

HEAD COACH STAN JOPLIN



Perhaps no one is more synonymous with Toledo basketball than Stan Joplin.

As a former star player for the Rockets during the late 1970s, Joplin started for teams that posted a combined record of 82-27.

Later, Joplin returned to his alma mater as an assistant coach from 1984-90.

And for the past nine seasons, Joplin has been UT's

leader on the bench.

Joplin has posted a 153-112 (.577) win-loss mark at UT during his nine-year tenure and is in second place on the Rockets' all-time win list. He enters the 2005-06 campaign as one of the deans of MAC basketball coaches and is tied with Miami's Charlie Coles for the longest current tenure on a MAC sideline.

Further evidence of Joplin's success:

- A 22-11 mark in 2000-01 and a 20-11 ledger in 2003-04 for Toledo's only 20-win seasons since 1980-81.
- Three MAC West Division titles (1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2004-05) and a second-place finish or better in the West Division in six of the last seven seasons.
- Three appearances in the National Invitational Tournament in 1999, 2001 and 2004, marking UT's only postseason appearances since 1981.
- A school-record 14-game MAC winning streak over the course of the 1999-2000 and 2000-01 campaigns.

The Stan Joplin File

Full Name: Stanley Eugene Joplin

Age: 48

Born: 6/17/57 in Milan, MI

Education:

B. Ed. in elementary education, University of Toledo ('79)

M. Ed. in supervision and administration, Univ. of Toledo ('89)

Collegiate Coaching Experience:

1996- Head basketball coach, University of Toledo

1990-96 Assistant basketball coach, Michigan State Univ.

1984-90 Assistant basketball coach, University of Toledo

1982-84 Assistant basketball coach, Kent State University

Playing Experience:

1976-79 University of Toledo, basketball

Family: Wife, LaDonna; sons, Aaron (18) and Shaun (14)

- A 10th-place ranking in MAC history with a .577 winning percentage among coaches with five or more seasons in the league.

- Wins over nationally ranked teams Michigan State and Cincinnati, as well as in-state schools Ohio State and Xavier.

- Five straight winning seasons from 1997-2002, the longest winning stretch for UT since notching 26 consecutive winning campaigns from 1959-1985.

- 11 or more Mid-American Conference victories in six of the last seven years. (Kent State is the only other school to do so in that time span.)

ELEVATING THE PROGRAM

When Joplin returned to his roots and became UT's 16th head coach in 1996, his goal was to return the program to the era when the Rockets routinely appeared in national tournaments. Prior to Joplin's arrival, the Rockets' last postseason appearance was in 1981 with UT posting a 153-164 (.483) ledger in the 10 years before his return.

The Rockets reached Joplin's goal of postseason play in just his third season with an appearance in the 1999 NIT Tournament. Included in that memorable season was 10 straight wins to open the season, highlighted by victories over Ohio State, Xavier and Dayton.

Toledo put together an 11-game win streak in the latter stages of the 1999-2000 season. Unfortunately, the Rockets saw their season come to a close with a heartbreaking 64-63 (OT) defeat to Ball State in the MAC quarterfinals.

UT ventured back into postseason play in 2000-01 with another NIT appearance. The Rockets advanced to the second round before bowing out at Alabama. Toledo also achieved some national notoriety with Joplin's first victory over a nationally ranked opponent, a 69-66 win over No. 18 Cincinnati at the Rock-N-Roll Shootout.

A big key to the Rockets' success in this three-year run was the play of Greg Stempin, one of four players in the program's history to earn first-team All-MAC honors on three occasions.



One of Joplin's cornerstone recruits in keying the Rockets' turnaround was Greg Stempin (above), who became the fourth player in program history to earn first-team All-MAC honors on three occasions.

HEAD COACH STAN JOPLIN



The Rockets have posted wins over nationally ranked teams Michigan State and Cincinnati as well as Auburn, Dayton, DePaul, Ohio State and Xavier in Joplin's tenure. Above are UT fans celebrating a 64-63 victory over the NCAA Final Four-bound Buckeyes on Dec. 5, 1998.

RETURNING TO THE NATIONAL STAGE

The Rockets ventured back to the NIT Tournament in 2004 with a youthful squad that posted a 20-11 mark against a rigorous schedule. UT played six of its first seven contests on the road and its non-conference schedule included the likes of NCAA Tournament teams DePaul, Louisville and Nevada. The Rockets also made their first appearance on ESPN under Joplin in a first-round loss to Marquette.

Junior guard **Keith Triplett** led the way for the Rockets en route to earning first-team All-MAC honors and finishing second in the conference in scoring with 19.6 ppg. Triplett's backcourt mates, 2002-03 MAC Freshman of the Year **Sammy Villegas** and 2003-04 MAC Freshman of the Year **Justin Ingram**, played critical roles for the Rockets that season as well.

BIG WINS

Joplin's career as the Rocket head coach has been marked by several wins over top programs such as Michigan State, Cincinnati, Auburn, Ohio State, Xavier and DePaul.

Toledo's 81-76 win over the No. 14 Spartans on Dec. 30, 2002 at the Breslin Center snapped MSU's 36-game homecourt win streak vs. non-conference opponents. The Rockets were able to open up a 13-point lead in the second half before holding on for the win to give Joplin a victory against his former employer.

UT's 69-66 win over No. 18 Cincinnati at the Rock-N-Roll Shootout at Cleveland's Gund Arena on Dec. 30, 2000 marked Joplin's first win over a nationally ranked team.

The Rockets' first big win under Joplin came in the

1998-99 season with a 64-63 win over eventual NCAA Final Four squad Ohio State on Dec. 5 followed by a 74-67 victory over Xavier four days later on Dec. 9.

Toledo also opened the 2000-01 season with a bang by capturing the Energia Systems Tournament in Kansas City, MO after posting impressive wins over Auburn (95-90 in 2OT) in the semifinals and Creighton (61-57) in the championship game.

Another big win for the Rockets came in the 2003-04 campaign with a 93-81 triumph over Conference USA member DePaul. Triplett put together one of the most amazing performances in school history by scoring all 29 of his points in the second half to lead UT back from a three-point halftime deficit.

LIFE ON THE SPARTAN BENCH

As an assistant coach at Michigan State for six years (1990-96), Joplin was a part of four NCAA Tournament teams and a pair of NIT squads. He served his first five seasons under the legendary Jud Heathcote before working with Tom Izzo in his final year. In his six years on the MSU bench, Joplin helped the Spartans post a 113-65 (.635) mark.

Joplin's first two campaigns with the Spartans saw Michigan State earn No. 5 seeds in the NCAA Tournament before bowing out in the second round. In 1991, MSU posted a 60-58 win over UW-Green Bay in the West Regional before dropping an 85-84 (2OT) heartbreaker to Utah in the second round. The 1992 tourney saw the Spartans post a 61-54 triumph over Southwest Missouri State in the Midwest Regional before falling to Cincinnati by a 72-65 margin.

MSU returned to the NAAs in 1994 with an 84-73 victory over Seton Hall as the No. 7 seed in the Southeast Regional. The Spartans then exited following an 85-74 setback to Duke in the second round. In Heathcote's final season, MSU posted a 22-6 mark to finish second in the Big Ten and enter the NAAs as a No. 3 seed. However, the Spartans were upset by Weber State, 79-72, in the first round of the Southeast Regional.



Joplin spent six years (1990-96) as an assistant coach at Michigan State and was a part of four NCAA Tournament and two NIT Tournament teams.



HEAD COACH STAN JOPLIN



Some MSU players he coached included future NBA players Jamie Feick, Anthony Miller, Mike Peplowski, Morris Peterson, Shawn Respert, Steve Smith and Eric Snow. He also helped recruit Mateen Cleaves.



WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

Following a standout collegiate career, Joplin tried his hand at the professional game but was released toward the end of training camp by then-Detroit Pistons coach and nationally renowned broadcaster Dick Vitale.

Joplin then began his collegiate coaching career at Kent State for two seasons (1982-84) as an assistant to former Rocket assistant coach Jim McDonald. He then came back to Toledo for six seasons (1984-90) as an assistant with three years under Nichols and three with Jay Eck.

His tenure with the Golden Flashes was highlighted by a trip to the MAC Championship Game in 1984, only to see KSU drop a 42-40 decision to the Ron Harper-led Miami Redskins. At UT, he helped the Rockets to a third-place MAC finish in the 1988-89 campaign.

A HALL OF FAME CAREER AS A PLAYER

If you had to take snapshot from Joplin's playing career and make it a postcard it would be his buzzer-beating shot that gave UT a 74-72 upset victory over Iowa in the 1979 NCAA Tournament and propelled the Rockets to the Sweet 16.

During his playing career (1975-79), Joplin helped UT post an 82-27 win-loss mark and co-captained the 1978-79 team that won the MAC championship. A 1995 inductee into the the Varsity 'T' Athletic Hall of Fame, he was a starter on the 1976-77 squad that defeated defending national champion Indiana, 59-57, in the inaugural game in Centennial (now Savage) Hall.

Joplin earned second-team All-MAC honors twice (1977-78, 1978-79) and was named first-team Academic All-

As a player, Stan Joplin hit a buzzer-beating shot to give UT a 74-72 upset victory over Iowa in the 1979 NCAA Tournament and propel the Rockets to the Sweet 16.

MAC in 1977. Joplin's best season came as a junior when he averaged 10.3 ppg and 6.5 apg. He dished out 12 assists in a game twice in his career and ranks among UT career leaders in assists (428).

OFF THE COURT

A devoted family man, Joplin is active in the Toledo community and spends most of his available free time with his wife, LaDonna, and sons, Aaron and Shaun. Aaron is a freshman at UT and serving as a student assistant for the men's basketball program this fall, while Shaun is in ninth grade and plays football and basketball.

Growing up in Milan, MI, Joplin was a two-time all-state selection in high school. He holds bachelor of education (1979) and master of education (1989) degrees from UT.



The Joplin family
From left to right: Aaron, Stan, LaDonna, Shaun.

STAN JOPLIN BREAKDOWN



As a Head Coach

Year	Position	School	Overall	Conf.	Place/Comment
1996-97	Head Coach	Toledo	13-14	6-12	MAC - T-8th place
1997-98	Head Coach	Toledo	15-12	10-8	MAC - 4th place (West)
1998-99	Head Coach	Toledo	19-9	11-7	MAC - 1st (West) place; NIT 1st round
1999-00	Head Coach	Toledo	18-13	11-7	MAC - T-1st place (West)
2000-01	Head Coach	Toledo	22-11	12-6	MAC - 2nd place (West); NIT 2nd round
2001-02	Head Coach	Toledo	16-14	11-7	MAC - 2nd place (West)
2002-03	Head Coach	Toledo	14-15	7-11	MAC - 7th place (West)
2003-04	Head Coach	Toledo	20-11	12-6	MAC - 2nd place (West); NIT 1st round
2004-05	Head Coach	Toledo	16-13	11-7	MAC - T-1st place (West)
9 years			153-112 (.577)	91-71 (.562)	

As an Assistant Coach

1982-83	Asst. Coach	Kent State	15-13	9-9	MAC - 6th place
1983-84	Asst. Coach	Kent State	15-14	8-10	MAC - T-6th place
2 years		at Kent State	30-27 (.526)	17-19 (.472)	
1984-85	Asst. Coach	Toledo	16-12	11-7	MAC - T-3rd place
1985-86	Asst. Coach	Toledo	12-17	8-10	MAC - 5th place
1986-87	Asst. Coach	Toledo	11-17	4-12	MAC - 8th place
1987-88	Asst. Coach	Toledo	15-12	5-11	MAC - 9th place
1988-89	Asst. Coach	Toledo	18-13	11-5	MAC - 3rd place
1989-90	Asst. Coach	Toledo	12-16	7-9	MAC - 6th place
6 years		at Toledo	84-87 (.491)	46-54 (.460)	
1990-91	Asst. Coach	Michigan State	19-11	11-7	Big Ten - T-3rd place; NCAA 2nd round
1991-92	Asst. Coach	Michigan State	22-8	11-7	Big Ten - T-3rd place; NCAA 2nd round
1992-93	Asst. Coach	Michigan State	15-13	7-11	Big Ten - T-8th place; NIT 1st round
1993-94	Asst. Coach	Michigan State	20-12	10-8	Big Ten - T-4th place; NCAA 2nd round
1994-95	Asst. Coach	Michigan State	22-6	14-4	Big Ten - 2nd place; NCAA 1st round
1995-96	Asst. Coach	Michigan State	15-15	9-9	Big Ten - 7th place; NIT 2nd round
6 years		at MSU	113-65 (.635)	62-46 (.574)	

As a Player

1975-76	Player	Toledo	18-7	13-3	MAC - 3rd place
1976-77	Player	Toledo	21-6	12-4	MAC - 3rd place
1977-78	Player	Toledo	21-6	11-5	MAC - T-2nd place
1978-79	Player	Toledo	22-8	13-3	MAC co-champ; NCAA Sweet 16
4 years		at Toledo	82-27 (.752)	49-15 (.766)	

Stan Joplin Versus

MAC Opponents

Akron	5-6
Ball State	6-12
Bowling Green	10-9
Buffalo	7-2
Central Michigan	15-5
Eastern Michigan	10-10
Kent State	3-8
Miami	6-6
Ohio	7-5
Northern Illinois	12-5
Western Michigan	12-8

Non-Conference Opponents

Alabama	0-1	Duke	0-1	Nevada	1-1
Albany	1-0	East Carolina	0-1	Oakland	4-1
Appalachian State	0-1	Florida International	1-0	Ohio State	1-2
Arkansas State	2-0	Fresno State	0-1	Old Dominion	0-1
Auburn	2-0	George Mason	3-1	St. Bonaventure	1-2
Brigham Young	0-1	Georgia Southern	1-0	Samford	1-0
Canisius	1-0	Grand Valley State	1-0	Siena	3-0
Central Florida	1-0	Heidelberg	1-0	South Alabama	1-0
Charleston Southern	1-0	IPFW	2-0	SE Missouri State	1-0
Cincinnati	1-1	Kansas State	1-0	SW Missouri State	0-1
Cleveland State	1-0	Kentucky State	1-0	UW-Milwaukee	1-0
Coastal Carolina	1-0	Lake Superior State	1-0	Xavier	1-4
Creighton	1-0	Louisville	0-1	Vanderbilt	0-1
Dartmouth	1-0	Marquette	0-1	Virginia Tech	0-1
Dayton	1-1	Marshall	5-4	Wisconsin	0-1
Delaware	1-0	Michigan State	1-1	Wright State	3-1
DePaul	1-0	Middle Tennessee State	0-1	Youngstown State	4-1
Detroit	2-2	Mississippi Valley State	1-0		



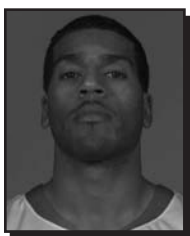
WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT STAN JOPLIN



“Stan is one of those living examples of doing the right thing. He is a sharp and honest guy and he was very instrumental

in not only our recruiting efforts at Michigan State, but also in player development. I’ve often said we have a lot of people playing in the NBA who should give some credit to Stan Joplin.”

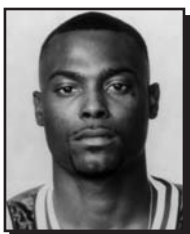
— Tom Izzo, Michigan State



“Players who are considering Toledo should know this: Stan Joplin is a player’s coach. His players can talk to him about anything

and he knows how to relate to them. He knows how to motivate the right way, and to make sure his players fully enjoy their college basketball experience.”

— Jim Jackson, Phoenix Suns



“Stan is a dedicated man. I think he wants to see everybody become better, not just as a student-athlete, but as a person. He’s the

kind of person that you realize after you’re gone how much help he’s been on and off the court.”

— Shawn Respert, former MSU star and currently on Rice coaching staff



“Stan is Toledo Basketball. He will be able to relate to and recruit the type of student-athlete that will make the Rocket program successful.”

— Magic Johnson upon Joplin’s hiring in 1996



“Stan is a person who cares about your well-being off the court as well as on the court. His focus is that his players be productive young men as well as great student-athletes. He really cares about their well-being.”

— Eric Snow, Cleveland Cavaliers



“Coach Joplin is the main reason I chose the University of Toledo. His kind and honest approach made me feel comfortable in choosing this university.”

— Former Rocket Greg Stempin



“Stan Joplin was made to be a coach since the day he first picked up a basketball at the University of Toledo. As a player, he had all

of the intangibles that coaches dream of, and he has always had a great understanding of the game. Stan is an all-around super person and the right guy to coach the Toledo Rockets.”

— Dick Vitale, ESPN



“Stan understands what it takes to make Toledo a winner and, just as clearly, he’s been able to accomplish that. To his credit,

people are beginning to realize all that he’s been able to do.”

— Al Skinner, Boston College head coach

ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH BOB SIMON



Bob Simon enters his sixth season on the Rocket coaching staff and third as associate head coach. He is involved in all facets of the basketball program, including recruiting, on-floor coaching, scouting, individual workouts and academic support.

In his five seasons, he has helped the Rockets register a combined 88-64 (.579) win-loss mark. Highlighting his stint on the UT sideline are a pair of 20-win campaigns, two appearances in the NIT Tournament in 2001 and 2004 and a share of the 2004-05 MAC West Division title.

Simon has played a key role in expanding the Rockets' recruiting scope to Chicago (Rashay Russell, Florentino Valencia and Jerrah Young), Dallas (Jonathan Amos), Boston (Ridley Johnson) and Philadelphia (Kashif Payne).

Prior to coming to UT, Simon spent nine years (1991-2000) at Wayne State University, five as an associate head coach and three as an assistant coach for the men's program and one as head coach for the women's team.

With the WSU women, Simon enjoyed instant success by turning around the program and guiding it to its most wins (13) in six seasons. He also led the Warriors to just their second conference tournament appearance in school history.

Simon was instrumental in helping WSU's men post eight straight winning seasons, including a trip to the NCAA Division II Final Four in 1993. The Warriors also made three appearances in the NCAA Division II regional finals, three Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championships and three GLIAC Tournament titles. He also helped WSU to final NCAA Division II rankings of 13th (1992), 10th (1994) and sixth (1999), as well as a school-record 25 wins in 1994 and 1999. The 1994 squad also recorded a school-record 17-game winning streak. Simon's first recruit at WSU was Tony Goins, a John Glenn High School (Westland, MI) product who is WSU's all-time leading scorer and earned Division II All-America and GLIAC Player of the Year honors as a senior. Goins is currently playing professionally in Spain.

Prior to joining the Warriors, Simon was the boys' varsity head coach at Southgate Anderson High School from 1987-91. Prior to coaching at Southgate, Simon was the head coach of the junior varsity squad at his prep alma mater, Redford Thurston High School, from 1983-87. He also served as the assistant coach for the varsity squad from 1981-83. In his playing career at Thurston, Simon served as a captain his junior and senior seasons, and earned All-League First Team and All-Area Second Team honors his senior year.

Simon received his Bachelor of Science degree in manufacturing technology from Eastern Michigan University in 1989, and his master's degree in sport administration from Wayne State University in 1997. Simon and his wife, Donna, reside in Sylvania, OH and are the parents of a daughter, Bobbie (16), and a son, Devin (14).

What They're Saying about Bob Simon

"Bob has a tremendous work ethic and is one of the most organized individuals that I know of in the coaching profession. He was an instrumental part of all the success we have enjoyed at Wayne State."

— Ron Hammye, former Wayne State head basketball coach

"Bob is one of the hardest-working coaches that I know. He is extremely loyal to his love of the game of basketball and is always trying to do whatever it takes to improve the team."

— Brian James, former Washington Wizards assistant coach and currently a television analyst

"Bob possesses a tremendous passion for basketball and the coaching profession. He's a great fit for a solid Rocket coaching staff."

— Stan Heath, Arkansas head coach

SIMON'S FILE

Full Name: Robert James Simon

Age: 42

Born: 2/26/63 in Saginaw, MI

Education: BA in manufacturing technology, Eastern Michigan University, '89
MS in sport administration, Wayne State University, '97

Coaching Experience:

- 2003-pres. Associate head men's basketball coach, University of Toledo
- 2000-2003 Assistant men's basketball coach, University of Toledo
- 1999-2000 Head women's basketball coach, Wayne State University
- 1994-99 Associate head men's basketball coach, Wayne State University
- 1991-94 Assistant men's basketball coach, Wayne State University
- 1987-91 Head varsity boys' basketball coach, Anderson H.S. (Southgate, MI)
- 1983-87 Head junior varsity boys' basketball coach, Thurston H.S. (Redford, MI)
- 1981-83 Assistant varsity boys' basketball coach, Thurston H.S. (Redford, MI)

Family: Wife, Donna; Daughter, Bobbie (16); Son, Devin (14).

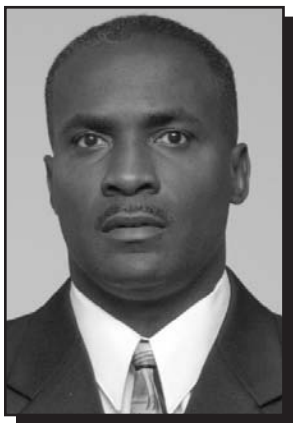


The Simon Family

Front: Bobbie and Devin; Back: Bob and Donna.



ASSISTANT COACH MICHAEL GRANT



Michael Grant begins his first season as an assistant coach for the Rockets' coaching staff. A veteran of the collegiate coaching ranks with over 20 years of experience, Grant is will work with all aspects of UT's program including on-floor coaching, recruiting, academic support, individual conditioning workouts and scouting.

Grant, 42, comes to Toledo following a pair of head-coaching stints at Southern (LA) University and Central State (OH) University. At Southern, Grant inherited a program that had back-to-back 20-loss seasons for the first time in school history, and proceeded to post a 26-31 win-loss mark in his two seasons at the helm. The Jaguars went 14-15 in 2004-05 for their best finish since the 1999-2000 season and reached the Southwestern Athletic Conference tournament semifinals for the first time since 2001.

During his seven-year tenure at Central State, Grant posted a 126-94 (.573) ledger while turning a program around that posted just one winning season in its previous 11 campaigns. His Marauder career was highlighted by three appearances in postseason play, including trips to the NAIA Regionals in 1998 and 1999 and to the NAIA Nationals in 2000. He posted three 20-win seasons with his best campaign being a 24-8 ledger in 1999-2000, including the school's first victory at nationals since 1979.

Grant began his coaching career at his alma mater, Malone College, in 1983 immediately following his playing career. He then spent two years as a graduate assistant at the University of Michigan where he helped coach his younger brother, Gary, who was named the 1988 Big Ten Player of the Year and was the 14th player picked in the 1988 NBA Draft. Grant then served as an assistant at Allegheny College (1988-89), Kentucky State (1989-94) and Cleveland State (1994-96) before joining the head-coaching ranks.

A native of Cleveland, OH, Grant and his wife Charmane have one son, Chris (23), and two daughters, Raynesha (15) and Lauren (13).

What They're Saying about Michael Grant

"Michael is an outstanding coach and recruiter, and he is a great addition to the Toledo basketball program. He is a man of integrity and a tireless worker and is someone who represents the coaching profession in a first-class manner."

— Reggie Minton, NABC Deputy Executive Director

"Michael did a great job making the transition from a student to a coach and proved right away that he was intelligent and knowledgeable and had a bright future in the coaching profession. He's an outstanding young man and coach and I'm happy to have been there to see the start of his career."

— Hal Smith, Malone College Athletic Director and Head basketball coach

"Michael is first and foremost a family man. He brings a solid corps of values to the coaching profession and carries himself with class. He is a talented coach and a great recruiter and is very effective in aiding the development of young players."

— Floyd Kerr, Morgan State athletic director

GRANT'S FILE

Full Name: Michael Ray Grant

Age: 42

Born: 3/13/63 in Hugo, OK

Hometown: Cleveland, OH

Education: B.S. in physical education & health,
Malone (OH) College, '85

Coaching Experience:

2005-pres. Assistant coach, University of Toledo
2003-05 Head Coach, Southern University
1996-2003 Head Coach, Central State (OH) University
1994-96 Assistant Coach, Cleveland State University
1989-94 Assistant Coach, Kentucky State University
1988-89 Assistant Coach, Allegheny (PA) College
1986-88 Graduate Asst. Coach, Univ. of Michigan
1983-86 Assistant Coach, Malone College

Playing Experience:

1981-83 Malone (OH) College, basketball

Family: Wife, Charmane; Son, Chris (23); Daughters,
Raynesha (15) and Lauren (13).

GETTING TO KNOW MICHAEL GRANT

Hobbies: Golf.

Favorite TV Show: "Soul Food," "The Wire."

Favorite Foods: Soul Food, Pasta.

Best Times of My Life: Spending time with family.

Sports teams I followed growing up: Cleveland Browns, Cleveland Indians, Cleveland Cavaliers.

Favorite place I've visited: Los Angeles, CA.

Earliest sports memory: Playing Little League baseball.

My primary inspirations in sports were: My parents and brothers.

Plans for the Future: To become a head coach again.

Favorite Things About Toledo: Everyone is so friendly.

If I won \$1 million, I would: Continue to enjoy life to the fullest.



The Grant Family

Lauren, Michael, Charmane, Raynesha. (Not pictured: Chris.)

ASSISTANT COACH NATE TUORI



Nate Tuori enters his fourth season as an assistant coach for the Rockets' coaching staff. Tuori is involved with all aspects of the program, including on-floor coaching, recruiting, academic support, individual conditioning workouts and scouting. Tuori is also heavily involved with the Rockets' individual and team summer basketball camps.

Prior to coming to Toledo, Tuori served as an assistant coach at Wayne State University for three seasons from 1999-2002 with the first two years as a graduate assistant. During that time, he helped the Warriors post a 45-38 (.542) overall mark and a 28-25 (.528) ledger in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Tuori's duties at Wayne State consisted of recruiting, on-floor coaching, organizing and developing individual conditioning workouts, directing and organizing high school team camps and utilizing computer editing systems for film breakdown.

A native of Dafter, MI in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Tuori played collegiately at Rochester College (1997-98), Aquinas College (1996-97) and Alpena Community College (1994-96). While at Rochester, Tuori was named Team MVP after averaging 14 points and eight rebounds per game and helping the Warriors to a fifth-place finish in the National Small College Athletic Association tournament.

Tuori earned his bachelor's degree in management from Rochester College in 1999 and his master's degree in sports administration from Wayne State in 2002. He and his wife, the former Nicole Spiros, reside in Toledo.

GETTING TO KNOW NATE TUORI

Favorite Movies: "The Natural," "Usual Suspects."

Favorite TV Show: "The West Wing."

Favorite Music: Classic Rock, Country.

Favorite Foods: Seafood, Barbeque.

Best Times of My Life: Enjoying time with family and friends.

Greatest Basketball Moments: Going to the national tournament with Rochester College.

Favorite Athletes: Charles Barkley, Ernie Els.

Personal Heroes: My mom and dad.

Plans for the Future: To be a head coach in a Division I program.

Favorite Things About Toledo: Good people and good food.

What They're Saying about Nate Tuori

"Nate is very intelligent and knowledgeable about the game. He has a great feel for working with post players and did a great job teaching them in our program. He's a terrific communicator and is a coach who has a bright future."

— David Greer, Wayne State head coach

"Nate was one of the most dedicated, hard-working young coaches that worked with me. He's very focused and knows where he wants to go in the coaching profession and his life. Kids relate very well to him, and I think any parent would want to have their sons play for a person of Nate's character."

— Ron Hammye, former Wayne State head basketball coach

"Nate is one of the finest young men I've ever coached. He was a good player, but what made him special was the type of citizen he was. He has a great work ethic and understanding of the game, and he is extremely loyal."

— Garth Pleasant, Rochester College Head Coach

TUORI'S FILE

Full Name: Nathan William Tuori

Age: 30

Born: 2/9/75 in Sault Ste. Marie, MI

Hometown: Dafter, MI

Education: B.B.A. in management, Rochester (MI) College, '99

MA in sports administration, Wayne State University, '02

Coaching Experience:

2002-pres. Assistant coach, University of Toledo

2001-02 Assistant coach, Wayne State University

1999-2000 Graduate assistant, Wayne State University

Playing Experience:

1997-98 Rochester (MI) College, basketball

1996-97 Aquinas (MI) College, basketball

1994-96 Alpena (MI) Community College, basketball

Family: Wife, Nicole.



Nate Tuori and his wife, Nicole.





ASSOC. HEAD ATHLETIC TRAINER BRIAN JONES



The Jones family (top to bottom): Brian, Kim and Zachary.

Brian Jones enters his ninth year at the University of Toledo and his third season as the Rockets' associate head athletic trainer.

Jones, 32, supervises the treatment and rehabilitation of student-athletes in the Savage Hall Athletic Training Facility, and works directly with the men's basketball and baseball programs. In addition to his athletic training duties, Jones also serves as the men's basketball program's travel coordinator.

Prior to joining the UT training staff in 1997, Jones spent two years at Michigan State where he worked with former UT football coach Nick Saban. During his time with the Spartans, he worked with the football program as well as several Olympic sports.

A native of La Porte, IN, Jones received a bachelor of science degree in athletic training from Ball State University in 1995. Jones also earned a master of science degree in athletic training from Michigan State in 1997.

Jones and his wife, Kim, are the parents of a two-year old son, Zachary.

GRADUATE ASSISTANT MANAGER MARK VANDERSLICE

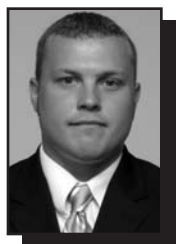


Mark Vanderslice enters his second season on the Rockets' staff. After serving as UT's director of basketball operations last year, Vanderslice will move into a graduate assistant manager role and assist with on-floor activities, on-campus recruiting, academic support and videotape exchange.

Vanderslice possesses an extensive coaching background and comes to Toledo after serving as an assistant coach under Head Coach Duane Sheldon at NCAA Division III Heidelberg (OH) College, where he received his master's degree in business administration.

Vanderslice played and coached at UNC-Asheville and joined the coaching staff as an administrative assistant for two seasons (2000-02) under Head Coach Eddie Biedenbach before attending Heidelberg. During his prep career, Vanderslice was an all-county and all-region selection at West Rowan (NC) High School and helped the Falcons capture the state title as a senior in 1997.

A native of Salisbury, NC, Vanderslice is a 2002 graduate of UNC-Asheville with a degree in business administration. He is the son of Scott and Kathryn Vanderslice and comes from a basketball family with his aunt, Stephanie Gaitley, serving as the head coach at Long Island University and his uncle, Bruce Leftkowitz, an all-conference player at Penn (1983-87).



Mike Gross
Student Assistant



T.J. Hug
Student Assistant



Kevin Parkins
Student Assistant



Mike Spiros
Team Statistician



Bob Wendt
Team Psychologist