

# Bernie Fine, Associate Head Coach



**Bernie Fine**  
**Syracuse '67**  
**27th season at Syracuse**

The cornerstone of the success of the Syracuse University basketball program is its continuity. **Bernie Fine** has been an integral part of Orangeman basketball for the duration of Jim Boeheim's 26-year tenure. He continues to serve as a stable coaching force with the program.

Three springs ago, **Fine** was rewarded for his loyalty with a promotion to associate head coach.

He is known throughout the college basketball world as one of the top assistants in the nation. Entering his 27th season at his alma mater, **Fine** has developed a strong reputation for his broad recruiting contacts and his ability to develop big men.

## Building Big

One of his recent player success stories was the maturation of Etan Thomas. In four years Thomas developed into the top shot-blocker in school history and a two-time BIG EAST Conference Defensive Player of the Year. During his tenure he improved from a player with limited offensive skills to a low-post force. When opponents adjusted their defensive plans, **Fine** had Thomas work on becoming more of a threat from the foul line. A 47 percent

shooter from the charity stripe as a freshman, Thomas hit at a 68 percent clip his final year. **Fine's** coaching and Thomas' effort paid off when the Dallas Mavericks picked him in the first round of the 2000 NBA draft.

Another one of the better examples of **Fine's** on-court tutoring skills is the job he did with Rony Seikaly. Seikaly, who came to Syracuse with two years of organized basketball experience, left as an All-American. A former first-round pick and the 1990 NBA Most Improved Player Award winner, Seikaly has played with the Miami Heat, Golden State Warriors, Orlando Magic and the New Jersey Nets.

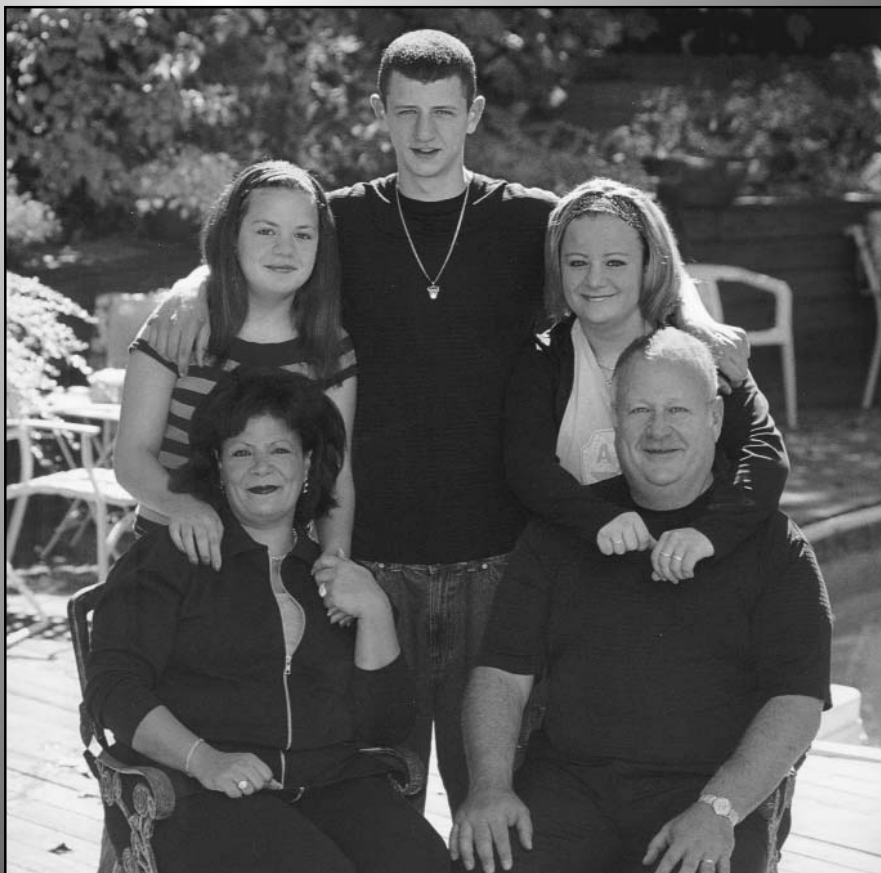
Among the others who have prospered and gone on to pro careers under **Fine's** tutelage include NBA first-round draft choices Marty Byrnes, Derrick Coleman, LeRon Ellis, Danny Schayes and John Wallace. The New Jersey Nets selected Coleman with the top pick in the 1990 draft. Seikaly was tabbed

ninth by the Heat in 1988, Schayes went to the Utah Jazz as the 13th selection in 1981, Wallace was picked in 1996 by the Knicks with the 18th slot, Byrnes was the 19th overall pick by the Phoenix Suns in 1978 and Ellis was the Clippers' top selection and 22nd overall choice in 1991.

Coleman, a member of the Philadelphia 76ers, continues to post solid numbers. Thomas is a teammate of Michael Jordan's with the Washington Wizards.

Other Syracuse performers who were assisted by **Fine's** teachings and advanced to the NBA ranks include Wendell Alexis (1986 3rd round, Golden State Warriors, Roosevelt Bouie (1980 2nd round, Dallas Mavericks), Conrad MacRae (1993 2nd round, Washington Bullets) and Louis Orr (1980 2nd round, Indiana Pacers).

A trademark of **Fine's** coaching methods are his workouts. **Fine's** sessions with the big men are noted for their innovation and ruggedness.



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## The Fine Coaching File

### Lincoln Junior High

1970-71 Basketball and football

### Henninger High School

1971-74 Junior varsity basketball and football

1974-76 Varsity basketball

### Syracuse University

1963-67 Basketball manager

1976-00 Basketball assistant

2000-present Associate Head

Coach

### U.S. Macabiah

1993 Head Coach



## Fine With Boeheim

**Fine** and Boeheim met in 1964, when **Fine** was a student manager and Boeheim and a fellow by the name of Dave Bing were beginning their varsity basketball careers. **Fine** graduated in 1967 with a B.S. in personnel and industrial relations and went into business for himself.

In 1970, he returned to athletics as the basketball and football coach at Lincoln Junior High. After one year he went to Henninger High School as the junior varsity basketball coach from 1971-74 before taking over as varsity coach. He remained at Henniger until 1976 when Boeheim offered him the assistant coaching position at Syracuse.

He owns the longest active consecutive seasons at one school tenure in the Division I men's basketball ranks

When Boeheim was forced to miss the first Syracuse game of his career for health reasons last December, he tabbed Fine to run the bench in his absence. Fine remained at the helm for a three-game stretch until Boeheim was able to return.

## Active Division I

### Assistant Coaching Tenures

1. **Bernie Fine** Syracuse 26 years
2. **Ron Krayl** Monmouth 25 years
3. **Bob Nash** Hawaii 22 years
4. **David Felix** Troy State 22 years
5. **Mike Church** E. Illinois 18 years

*Chart reflects individuals who are active and have served the longest consecutive term of seasons at one school. Rankings are by seasons completed.*

## A Worldly Coach

**Fine** has developed a solid reputation in overseas coaching circles. He coached the U.S. Macabiah team to a silver medal at the 1993 World Macabiah Games in Israel.

During the off-season, **Fine** is the director of one of the showcase basketball camps in the northeast, The Big Orange Basketball Camp.

This past summer he participated in The Blackfeet Native Skill-Builder Hoop Clinic, a basketball seminar conducted on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Montana.

## The Fine Family

**Fine**, who was born December 23, 1945, in Brooklyn, N.Y., graduated from Erasmus Hall High School.

An active member of the Syracuse community, he is president of the Central New York Kidney Foundation. He and his wife, Laurie, have a son, David, and two daughters, Sheila and Sara.

He constantly attempts new training tools to find the most productive way of teaching SU's post players. After a few appointments with **Fine**, the rigors of The BIG EAST Conference seem a little easier to deal with.

One of his current projects, junior Jeremy McNeil, has made amazing strides. McNeil played in six games in his initial campaign before a foot injury ended it. McNeil started the last 21 games of 2000-01 and was a valuable reserve a year ago.

Preseason workouts have exhibited a dramatic improvement in McNeil's play.

