



05/22/2008

Carter to coach SBU women; MCE still searching

By: Bill Breshears, sports editor billb@cpimo.com

The Southwest Baptist University Lady Bearcats will have a familiar face on the sidelines this season.

J.C. Carter, a former basketball and football player at SBU, was named Thursday as the new SBU women's head coach. The 2003 SBU graduate replaces Jim Middleton, who resigned last month to take a coaching position at Nixa.

"This is a great opportunity, and I'm excited about it. God opened the door," Carter said. "I'd like to thank Dr. (SBU President C. Pat) Taylor and (Athletic Director) Brent Good.

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"I know Coach Middleton will be a tough act to follow. He set the bar high here at SBU.

"Also, I definitely believe in what SBU is all about."

Carter was an assistant coach for coach Jeff Guiot's Bearcat men last season. The Bearcats won the MIAA championship and finished with a record of 22-8.

Carter also has coaching experience at California State University-Northridge, Village Christian High School, Bolivar High School and the University of Texas-Pan American. He also coached in summer camps at Missouri State University, Bolivar High School, SBU, Stephen F. Austin and the Derek Fisher camp.

J.C. and wife Jennifer live in Bolivar.

Morrisville girls'

The Morrisville Lady Panthers will likely have a new coach for the 2008-09 season.

Melody Stewart "resigned" from that job in late March after a meeting with MCE administrators. A month after the forced resignation and after a string of protests and controversy, Stewart was re-offered the job by a new MCE school board in May.

She did not return a signed contract by the MCE deadline.

Morrisville is taking applications and searching for a girls' coach. They hope to wrap up the process by early June.



May 22, 2008

SBU hires Guiot assistant to coach women's team

Kary Booher

The Southwest Baptist women's basketball program will now be led by J.C. Carter, an assistant this past season for men's coach Jeff Guiot.

The college announced the hire today, a month after longtime women's coach Jim Middleton resigned after 14 seasons and took the Nixa High School girl's coaching vacancy.

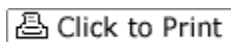
Carter, who assisted Jeff Guiot during the 2007-08 men's season, graduated from Southwest Baptist in 2003. He has coached men's teams as an assistant at Texas-Pan American and at Cal State-Northridge. Prior to his collegiate career, he was the head coach for Village Christian High School in Los Angeles.

Middleton's departure came after the Lady Bearcats became a factor again in NCAA Division II basketball, reaching the national tournament for the first time since March 2001 and finishing third in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association.

Middleton was named Coach of the Year for both the MIAA and the NCAA D-II South Central region, placing him in the running among eight finalists for the Russell WBCA National Coach of the Year award.

It was the sixth trip to the NCAA D-II tournament since Middleton was hired away from an assistant coaching job at Missouri State ahead of the 1994-95 season. A former assistant for Cheryl Burnett at MSU, including on the staff in its 1992 Final Four season, Middleton was 239-158 overall (.602) at SBU.

SBU loses only two seniors, guard Erika Souza and center Kelly Reinkemeyer.

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J.C. Carter Named SBU Women's Basketball Coach

By **KSPR Sports**

Story Created: May 23, 2008

Story Updated: May 23, 2008

SBU's Director of Athletics, Brent Good, has announced that J. C. Carter has been named as the 12th head coach of Southwest Baptist University's women's basketball team.

"I am pleased to announce J. C. Carter as SBU's women's basketball coach," said Good. "J. C. is a fine Christian man who has a passion for basketball, and has been a part of many successful programs as an assistant coach. There are times when you give a young assistant coach the opportunity to be a head coach. I feel that to be successful, a coach needs to be a great recruiter and teacher. J. C. has both of these attributes. It will be a transition moving from coaching men to women, and J. C. will be faced with many challenges as he takes on this role. Recruiting and hiring an assistant coach are the priorities at this time. We have a great tradition here at SBU in our women's basketball program and in the MIAA. I feel J. C. is embracing this opportunity to continue to build our women's program. He has my full support."

Carter, who assisted Jeff Guiot during the 2007-08 men's championship season, graduated from SBU in 2003. In addition to his experience at SBU last season, Carter has coached men's teams as an assistant at the University of Texas – Pan American and at California State University – Northridge. Prior to his collegiate career, he was the head coach for Village Christian High School in Los Angeles.

"I would like to thank [SBU's President] Dr. Taylor and Brent Good for this opportunity," said Carter. "I am very grateful to be a head coach at the college level. I've always prayed that God would open the door to a head coaching position in His timing, and He's done that. Coach Middleton built an excellent program here, with a solid foundation. I believe in the mission of SBU, and that is exactly why I came back to work with Coach Guiot last season. I would like to thank Coach Guiot for the opportunity to assist with the great team we had last year."

As a student-athlete, Carter's basketball career included stops at SBU, Stephen F. Austin State University, and Angelina Junior

College.

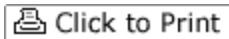
SBU's head coach of the men's team, Jeff Guiot, spoke of Carter's impact on the Bearcats' 2007-08 campaign.

"Coach Carter was a major part of our success last season, when we won the MIAA Championship. I hired him last year, because I knew he was a special individual with great coaching instincts. It's nice to see that SBU recognizes the same things I saw in him. Our women's program is getting an outstanding coach."

Carter and his wife, Jennifer, were married in August 2007.

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