

2005-06



# Men's **Basketball**

## The Staff



# 2005-06 American Basketball

## JEFF JONES HEAD COACH

In five seasons as head coach of the American University men's basketball team, Jeff Jones has brought a winning tradition to the Eagles. Now, in his sixth season, Jones is committed to bring the Eagles to the next level - a Patriot League Championship and a trip to the NCAA Tournament.



Three words have been associated with Jones since his days as a top-level student-athlete -- Leader, Teacher, and Winner -- and those could not be more true today.

Jones led the Eagles to another winning season in 2004-05, as American finished with a 16-12 record and an 8-6 mark in the Patriot League, good for third place. With the winning record, Jones has led AU to above-.500 records in four straight seasons - the first time since the 1974-75 season that the Eagles have had such a streak. Furthermore, the Eagles defeated three NCAA Tournament teams - Bucknell, Ohio and Vermont - over the course of the season.

In 2003-04 Jones led AU to the Patriot League Championship game for the third straight year and helped the Eagles to their second Patriot League regular season title in three years. AU finished with its third consecutive winning season, something that had not been accomplished in 13 years and a six-game winning streak, something that had not been done in 14 years.

Jones joined the exclusive 200-win club in 2003-04 and the Eagles earned an invitation to the Rainbow Classic, where they went 2-1, including a win over NCAA Tournament team East Tennessee State.

During the 2002-03 Jones led the Eagles to a victory over crosstown rival George Washington. The Eagles finished second in the regular season and reached the Patriot League championship game for a second time.

In just his second season at AU Jones mentored the Eagles to the second largest turnaround in the NCAA Division I, finishing with an 18-12 overall record. The 11-game improvement from 2000-01 was second only to Bob Knight's Texas Tech squad that featured a 14-game turnaround. The 18 victories were the highest win total for the program since 1989-90 (which they would repeat in 2003-04), and its first winning campaign since 1990-91. The Eagles went on to capture the Patriot League regular-season title, fashioning a 10-4 record in the process. The top seed in the league tournament, the Eagles advanced to the championship game, where they fell to Holy Cross, 55-52, before the largest championship crowd in league history and just the second sellout in the history of AU's Bender Arena. The game was played in front of a national audience on ESPN.

The accomplishments did not begin and end within the confines of the Patriot League by any stretch of the imagination in 2002-03. AU gained national recognition with a 77-72 win at Florida State on Dec. 22, becoming the first Patriot League school to ever defeat a member of the renowned Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC).

One of the most respected teachers in the collegiate ranks, Jones took the helm of American basketball on April 17, 2000, becoming the 17th coach in the school's history.

Jones has made his mark on the national college basketball scene as both a student-athlete and as a head coach. Following a storied high school career, he went on to star at point guard for the University of Virginia from 1978-82. After graduation he served eight seasons as an assistant coach at his alma mater before being tabbed the Cavaliers' head coach prior to the 1990-91 campaign. He would go on to lead that program for eight seasons.

Just prior to coming to American, Jones served as an assistant on Jerry DeGregorio's staff at the University of Rhode Island during the 1999-2000 season.

Named the eighth coach in Virginia men's basketball history at the age of 29, Jones became the



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youngest coach in the history of the Atlantic Coast Conference. In eight years at the helm, he compiled a record of 146-104 for a .584 winning percentage. He led Virginia to six postseason appearances (five NCAA, one NIT), one regular-season ACC Championship and four 20-win campaigns. Virginia's win over Virginia Tech during the 1994-95 regular season gave Jones his 100th career victory, making him the second-fastest in school history and fifth-fastest in ACC history to accomplish the feat.

A coach with a distinct style, the cornerstone of Jones' teams has been their defensive prowess. During his tenure at Virginia, he led the Cavaliers to five of the top six seasons for field goal percentage defense.

Virginia made its fifth NCAA Tournament appearance in seven seasons under Jones in 1996-97. Finishing that season with an overall mark of 18-13, the Cavaliers fell to Iowa in a West Region first-round game.

Jones enjoyed one of the finest seasons of his coaching career in 1994-95, leading Virginia to a final mark of 25-9. The program advanced to the NCAA Tournament's Elite Eight and earned a share of its first ACC regular-season crown since 1983. Virginia finished that season ranked eighth in the final CNN/USA *Today* poll, and 13th in the final *Associated Press* media poll. Those were the highest final national rankings by a Virginia team since 1983.

In 1992-93 Jones became the only coach in conference history to win at least 20 games in each of his first three seasons. He led Virginia to a 21-10 record (9-7 ACC) and a trip to the 1993 East Region semifinals in the NCAA Tournament.

In 1991-92, Jones' Cavaliers posted a 20-13 record and went on to win the National Invitation Tournament (NIT) championship. As a result, Jones became the first individual to win an NIT title as both a player and a coach; he is still the only person to accomplish the feat. In his first season as the head coach at Virginia, Jones led the 1990-91 squad to a 21-12 overall record. He was the only rookie coach in the nation that year to have

## Did You Know?

- Jeff Jones led the Eagles to the second biggest turnaround in the NCAA's in 2001-02. The 11-game improvement was second only to the 14-game turnaround Bobby Knight and Texas Tech enjoyed.
- AU enjoyed its fourth straight winning season in 2004-05. The last time the Eagles enjoyed three consecutive winning seasons was between 1971-75.
- Entering the 2005-06 season, Jeff Jones is the only individual to win an NIT championship as both a player (1980) and a coach (1992).
- Jones led his 1990-91 Virginia squad to a 21-12 record, becoming the winningest first-year coach in ACC history. He was the only rookie coach in the nation that year to have his team in the NCAAs.

his team in the NCAA Tournament.

Prior to his eight-year run as head coach, Jones was a full-time assistant on Terry Holland's staff at UVa. from 1986 to 1990, a part-time assistant for three seasons and a graduate assistant for one. The Cavaliers compiled an incredible overall record of 162-95 (.630) during those eight seasons as an assistant, participating in six NCAA Tournaments, while advancing to the Final Four in 1984 and the Final Eight in 1989. Virginia also competed in one NIT during his tenure.

As a four-year starter (1979-82) at Virginia, Jones was known as a leader and prolific pass-



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er. With Jones at the controls of a potent offense, UVa. compiled an overall record of 102-28 (.785), while he led the Cavaliers to two NCAA Tournaments and two NITs during his career. Virginia captured the 1980 NIT title, and advanced to the NCAA Final Four in 1981. Jones graduated from Virginia in 1982 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology.

Jones finished his career as Virginia's all-time assists leader (598), and his 200 assists during the 1979-80 season was UVa's single-season record until both marks were later broken by John Crotty. Jones served as the team captain as a senior during the 1981-82 season and played in 129 games during his career. For his career, he averaged 6.6 points and 4.6 assists per game, while shooting 52.2 percent from the field and 74.3 percent from the free-throw line.

A native of Owensboro, Ky., Jones is a member of the Apollo High School Hall of Fame. His father, Bob, is a former coach of Kentucky Wesleyan University, which he led to the 1973 NCAA Division II title.

Jones and his wife, Danielle, reside in Arlington, Va. He is the father of three children - Meghann, Madison Perry and Jeffrey Robert.



### WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT JEFF JONES

#### **Terry Holland**

*Former Head Coach and Director of Athletics, University of Virginia. Now Director of Athletics at East Carolina University.*

*Holland coached Jones at UVa., hired him as an assistant there, then oversaw him as the Director of Athletics while Jones was head coach.*

"Jeff Jones is the son of a coach, was a coach on the floor as a player and is a proven college head coach. So it is no surprise that he has led American University to great success in the Patriot League. And it will be no surprise when he leads the Eagles to NCAA Tournament wins."

#### **Dave Odom**

*Head Coach, University of South Carolina  
Former Head Coach, Wake Forest University*

"In a very short time, Jeff has stabilized the American University basketball program and has it contending for the championship in the Patriot League. I'm not surprised! Jeff is one of the best coaches in college basketball."

#### **Rick Carlisle**

*Head coach of the Indiana Pacers*

"I first got to know Jeff Jones when he was a rising senior at the University of Virginia in the summer of 1981. He was the most knowledgeable player I had ever met and demonstrated great leadership skills. Even at that time, it was obvious Jeff

would become a top coach in our game and his track record has certainly proven that. But the success Jeff continues to enjoy at AU requires more than just knowledge and leadership. It takes tireless energy and the ability to work well with people. For my money, Jeff Jones is one of the best kept secrets at any level of basketball."

#### **Ed Tapscott**

*Former AU head basketball coach  
Currently Chief Operating Officer/Executive Vice President of the Charlotte Bobcats/Sting*

"The American University Eagles, under the leadership of Coach Jones, have created a terrific success story in a very short period of time. This is great for students, faculty, the administration and alumni. We all share proudly in a program that achieves winning and academic excellence!"

#### **Cory Alexander**

*Former Member of the Orlando Magic*

"Coach Jones showed me how to play basketball the right way. God gave me the physical tools to play, but it was Coach Jones who helped me to combine my mind and heart along with my talent to make me a complete basketball player. That is the benefit of playing for a good coach. There are a lot of very talented basketball players but not a lot get the coaching that I did. That's where Coach Jones was beneficial in my career."



## JEFF JONES HEAD COACH

### The Jones File

#### Personal Information

Full Name . . . . . Jeffrey Allen Jones  
 Hometown . . . . . Owensboro, Ky.  
 High School . . . . . Apollo High — Owensboro, Ky.  
 Birthdate . . . . . June 29, 1960  
 College . . . . . University of Virginia  
 Year Graduated . . . . . 1982  
 Sport Played . . . . . Basketball (598 career assists)  
 Wife . . . . . Danielle  
 Children . . . . . Meghann (17), Madison (15), Jeff (12)

#### Coaching Experience

Head Coach, American . . . . . 2000-present  
 Assoc. Head Coach, Rhode Island . . . . . 1999-2000  
 Head Coach, Virginia . . . . . 1990-98  
 Assistant Coach, Virginia . . . . . 1986-90  
 Part-time Asst. Coach, Virginia . . . . . 1982-86

#### Year-by-Year Coaching Record

Year	School	Record	Postseason
1990-01	Virginia	21-12	NCAA First Round
1991-92	Virginia	20-13	NIT Champions
1992-93	Virginia	21-10	NCAA Sweet 16
1993-94	Virginia	18-13	NCAA Second Round
1994-95	Virginia	25-9	NCAA Elite 8
1995-96	Virginia	12-15	—
1996-97	Virginia	18-13	NCAA First Round
1997-98	Virginia	11-19	—
2000-01	American	7-20	—
2001-02	American	18-12	—
2002-03	American	16-14	—
2003-04	American	18-13	—
2004-05	American	16-12	—
Overall Record		221-175	Six postseason apps.

### Jeff Jones AU Highlights

- Earned his 200th coaching victory in 2003-04
- 2002 & 2004 Patriot League regular season champions
- Three straight trips to PL championship game (2002, 2003, 2004)
- 10 former AU players have gone on to play professionally
- 2002 Basketball America Patriot League Coach of the Year
- Led Eagles to second-best turnaround in NCAA Division I in just second year at AU
- Developed one PL Player of the Year, one PL Rookie of the Year and five PL All-League picks
- AU's Bender Arena drew 4,521 for the 2001-02 Patriot League Championship Game, the highest attendance ever at a league game
- Win at Florida State (77-72) is first ever Patriot League school to beat a member of the ACC
- Led AU to win over George Washington in 2003, American's first win over GW since the 1989-90 season
- Led AU to fourth straight winning season, the first time since 1971-75 seasons AU has managed to enjoy four such seasons
- AU was invited for the first time to the 2003-04 Rainbow Classic and the 2004-05 Preseason NIT



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## KIERAN DONOHUE ASSISTANT COACH

### The Donohue File

**Full Name**

Kieran Patrick Donohue

**Hometown**

Bronxville, N.Y.

**College**

University of Virginia

**Year Graduated**

1997

**Coaching Career**

1997-98	Admin. Assistant University of Virginia
1998-00	Admin. Assistant Boston University
2000-present	Asst. Coach American University



**K**ieran Donohue is in his sixth season with the Eagles as assistant coach. Donohue is involved in all aspects of the AU program, including but not limited to on-court coaching, game and practice planning and recruiting.

Prior to his appointment at AU, Donohue spent two seasons as an Administrative Assistant for the men's basketball program at Boston University. His duties with the Terriers included travel and transportation organization, film exchange policy and personnel management. He also helped direct the BU summer basketball camps.

Donohue is no stranger to head coach Jeff Jones' successful system after serving on his staff at the University of Virginia. During Jones' tenure at Virginia, Donohue served the program in several different capacities, beginning as a student manager in 1993 and continuing through 1998. He served as the graduate administrative assistant for the 1997-98 season.

Other duties during that span included a role as an assistant academic advisor. He also assisted in the program's video exchange coordination and was the Cavs' manager during his four-year tenure as a student from 1993-97.

Donohue earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in History from Virginia in 1997. He attended Regis High School in New York City, where he played point guard on the 1993 championship team and 1992 runners-up for the New York State Class C title.

Donohue, 30, resides in the Georgetown area of Washington, D.C., with his wife, Erika, whom he married this past summer.





## GREG LYONS ASSISTANT COACH

**G**reg Lyons begins his third season as a member of Head Coach Jeff Jones' staff. Lyons is involved in all aspects of the AU program, including but not limited to on-court coaching, game and practice planning, recruiting and opponent scouting.

Lyons arrives after serving as a member of Dave Odom's staff at the University of South Carolina. While at South Carolina, Lyons served as the administrative assistant and was involved in numerous activities including academic support, film coordination and daily operations of the program. The team made it to the finals of the NIT in the 2002-03 season.

Lyons has served as both a coach and counselor at a number of basketball camps over the last 10 years. In 2003, he served as the Co-Camp Director of South Carolina's Women's Basketball Camp.

Lyons graduated from Virginia in 2001 with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. He received the University's prestigious "7 Society" award for dedication and service to the University. Lyons earned three letters while at UVa. and the team was ranked in the top-25 and made an NCAA appearance during his senior year.

Lyons attended Holy Cross High School in Queens, N.Y., where he was a member of the basketball team. He was named to the New York Post All-City Honorable Mention team, as well as to The Tablet's Second Team for Queens and Brooklyn.

Lyons and his wife Lisa reside in Bethesda, Md. Lisa is an assistant basketball coach with the American University women's basketball team.



### The Lyons File

**Full Name**

Gregory Richard Lyons

**Hometown**

Mineola, N.Y.

**College**

University of Virginia

**Year Graduated**

2001

**Coaching Career**

2001-2003	Administrative Assistant University of South Carolina
2003-04	Graduate Manager American University
2004-present	Assistant Coach American University



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## JASON WILLIFORD ASSISTANT COACH

### The Williford File

**Full Name**

Jason David Williford

**Hometown**

Richmond, Va.

**College**

University of Virginia

**Year Graduated**

1995

**Coaching Career**

2000-05	Assistant Coach Boston University
2005-Present	Assistant Coach American University



Haukar Club Team. From 1996-99, Williford played in the KBL for Naray Telecom and Kia Motors, earning All-Star honors.

Williford returned to the United States in 1999, serving as a volunteer assistant with Virginia Union University. For the 1999-00 season, he took a position as an assistant coach with the boys varsity team at John Marshall High School, his alma mater. While playing for JMHS, Williford earned First Team All-State honors and was named the Richmond Times-Dispatch Player of the Year in 1991.

Williford and his wife, Kwamina, live in Washington, D.C.

**J**ason Williford begins his first season as an assistant coach with the American University men's basketball team. Williford is involved in all aspects of the AU program, including but not limited to on-court coaching, game and practice planning and recruiting.

Williford comes to AU after spending five seasons as an assistant coach at Boston University. At BU, he was involved in all aspects of basketball operations. In each of Williford's final four seasons, the Terriers finished with at least 20 wins. During that time, BU earned a berth in the NCAA Tournament in 2002 and made three consecutive trips to the NIT Tournament.

A native of Richmond, Va., Williford is no stranger to Jones. Williford played four years (1991-95) under Jones at the University of Virginia, helping the Cavaliers to four straight postseason berths, including a trip to the Elite Eight in 1994-95. He averaged 6.6 points and 5.3 rebounds for his career.

Upon graduation from UVa., Williford launched a successful four year professional career in the Icelandic Professional League and the Korean Basketball League. In 1995-96, he was named Foreign MVP for the Haukar Club Team in the IPL. In addition, in 1995-96 Williford began his coaching career by heading up the Under-20





## BRIAN CURTIN DIRECTOR OF BASKETBALL OPERATIONS

**B**rian Curtin begins his second season as the director of basketball operations with the American University men's basketball program.

Curtin's primary responsibilities at American center on administration. He will be responsible for film activities, practice scheduling, team travel, alumni and non-recruiting mailings, video equipment and the summer camp.

Curtin joined the Eagles after spending the 2003-04 campaign as an assistant coach at Dartmouth College. At Dartmouth he assisted in scouting, recruiting practice and game preparation as well as videotape editing. The Big Green ranked in the top-25 nationally in defensive field goal percentage as well as second in the Ivies.

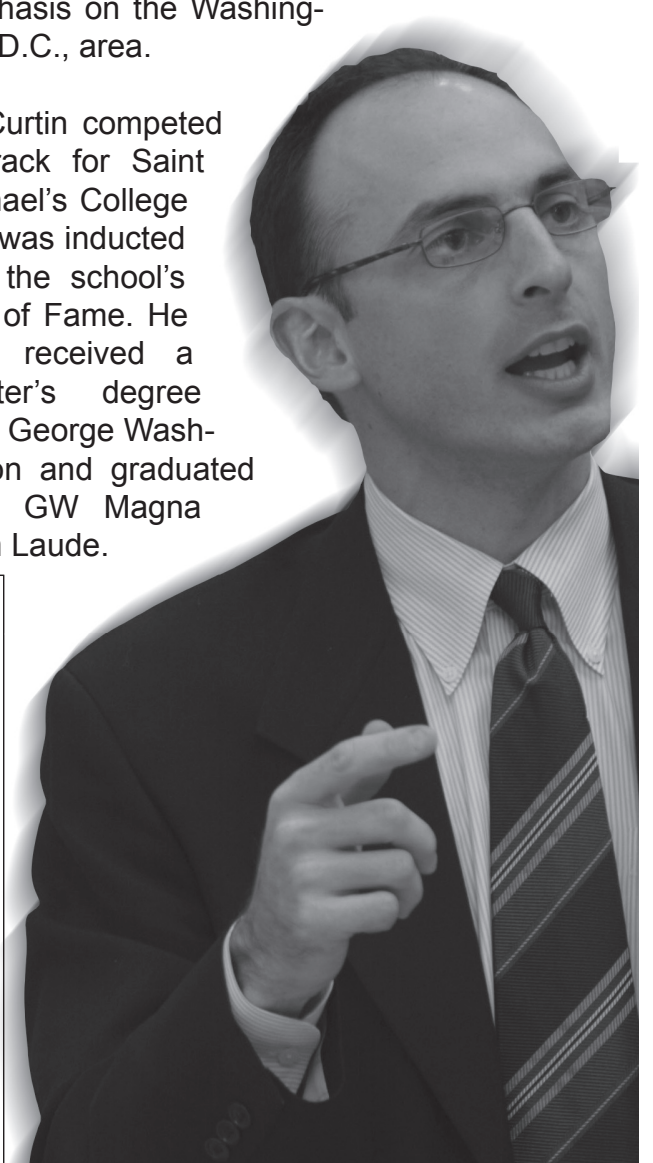
Prior to Dartmouth, Curtin spent nine years as the head coach at Manhattanville College. From 1998-2002 he led Manhattanville to a 66-43 record (.605 winning percentage) and to five straight ECAC Tournament bids. His teams set numerous defensive records during his tenure and he led

Manhattanville to its first 20-win campaign in history during the 2001-02 season.

While the head coach at Manhattanville, Curtin also served as an Assistant Athletic Director. His primary focus was on budgeting, recruiting and summer camp facility usage.

Before Manhattanville, Curtin was an assistant coach at Marymount University for four years. He was involved in all aspects of scouting, player development and recruiting, with particular emphasis on the Washington, D.C., area.

Curtin competed in track for Saint Michael's College and was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame. He also received a Master's degree from George Washington and graduated from GW Magna Cum Laude.



### The Curtin File



**Full Name**

Brian Thomas Curtin

**Hometown**

Clifton Park, N.Y.

**College**

St. Michael's College

**Year Graduated**

1987

**Coaching Career**

1990-94 Asst. Coach -  
Marymount University

1994-2003 Head Coach -  
Manhattanville

2003-04 Asst. Coach - Dartmouth

2004-present Dir. of Basketball  
Operations, American University



# 2005-06 American Basketball

## MEN'S BASKETBALL SUPPORT STAFF



**Meredith Basil**  
Academic Support



**Dr. Donald Brenner**  
Faculty Advisor



**Sean Dash**  
Head Athletic Trainer



**Dr. David Higgins**  
Team Physician

## Basketball Managers



**Ryan Sherwin**



**Matt Kirby**



**Devin O'Neil**