

# BULLDOG BANTER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL

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## Forever Maroon and White: Tyrone Washington

Perhaps no team in the history of Mississippi State basketball is more famous than the Bulldog squad that reached the Final Four of the 1996 NCAA Tournament. However, graduation and NBA Draft early entry left big holes to fill for future squads.

Tyrone Washington filled those holes remarkably well.

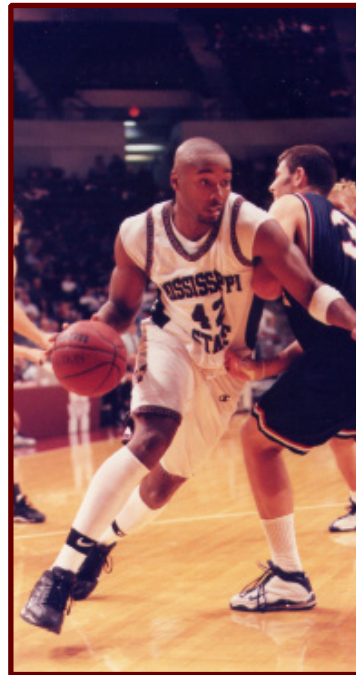
After a standout prep career at Gentry High School in Indianola, Miss., that saw him earn Mississippi's Gatorade Player of the Year and Parade All-American honors, Washington elected to stay in his home state and sign with an experienced MSU squad.

"The biggest factor [for signing with MSU] was that they were in the SEC," said Washington. "My grandparents were close by, too."

As a freshman, Washington gained valuable experience on a squad that won the SEC Tournament Championship and advanced to MSU's first Final Four.

Washington notes that the 1996 team's close bond was the key reason for the magical postseason run.

"We didn't win the national championship, but the experience was great. The team was very close,



and that's why we made it so far. The journey was special."

Washington was a monster on the boards, leading the team in rebounds in his final three seasons as a Bulldog. He finished second in the SEC in rebounding in 1997 and also tied for the league lead in blocked shots. After his junior year, Washington was named third-team all-SEC.

His 847 career boards rank sixth all-time in school history, ahead of more recent Bulldog stars like Charles Rhodes, Jamont Gordon, and Lawrence Roberts.

Following his college career, Washington was drafted by the Houston Rockets in the second round of the 1999 NBA Draft.

### SEEING THE WORLD

He would go on to play almost a decade of professional basketball in the NBA Development League and overseas.

"I got to travel the whole world," Washington said. "I played in places like Italy, Puerto Rico, Turkey and China. I had a fine career, and to see the things I saw and get paid for it was amazing."

Currently a business manager in the New Orleans area, Washington still remembers the great impact of his coaches at Mississippi State.

"I saw the biggest improvement in my game thanks to [former assistant coach] Greg Carter. Nobody helped me with my game more than he did."

Tyrone Washington will always be remembered as one of the great rebounders in Mississippi State basketball history.



**Head Coach**  
**Rick Ray**

**Assistant Coaches**  
**Wes Flanigan**  
**Chris Hollender**  
**George Brooks**

**Basketball Operations**  
**Adam Gordon**

**Video Coordinator**  
**Adam Bauman**

**Graduate Manager**  
**Nick Lagroone**

**Strength & Conditioning**  
**Richard Akins**

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@RickRay1



## Where Are They Now?

Player	Team	Accomplishments
Dee Bost	Budućnost (Montenegro)	Averaging 8.0 ppg
Arnett Moultrie	Philadelphia 76ers	Has played in 14 games. Averaged 9.7 ppg with Sioux Falls
Kodi Augustus	08 Stockholm (Sweden)	Leading scorer with 16.8 ppg
Barry Stewart	TBB Trier (Germany)	Leads team in scoring with 12.3 ppg
Jarvis Varnado	Miami Heat	Has played in 2 games this season with the Heat
Jamont Gordon	Galatasaray (Turkey)	Averages 8.1 ppg this season. Most recent game scored 14
Piotr Stelmach	PGE Turow (Poland)	In 10 games played this season, has averaged 5.9 ppg
Winsome Frazier	Kryvbasbasket (Ukraine)	Averaging 12.9 ppg. Scored 18 in last outing
Timmy Bowers	Umana VE (Italy)	Averaging 4.6 ppg in 15 games played
Derrick Zimmerman	DniproAzot (Ukraine)	Compiled an 8.9 scoring clip this season with 5.8 assists
Lawrence Roberts	B.Muenchen (Germany)	Averages 7.2 ppg with 6.1 rebounds per game
Mario Austin	Kazma (Kuwait)	Ranked second-best player on the league-leading 19-2 squad



**THIS IS OUR STATE**

## THE BOYS ARE BACK IN TOWN

The Men's Basketball program played host to an Alumni Weekend Feb. 1-2. Close to 100 alumni from all decades dating back to the 1950's were in attendance. The group had a social gathering on Friday night at Buffalo Wild Wings where they were able to relive the past and discuss old times. Past players and coaches were also recognized at halftime of the Feb. 2 contest vs LSU. Following the game, all former players, coaches and families gathered in the Mize Pavilion for another meet and greet.



Left: From the left to right Keith Hooper & Todd Merritt.



Above: The coaches stop for a quick picture, from the left Richard Williams ('81-'98), Kermit Davis ('70-'77), & current head coach Rick Ray.



Above: Group of players that played for Coach Davis in the 1970's.



Above: From the left, Brad Smith, Keith Hooper, Carl Nichols, Reginald Boykin, Chancellor Nichols and Doug Hartsfield.



Left: Alumni getting a warm greeting from the Bulldog faithful at halftime of the MSU-LSU game on Feb. 2.



Above: From the left, Russell Walters, Daryl Wilson, Richard Williams, Bart Hychy, Jay Walton, Whit Hughes.

### PLAYER SPOTLIGHT



Craig Sword • Fr. • F  
Montgomery, Ala.

Q: Where did the nickname "Chicken" come from?

A: My mom started calling me that when I was really young and it stuck.

Q: What has been your biggest change since coming to college?

A: Playing point guard.

Q: How does it feel playing with high school team mate Roquez Johnson again?

A: It feels good. We have always been close so I enjoy playing with him again.

Q: Who is your role model?

A: LeBron James.

Q: What is your favorite part of MSU?

A: The community around me.

### COMPLIANCE UPDATE

#### Question of the Month

Q: What is the NCAA bylaw on sports wagering Activities?

A: The following individuals shall not knowingly participate in sports wagering activities or provide information to individuals involved in or associated with any type of sports wagering activities concerning intercollegiate, amateur or professional athletics competition:

- (a) Staff members of an institution's athletics department;
- (b) Nonathletics department staff members who have responsibilities within or over the athletics department (e.g., chancellor or president, faculty athletics representative, individual to whom athletics reports);
- (c) Staff members of a conference office; and
- (d) Student-athletes.

[Click here for monthly archives](#)



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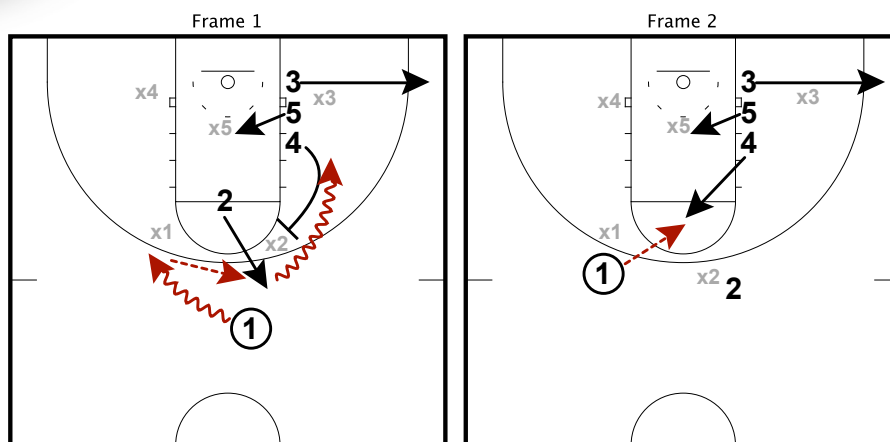
## PLAY OF THE MONTH

### "Zone Buster"

[Click Here to see video of the play](#)

The February "Play of the Month" is a zone play that is designed to give you several options to score against a 2-3 Zone Defense. The key to making this play work is in the first frame, the 1 dribbles over to the left side of the floor, he must get x1 to commit to guarding him. When he does that, 2 will pop out, 1 will reverse the ball to 2, and 4 will set ballscreen for 2. On the ballscreen 3 will pop to the corner, and 5 will

duck in on x5. 2 will make a read on how x3 defends, if x3 step ups and takes 2 he will kick to 3. If x3 denies 3, he will pass to 5 on the duck-in or take the jump shot. In frame 2, the 2 is denied on the ball reversal by x2, so 4 will pop to the free throw line for a jump shot.

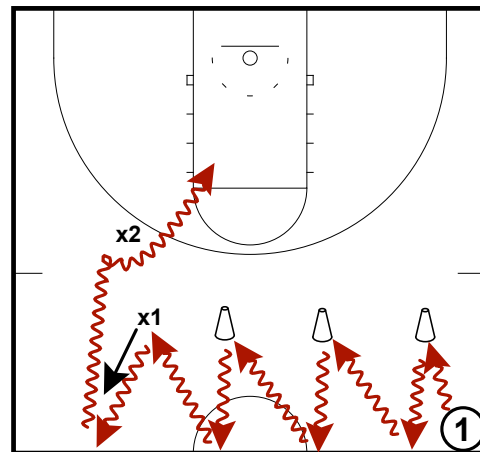


## DRILL OF THE MONTH

### "Pullback Ballhandling"

[Click Here to see video of the drill](#)

The February "Drill of the Month" is a ballhandling drill that offers opportunity for both guards and posts to improve their ballhandling. It starts with an attack dribble at the cone, followed by a pull back dribble. The final attack is against x1 (coach/manager) in which they will need to pull back and make a move to get by them. Finally, they will attack x2 and make a move to the basket for a finish or pullup jump shot.



## STRENGTH & CONDITIONING TIP OF THE MONTH

### "Finisher Workout"

This month's conditioning tip is a basic drill with some added features to it. This drill is designed to be more of a "finisher" towards the end of the session. It is very involved and will push the athletes to see what they can do when they are having to rely on mental toughness from an already physically demanding conditioning session. The lay out of this drill is a timed sprint down and back (base line to base line) followed by an exercise with a med ball. The athlete will perform a timed run baseline to baseline then immediately pick up the med ball and perform the first med ball exercise. After the med ball exercise, allow a short break, anywhere from 15-30 seconds depending on the athletes body language, then run a down and back then the next med ball exercise. Repeat this for the remaining portion of this conditioning session. This can also be broken up into a partner run. While one is running, the other is performing the med ball exercise then they swap when the run and med ball reps are completed. After both athletes have completed the first run, allow the short break.

## 2013 CAMPS

### TEAM CAMP

MAY 31ST - JUNE 2ND

### INDIVIDUAL CAMP

JUNE 3RD-JUNE 6TH

### DAY CAMP

JULY 29 - AUGUST 1

MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL  
MSU BASKETBALL OFFICE AT  
(662) 325-3800

## DID YOU SEE?

Rick Ray Interview on  
Black History Month

Former Bulldog  
Jamont Gordon leads  
his team to the Turkey  
Cup Final

[Click Here for  
Jamont Gordon  
Highlights from his  
Championship Run!](#)





**Gavin Ware**

**Fred Thomas**

**Roquez Johnson**

**Tyson Cunningham**

## **FEBRUARY SCHEDULE**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>TV</u>
Feb-2	LSU	4:30pm	FSN
Feb-6	at Ole Miss	8pm	CSS
Feb-9	at Florida	4pm	FSN
Feb-13	Missouri	7pm	SEC Network
Feb-16	at LSU	4pm	ESPNU
Feb-20	at Alabama	7pm	SEC Network
Feb-23	Vanderbilt	12:30pm	SEC Network
Feb-27	at Kentucky	7pm	SEC Network

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>		

**Jalen Steele**

**Craig Sword**

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For feedback or to be added to our email list, please contact us at [mississippiastatebasketball@gmail.com](mailto:mississippiastatebasketball@gmail.com)

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