Jeff Burkhamer entered his fifth season as head men’s basketball coach at Armstrong Atlantic State University, leading the Pirates back to the NCAA Championships in 2005-06 with a 23-8 overall record and a No. 20 NABC/Division II national ranking. For his efforts, Burkhamer was named the “Whack Hyder” Georgia Collegiate Coach of the Year by the Atlanta TipOff Club, just the second coach in AASU history to earn that honor.

In his four years at AASU, the Pirates have compiled a 73-46 overall record, a .613 winning percentage that ranks as the best in Pirate men’s basketball history, and advanced to the NCAA Tournament twice in the last three seasons. In Burkhamer’s ten seasons as a collegiate head coach, he has compiled a 228-87 overall record (.723) and has earned Coach of the Year honors in six of those 10 seasons.

Last year, the Pirates were the highest-ranked four-year school in the state of Georgia at the end of the season, and AASU entered the NCAA South Atlantic Regional as the No. 2 seed, the highest postseason seeding ever for the Pirates. AASU also advanced to the Peach Belt Conference title game for the fourth time in school history and the Pirates set single-season school records for three-point baskets made (229) and attempted (588).

Burkhamer joined AASU as its ninth head men’s basketball coach on June 10, 2002 after a four-year stint at Marshall University under head coach Greg White, first as an assistant coach and then, in 2001-2002, as associate head coach. While at Marshall, Burkhamer helped the Thundering Herd to a 70-44 record in four seasons in Mid-American Conference play.

Prior to joining Marshall, Burkhamer served as the head coach at Santa Fe Community College in Gainesville, Fla., leading the Saints to two Mid-Florida Conference titles. He earned National Junior College Coach of the Year honors by College Sport Magazine in 1995-96 as the Saints set a school record with 28 wins and also won 21 straight games to begin the season, gaining a No. 5 NJCAA national ranking and finishing the year with a 28-4 record. In four seasons, the Saints went 97-31 under Coach Burkhamer.

Burkhamer also served as an assistant coach for three seasons in the Continental Basketball Association (CBA), the developmental league of the NBA, with the Grand Rapids Hoops before leading the Santa Fe program and previously served as a head coach at North Greenville College in Tigerville, S.C., where he went 58-10 in two seasons and earned NJCAA Region 10 Coach of the Year honors twice from 1989-1991. He started his coaching career as an assistant coach at Winthrop University in 1984-85, then moved to Charleston Southern (1985-87) and Morehead State (1987-89).

A graduate of Alderson-Broaddus College in Philippi, West Virginia, Burkhamer was a four-year lettermen for the Battlers in basketball and baseball and holds the school’s all-time assist mark with 646. Burkhamer was inducted into the Battler Hall of Fame in 2001 and was honored by the Parkersburg News and Sentinel in 2004 as a member of their silver anniversary team, spotlighting the top high school players from the Parkersburg area over the last 25 years. He graduated from Alderson-Broaddus with a bachelor’s degree in secondary education in 1984 and earned his master’s degree in health and physical education from Morehead State in 1989.

Burkhamer and his wife, Diane, have two children - Melissa (15) and Lindsey (10) - and the family lives in Savannah.
Pirates Active In The Coastal Empire Area

- The “Shoot For The Stars” Summer Basketball Camp
- “Meet The Pirates” Scrimmage
- Speaking Engagements to more than 3,500 kids
- Civic Club Speaking Engagements
- Mini-Clinics at Local Schools
- Ballhandling Team
- Shooters Club
- Media Day Luncheon
- 3-Pt. Play for the United Way
- Pirates Autograph Sessions
- Game Promotions - Group Nights, Special Contests, Etc.

What They're Saying About AASU Head Coach Jeff Burkhamer . . .

“I have known Jeff Burkhamer for a long time. He gets the very best out of his players. He has an outstanding work ethic, is a great communicator and is a terrific teacher of the game. Jeff Burkhamer will have Armstrong Atlantic State competing for Peach Belt Conference titles.”

- Tubby Smith, Univ. of Kentucky Head Basketball Coach

“Coach Burkhamer was instrumental in my development as a player. His attention to detail in my individual workouts helped raise my skill level to new heights each year. Coach B. pushed me every day to become a better player, a better student and a better person. He helped prepare me for life in the NBA.”

- Tamar Slay, Former Player

“I see the basketball program becoming a dominant power in the Peach Belt Conference and in the region under the leadership of Coach Burkhamer. Everything that is needed to become a powerhouse is in place - a solid coaching staff, quality academics, great facilities, brand new housing/apartments and a beautiful campus and city.”

- Scott Mattingly, Former Pirate Player for Coach B

“Coach Burkhamer is an excellent communicator and basketball strategist. He coached me during the most productive phase of my career. He has been very supportive of me personally through all my highs and lows. Coach Burkhamer is not only a former coach but someone that I'm proud to call a FRIEND.”

- Gerald Madkins, Current NY Knicks scout, former CBA Rookie of the Year/Player for the Grand Rapids Hoops

Questions and Answers with AASU Head Coach Jeff Burkhamer

• What were the most important factors in your decision to become the head basketball coach at Armstrong Atlantic?

There were a number of factors that went into my decision. First of all, I wanted to be a head coach again and run my own program. I truly enjoy making the tough decisions and love running practices and coaching in games. Second, I wanted to live in the South and in a city where my family would enjoy living. The beautiful city of Savannah, the beach and the weather fulfilled that wish. Third, I wanted to coach at a school where I thought we could be successful and have a first-class basketball program. Our facilities are outstanding, we have scholarship money available and we have beautiful on-campus apartments.

• What do you feel makes AASU an attractive place to play college basketball and pursue an education?

Armstrong Atlantic provides the best of both worlds. A college diploma from AASU is a valuable tool. You will be very prepared in your field of study and will be marketable in the work world upon completion of your degree. We have state of the art classroom buildings, outstanding professors instructing in the classroom and, equally important, we have professors that care about the students and are willing to work with them to ensure academic success. AASU is a terrific place to play because of the philosophy of our basketball program. We want good people, individuals that will work to get their degree, and players that will compete on the basketball court. We have all the things a student-athlete needs to be successful at AASU.

• Explain your offensive and defensive philosophy for Armstrong Atlantic basketball.

Flexible would be the best way to describe our offensive and defensive philosophy. Offensively, we will change to take advantage of our most skilled players. We want to run in transition to put pressure on our opponent. If transition is not available, we want to be efficient with our offense and with our set plays. Defensively, we are a little more consistent. We want to play solid man-to-man defense in the half court and full court. We want to contain - contest - and close out possessions. We will trap some and play some zone. We will also adjust to certain situations depending on our opponent.

• What do you feel is the most important ingredient in building and maintaining a successful basketball program?

Players! You have to have good players. Recruiting is the lifeline of our program. To be great, we must be able to recruit against people in our league. Recruiting is always a tremendous challenge. We look for three things: First, we want a good person. This person should have some direction and goals for themselves as a student and as a player, along with a tremendous desire to succeed. Trust is also very important. Second, we want a person that can succeed and excel academically. Getting their degree and graduating must be important. And third, the person must be an outstanding player. They must possess basketball skills and have a love and passion for competition.

The Burkhamer Family

Jeff, Diane, Melissa and Lindsey

Burkhamer was the Georgia Collegiate Coach of the Year in 2006-07