

Head Coach Murray Arnold

Murray Arnold, a 40-year coaching veteran, begins his fourth season as head coach of the Stetson Hatters and his 22nd at the collegiate level.

In three years with Stetson, Arnold has guided the Hatters back to on-court respectability, compiling a 38-43 record. He is 403-217 overall in 21 years in the college ranks.

After posting an 11-15 record in his first season with the Hatters, Arnold guided Stetson to a 14-13 mark during the 1998-99 campaign, Stetson's first winning season since the 1994-95 season. The Hatters slipped to 13-15 last season and finished seventh in the Trans America Athletic Conference standings.

Success found Arnold early on. He won three conference championships in the late '50s coaching the DeMatha High School freshman and junior varsity teams, honing his coaching skills as Morgan Wooten's right-hand man. At DeLand (FL) High, Arnold captured the school's only state championship in 1963 and guided the Bulldogs to three conference championships in six seasons. With his hire at Stetson, his basketball coaching career has come full circle.

Stetson Athletic Director Jeff Altier introduced the former DeLand High School coach as the Hatters' new head men's basketball coach during a press conference April 10, 1997.



Though Coach Arnold is an intense competitor on the sidelines, he's always teaching the game.

"To be able to return to DeLand and coach at Stetson University is truly a dream come true," Arnold said at the press conference. "At a time when some 75 Division I coaching changes have occurred, Hatter basketball was the one and only opportunity that really excited me.

"This opportunity brings my basketball life full circle with the exciting challenge to be back in

DeLand to work with the Stetson basketball program. Winning a Trans America Athletic Conference championship with the Hatters here in DeLand would be a crowning achievement."

After a two-year stint and 38 wins at Longwood (FL) High, Arnold joined Hugh Durham's staff at Florida State in 1968 and helped guide the Seminoles to a 41-12 record in two years. Arnold's '69-70 freshman squad was selected as the best freshman team in the South by the *Basketball News* after going 15-2. Three of the four players on that rookie outfit went on to start for

FSU's 1972 NCAA Final Four team.

Arnold landed his first collegiate head coaching job at Birmingham-Southern in 1970, and quickly turned a struggling program into an NAIA national power. In eight seasons, Arnold won 159 games, and led BSC to three national tournament appearances.

The big time called Arnold away from BSC and he spent a year as an assistant at Mississippi State in 1978-79 where, not so coincidentally, the Bulldogs went 19-8 and played in the NIT.

His stay at MSU lasted only one season. In the spring of 1979, Arnold was named head coach at Tennessee-Chattanooga. At UTC, Arnold continued to build on his winning reputation.

After going 13-14 in his first season, Arnold and the Mocs averaged 24 wins over the next five seasons, won four Southern Conference championships, played in three NCAA Tournaments and two NIT's. On top of that, Arnold was named SoCon Coach of the Year twice and the Mocs finished 15th in the final AP Poll in 1983. UTC also posted the fourth best winning percentage (.792) in the nation from 1980-85, behind only North Carolina, DePaul and Georgetown.

Arnold was so successful at UTC, even the pros noticed. Arnold joined Stan Albeck's Chicago Bulls staff in 1985-86. During that year, he not only coached the greatest player in the world, he also became the answer to a trivia question. Arnold was the head coach on the night Michael Jordan suffered a foot injury which caused him to miss 60 games that season.

From the NBA, Arnold went back to the college ranks and immediately found success again. As the head coach at Western Kentucky, Arnold and the Hilltoppers finished 29-9 in 1987, placed second in the preseason NIT, won the Sun Belt Confer-



The Arnold File

Personal

Born: March 4, 1938 at University Park, MD

High School: Northwestern (Hyattsville, MD)

College: American University (BA '60)

Stetson University (MA '67)

Florida State University (doctoral coursework '70)

College Athletics: Lehigh University, freshman basketball '57

Wife: Ann Conn (Johnson)

Coaching Honors

1973 Alabama Coach of the Year

1974 Alabama Coach of the Year

1978 Alabama Coach of the Year

1982 Southern Conference Coach of the Year

1983 Southern Conference Coach of the Year

1988 Sun Belt Coach of the Year

1992 NBL Coach of the Year

1995 NJCAA Coach of the Year