

Is Buzz Peterson on his way back to ASU?

Written by Mike Kelly
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That's the \$64,000 question.

According to Wednesday's edition of the Charlotte Observer, Appalachian State University has offered its men's basketball coaching job to former coach Buzz Peterson.

Peterson, the player personnel director of the Charlotte Bobcats of the National Basketball Association, has confirmed that he has been offered the job, and that he misses the coaching profession. Now it's just a matter of deciding what to do in the next few days.

Peterson led the Mountaineers for four seasons (1996-2000). He had three consecutive 20-win seasons, led ASU to the Southern Conference tournament championship and an NCAA berth in 1999-2000. It was ASU's first appearance in the "Big Dance" since 1979. The Mountaineers eventually lost to Ohio State in the opening round in Nashville.

Peterson has also coached at Tulsa, where he won the National Invitational Tournament in 2001, Tennessee, and Coastal Carolina before he joined the Bobcats. If Peterson does decide to take the job, he would replace one of his former coaches, Houston Fancher, who resigned on March 16th

Fancher was an assistant coach with Peterson at Vanderbilt and came to ASU, when Peterson took over in 1996-97. Fancher, 137-136 during his nine-year stay with the Mountaineers, was eventually named associate head coach. He took over the ASU program when Peterson left for Tulsa in 2000-01.

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