



2007-08 PREVIEW



SUN DEVIL 2007-08 OUTLOOK

Arizona State coach Herb Sendek enters his second year as the leader of the Sun Devil program with an interesting mix of returning players (five of the top six scorers including three sophomores who averaged nearly 90 minutes per game), one of the best all-around student-athletes and big men in the Pac-10 (Jeff Pendergraph), a five-man freshmen recruiting class that garnered top-25 rankings and a 6-10 2005 McDonald's All-American redshirt sophomore who sat last year (Eric Boateng) after transferring. He returns most of the players from one of the top defensive teams in school history, a team that despite going 2-16 in the Pac-10 played all but one team in the final 15 games to a 10-point game.

Just how close were Sun Devil games last year? Think about this numbing statistic. Nine Pac-10 games were decided by six points or less, including five straight contests in the middle of the season.

What does it all mean as his staff looks towards 2007-2008? He knows that the community recognized their efforts last year and that he has some quality players to work with that will help six newcomers adjust to the rugged Pac-10 season that is loaded with arguably the nation's top talent. Winning games will never be easy, but the improvements are happening, both on the surface and behind the scenes.

"We showed consistent and significant improvement throughout our first season," says Coach Sendek, as ASU in the final two weeks of the season beat a ranked team for the first time since 2003 (68-58 over No. 18 USC on Feb. 18) and matched the program's best defensive effort in 522-game Pac-10 history in the regular season finale (42-41 win at California on March 3). "Our men were resilient, tough-minded and determined. They stuck together, maintained a positive attitude, worked hard and battled."

Coach Sendek also said his feelings about the Pac-10 were confirmed in his first year, and these second year will be much of the same. As many as seven Pac-10 teams have received top-25 rankings in the various summer polls, as the league matched its best mark by sending six teams to the NCAA Tournament. In the past seven years, the league has gone 52-32 (.619) in the NCAA Tournament and has sent 15 teams to the Sweet Sixteen.

"My first season in the Pac-10 confirmed my belief that the conference is as good as any in the country," he notes, and this is coming from a former head coach in the ACC for 10 seasons. "We feature outstanding academic institutions, future NBA players and rich basketball traditions. Pac-10 basketball is awesome."

Last year's team had to fight some adversity at a time when it figured its roster was set. Its top two scorers left the program in late summer, and the most notable was Kevin Kruger, who helped lead UNLV to the Sweet Sixteen. That opened up backcourt minutes, and three freshmen

gobbled them up. Expect a deep team this year with the minutes being spread. The squad will have just one senior, so there is going to be some mixing and matching and for the second straight year it won't be out of the question to see three sophomores or freshmen on the floor at some point, as senior Antwi Atuahene and 6-9 junior Jeff Pendergraph are the only players on the squad with more than one year of experience. Both have excellent leadership qualities.

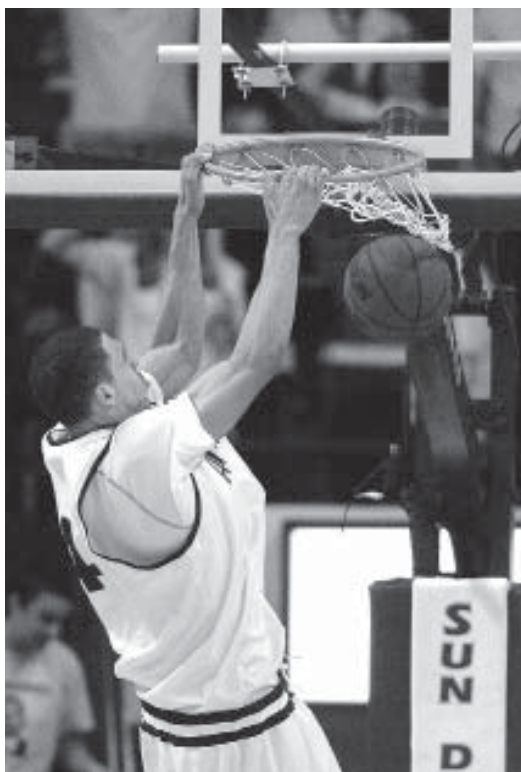
Atuahene was second on the team last year with 86 assists and averaged 6.9 points per game. The 6-3 Atuahene, originally from Canada, has played in every game the past two seasons (58 with 31 starts) and has taken care of his body in the offseason, trimming weight and reducing body fat. He is in the best shape of his career and stayed throughout the summer to improve his game and continue to take classes with an eye on graduating next summer.

One of the most valuable players in the Pac-10 is Pendergraph, who also has transformed his body into a 230-pound rebounding force. He finished second in the Pac-10 in field goal percentage (.553), rebounding (8.9), offensive rebounding (3.3) yet was fourth in minutes per game (35.5) in the 18 Pac-10 contests. After missing all of fall conditioning and most of November due to surgery to remove a benign tumor in his left leg in his freshman year (2005-06), last year was his first full year of conditioning and strength training. In his past 37 games, he is averaging 12.7

points and 8.8 boards. He continues to gain confidence, and his coach is one of his biggest fans. "Jeff had an outstanding sophomore season," notes Coach Sendek. "He works hard and is always eager to improve. We are so excited about his capabilities for the upcoming season. I love coaching him."

WINNERS: ASU's roster has some sparking numbers when it comes to high school wins. Here is a quick look at some eye-popping team won-loss notes from some Sun Devils in their high school careers:

Ty Abbott	Team went 29-2 in senior year; advanced to state semifinals.
Derek Glasser	Artesia went 33-1 in senior year; 111-19 in his four years.
James Harden	Led Artesia to No. 9 ranking (<i>USA Today</i>) and 33-2 record.
Rihards Kuksiks	Florida Air Academy went 25-3 last year; nearly 30 points.
Jamelle McMillan	Played for a state champion in three of his four years in talent-rich Seattle area
Jeff Pendergraph	Etiwanda H.S. went 62-5 in final two seasons.
Christian Polk	His junior season Deer Valley H.S. went 30-2 and then won 16 straight in his senior year.
Jerren Shipp	Fairfax H.S. went 24-3 in his senior season with a 15-game winning streak.



Jeff Pendergraph averaged 35.5 minutes per game in Pac-10 play last year and 8.9 boards, second in the league.



The lone senior for ASU is Antwi Atuahene, who has played in all 58 games in his two-year career with 31 starts.

Sophomores
Derek Glasser, Jerren Shipp and Christian Polk played more minutes than any freshman trio in Sun Devil basketball history last year. They each stepped on campus last fall hoping for playing time and to contribute. They combined to average 87.3 minutes per game and posted 69 starts.

Each of them had solid moments. Glasser, a 6-1 guard, averaged 32.2 minutes per game in Pac-10 play, third-most in school history and just a shade under two of the top Sun Devil greats in Byron Scott (34.2) and Ike Diogu (33.3). After starting

this season 18-of-69 (.261) from the three-point stripe, he gained confidence and shot 50 percent from beyond the arc in his final nine games (16-of-32). He averaged 9.1 points in the final eight games and hit the game-winning three-pointer at California with 13 seconds left on March 3. He was one of just six Pac-10 freshmen to start every league game.

Polk, a 6-3 native of nearby Glendale, Ariz., hit 64 three-pointers, second most in ASU history by a freshman and eighth-most in the history of the Pac-10 by a freshman. He also hit a game-winning three pointer in the final seconds in a big game as ASU topped defending Big Ten Tournament champion Iowa last November. He posted four 20-point games and had doubled digits in 21 games and his 12.0 points per game mark was seventh-best among ASU freshmen.

Shipp was steady all year and averaged 6.8 points per game in Pac-10 play and set the school mark with 23 points in his first game, the best debut by a Sun Devil freshman. He comes from a basketball family, and his basketball smarts on defense were evident as he led the team in steals and was named best cutter and screener by the coaching staff.

RIVALS.COM IS ON THE BANDWAGON: ASU's recruiting class is ranked fourth in the Pac-10 and 19th in the nation by Rivals.com. Individually, two of ASU's freshmen notched top preseason Pac-10 honors from the website. James Harden was named the best shooter and the website said he had the top basketball IQ among all the newcomers. Point guard Jamelle McMillan earned best defender honors.

DEFENSE

ASU played some of the stingiest defense in school history, allowing just 61.8 points per game. Simply put, that was good enough to win a lot of games when you consider that:

- Of the 29 teams ahead of them in the NCAA rankings, 15 of them made the NCAA Tournament and five made the NIT.
- ASU allowed less points-per-game than NCAA champion Florida (62.6).
- ASU allowed less points per game than No. 1 national seed Memphis (63.1).
- Duke is traditionally considered one of the nation's best defensive teams and ASU allowed less points than the Blue Devils (62.0).

Below is a look at the postseason teams in the top 30 of scoring defense last year along with some other notables.

2006-2007 SCORING DEFENSE

1. Princeton (11-17)	53.3
2. Air Force (NIT, 26-9)	56.0
3. Southern Illinois (NCAA, 29-7)	56.2
4. Illinois (NCAA, 23-12)	57.1
5. Butler (NCAA, 29-7)	57.1
6. Michigan St. (NCAA, 23-12)	57.2
7. Miami (Ohio) (NCAA, 18-15)	57.4
8. Holy Cross (NCAA, 25-9)	57.5
10. Wisconsin (NCAA, 30-6)	57.9
11. Georgetown (NCAA, 30-7)	58.0
13. Delaware St. (NIT, 21-13)	58.8
15. Texas A&M (NCAA, 27-7)	59.4
16. UCLA (NCAA, 30-5)	59.5
17. Washington St. (NCAA, 26-8)	59.5
18. Oklahoma (NIT, 16-15)	59.6
21. Michigan (NIT, 22-13)	60.5
22. Drexel (NIT, 23-9)	60.6
23. Creighton (NCAA, 22-11)	60.9
27. Winthrop (NCAA, 29-5)	61.4
28. Kansas (NCAA, 33-5)	61.7
29. Indiana (NCAA, 21-11)	61.8
30. Arizona St. (8-22)	61.8
33. Duke (NCAA, 22-11)	62.0
42. Florida (NCAA, 35-5)	62.6
48. Pittsburgh (NCAA, 29-8)	62.8
49. Memphis (NCAA, 33-4)	63.1
50. Louisville (NCAA, 24-10)	63.1



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THREES WILL BE SHOT, EVENTUALLY: Coach Sendek's teams have always had good shooters. His 2005-2006 NC State squad was ninth in the nation in three-pointers made per game at nine per game and was 16th in the nation in freethrow shooting at 75.1 percent. His squad led the nation in 2003-2004 with a .799 clip.

Another returning letterman from last year is junior Steve Jones, who would not be denied playing time in 2006-2007. When the team needed a spark, he was inserted. He does all the little things on the court both in games and in practice and was invaluable last year with such a young squad. Expect the same leadership from him again. He saw action in 27 games last year and earned two starts.

All the returners come from winning high school programs. Pendergraph played for an Etiwanda team that went 62-5 in his final two seasons. Glasser's Artesia High School team was 111-19 in his four years. Polk's Deer Valley team was 30-2 in his junioryear and won 16 straight his senioryear. Shipp's Fairfax team went 24-3 in his senior year and won 15 straight.

All those wins mean they must know how to play defense, and that was shown last year. The numbers were similar to his first year at NC State, when his squad set the ACC record by allowing just 54.7 points per game.

ASU ended the season ranked 30th in the nation in scoring defense at 61.8 points per game. Sixteen of the teams ahead of them were NCAA Tournament teams and 20 of the teams posted 20 wins. ASU's scoring defense was better than Ohio State (62.0), Duke (62.0), Florida (62.6), Pitt (62.8), Memphis (63.1) and Louisville (63.1). There were moments in 2006-2007 that ASU made every good teams struggle. Washington was just 5-of-21 (.238) from the floor in the

second half of its Feb. 1 game. Cal was just 5-of-18 (.278) and posted just 16 points in the second half on March 3. Oregon lit up the NCAA Tournament with its offense but was just 6-of-21 (.286) in the second half against ASU on Feb. 8. Washington State was as efficient as any team in the country at times, but ASU held it to 12-second half points on Feb. 3 and just 4-of-20 from the floor.

The team will be improved with six additions. One has been here for a year, the other five are true freshmen that the staff is excited to

coach. Coach Sendek has been around long enough to know that the transition period won't be easy. Having said that, he posted his fifth straight NCAA Tournament appearance in 2005-2006 with a team that had no one average more than 10 points per game the year before, so watching him work with this group should have Sun Devil followers excited.

Jeff Pendergraph won't be the only big man in the paint this year for ASU. Sophomore Eric Boateng, a 6-10 center from England, played one year at Duke in 2005-06 and had to sit last year due to NCAA transfer rules. Two things were established with Boateng's presence, according to Coach Sendek. It showed that recruiting was stepping up and increased the competition level in practice last season.

"Since he is a McDonald's All-American (2005), Eric's commitments sent a lightning bolt across the country. He gave us instant credibility and then helped us in practice last season. We are excited that he now will be helping us in games."

Boateng didn't waste a season physically. On game days, after shoot-a-rounds, he would put in workouts that would make a boxer proud, as associate head coach Mark

Phelps would push him with the use of the heavy ball, exercise bike and sprints and then mix in three-point shooting, freethrows and work around the hoop while a manager hit him with pads.



Jerren Shipp averaged 6.8 points per game in Pac-10 play and scored 23 in his season debut last year against Northern Arizona.

PAC-10 MINUTES PER GAME: ASU had three players rank among the top-10 last year in Pac-10 play in minutes per game, as Derek Glasser (32.2), Christian Polk (30.2) and Jerren Shipp (29.3) all played plenty in the 18 league games. Here is a look at the top-10 freshmen minutes per game leaders in the 18 Pac-10 regular season games last year and also a look at the freshmen minutes per game by each team in the league play.

PAC-10 FRESHMEN 2006-2007 MINUTES PER GAME (Pac-10 Regular Season Games)

RK.	Freshmen, School	MPG
1.	Josh Tarver, OSU	34.8
2.	Chase Budinger, Arizona	33.9
3.	Ryan Anderson, California	33.8
3.	Taj Gibson, USC	33.8
5.	Derek Glasser, ASU	32.2
6.	Tajuan Porter, Oregon	31.7
7.	Spencer Hawes, Washington	31.3
8.	Christian Polk, ASU	30.2
9.	Jerren Shipp, ASU	29.3
10.	Brook Lopez, Stanford	26.8

PAC-10 FRESHMEN 2006-2007 MINUTES PER GAME BY TEAM (Pac-10 Regular Season Games)

RK.	School (# of Freshmen)	MPG
1.	Arizona State (4)	96.0
2.	Washington (4)	89.3
3.	California (4)	81.4
4.	USC (6)	80.9
5.	Stanford (5)	69.4
6.	Oregon State (5)	68.1
7.	Arizona (3)	56.3
8.	Oregon (2)	41.0
9.	UCLA (4)	21.0
10.	Washington State (1)	15.2

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ASU has five true freshmen on its roster this year. The fall class included McDonald's All-American James Harden, a 6-4 dynamic wing who averaged 18.8 points, 7.9 rebounds and 3.9 assists last year while leading Artesia (Calif.) to a 33-2 record and the Division III state title. Harden was

ranked all year as a consistent top-20 player and is the first McDonald's All-American to sign with ASU out of high school since Chris Sandle in 1984.

Coach Sendek's team always recruits great shooters. His 2003-2004 NC State team led the nation in free throw percentage (.799) and his 2005-2006 squad was ninth in the nation in three-pointers made per game



Derek Glasser averaged 32.2 minutes per game in Pac-10 play last year and averaged 9.1 points in his final eight games.

(9.0). That should be a perfect fit for Latvian Rihards Kuksiks, who helped Florida Air Academy win back-to-back state titles and averaged 29.0 points in his senior year mainly via the three-point shot.

Jamelle McMillan inked with ASU as well in the fall of 2007, and the son of Portland coach and longtime NBA standout Nate is advertised as being just what you would expect, a floor leader with three state titles on his resume. The 6-1 Seattle native averaged 13.5 points and eight assists in his senior year and led his team to a 25-5 record.

Kraidon Woods signed with Villanova out of high school but elected to go to prep school last year. The 6-9 forward averaged 16.0 points in his senior year and has a tremendous athletic ability.

ASU lost two players at the last minute in 2006-07, but might have turned the tables in the spring class this year. Phoenix native Ty Abbott averaged 17.3 points for Desert Vista High School last year and had signed with New Mexico in the fall, but when a coaching change occurred he chose ASU over other Pac-10 schools. An outstanding student athlete, Abbott led his team to a 29-2 mark last year.

NCAA TOURNEY WATCH: Since 1990, 69 of 71 Pac-10 teams who have won at least 11 conference games have been selected to the NCAA Tourney. The exceptions? ASU in 1992-93, when it was 11-7 and tied for third and Stanford in 2005-06 when it tied for fourth but was 15-13. Also, 74 of 76 teams since 1990 who have posted 18 overall wins and 10 Pac-10 wins have qualified for the NCAA. Again, the odd teams out were ASU in 1992-93 and 1999-2000.

SCOUT.COM RANKINGS: ASU's recruiting class is ranked fourth in the Pac-10 and 16th in the nation by SCOUT.com. James Harden is ranked 23rd (fifth-best shooting guard) while Jamelle McMillan is ranked 96th overall and 15th among point guards. Ty Abbott, Rihards Kuksiks and Kraidon Woods all were mentioned in the "Next 200" rankings.

Two former Arizona prep players, Chad Goldstein and Trent Anderson, complete the roster. Goldstein played for ASU in 2005-06 before sitting out last year due to health reasons. Anderson, a Tucson native, injured his knee this summer and will redshirt.

All those newcomers mixing with returners means Coach Sendek will lean on his staff heavily. Associate Head Coach Mark Phelps joined the NC State staff in Coach Sendek's first year following a very successful high school coaching career and enters his 12th season on his staff. Assistant Coach Dedrique Taylor, a southern Californian native, enters his second season after helping lead Nevada to the WAC Championship in 2004-05 and 2005-06. Scott Pera enters his first year as an assistant coach after serving as the Director of Basketball Operations last year. Mike Gibson, formerly a graduate assistant with Coach Tom Izzo at Michigan State, rounds out the staff as Director of Operations.

The 44-year-old Coach Sendek knows all about working on a great staff as he currently has six former assistant coaches serving as head coaches on the Division I level, including three who took their squad to the NCAA Tournament last year.

"We continue to be blessed with an outstanding group of coaches. They are character-based, experienced and passionate. They are united and determined to continue to advance Arizona State Basketball."

Coach Sendek said last year each season is different and that each team develops its own identity. But he knows that parts are coming together for a different look this year, especially on the offensive end.

"It should be an exciting season. Our fans support continues to grow and certainly reflect the excitement around the program. Our student section was outstanding. We are determined to demonstrate continued improvement."



Christian Polk averaged 12.0 points in his freshman year and notched four 20-point games.

The ASU File

THE HEAD COACH: Herb Sendek enters his 15th season as a head coach and has averaged 18.7 wins per season. He led the NC State Wolfpack to five straight NCAA appearances from 2002-06 and is now 262-180 (.592) in 14 seasons and was 191-132 (.591) at NC State. The 44-year-old (born Feb. 22, 1963) Pittsburgh, Pa., native is the second-youngest coach in the Pac-10 behind only Tony Bennett of WSU. Only Duke posted more ACC wins (regular season and ACC Tournament) than NC State's 53 victories from 2002-2006. Coach Sendek also led NC State to five 20-win seasons in his final seven years. Another overlooked note is his 10-year stay at NC State. To compare it to the Pac-10, since the league expanded to 10 teams in 1978-79, only five coaches have coached at their schools for at least 10 years: Lute Olson (currently 24 at Arizona), Ralph Miller (19 at Oregon State), Mike Montgomery (18 at Stanford), Ben Braun (11 at California) and Ernie Kent (10 at Oregon).

MANY WINS AT MANY PLACES: When comes time to play on the road or at a neutral site, Herb Sendek has a good map on how to win. In his career, Coach Sendek has won 259 games in 21 states, plus two wins in Puerto Rico and one in Washington D.C. North Carolina (153) and Ohio (51) lead the way because he was the head coach in both states, but he also has posted wins in Florida (seven), Arizona (seven), Michigan (six), South Carolina (five), Virginia (five), Georgia (four), Indiana (four), Massachusetts (three), California (two), Texas (two) and Maryland (two). He has posted one win in Alabama, Utah, New York, New Jersey, Tennessee, Nevada, Kentucky and Illinois.

WHO IS THE BIG GUY IN THE TIE ON THE BENCH?: Herb Sendek's first recruit at Arizona State was Duke transfer Eric Boateng, a 6-10 former McDonald's All-American who attended high school in Delaware. He was one of 12 McDonald's All-Americans in the Pac-10 in 2006-2007, but is just the fourth to appear on an ASU roster, joining Jamal Faulkner (1989), Chris Sandle (1984) and Byron Scott (1979). He has three years of eligibility remaining. With Boateng and James Harden, ASU now has two McDonald's All-Americans on the team after having just three in its history prior to this season.

MORE McDONALD'S ALL-AMERICAN STUFF: ASU has two McDonald's All-Americans on its roster in 2006-2007 with James Harden (2007) and Eric Boateng (2005) in uniform. Other Pac-10 teams with McDonald's All-Americans in 2006-2007 include Arizona (Jerryd Bayless in 2007, Chase Budinger in 2006 and Jawann McClellan in 2004), Stanford (Brook and Robin Lopez in 2006), UCLA (Kevin Love from 2007 and James Keefe in 2006), Washington (Jon Brockman in 2005), Oregon (Malik Hairston in 2004) and USC (O.J. Mayo from 2007).

IT WAS SO CLOSE: In the final nine regular season games last year (second half of Pac-10) ASU was outscored by just 22 points and its seven losses were by one, three, four (twice), five, six and ten points. It all started vs. Washington on Feb. 1, when ASU fell behind 44-21 at the half but then outscored the Huskies 40-22 in the second half and held UW to just 5-of-21 (.238) from the floor. In those nine games, ASU outscored its opponents 281-227 (31.2 to 25.7) in the second half and held them to 70-of-203 (.344) from the field and 18-of-76 (.236) from the three-point stripe.

WANT MORE EXAMPLES?: The Sun Devils held California on March 3 to just 5-of-18 (.278) shooting and 16 points in the second half...ASU outscored USC 47-32 in the second half on Feb. 18...ASU outscored eventual Pac-10 Tournament champion and Elite Eight participant Oregon 30-22 in the second half and held it to just 6-of-21 (.286) shooting...ASU outscored Washington State 23-12 on Feb. 3 and held it to 4-of-20 (.200) from the floor...14 of ASU's final 15 games were decided by 10 points or less, including each its final 10 games.

D IS GOOD: The Sun Devils finished third in Pac-10 games in scoring defense at 61.7 points per game, and the other six teams in the top seven were NCAA Tournament squads. And it is not just a result of slowing the game down, as ASU ranked fourth in field goal percentage defense (.437) in league games, despite blocking just 23 shots in the 18 league games (ninth in the loop). ASU gave up just 61.8 points per game overall, the fourth-best mark in ASU history and the lowest since the 1949-50 squad gave up 59.8.

NCAA NOTE: Prior to last year, Herb Sendek took NC State to the previous five NCAA Tournaments (2002-2006). To compare it to the Pac-10, only three schools (and one current Pac-10 coach) can match that in the 29 seasons since ASU and Arizona joined the league in 1978-79. Arizona (currently 22), UCLA (14 straight from 1989-2002) and Stanford (11 straight from 1995-2005) have had NCAA Tournaments streaks of more than five, but none of the other seven Pac-10 schools have gone to more than three straight NAAs since the league expanded to 10 teams in 1978-79. In fact, California (2001-2003), Oregon State (1980-82 and 1988-90) and Washington (1984-86 and 2004-06) are the only schools to have made three straight appearances in that time frame.

HOME OPENER: ASU will open the Pac-10 season at home for just the third time in the past seven years and for just the fourth time in the past decade when it hosts 2007 Pac-10 Tournament champion Oregon on Jan. 3 and Oregon State on Jan. 5.

I KNOW YOU, YOU KNOW ME: ASU plays host to 2007 Atlantic 10 champion Xavier on Dec. 15 on Fox Sports Net, as the Musketeers have been picked to win the league title by Athlon Sports. The game again will match Herb Sendek against a former NC State and Miami (Ohio) assistant coach of his, as Sean Miller is one of six former Sendek aides to be a head coach on the Division I level.

FREE THROWS: In his 10 seasons at NC State, Coach Sendek's teams led the ACC four times in free throw percentage, including three straight seasons from 2002-2004. In 2004 his NC State squad led the nation and set the ACC record by shooting .799 from the charity stripe. His 2005-2006 team shot .751 (second in the ACC to Duke) and was 16th in the nation. His poorest free throw shooting team was his first year (1996-97) when they shot 64.9 percent. While at NC State, his Wolfpack squads shot 71.3 percent. ASU was 147-of-210 (.700) from the free throw line in its final 17 games and 103-of-147 (.701) in the final 11 games.