

Peterson is the man for ASU

Written by Mike Kelly
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Buzz Peterson, who had a successful run with the Appalachian State men's basketball team during his four-year stay in the late 1990s, is back for a second go-round.

The University will introduce Peterson as the school's new basketball coach later today. Peterson, who was 79-39 during his four-year stay with the Apps from 1997-2000, led ASU to the Southern Conference tournament championship and only the school's second NCAA tournament appearance.

Peterson, who turned the job down after mulling it over for a week-and-a-half on April 9th, finally changed his mind as the two sides came to terms on an agreement. No details concerning the deal have been released by the school. According to Foxsports.com, the Apps did interview Ed Conroy of the Citadel for this position. Melvin Watkins, the associate head coach at Missouri and Wake Forest assistant coach Pete Kelsey were also in the mix. Kelsey was named the associate head coach at Xavier on Tuesday. But despite all of that, Fox reports that Peterson was ASU's first choice since day one.

Peterson replaces Houston Fancher, who resigned, or was fired (it all depends on one's point of view) on March 16th. Peterson, who is 201-134 in 11 years, has coached at Tulsa, Tennessee, and Coastal Carolina, and he's won an NIT championship. He was also the Player Personnel Director of the Charlotte Bobcats before accepting the ASU job.

The Apps, who were 13-18 last season, return 12 players, and two redshirt freshmen in Tyler Webb and Donterious Hughes.