

COACHES

Head Coach Debbie Taylor





DEBBIE Taylor

Head Coach

Having guided the William and Mary women's basketball team to the nation's second-best turnaround a season ago, Head Coach Debbie Taylor, the 2005-06 Colonial Athletic Association Coach of the Year, returns for her eighth year at the helm of the Tribe program.

Under her direction, W&M has produced outstanding scholar-athletes both on the court and in the classroom. Last season was illustrative of this, as three members of the Tribe were recognized with all-conference honors. Highlighting the group was Kyra Kaylor, who was selected as the CAA Player of the Year, becoming the College's first recipient of the award and just the sixth sophomore in league history to be tabbed with the honor. One of the top players in the nation, Kaylor was also selected as the VaSID Player of the Year, as she was the nation's fourth-best rebounder (11.9 rpg) and ranked 24th in the country in scoring (18.6 ppg). The Pittsburgh, Pa., native poured in a single-season school-record 522 points,



shattering the previous mark of 484 set by Lynn Norenberg in 1978-79, and set a new single-season rebound standard with 334 boards. Her 21 double-doubles ranked her second nationally.

Under Taylor's tutelage, freshman Dani Kell developed into one of the league's top players and had an outstanding rookie season, as she was selected as a member of the CAA All-Rookie Team. It should come as little surprise to the Tribe faithful to see one of the College's freshmen recognized, as Taylor's program has produced seven all-rookie selections in the past seven seasons.

While the accolades poured in for its work on the hardwood, the Tribe also produced impressive results in the classroom. Senior guard Sarah Stroh distinguished herself by being named to the CAA All-Academic Team. Stroh started all 28 games for W&M at the point and ranked fifth in the conference in assists (4.0 apg).

Undoubtedly, the individual honors were impressive, but what the team accomplished collectively during the 2005-06 season was far more significant. Not only did W&M have the second-best turnaround in the nation, it also earned its best record since the 1998-99 season. Additionally, the Green and Gold's 11 conference victories were a school record, besting the previous mark of nine.

Many of the Tribe's accomplishments last season were products of the hard work and dedication put in during the previous year. While the 2004-05 campaign was mired by a slew of injuries, it provided younger players with an immediate opportunity to gain valuable experience. Though the hard work did not lead to immediate results in the win column, Taylor's guidance played an integral role in building the foundation for the Tribe's success the following season.

During the 2003-04 season, Tribe fans were witnesses to what lay ahead as Kaylor



emerged as one of the league's top rookies. Despite the team's 11-20 record, Kaylor finished the season ranked among league leaders in scoring (10th), total rebounds (sixth), field goal percentage (fourth), steals (10th) and defensive rebounds (fourth). Her efforts did not go unrecognized, as she was a third-team All-CAA selection and was tabbed to the conference's all-rookie team.

Under Taylor's tutelage, guard Jen Sobota finished her career in 2003 as one of the top players in school history. Sobota broke nine school career records, including points scored with 1,511 and games played and started (113). Despite an 8-20 record in 2002-03, a season in which several key players were sidelined with injuries, a Tribe freshman was recognized for her stellar play. Forward Dominique Lewis was named to the CAA All-Rookie Team after finishing the year with 5.3 points and 4.4 rebounds per game averages.

In 2001-02, Taylor's third season in Williamsburg, she guided the College to its

most wins since 1998-99. The run-and-gun offense produced 67.4 points per contest, third-highest in the league, up from a 47 points per game effort during Taylor's first year. For the third straight season, a Tribe freshman garnered all-rookie honors, as guard Kia Butts was selected to the team. Butts was also the Tribe's top man-to-man defender, drawing the assignment of the opponent's top scorer.

Along with Butts, the College's dynamic duo of guards Sobota and Jami Lange were the sparkplug behind the 12 wins, as the two "J's" were the only teammates in the CAA to finish the season in the top 10 in scoring. Sobota finished the year sixth in the league with a 13.8 scoring average, two-tenths of a point behind league player of the year Lucienne Berthieu, while Lange was the CAA's 10th-leading scorer at 13.3 points per game.

In her second year at the helm of the Tribe program, Taylor helped guide William and Mary to a number of firsts. For the initial time, the College placed three players on all-conference teams, with two players earning second-team All-CAA status (Jen Sobota, Quintina Walker) and a third to the all-rookie team (Ornit Shwartz). That was the first time since 1996 that a Tribe player had been selected to an All-CAA team. Also, W&M won its first Colonial Athletic Association post-season game in five years, defeating Virginia Commonwealth in the conference quarterfinals. Additionally, the squad had three CAA Player of the Week recipients, tying for the most in the league.

Taylor, a 1986 graduate of the College, is the fourth Tribe head coach since the pro-



gram went to the Division I level in 1984.

"This is a very exciting time for Tribe women's basketball," Taylor said. "This program has tremendous potential and we are just beginning to take off. We are really building something special here. It is exciting to work with and recruit the quality of student-athlete that the school attracts. I love our players. They are a great group of people with strong character and tireless work ethic. I am fortunate every day to be around such a unified group who have the ability to balance the demands of high level basketball and intense academics."

During her first season, Taylor implemented Team Tribe, a kids' club that provides fan support for women's basketball and volleyball. In eight years, Team Tribe has grown to more than 450 members.

According to Taylor, "Community support is vital to our team's success. Team Tribe provides our players with an opportunity to act as role models for young people in the Williamsburg area." She also believes that her players should maximize their education and potential both on and off the court.

"William and Mary basketball is about unity, about family, about personal growth," Taylor said "It is the goal of the coaching staff to create an environment that provides an opportunity for our players to challenge themselves academically, athletically and personally. It is also our goal to build a national-caliber program with highly motivated student-athletes through which we will help reinforce and develop the skills necessary for their success after college."

A former Tribe letter winner in both basketball and lacrosse, Taylor arrived in Williamsburg on June 1, 1999 after a two-year stint in the Southeastern Conference as an assistant coach at the University of South Carolina. While in Columbia, she organized and coordinated the Gamecocks recruiting efforts and worked with the Gamecock guards.

In 1998, under her direction, South Carolina signed the seventh-best recruiting class in the country according to the All-Star Girls Report, which included guard Shaunzinski Gortman, who was a first-round draft pick of the WNBA's Charlotte Sting in 2002. Gortman, one of the toughest man-to-man defenders in the country during her career, was the first SEC player selected in the draft that year.

That 1998 recruiting class led the Gamecocks to the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament as seniors in 2001-02 en route to posting a school-best 25-7 record and final



ranking of sixth in the national polls. Taylor joined the South Carolina staff in April of 1997 after spending two years as an assistant coach at West Virginia University.

Upon graduation from William and Mary, Taylor accepted her first coaching position at Trinity Episcopal School in Richmond, Va. During her six seasons at TES, she won two conference titles and led the Titans to the 1991 Virginia League of Independent Schools championship.

In 1992, Taylor was hired as the assistant boy's varsity basketball coach at Goochland (Va.) High School. At that time she was one of only two females to coach boys' basketball in the Commonwealth. She was promoted to the head coaching position the following year and in 1994 guided the Bulldogs to its best season in a decade.

Taylor also coached AAU basketball from 1988 to 1995, leading the James River Rapids (Richmond, Va.) to several national tournaments and the 1995 Virginia state title.

At William and Mary, Taylor earned a bachelor of arts degree in kinesiology and was a two-year team captain for the basketball team. She graduated as the College's all-time leader in career assists and steals.

Taylor, who resides in Williamsburg, enjoys boating, reading, playing the piano and visiting with her family in her spare time. She has four sisters: Laurie, Kathy, Pam and Jennifer; four nieces: Kaitlyn (19), Olivia (6), Alexis (3) and Eden (1); and two nephews: Kenny (16) and Roman (6). She is the daughter of Ed and Ruth Taylor of Fredericksburg, Va.



MATT McDonald

Assistant Coach

Matt McDonald begins his second season with William and Mary as an assistant coach. Last year, he was a member of the Tribe coaching staff that helped produce the nation's second-best turn-around season.

McDonald's tenure in women's basketball includes stints with two of the nation's preeminent programs - the University of Tennessee and Penn State University. As part of the 1996 NCAA national championship program at Tennessee and multiple Big Ten championship teams at Penn State, he has experienced the pinnacle of success in women's basketball. His responsibilities at W&M include coordinating recruiting, practice planning, scouting, scheduling, and working with the Tribe post players.

Prior to joining the W&M staff, McDonald was a higher education public relations and communications professional at Penn State University. Working in public information and alumni affairs, he specialized in communications strategy, executive and crisis communications, media relations, and marketing. While at Penn State, McDonald also served as the on-air game analyst for women's basketball on the Penn State Sports Network.

Before assuming his duties in State College, McDonald was an assistant coach at Big South Conference member UNC Asheville from 1999-2002, where he helped lead the Bulldogs to the school record for most conference wins in a season. Along the way, he coached two first-team all-Big South Conference selections, as well as three players who were named to the all-rookie team.

McDonald is a 1999 graduate of Penn State University, where he earned his degree in communications with a minor in kinesiology. In addition, he was a women's basketball manager for three seasons. Before transferring to Penn State, he worked with the women's basketball team at the University of Tennessee for two seasons, where he was a member of the 1996 NCAA national championship team.

A native of Millheim, Pa., McDonald comes from a basketball family - his father, Joseph, played basketball at Penn State, and his sister, Dana, was a four-year starter at Duke.



KIA Butts

Assistant Coach

Former William and Mary guard Kia Butts enters her second season as an assistant coach after completing her playing career with the Tribe in 2005.

As a member of Coach Taylor's staff, Butts is responsible for team travel, community outreach, alumni relations, office administration and marketing, as well as assisting with the guard play, practice planning, scouting and recruiting.

Butts played in 60 games during her career before being permanently sidelined with chronic foot injuries, averaging 4.5 points per game, as well as posting 229 rebounds and 64 steals. One of the top on-the-ball defenders in the CAA during her career, Butts was named to the conference all-rookie team following the 2001-02 season. Along with her exploits on the court, Butts served as the team's representative for the Student-Athlete Advisory Council.

As a high school athlete, Butts averaged 16.0 points per game and scored more than 1,000 points in her career. She earned all-tidewater honors three times and was the Beach League Defensive Player of the Year as a senior. Butts also starred on the Boo Williams AAU team.

The Virginia Beach, Va., native graduated from the College in May 2005 with a degree in sociology. She is the daughter of Mark and Phyllis Butts and has a younger sister, Kimberly.



MEG Barber

Assistant Coach

Meg Barber enters her second season as an assistant coach at William and Mary, having helped the Tribe earn a school record 11 victories in conference play last year. Previously, she spent three seasons at Utica College in New York as an assistant coach. Barber brings a combination of coaching and playing experience to the College, as she is responsible for pre- and post-season conditioning, academic monitoring, practice planning, scouting, recruiting, and assisting Coach Taylor with the post players.

At Utica, Barber was responsible for film breakdown and scouting, as well as coordinating recruiting visits. Additionally, Barber monitored Pioneer student-athletes in their academic progress, while assisting in game scheduling. She was also responsible for a variety of communications activities and was the co-director for the Utica College Girls Basketball Camp from 2002 to 2004.

Barber is a 2002 graduate of NYU with a bachelor of arts degree in economics. A four-year member of the Violets women's basketball squad, she helped lead the team to NCAA Elite Eight appearances in 1999 and 2001, as well as two ECAC Metro Championships. She was named the ECAC Metro Most Outstanding Player in the 2000 and 2002 seasons. Barber's coaching experience is complimented by her standout playing career at New York University. Barber played in every game during her four-year career, starting in all but two of those games. She is ranked seventh on the Violets' career scoring list with 1,228 points.

A native of Hoosick Falls, N.Y., and a fan of the New York Giants and New York Mets, Barber resides in Williamsburg.



ATHLETIC TRAINING STAFF



RENÉE Cork

**Senior Associate
Athletic Trainer**

Renée Cork, a graduate of Iowa State, is beginning her 15th year with the William and Mary Sports Medicine staff. She holds the title of senior associate athletic trainer. In 1999, Cork received the Sport Safety Training Award from the American Red Cross and is responsible for the CPR training for all members of the Tribe coaching staffs.

In 2002, the governor of Virginia appointed Cork to the Athletic Training Advisory Board under the Board of Medicine. She is the only collegiate athletic trainer and the only female representative on the Advisory Board. Cork is very involved in the athletic training profession, serving on several athletic training committees at the state and regional levels.

A native of Elgin, Ill., Cork served as the head athletic trainer at Drew University prior to coming to W&M. She earned her master's degree in physical education from Southwest Texas State.

The William and Mary sports medicine center is located in the lower level of William and Mary Hall. The state-of-the-art facility enables W&M's nine-member athletic training staff to provide the best possible care for the College's student-athletes. The training room has lifecycles, elliptical machines, treadmills and modality machines that enhance rehabilitation programs and ensure the proper treatment of any injuries. It also features multiple laptop workstations for wireless Internet connections, as well as two cable televisions for use by W&M student-athletes.

