



CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DERECK WHITTENBURG

Dereck Whittenburg is a notable American basketball coach and former player who gained recognition for his contributions to the sport both on and off the court. Born on October 2, 1960, Whittenburg played his collegiate basketball at North Carolina State University (NC State), where he became an integral part of the Wolfpack's success. As a high school All-American at DeMatha Catholic High School in Hyattsville, Maryland, Whittenburg showcased his exceptional basketball talent early on.

During his time at NC State, Whittenburg played under the guidance of legendary head coach Jim Valvano. As a junior, he earned second team All-ACC honors, further establishing himself as a prominent player. His most notable achievement came in 1983 when he was part of the NC State Wolfpack team that clinched the NCAA National Championship.

Following his college career, Whittenburg was selected in the third round of the 1983 NBA Draft by the Phoenix Suns. He spent two years in the NBA before transitioning to coaching, returning to NC State as an assistant coach from 1985 to 1986. Whittenburg then expanded his coaching experience with various assistant coaching roles at institutions such as George Mason, Long Beach State, Colorado, West Virginia, and Georgia Tech between 1986 and 1999.

In 1999, Whittenburg earned his first head coaching position at Wagner University. Under his leadership, Wagner achieved 67 wins in four seasons and secured a Northeast Conference Championship in his final season in 2003. Later that year, he was appointed head coach at Fordham University, where he served for six seasons. After taking a break from coaching, Whittenburg returned to NC State in 2013 as a senior assistant coach.

Dereck Whittenburg's impact on the basketball world extends beyond his playing and coaching achievements. His experiences and dedication have left a lasting legacy on the sport. Whittenburg continues to inspire players and coaches alike through his passion for basketball and his commitment to fostering talent and sportsmanship in the game.