



Byron Thorne

Title: Assistant Men's Basketball Coach

College: PSU-Behrend, 1994

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PENGUINS

Assistant Coach Byron Thorne is in his sixth season with the YSU program. A veteran of the collegiate ranks, he is entering his 15th year as a collegiate assistant coach.

For the Guins, he handles scheduling, assists in scouting and recruiting, while working with the perimeter players.

Last season, DeAndre Mays also became the first player since Ryan Patton to record back-to-back 100-assist seasons. Mays posted 207 assists in two years. Patton accomplished the feat in 2000-01 and 2001-02.

In 2008-09, Vytas Sulskis led the team with 39 3-pointers while Tom Parks ranked seventh in the Horizon League with a .403 3-point percentage.

During the 2007-08 season, Sulskis set a YSU freshman record with 46 3-pointers and was named to the CollegeInsider.com Freshman Mid-Major All-America Team.

In 2006-07, the Penguins won 14 games, their most in six years, while finishing in a fourth-place tie in the Horizon League. Guard Quin Humphrey became the first player in school history to earn first-team all-conference honors in consecutive years.

Thorne joined Coach Jerry Slocum's staff after serving as the head coach of the Maryland Elite AAU 17-and-under team.

Thorne was an assistant coach at Loyola (Md.) from 2000-01 through 2003-04. For the Greyhounds, he handled recruiting, scouting, on-floor coaching and worked with the guards.

He was an assistant coach at the University of Albany for three seasons (1997-2000), also for Hicks, before moving on to Loyola. He had similar duties on the Great Danes' staff working on recruiting, scouting and on-floor efforts. In his initial year in 1997-98, Albany finished the season with a 19-8 mark. The school was in the NCAA Division I transitional phase in 1999-2000, his final year.

His first assistant coaching position was with Division III Elmira College from 1995 through 1997. For two campaigns he was a member of Coach Terry Zeh's staff. In 1997, Elmira reached the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Division III Upstate New York Championship Game and the ECAC quarterfinals in 1996.

A native of Pittsburgh, Pa., he graduated from Vincentian High School where he was voted to the city's Fabulous Five All-Star team as a senior.

He went on to have a highly-successful playing career at Penn State-Behrend from 1990-94. He finished his career ranked first in steals (171), second in scoring (1,386), third in assists (321), fourth in field-goals made (543) and fifth in free-throws made (259) while playing in 102 contests. As a senior, he was named the school's Male Athlete of the Year scoring 568 points. He was named to the Division III All-America team by the Basketball News becoming the first player in school history to earn all-America accolades.

In 2004, he was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame.

He earned his bachelor's degree in management information systems from PSU-Behrend in 1994 while he received his master's in Education from Elmira in 1997.

Byron and his wife, Lisa, have a son, Brayden. Lisa played basketball at Pittsburgh from 1989-93.