-Olin HS
21	Abdou Diame	F	6-9	235	Jr.	Redshirt Thies, Senegal/Auburn
22	Scott Watson	G	6-0	170	Jr.	Gilbert, Ariz./Gilbert HS
24	Trent Eager	G/F	6-6	185	Jr.	Monroeville/Gulf Coast CC
25	Josh Perry	F	6-4	215	Jr.	Orlando, Fla./Jones HS
30	Gerald Storey	F	6-4	185	Fr.	Huntsville/Bob Jones HS
32	Omar Barlett	F	6-8	235	Sr.	Miami, Fla./Jones CC

Head Coach: Michael LaPlante



Assistant Coach: Jeff Maher
Assistant Coach: Michael White
Assistant Coach: Don Moye



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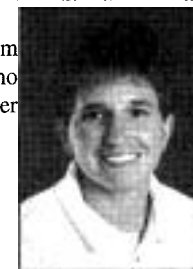
Men's team
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Women's team
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Women's 2002-03 Roster

#	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Cl.	Hometown/Previous school
00	Tiara Eady	C	6-0	Sr.	Roswell, Ga./Sequoya HS
	Brittany Becker	G	5-8	Fr.	Redshirt Chicago, Ill./Regina Dom.
3	Jessica Saxton	G	5-10	Fr.	Copemish, Mich./Benzie Central
5	Heathar Shepard	G	5-4	So.	Bloomfield, N.Y./Bloomfield Ctl.
10	Laniece Thomas	G	6-0	So.	Chicago, Ill./Maria HS
13	Cobie Carlisle	G	5-9	Fr.	Lima, Ohio/Lima HS
14	Ann-Marie Healy	C	6-3	So.	Killenaule, Ireland/Seoil Ruain
15	Katja Fuess	F	6-2	Fr.	Mission, B.C./Heritage Park Sec.
21	Shanika Freeman	F	6-1	So.	Chattanooga, Tenn./Chattanooga HS
22	NcKell Copeland	PG	5-6	Sr.	Marietta, Ga./Stone Mountain HS
23	Tashia Holston	G	5-8	Fr.	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla./Dillard HS
24	Freddricka Embry	G/F	6-0	So.	Lexington, Ky./Henry Clay HS
34	Kelly Nye	G	5-8	Jr.	Brentwood, Tenn./Brentwood HS
35	Amanda Tyus	G/F	5-9	Sr.	Pell City, Ala./Pell City HS
42	Shari Riley	F/C	6-0	So.	Detroit, Mich./M.L. King HS
44	Latasha Mathis	C	6-3	Sr.	Marietta, Ga./Chipola JC

Head Coach: Dana Austin



Assistant Coach: Tracy (Linton) Broom
Assistant Coach: Dave Dagostino
Assistant Coach: Kevin Browder

Date	Opponent/ Tournament	Location	Time
Nov. 14	vs West Georgia (Exhibition)	Pete Mathews Coliseum	W 81-68
Nov. 22	at Ball State / Top of the World	Fairbanks, Alaska	
Nov. 23	at TBA / Top of the World	Fairbanks, Alaska	
Nov. 24	at TBA Top of The World	Fairbanks, Alaska	
Nov. 30	vs Alcorn State	Pete Mathews Coliseum	
Dec. 7	vs *Stetson	Pete Mathews Coliseum	7 p.m.
Dec. 14	at Alcorn State	Lorman, Miss.	7 p.m.
Dec. 21	at TBA / Maine Invitational	Orono, Maine	
Dec. 22	at TBA / Maine Invitational	Orono, Maine	
Dec. 28	at Michigan State	Lansing, Michigan	6 p.m.
Dec. 30	at Oakland University	Rochester, Michigan	
Jan. 4	vs *Campbell	Pete Mathews Coliseum	7 p.m.
Jan. 6	vs *Gardner-Webb	Pete Mathews Coliseum	7 p.m.
Jan. 11	vs *Georgia State	Pete Mathews Coliseum	7 p.m.
Jan. 18	at *Belmont	Nashville, Tenn.	2 p.m.
Jan. 20	at *Samford	Birmingham, Ala.	7 p.m.
Jan. 23	vs *UCF	Pete Mathews Coliseum	7 p.m.
Jan. 25	vs *Florida Atlantic	Pete Mathews Coliseum	7 p.m.
Jan. 28	at Savannah State	Savannah, Ga.	6:30 p.m.
Jan. 30	at *Jacksonville University	Jacksonville, Fla.	6 p.m.
Feb. 3	vs Savannah State	Pete Mathews Coliseum	7 p.m.
Feb. 6	at *Mercer	Macon, Ga.	6 p.m.
Feb. 8	at *Troy State	Troy, Ala.	7 p.m.
Feb. 10	at Lipscomb University	Nashville, Tenn.	7 p.m.
Feb. 13	vs *Samford	Pete Mathews Coliseum	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 15	vs *Belmont	Pete Mathews Coliseum	7 p.m.
Feb. 19	vs Lipscomb University	Pete Mathews Coliseum	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 21	at *Georgia State	Atlanta, Ga.	6 p.m.
Feb. 27	at *Gardner-Webb	Boiling Springs, N.C.	7 p.m.
Mar. 1	at *Campbell	Buies Creek, N.C.	
Mar. 6-8	Atlantic Sun Championship Tourn.	Atlanta, Ga.	

* Denotes Atlantic Sun Conference game

Date	Opponent/ Tournament	Location	Time
Nov. 22	at South Alabama	Mobile, Ala.	7 p.m.
Nov. 26	at UAB	Birmingham, Ala.	7 p.m.
Nov. 29	vs Morris Brown / Jacksonville State Classic	Pete Mathews Coliseum	4:30 p.m.
Nov. 30	vs Alabama A&M / Jacksonville State Classic	Pete Mathews Coliseum	4:30 p.m.
Dec. 9	vs Hampton University	Pete Mathews Coliseum	7 p.m.
Dec. 17	vs Jackson State	Pete Mathews Coliseum	7 p.m.
Dec. 19	at Alabama A&M	Huntsville, Ala.	7 p.m.
Dec. 19	vs Morehead / Eastern Kentucky Classic	Richmond, Ky.	1 p.m.
Dec. 30	at Eastern Kentucky / Eastern Kentucky Classic	Richmond, Ky.	3 p.m.
Jan. 3	vs Savannah State	Pete Mathews Coliseum	7 p.m.
Jan. 9	at *Samford	Birmingham, Ala.	7 p.m.
Jan. 11	at *Belmont	Nashville, Tenn.	2 p.m.
Jan. 18	vs *Campbell	Pete Mathews Coliseum	2 p.m.
Jan. 20	vs *Gardner-Webb	Pete Mathews Coliseum	7 p.m.
Jan. 25	vs *Georgia State	Pete Mathews Coliseum	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 28	at Savannah State	Savannah, Ga.	5 p.m.
Jan. 30	at *Mercer	Macon, Ga.	6 p.m.
Feb. 1	vs *Troy State	Pete Mathews Coliseum	4:30 p.m.
Feb. 6	at *Florida Atlantic	Boca Raton, Fla.	6 p.m.
Feb. 8	at *Central Florida	Orlando, Fla.	2 p.m.
Feb. 13	vs *Jacksonville	Pete Mathews Coliseum	5:15 p.m.
Feb. 15	vs *Stetson	Pete Mathews Coliseum	2 p.m.
Feb. 22	at *Georgia State	Atlanta, Ga.	3 p.m.
Feb. 27	at *Gardner-Webb	Boiling Springs, N.C.	5 p.m.
Mar. 1	at *Campbell	Buies Creek, N.C.	11 a.m.
Mar. 6	vs *Belmont	Pete Mathews Coliseum	7 p.m.
Mar. 8	vs *Samford	Pete Mathews Coliseum	2 p.m.
Mar. 13-15	Atlantic Sun Championship Tourn.	TBA	

* Denotes Atlantic Sun Conference game

Men ready to jump into season Women looking for brighter future

By Anthony Hill
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

Basketball season is finally here. The Gamecocks are ready to hit the hardwood and showcase some serious skills this season.

"We're so ready to just get out there on the floor and play," said senior center Omar Barlett. "I feel like we're going to do what it takes to get to the big dance. We know that we have to win our conference to do that. So, that's really the teams' motivation right now."

Jax State has been picked to finish second in the North Division in the 2002 Atlantic Sun Men's Basketball preseason polls. Both the league's head coaches and the media favored the Gamecocks second, while Georgia State and Jacksonville University has been selected to win their respective six-team division.

"I don't put too much stock in preseason polls," said third year head coach Mike LaPlante. "Last year we were picked at the bottom, with FAU. FAU won the conference and we were very competitive."

The Gamecocks return five starters on a squad that advanced to the semi-finals of the A-Sun Conference Championships last season.

"Our seven key guys are back," said LaPlante. "Experience will be the biggest difference in the team compared to last year's team. We don't really have one or two players who score all of our points. We're pretty balanced. Poonie, Jay and Omar can get about fifteen points for us every night. And then we have Emerson and Josh Perry, who can get about ten points a game."

"Then, there's Carl Brown. He has been a pleasant surprise. He has been an example of the old



Courtesy JSU/Steve Latham
Senior guard Jay Heard will lead a Gamecock team that return all five members of its starting lineup from the 2001-02 season.

coaching line, the best thing about a freshman is they become sophomores. With him, he's made some great strides. He'll miss the first five games, but we really look forward to getting him back."

Road trips to Alaska, Michigan State, and the

University of Maine along with an expanded Atlantic Sun Conference schedule highlight the 2002-03 Jacksonville State basketball schedule released by the University today.

Jacksonville State travel
see Men, page 5

By Anthony Hill
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

Head women's basketball coach Dana Austin is ready to begin the new season. After a disappointing 2001-02 season, Austin and the Gamecocks prepared hard during the off season to bring the team back to the prominence of past years.

"That was very disappointing" Austin said. "That's something we've always done since I've been here. We've made the tournament every year except for two since I've been here. That was very disappointing, especially with the talent we have."

The team is tied at third in the preseason conference poll with Campbell in the North Division by the A-Sun basketball coaches. The Gamecocks were tabbed fourth in the media poll.

Austin seems very encouraged by the way the team has matured and came together during the off season. Not to mention, Shanika "Nip" Freeman getting the Atlantic Sun Freshman of the Year at the conclusion of last season.

"The word I keep using is "maturity," Austin said.



Courtesy JSU/Steve Latham
Senior point guard Nkell Copeland and the Gamecocks look to make big strides this season.

"Maturity - mentally and physically. Our freshmen class has matured since last year. I always felt that it's hard to come in as a freshman and compete night-in and night-out. It's hard to ask a freshmen group to win a championship for you."

A great deal of the players share the same sentiments as coach Austin. "Maturity is the biggest dif-

ference from last year," said sophomore point guard Heather Shepard.

"We had some good things happen last year," Austin said. "Shanika made the All-Freshmen team and Freshman-of-the-Year. That was huge for us. We also have a tremendous group of girls and talent on this team, who work extremely

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hard. This is probably the best group we've had in a long time."

The Gamecocks were loaded with talent last season, and look to be loaded again this year. But, Austin will tell you that the key factor is getting more wins. The Gamecocks didn't win as many games as they would've liked last season, but she said that it's only a matter of time before the team reaches its potential. She believes that patience is the key.

"We had nine new faces last year," Austin said. "There were times that we started four or five freshmen at one time. Some of the players were simply thrown into the line of fire. The experience they gained last year will be valuable now."

"The biggest thing I've learned from that was patience," Austin said. "That was one thing I learned from Mark Turgeon (former JSU men's b-ball coach). One year he had a big freshmen group come in and didn't finish will. He said that you'll win some games your first year, but things will get a lot a lot better your second. The players will know more about playing on the Division I level."

With all the talent that's returning this season, one can't help but believe that matters will be better now. The Gamecocks are returning eleven players from a year ago, including five players who started at some point last year. Austin believes that leadership will be the key to the teams' success.

"We're expecting big things from our leaders," Austin said. "We're expecting Tiara Eady and Heather Shepard to bring some leadership to the table. They both have some leadership abilities."

"Heather is our floor general. She's a lot like the quarterback on the team. I wish I would've played earlier, looking back now. Those are two players who are vocal. They also can back it up with excellent play."

Freddricka Embry and Freeman are also two players that Austin expects a lot from this season. She said those are two players she hopes will become go-to players for the team.

"We really didn't have that go-to person last season," said Austin. "I think that Fred or Shanika could be that player for us. I've been able to tell a differ-

ence between them as players and as people."

The women's basketball team has also added a few new faces to help the team rebound from last season. Cobie Carlisle, Katja Fuess and Tashia Holston are three freshmen the coaching brought in over the summer.

"We have another excellent signing class," Austin said. "Katja Fuess was All-Canada and she was also a Nike All-American. She probably moves better with the basketball than any freshman we've had in a long time. We also added Cobie Carlisle, who was

"We're expecting big things from our players"

-- Dana Austin
Women's head coach

an All-Ohio player. And, Tashia Holston was one of the best players in Florida last year. We feel really good about our signing class. I'll be really surprised if one of them doesn't get picked for the All-Freshman Team."

The Gamecocks will play more of an up-tempo style of offense this season. They will also be setting more traps on defense to increase the number of fast breaks. Austin said she wanted to play that way because of the team athleticism.

"Last year we spent a lot of time incorporating our system, which was a read system," Austin said. "This year we added a more up-tempo style of offense. You'll also see us setting more traps."

"We want to do more zones as

well. We're going to be faster and we'd like to score at about 80-points per game. We've got the athletes to do that."

The offensive strategy may not have been the only reason the Gamecocks didn't reach expectations at year ago. Over scheduling also played a major role. Jax State played the toughest schedule in over ten years, playing teams like South Alabama, Cal Poly, Northern Arizona and Birmingham Southern within the first two weeks of last season.

"I over scheduled last season," Austin said. "We played a tremendous schedule. I believe we should've play more games to give our team more confidence, especially with us being so young."

"Our first two games are very tough competition for us with South Alabama and UAB. But then we come home and play the most home games we've ever played. You need to build some confidence early. I think this will be a more productive season."

This season will definitely be one of production, both on and off the court. Austin and assistant coach Tracy Broom are expecting children during the lighter part of the season. Austin doesn't seem worried about the stress build up that occurs during the course of a season.

"I'm going to try not to get too upset this season," Austin said. "I've always done a good job with turning duties over to my assistants. I try to always sit down with them and ask them for their advice. I'll do a good job in delegating authority. I couldn't ask for a better staff to work with."

Austin and the Gamecocks enter this season very optimistic and confident the team will turn things around. She's encouraged by the teams' confidence. Austin also believes she has the most talented athletes in the conference. She's also encouraged by the teams' confidence.

"I was disappointed with the record last season," Austin said.

"But, I'm more confident this year because of the progress the team made since last year. They're very confident. Our expectations are always high. If we keep our focus as coaches and players on the job we've got to do then we can reach the expectations of this team."

"From top to bottom, I believe we do have the best talent in the conference. After a few games of playing together, I do think we'll have the best team in the conference."

The new season is set to start Nov. 22 when the Gamecocks travel to Mobile to play South Alabama.

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from **Men**, page 3

els to Alaska November 22-24 to open the season for the schools first-ever exemption tournament. Other participants include Nebraska, Ball State, UC-Santa Barbara, Weber State, Wisconsin-Green Bay, Centenary and Alaska Fairbanks.

The Gamecocks then open the home schedule on Nov. 30 vs 2002 NCAA tournament participant Alcorn State, before hitting the road for five straight games in December.

JSU will also travel to face Alcorn State on Dec. 14th, then travels to Orono, Maine, to play in the Maine Invitational Dec. 21-22. Following the Christmas holiday's, the Gamecocks travel to face Michigan State on Dec. 28 and at Oakland University on Dec. 30.

"Again, we have a very challenging schedule," said LaPlante. "This is the type of schedule the players wanted. Every game is going to be a challenge. Michigan State, who will be a pre-season Top 20 team, is one of the most dominant programs in the country over the last five years.

"Maine (LaPlante's alma mater) is another wonderful opportunity to allow our kids to

travel to a part of the country they normally wouldn't get to see," added LaPlante.

With the addition of Gardner-Webb to the A-Sun this season, the league will divide into a North and South division, with the Gamecocks playing in the North. JSU will play a home-and-home schedule against Campbell, Gardner-Webb, Georgia State, Belmont and Samford. The South division includes Troy State, Mercer, Florida Atlantic, UCF, Stetson and Jacksonville University and will play the Gamecocks just once.

Jacksonville State also plays non-conference games against Savannah State and Lipscomb University in January and February.

The teams' health will also play a major factor in the Atlantic Sun for the Gamecocks.

"If we can stay healthy and effectively incorporate our new players into our playing rotation, we should be right in the thick of things," LaPlante said. "The championship is going to have to go through Atlanta. Georgia State has proven over the last three regular seasons to be a championship caliber team. Whoever else wins, will have to un-seat Georgia State.

"It is going to be an interesting battle to see who emerges from the remaining five teams to challenge for the top spot in the North," added LaPlante.

With the addition of Gardner-Webb, the A-Sun has moved to divisional play in men's basket-

ball. The top two teams from each division, along with four wild cards (four best records, regardless of division) will advance to the championship and compete for the A-Sun's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. Under NCAA rules for new Division I members, Gardner-Webb is ineligible for an automatic bid for two years and is not eligible to compete in

the men's basketball tournament, which will be hosted by Georgia State, on Mar. 6-8 in Atlanta, Ga.

"I always said that the conference championship goes through Georgia State -- both literally and figuratively speaking," LaPlante said. "We want to be about it and not talk about it. We just want to stay confident and take things day-by-day."

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