



Georgia State graduate and current Athletics Board of Trustees president Jim Stark joins Panthers Ron Larris, left, and Brandon Cartwright, right.

The trio is seated in the block between the Robinson College of Business, building top left, and the Aderhold Learning Center, in the direction they are looking. The popular outdoor gathering area is often closed to traffic for special events and is a great lunch spot during the warm springs and falls of Atlanta.

Basketball History

Georgia State became a member of the NCAA for the 1963-64 basketball season and has played **43 seasons** as a member institution.

Prior to that, the school gave no scholarships or belonged to any national affiliation for competition. The school did have small-scale athletic teams prior to that and had gone briefly by nicknames like the Ramblers and the Owls. They have always been the Panthers since they began competing in the NCAA. Here are **43 fast**, fun facts about the **men's basketball** program.



1

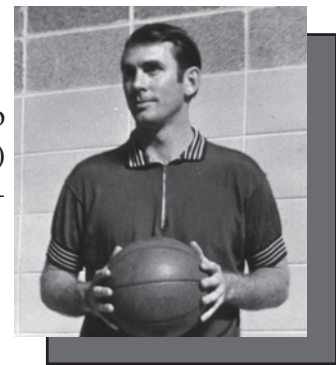
Georgia State has had two players earn **All-America status**. Shernard Long was the first in March, 2001 and Thomas Terrell (photo at left) followed in March, 2002 when both were named with the “honorable mention” group. The national team recognizes the approximate 50-best basketball players in the nation.

2

The **first-ever game played** as a NCAA member was on Dec. 6, 1963 against Jacksonville State (Ala.). Georgia State lost that one (81-49) and 11 more before the Panthers finally got win number one (80-60) against the College of Charleston (S.C.).

3

There have been **12 head coaches** in Georgia State's 40 seasons. Bob Reinhart coached nine years, Clyde “Jack” Waters (photo at right) coached eight years and Charles “Lefty” Driesell coached five-and-a-half. Reinhart won 107 games and Driesell 103 games.



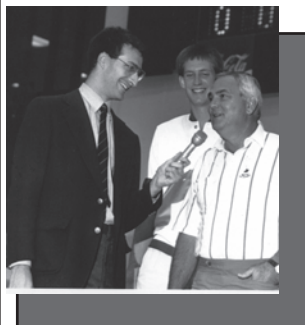
4

The old conference record for **most points scored** in a game (and, of course, the school record) is still held by Chris Collier. On Jan. 2, 1991, the 6-6 senior hit 19-of-27 field goals (70 percent) with 11-of-19 foul shots (58 percent) for his **49 points**. Collier also had 12 rebound, two steals, a block and an assist in that game vs. Butler. Unfortunately, for the home fans, Georgia State lost 106-96.

Georgia State History

5

The first season the Panthers played all “home” games at four area high schools: O’Keefe, Grady, Bass and Sylvan. The current Georgia State Sports Arena was built in 1972.



7

Of the 43 seasons Georgia State has played in the NCAA, radio broadcaster **Dave Cohen** has done 23 seasons on WRAS Radio. Cohen began as a student and is still going strong as a member of the Georgia State alumni office staff. At left, Cohen interviews Coach Reinhart as the team earned its first NCAA bid in March, 1991.

8

Coach “Lefty” Driesell set one of his NCAA records at Georgia State when he became the **first coach to win 100 games** at four different schools with a win in November, 2002.

9

*Georgia State was a member of the current **Atlantic Sun Conference** (formerly TAAC) for 20 seasons. The Panthers joined in 1984-85 and were second in seniority only to Mercer (1979-80) when they left in 2005 to join the CAA.*

10

Georgia State earned **NCAA postseason tournament bids** in 1990-91 and again in 2000-01. The Panthers also received a NIT postseason bid after the 2001-02 season.

11

Only one player in school history has posted a **40-point, 20-rebound single game**. In 1976 vs. Georgia Southern, Bob Pierson was a one-man show with 41 points and 21 rebounds.

12

The first African-American player to suit up at Georgia State was Larry Perkins in the 1969-70 season.

13

There have been 14 players score **1,000 career points** for Georgia State.

Lamont McIntosh and Nate Williams (photo) both reached 1,000 points during the 2003-04 season.



14

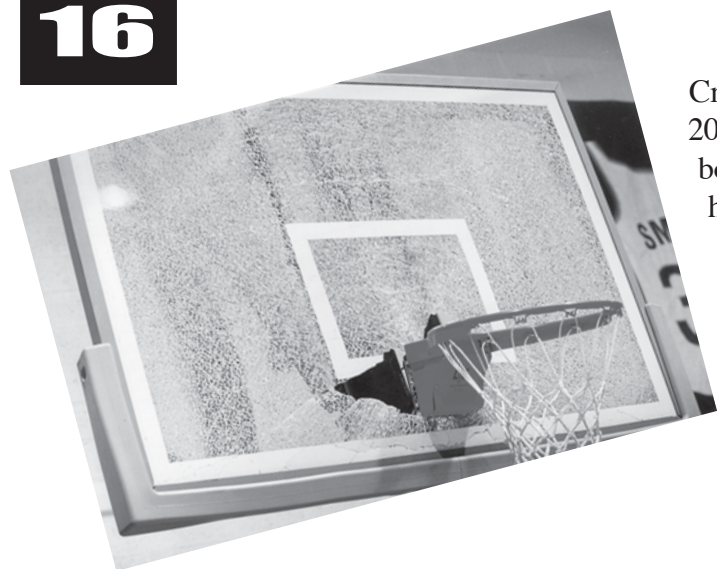
Aloha! The Panthers **won the Hawaii Nike Festival** in December, 2000, when they beat host Hawaii, UAB and Cal State Northridge in three consecutive nights to bring home the trophy. Two of those opponents went on to earn NCAA postseason bids as did the 29-5 Panthers

15

The **first scholarship players** came one year before the NCAA play began in 1962-63. That group included four freshmen: Jim Adams from Decatur High, Major Morgan from Chamblee High, Don Cool and Gene Epps from George High. Several returning players also were then given some scholarship money (tuition then was just \$175 a quarter). Three of those four were later “drafted,” but by “Uncle Sam” and not the NBA, and served in Vietnam. Morgan and Epps were killed in action in ‘Nam, with Cool serving two terms. Adams (photo at right in 2003) was a medical “reject” and did not get drafted.



16



Crash! Against Jacksonville University on Jan. 8, 2001, Panther Lydell Gunsby tried to put back a rebound with a dunk and **shattered the backboard** with his force. That delay took two hours, 37 minutes for the game to resume. It then ended four- and-a-half hours after it begun, literally on the next day, as it concluded after midnight. The 11-2 Panthers took first place from the 10-3 Dolphins.

The feat was shown coast-to-coast as the CNN Play-of-the-Day.

17

Georgia on my mind. In five-and-half years, Coach Driesell led the Panthers to a **perfect 17-0** record against all teams from within the State of Georgia.

18

Cinderella’s Dance. Georgia State opened the **NCAA Tournament with a come-from-behind win** over top 25-ranked Wisconsin in the West Regional in Boise, Idaho. Down 16 points, the Panthers used their defense (allowing just 19 second half points) and muscle (getting a 20-12 second half rebound advantage) to advance to the Final 32. The hero list included Shernard Long (winning basket with 12 seconds), Darryl Cooper (a rare “four-point” play with 48 seconds and a defense that held Wisconsin’s leading scorer to four points), **Kevin Morris, photo at right**, (game-high 18 points), “Bam” Campbell (11 rebounds) and Thomas Terrell (9 rebounds).



19

Georgia State was a member of the **Sun Belt** Conference for five years from 1976-1981 and played home games at the Omni in downtown Atlanta.

20

The Panthers have had two players named **Conference Most Valuable Players** for the season. Shernard Long was chosen in 2000-01 and Thomas Terrell in 2001-02



21

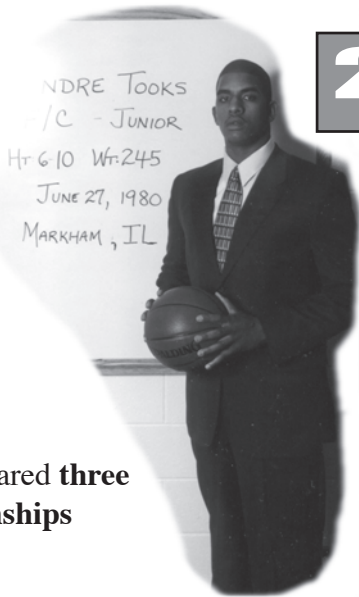
Upset Special! Georgia State beat **No. 15 ranked** Saint Joseph's in the Tournament of Champions in Charlotte, N.C. on Dec. 21, 2001, as Thomas Terrell led the way with 36 points. The Panthers also upset **No. 25** Wisconsin in the NCAA's in March, 2001, and defeated nationally-ranked Georgia twice in both 2000-01 and 2001-02. Last season's mild upsets were over Tulsa and Auburn.

22

Pick Me! Two Georgia State players have been drafted by the **NBA** and a third played in the NBA. Lanard Copeland (1985-89) played for the Philadelphia 76ers (1989 and 1990) and has gone on to play professionally for the Melbourne Tigers in Australia. In his 12 seasons so far, Copeland has scored 7,347 points (23.0), with 1,358 rebounds and 1,073 assists.

23

The Saddest Days. On Oct. 30, 2001, player **Andre Took** (right) was in a car accident outside the Georgia State Sports Arena. A driver ran a red light and broadsided Took's car. After a night in the hospital, Took passed away as a result of those internal injuries. Took was 6-10, 245 pounds and was in his junior year (first at Georgia State). On March 26, 2005, player **Tikoyo Barnett** died in an Eastern weekend auto crash near his hometown in Monroeville, Ala. Barnett was a 6-7 junior who played all 29 games for Georgia State after having been a junior college All-American.



24

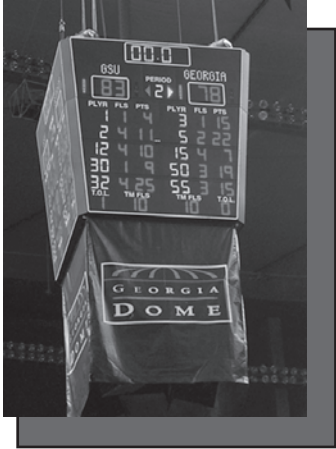
Easy as One, Two, Three. Georgia State won or shared **three consecutive regular season conference championships** from 1999-2000, 2000-01, and 2001-02.

25

The Streak. The Panthers put together the nation's third longest home winning streaks (at the time it ended) when they **won 25 consecutive home games** from Feb. 7, 2000 through Jan. 10, 2002 at the GSU Sports Arena.

26

The first team, since the school had no gym, **practiced at the YWCA** at the corner opposite Hurt Park. To shower, they used three temporary metal showers placed in the Paint Dept. of the school. Later, those showers were moved to the third floor of Kell Hall at the top of one of the ramps. The team had just one coach, “Stoney” Burgess., and the team **traveled to road games in two cars** (one driven by the coach and another by a player). Sometimes, the trunks of those cars were the “locker room.” Pregame meals were often the general store or gas station the cars stopped at on the way to the game. That team received \$2 a day food allowance.



27

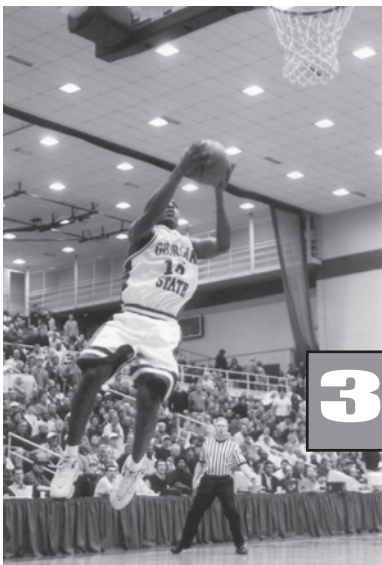
Back-To-Back. Georgia State went to Athens, Ga., to start the 2000-01 season and walked away with a 91-79 win over the **University of Georgia**. (Both teams advanced to the NCAA postseason). A year later, Georgia came to Atlanta for a re-match at the “neutral” Georgia Dome. Georgia State once again prevailed with a 83-78 win. (UGA went to the NCAA and Georgia State the NIT with 20-win seasons). The Bulldogs have refused to schedule Georgia State since.

28

Light Up The Scoreboard. Georgia State set its school record for points scored in a game in the home opener of 1989 (Nov. 25) when they scored **122 points** in a win over Fort Valley State. And, they needed almost every point as Fort Valley scored 106. The Panthers made 43-of-79 field goals, shot 29-of-41 free throws and pulled down 55 rebounds. Matt O’Brien and Chris Collier scored 32 points and 31, respectively, in the run-and-gun affair.

29

Let Rodney Do It. Georgia State’s **all-time leader in points and assists** is guard Rodney Hamilton. From 1994-98, the southpaw guard scored 1,515 points and dished 535 assists for teammates to score the basket. The Memphis, Tenn., native is also State’s most accurate free throw shooter ever with a career 83.8 percentage (352-of-420).



30

Up And At ‘Em. The Panthers began a 1997 tradition with Coach Driesell of showing up for a mile run at **6 a.m. the first week of school** with the goal of running the **mile in under six minutes** to make sure the players stayed in shape during the summer. They still do that with Coach Perry.

31

We’re Number One. For three consecutive years, a Georgia State player **led the conference in scoring**. Shernard Long (shown in photo at left) started the streak, Thomas Terrell followed and then Nate Williams added to the streak in 2002-03..

Georgia State

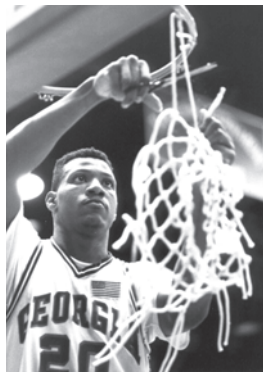


32

A Legend. Coach “**Lefty**” **Driesell** has twice been a finalist for the Basketball Hall of Fame after his illustrious career with 786 wins (fourth most all-time Division I). When he was named Conference Coach of the Year at Georgia State, that made him the only coach in NCAA history to do that in four conferences. When he took Georgia State to the NCAA postseason, that tied the NCAA record of a coach taking four different teams to “The Big Dance.” Coach Driesell also was given a rare NCAA Award of Valor for his rescue efforts once during a fire. His 29-win season at State was his most-ever of the 22 seasons he had with 20-or-more wins.

33

A Rocky Top High. In 1983-84, Georgia State journeyed to Knoxville, Tenn. to face the SEC’s Volunteers. The 0-5 Panthers shocked the Vols with a 52-50 upset special with a game-winning basket by Tony Graham.



34

Some pretty “Valuable” Guys. Two Georgia State players have been named **Most Valuable Player in the Conference Tournament**. Chris Collier (cutting the net in the photo on the left) earned that MVP honor in 1991 and Thomas Terrell repeated it in both 2001 and 2002.

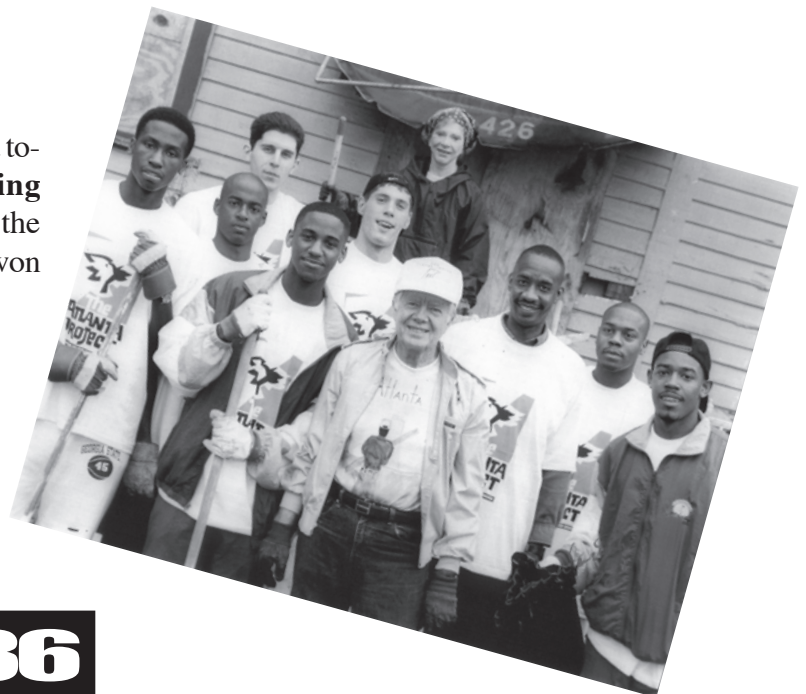
35

Five-of-a-Kind. Georgia State put together **five consecutive winning seasons** from 1997-98 through the 2001-2002 season. The Panthers won 99 games in those five years.

Former President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalyn (shown in photo at right) invited the Panthers to put on their work gloves and come join them in 1995-96 at a Habitat For Humanity home construction project.

That is Coach Carter Wilson just over President Carter’s left shoulder.

36

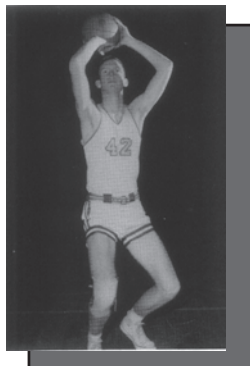


37

The Look of A Winner. It took Georgia State 13 years of NCAA basketball, but they finally got a **winning season in 1975-76**. That team of Coach Waters started 7-0, added a midseason win over in-town foe Georgia Tech, and hung on to finish 12-11 for the **first season above .500**.

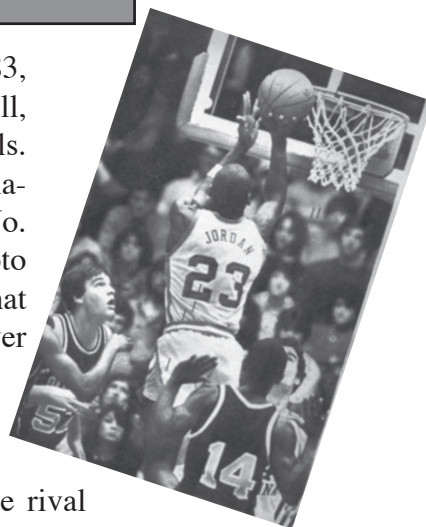
The First All-American. In 1965-66, Jim “The Preacher” Adams (photo above) became an **Academic All-American** thanks to a letter and recommendation from the athletic director, Dr. Bridges.

38



That Guy Is Good. On Jan. 25, 1983, the Panthers traveled to Chapel Hill, N.C. for a game with the Tar Heels. That No. 3 ranked team in the nation had a rising young player (No. 23) named **Michael Jordan** (photo at right) who scored 16 points that night in North Carolina’s win over the Panthers.

39



40

Georgia State has played more games against instate rival Mercer than any other opponent. Those two conference foes have met 79 times over the 43 years.

41

Georgia State played the **first-ever basketball game in the history of the new 11,500-seat Gwinnett Center** when they defeated Tulsa on Monday, Dec. 1, 2003. That facility had opened earlier that year. State played the University of Georgia at the Gwinnett Center on Dec. 10, 2005.

42

Over the past nine years (since Michael Perry has been at Georgia State), the Panthers have the **best Division I record in the state of Georgia**.

Georgia State has a .575 winning percentage compared to Georgia Tech at .543 and the University of Georgia at .515.

43

Georgia State moved into the Colonial Athletic Association in 2005-06. The Panthers won their first ever CAA game with a 99-72 win over Delaware in the Sports Arena. State also won its first ever CAA Tournament game with a win over Towson University, 72-64.



The 25-Game Home Court Winning Streak

Georgia State's Sports Arena has become a true "Home Court" advantage for the Panthers.

The recent winning ways at home include:

60 of the last 83 games (72.3 percent)

64 of the last 89 games (71.9 percent)



Georgia State has played 408 games in the Sports Arena over the past 33 seasons. The Panthers had a streak of 10 consecutive winning seasons at home snapped last year. They've posted winning seasons at home in 14 of the past 16 seasons, and 18 of the past 21 seasons.



Georgia State built a school record streak that grew to 25 games. When it ended in 2002, the streak was the third longest active streak in the nation.

Here is that record streak of 25 wins:

25. Stetson	89-73, 1-10-02
24. Troy State	84-67, 1-02-02
23. Campbell	85-71, 12-12-01
22. Mercer	90-79, 12-06-01
21. Chas. Southern	67-56, 11-27-01
20. Valdosta State	82-71, 11-17-01
19. Troy State	79-55, 3-3-01
18. Samford	66-56, 3-2-01
17. FAU	96-57, 3-1-01
16. Stetson	68-65, 2-17-01
15. Jacksonville	90-82, 2-15-01
14. Campbell	95-67, 2-10-01
13. Troy State	79-75, 1-20-01
12. Mercer	86-77, 1-27-01
11. Jacksonville St.	76-52, 1-23-01
10. UCF	97-75, 1-13-01
9. FAU	96-77, 1-11-01
8. Morris Brown	84-70, 12-6-00
7. Samford	64-50, 12-4-00
6. Valdosta State	83-54, 12-1-00
5. Bradley	67-54, 11-29-00
4. Savannah State	88-45, 11-20-00
3. UCF	78-63, 2-26-00
2. FAU	86-62, 2-24-00
1. Alabama A & M	69-64, 2-7-00

Don't Leave The Arena Early

Georgia State never lets up until the final horn sounds. And, even then, there may be more basketball to play. The hustle and determination has meant nine overtime games within the past 12 years at the Sports Arena.



CAATCH THE EXCITEMENT
in Richmond for the Men's
Basketball Championship.
Check out the CAA's new
website for all times and events.
www.caasports.com

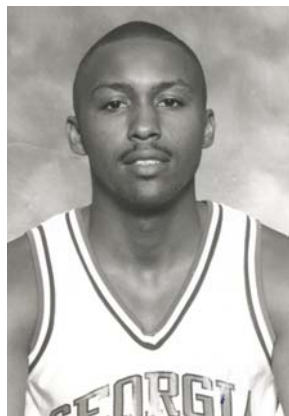


THE GEORGIA STATE FIGHT SONG !

Fight, fight, fight
 With all your might
 Victory is in our sight.
 Panthers roar and have no fear
 Stand up, Georgia State and cheer.
 The Blue and White are in the den
 Rough and tough, we're here to win.
 We're the Panthers and we're great
 Loyalty for Georgia State.
 G-E-O-R-G-I-A (pause on beat) Go State, Georgia State
 Fight on Georgia State.
 GRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR (loud growl)



FORMER PLAYERS TURNED HEAD COACHES



Courtney Brooks has become a household name for most college basketball coaches and NBA scouts as he has built a strong high school basketball program at Southwest Atlanta Christian Academy.

Brooks had a 2004 NBA draft first round pick in 6-11 center Dwight Howard with the Orlando Magic. Howard was the national high school player of the year.

This past year, his McDonald's All-America guard Jarvis Crittendon was Mr. Georgia Basketball and one of the top point guards in the nation who accepted a scholarship at Georgia Tech.

He's also had a player sign in the CAA with Delaware's Chris Prothro, a 6-5, guard/forward ready for his senior year.

Brooks has taken his team to the Class A state title game four consecutive years, winning two of them.

Brooks was a 5-11 point guard who finished in the top 10 in assists during his four-year career (1991-94) while he earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Brooks has also gone on to become an ordained elder.

The 35-year old has also served as head coach of the Marietta Storm on the World Basketball Association, trying to assist others into NBA careers.



Travis Williams begins his third season as the head basketball coach at Fort Valley State. Williams coached his Wildcats team to a 14-14 mark last year in the NCAA Division II S.I.A.C. and returns five lettermen and three starters.

Williams was a former assistant coach at Georgia State on the NCAA and NIT teams and also an assistant coach at Chicago State prior to moving up to a head college coaching position.

The guard played at Georgia State (1992-96) and was a 1,000-point scorer and a team captain for the Panthers. He played in 105 games for Georgia State and once had a streak of 18 consecutive free throws made.

A solid student-athlete, Williams was a three-time All-Academic pick and stayed to earn his master's degree from Georgia State in 1999. Williams also was chosen to serve an internship with the NFL Players Association in Washington, D.C. as part of his training.

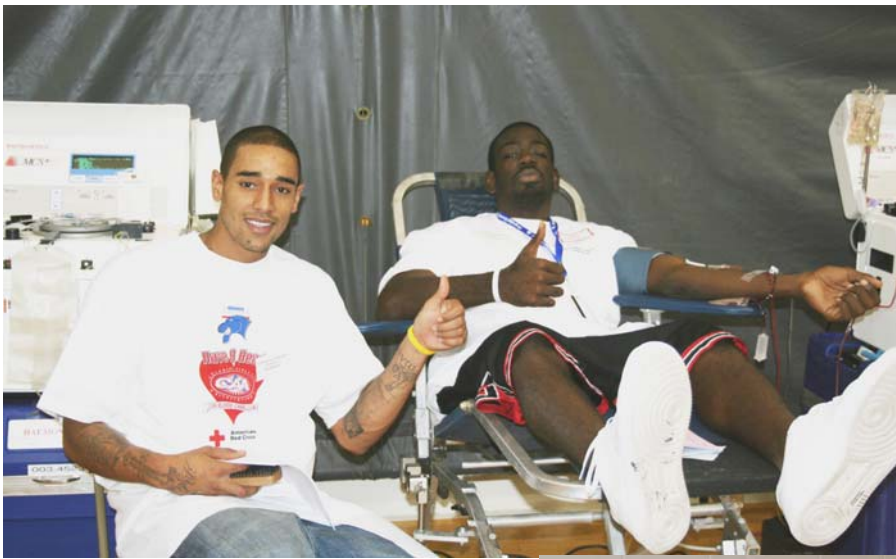
LOGO-SPEAK

More than 60 years ago and before it was in the NCAA, Georgia State's first "athletic logo" featured the school's owl because of the majority of night classes offered as the primary focus. After World War II, "Ramblers" was briefly the school nickname.

But, ever since the late 1950s and the entire time Georgia State has been in the NCAA, the nickname has been Panthers.



Panthers Are Involved In The Community



Always busy off the court, the Panthers join in on the school's CAA Blood Drive. They worked at Cook Elementary on Hands On Atlanta Day. Players visit multiple schools throughout Atlanta. Coach Perry addresses the fans at the ESPNZone Basketball Day Luncheon with the players being introduced to the fans.

