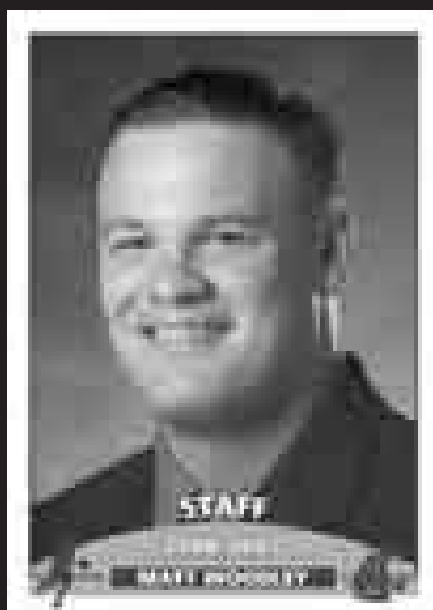
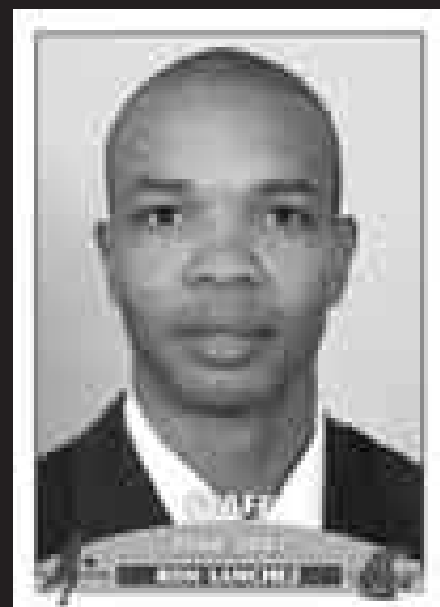
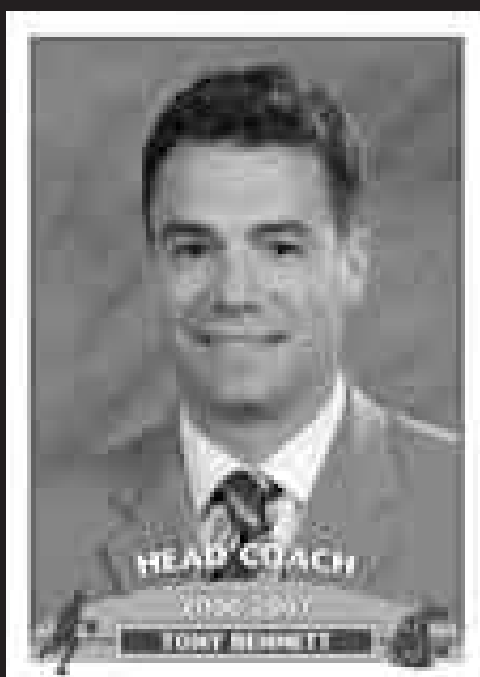
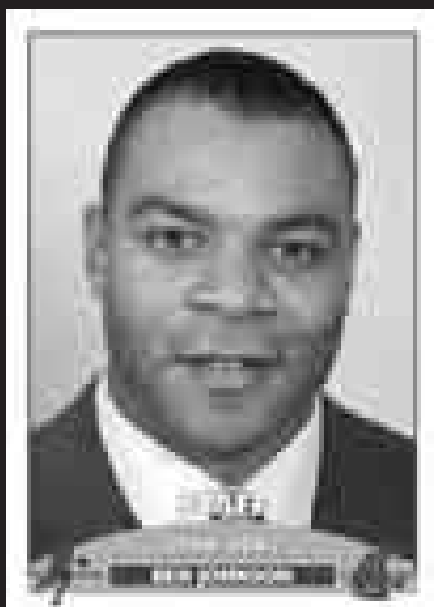


# COACHES AND SUPPORT STAFF





Head Coach  
First Season

## Tony Bennett

Tony Bennett is in his first season as the head coach of the Washington State University men's basketball team and is the 16th man in school history to lead the program.

The Green Bay, Wis., native is in his fourth season with the Cougars having come to the Palouse as an assistant coach for his father Dick prior to the 2003-04 season.

The younger Bennett was promoted to associate head coach for the 2004-05 season and succeeded his father at the conclusion of the 2005-06 campaign.

"Tony has great integrity, character, and a huge drive for success," WSU Director of Athletics Jim Sterk said. "I am very excited about the future of Cougar basketball under Tony Bennett."

Tony added, "I can't tell you how

much of a privilege and honor it is for me to follow in the footsteps of my father. Everywhere he has gone, there have been things that have been consistent when he has rebuilt programs. People have always said they have been full of integrity and passion. There's no question that is what I want to carry on. When people look at our Cougar basketball program, they are going to say that is a program that is run with integrity and passion."

Over the last three seasons, the 37-year-old Bennett has been an integral part of a staff that saw the Cougars post several historic victories, set or tie a pair of school records and lead the Pac-10 in scoring defense twice.

In the Bennett's first season on the Palouse, the Cougars broke 12 streaks and captured their first road sweep of UCLA

and USC in WSU history. The following season the Crimson and Gray took down No. 11 Arizona in Tucson to break a 38-game losing streak against the Wildcats and halt a 48-game skid overall against top 25 teams. Then, a win over Stanford in March of 2005 marked the first home-and-home sweep of the Cardinal since 1992-93. Last year's campaign brought two wins over a nationally ranked Washington squad recording the Cougars first home-and-home sweep of the Huskies since 1994. The win at Friel Court marked the first win over a ranked opponent since No. 25 California in 1997.

Bennett has proven himself to be an excellent recruiter. While at Washington State he has recruited student-athletes that earned a pair of Pacific-10 honorable mention accolades, two spots on conference academic teams and a Pac-10 Player of the Week award.

Bennett came to Washington State from the Wisconsin where he spent four seasons with the Badgers, highlighted by a Final Four appearance in 2000, a run to the Sweet Sixteen in 2003 and a share of Big 10 Conference titles in 2002 and 2003. His responsibilities included recruiting, player development and summer camps.

While at Wisconsin, Bennett played a



*Tony Bennett drives past then New York Knick and current basketball analyst Greg Anthony.*

significant role in recruiting Devin Harris, Kirk Penney, Alondo Tucker, and Brian Butch. Harris, the 2004 Big 10 Player of the Year and first team All-Big 10 selection was the fifth overall pick in the 2004 NBA Draft. He was also a member of the 2006 NBA Western Conference Champion Dallas Mavericks.

Penney, an Olympian for New Zealand and one of his country's top players, earned first team All-Big 10 accolades in

back-to-back seasons (2002-03). Tucker, a 2002 Top 50 recruit was named a first team All-Big 10 performer in 2006 and is one of just eight seniors in the country with at least 1,500 career points. He is currently ranked as one of the top small forwards in the country. Butch, a 2003 Top 20 recruit, played in the prestigious McDonald's All-American game.

Prior to his years at Wisconsin, Bennett had a four year playing and coaching career in Auckland, New Zealand. He played for the North Harbor Kings from 1996-98. During those years abroad, Bennett was a player in 1996; a player/coach in 1997; and head coach during the 1998 and 1999 seasons.

In 1997, Bennett's team reached the New Zealand country final four. The highlight of his coaching career abroad came in 1998 when the North Harbor Kings finished as the national runner-up, marking the highest place finish in the history of the basketball club.

Bennett offers to the WSU program the kind of knowledge that only a former NBA player possesses having played three seasons (1992-95) for the Charlotte Hornets before a foot injury ended his professional career.

Prior to being selected by the Hornets with the 35th pick in the 1992 NBA draft, Bennett enjoyed a storied collegiate career at UW-Green Bay where he played for his father, Dick Bennett from 1989-92.

He finished his collegiate career as the Mid-Continent Conference's all-time leader in points (2,285) and assists (601) while he still ranks as the NCAA's all-time leader in 3-point percentage (.497). Bennett led the Phoenix to one NCAA Tournament berth, two appearances in the NIT and most notably helped UW-Green Bay to a 87-34 (.719) winning percentage during his collegiate playing career.

A two-time MCC Player of the Year, Bennett won the Frances Pomeroy Naismith Award given to the nation's most outstanding senior under six-feet tall. He was also the 1992 GTE All-American of the Year. Bennett started for Purdue's Gene Keady on the USA bronze medal-winning 1991 Pan-American Games team.

As a high school senior at Green Bay Preble High School in 1988, Bennett was named first team All-State for the second consecutive year and won the coveted honor of Wisconsin's Mr. Basketball.

Tony and his wife, Laurel, have two children, Anna (5) and Eli (4).



*Detroit Pistons Assistant Coach Terry Porter, past WSU Head Coach Dick Bennett and current WSU Head Coach Tony Bennett.*



*Tony Bennett threw out a ceremonial first pitch at the Seattle Mariners' game, June 8, 2006.*



## Director of Player Development/ Operations

### Mike Heideman

Mike Heideman is in his fourth season at Washington State and first as the director of player development and operations. Heideman came to WSU with former head coach Dick Bennett, whom he was an assistant to at Wisconsin-Green Bay, 1986-95.

During that time, Heideman coordinated all recruiting efforts and played an integral role in UWGB capturing the Mid-Continent Conference regular season title in 1992 and 1994. During that era, Heideman helped guide the Phoenix to Mid-Continent Tournament championships and NCAA Tournament automatic berths in 1991 and 1994. He also helped lead UWGB to a Midwestern Collegiate Conference Tournament title and an NCAA Tournament appearance in 1995.

Following the 1994-95 season, Heideman succeeded Bennett as the head coach of the Phoenix and found immediate success.

He led UWGB to the Midwestern Collegiate Conference regular season championship and a berth in the NCAA Tournament during his first season (1995-96). His team was ranked as high as 22nd by the Associated Press and 23rd in the *USA Today/CNN Coaches* poll.

Heideman's efforts earned him the Mid-

western Collegiate Conference Coach of the Year in 1996. He was also selected as the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) District 11 Coach of the Year and Wisconsin Collegiate Coach of the Year in 1996.

During his seven seasons at UWGB, Heideman compiled a record of 110-95. He spent one season as an assistant at Valparaiso before joining the Cougars' staff in April 2003.

Prior to UWGB, Heideman was the head men's basketball coach at St. Norbert College (1982-86), an NCAA Division III school in DePere, Wis. He was selected NABC Division III Midwest Region Coach of the Year in 1984 and received the Contribution to Basketball Award for the State of Wisconsin in 1986. His 66-25 mark at St. Norbert's gave him a career record of 176-120 in 11 seasons as a collegiate head coach.

In addition to his collegiate background, Heideman owns high school coaching experience at Xavier in Appleton, Wis., and Augusta (Wis.). In 11 seasons, Heideman compiled a prep record of 158-52.

He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in physical education from Wisconsin-LaCrosse. Heideman and his wife Sally have two grown sons, David and Timothy.



## Assistant Coach

# Ben Johnson

Ben Johnson enters his third season as an assistant coach, recruiter and on the floor coach at Washington State University. Long before joining the program in April 2004, Johnson had a previous history and a shared basketball philosophy with the Cougar coaching staff.

Johnson was a teammate of WSU Head Coach Tony Bennett at Wisconsin-Green Bay for four seasons (1989-92). While attending UWGB, Johnson a two-year captain, helped lead the Phoenix to one NCAA Tournament and two appearances in the NIT. During that time, Johnson was coached by former Washington State University Head Coach Dick Bennett.

Upon graduating from UWGB in 1992 with a degree in organizational communications, Johnson played three years of professional basketball (1993-95) in Cairns, Australia. While overseas, he began his coaching career working

as a basketball youth development officer and clinician. He coached and developed over a hundred of Australian players at the junior and state representative level.

In addition, Johnson served as an assistant coach at his alma mater from 1995-2002 under current Washington State Director of Player Development/Operations Mike Heideman, where he helped the Phoenix reach the NCAA Tournament in 1996.

Johnson made his return to Australia in 2002 where he was the head coach for the Kuiyam Pride Women and Kuiyam Pride Under-23 Men, who competed in the Australian Basketball League. In 2003, Johnson was named Queensland Australian Basketball League Women's Coach of the Year.

Johnson, a native of Stevens Point, Wis., is married to Nicky (former WNBL player in Townsville, Australia).







### Assistant Coach

## Ron Sanchez

Ron Sanchez enters his fourth season on the Cougar staff and his first as an assistant coach. Sanchez spent his first three seasons at Washington State University as the coordinator of basketball operations.

Sanchez has been integral in scheduling and budget management while at Washington State. This season, the Cougars will play four nonconference games against teams that participated in the 2006 NCAA Tournament. This marks the first time in school history the Cougars will play four games against teams from the previous season's NCAA Tournament prior to conference play.

A graduate of State University of New York, College of Oneonta, Sanchez came to Pullman after spending the 1998-99 season as an assistant coach at Oneonta State and two seasons as a volunteer coach at Indiana.

With the Hoosiers, Sanchez assisted in self and opponent scouting as well as film exchange. He worked closely with the administrative assistant and video coordinator during his time at Indiana, which included the Hoosiers' national runner-up finish in 2002. While at Indiana, he earned his master's degree in athletic administration/sports management.

Prior to Indiana, Sanchez was an associate head coach at Delhi College in New York from 1999-2001. In 2001, Delhi posted a 31-2 record, captured the Region III championship and placed fourth at the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Championship.

A native of San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic, Sanchez was named the State University of New York Athletic Conference Player of the Year in 1996. He also earned the Eastern College Athletic Conference Championship Most Valuable Player award in 1996.

Sanchez is married to Tara, an assistant coach for the Washington State women's basketball team.







## Assistant Coach

# Matt Woodley

Matt Woodley joins the Cougar family this season as an assistant coach with over six years of coaching experience under his belt. A graduate of Drake University, Woodley comes to the Palouse after a two-year stint as an assistant coach at Middle Tennessee.

With the Blue Raiders, Woodley's responsibilities included recruiting, scouting, scheduling and film exchange, as well as the day-to-day preparation of the team. He was also influential in landing several impact players for the 2004 squad.

Prior to Middle Tennessee, Woodley spent over three years as an assistant coach at Denver. With the Pioneers, the West Des Moines, Iowa, native assisted with all aspects of the team, including recruiting, scouting, scheduling and on-floor practices. Woodley also spent a year as a graduate assistant at Wayne (Neb.) State, where he served as the recruiting coordinator and assisted in game preparation and scouting.

During his three-year career (1998-2000) as a point guard at Drake, Woodley started every game from and ended as the Bulldogs' all-time career leader in steals (198) and second in 3-pointers (188). He twice earned honorable mention from the Missouri Valley Conference and was named the team's most valuable player his senior year. Woodley graduated in 2000 with a bachelor's degree in elementary education.

Coaching was a family calling for Woodley, whose father and three brothers are all in the business. His father Mike and brother Brian are both head football coaches at high schools in Texas and Iowa, respectively, while his brother Andy is the head basketball coach at a high school in Texas. Woodley is currently single and resides in Pullman.





**BURDETTE GREENY**  
Equipment Manager



**CRAIG LAWSON**  
Assistant Athletic Media  
Relations Director



**MITCH REAVES**  
Manager



**MARLON STEWART**  
Manager



**ASHLEY WALKER**  
Athletic Media Relations  
Student Assistant



**RONNIE WIDEMAN**  
Basketball Operations  
Assistant

## ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Athletic Department to create and foster an environment which provides opportunities for all student-athletes to enrich their collegiate experience through participation on athletic teams which are competitive at the conference and national level. In concert with the mission and values of Washington State University, the department is dedicated to providing opportunities, which will enhance the intellectual, physical, social, moral and cultural development of the whole person, while conducting all activities with honesty and integrity in accordance with the principles of good sportsmanship and ethical conduct. The Athletic Department values gender and ethnic diversity and is committed to providing equitable opportunities for all students and staff. The department will pursue its mission while upholding the values, purposes and policies of Washington State University, the Pacific-10 Conference, and the National Collegiate Athletic Association. academics and athletics.