

## Could Lutz Be A Mountaineer????

Written by Staff Reports

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Well right now, that's up in the air, but it could soon become reality. There are reports that Bobby Lutz, an associate head basketball coach at North Carolina State and a former coach of the University of Charlotte, has emerged as the leading candidate to become Appalachian State's next head coach. Sources close to the situation have confirmed that Lutz is strongly in the mix for the job. He has been in discussions with Appalachian State about its vacancy the past several days, according to sources close to the situation. The school fired Jason Capel after four seasons. Capel was 53-70 during his tenure.

Lutz, 55, just completed his third season on coach Mark Gottfried's staff at N.C. State and his second year as associate head coach. The Wolfpack advanced to its third straight NCAA tournament and ended the season with a 22-14 record.

Sources said Appalachian State had been interested in Mike Rhoades, a former assistant at Virginia Commonwealth. He was named coach at Rice on Tuesday.

The Mountaineers are moving from the Southern Conference to the Sun Belt Conference July 1, and sources are reporting that athletics director Charlie Cobb has wants a coach with knowledge of that league. Charlotte, now in Conference USA, is a former member of the Sun Belt Conference.

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Lutz came to N.C. State after one season as an assistant coach at Iowa State. He was coach at Charlotte from 1999-2010, where he led his alma mater to eight postseason appearances (five NCAA, three NIT). A native of Catawba, N.C., he remains the winningest coach in 49ers history with a 218-158 record.

At N.C. State, Lutz is in charge of the advanced scouting and defensive game-planning. Gottfried also has given Lutz a lot of responsibility with the team's preparation.