

State Names Gottfried Head Coach

Written by Mike Kelly
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North Carolina State ended the suspense on Tuesday afternoon by naming former Alabama coach Mark Gottfried its new head men's basketball coach.

Gottfried replaces Sidney Lowe, who stepped down at the end of the season. The Wolfpack, a disappointment during Lowe's tenure as head coach, was 15-16 this past year. On the other hand, Gottfried led Alabama to a No. 1 ranking in the 2002-03 season, five NCAA tournament appearances, and 210 wins during his 11-year stay with the Crimson Tide.

He also led Alabama, which lost to Wichita State in the NIT finals last Thursday, to the NCAA tournament's Elite Eight in 2004. His uncle is former football coach and current ESPN college football analyst Mike Gottfried.

And before he came to Alabama, Gottfried spent seven years as an assistant at UCLA and was on the staff when the Bruins won the 1995 national championship. He was also a head coach at Murray State for three seasons, where he coached the Racers to three Ohio Valley Conference titles. His last squad at Murray State posted a 29-4 record.

He also played for the Crimson Tide and helped lead them to three Sweet 16 appearances in the NCAA tournament. He was selected by the Detroit Pistons in the National Basketball Association draft.

"I am extremely excited about this opportunity and challenge," Gottfried said. "I have always had great respect for the tradition of excellence here at State and I look forward to helping build this basketball program into a national contender."

The Wolfpack hasn't been to the NCAA tournament since 2006, and they've only had one winning season in the Atlantic Coast Conference in the last seven years. State was 5-11 in the ACC this season.

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