

# Blue Raiders name Towe as assistant

## Newest staff member is renowned in basketball world

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### **MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -**

Monte Towe, a member of the 1974 NC State national championship team, joins the Blue Raider coaching staff after a five-year stint as the associate head coach at NC State as announced by head coach Kermit Davis on Thursday afternoon. "I have known Monte Towe for a long time and have a great respect for him as an excellent basketball coach and a relentless recruiter. Monte has recruited and helped develop many talented players over the years at all levels of basketball," Davis said.

"Obviously, Monte has a great familiarity with the Sun Belt Conference after serving as



the head coach at New Orleans. Monte's wealth of experience at the college and professional level will be a fantastic benefit to our players, staff and program. He and his wife, P.D., will be a fantastic addition to the Middle Tennessee basketball family." Towe is a renowned name in the basketball world both as a player and a coach. His career has stretched over 30 years, across two continents and has reached every level. The Converse, Ind., native, has been on a number of championship teams and competed in the NCAA tournament numerous times both as a player and coach. The starting point guard on NC State's 1974 national championship team, Towe returned to his alma mater in 2006 for his second stint on the Pack's staff, as the associate head coach. He spent 14-years as an assistant at three Division I institutions and in the Continental Basketball Association before earning his first head coaching job. Towe returned to NC State after serving five seasons as head coach at the University of New Orleans (2002-06), the fourth-longest tenure in school history. Towe guided the Privateers to a 70-78 overall record, including a berth in the Sun Belt Conference Championship game in 2004 and a winning record in Sun Belt Conference action. Towe also signed the Sun Belt's All-Time leading scorer Bo McCalebb during his tenure with the Privateers. "I and my wife, P.D., are very excited about coming to Middle Tennessee. I am really excited about the opportunity to work with Coach Davis. He is an outstanding coach and I feel one of the best in the United States in college basketball," Towe said. "As a former coach in the Sun Belt, I know Middle Tennessee has a strong program and I looking forward to coming in and helping to continue that

tradition. I feel like I am going from one good conference with a great program to another good conference with a great program. I am very excited about working with Coach Davis and at Middle Tennessee." In 2005-06 following Hurricane Katrina, the Privateers posted a 10-19 mark after spending the fall semester at the University of Texas-Tyler, and after returning to New Orleans, UNO played its home games at the Human Performance Center because of damage to Lakefront Arena. As the floor leader for the Wolfpack from 1972-74, Towe was named to the 1974 All-Eastern Regional team and the Final Four All-Tournament team. He was also an All-ACC selection following the 1973-74 season. Playing beside David Thompson and Tommy Burleson, he led NC State in assists all three of his seasons in the red and white and was a 1974 All-ACC selection. The Wolfpack posted a remarkable 79-7 overall record during Towe's three-year career, including a 57-1 stretch from 1972-73 (27-0) and 1973-74 (30-1). The Wolfpack won two ACC titles (1973 and 1974), and Towe did not lose a conference game until his senior season. Following his senior campaign, Towe was selected as the Frances Pomeroy Naismith winner, an award that honors the top player in the nation who stands less than six feet tall. He was named a first-team UPI Small Team All-American in both 1973 and 1974, and in 1975 he was a Converse Small Team All-America selection. Towe also played for the Wolfpack baseball team under the legendary Sam Esposito in 1972 and 1974. He started 29 games at second base during those two seasons, including helping the Wolfpack win the ACC Championship in 1974. That season along with Tim Stoddard, Towe participated in the NCAA Tournament in two different sports. After college, Towe was drafted by the NBA's Atlanta Hawks (4th round/57th overall) and by the ABA's Denver Nuggets (29th overall). He played two seasons for Denver under Hall of Fame coach Larry Brown. He then returned to NC State to serve as an assistant coach under Norm Sloan for two seasons (1979-80). During that stint the Wolfpack went 38-20, including a NCAA Tournament appearance in 1980. He was a member of the staff that recruited Sidney Lowe to NC State in 1979. During Towe's nine seasons at Florida, the Gators posted three 20-win seasons and six consecutive winning seasons (1984-89). During his tenure at Florida, Towe helped the Gators record a 150-131 mark. Florida advanced to three NIT Tournaments, three NCAA Tournaments, and won its first SEC Championship in 1989. After leaving Florida, Towe worked as general manager and head coach for the Raleigh Bullfrogs and the Fayetteville Flyers in the Global Basketball Association. He coached Marinos de Oriente team, a professional team in Venezuela that won a championship. He served as an assistant coach with the Sioux Falls Skyforce of the Continental Basketball Association under head coach Flip Saunders, (now the head coach of the Washington Wizards) and was the head coach and athletic director at Chipola Junior College in Marianna, Fla. Towe returned to the Division I level in 1997 and served as an assistant coach at UNC Asheville which won back-to-back regular season league championships in 1997 and 1998. After three seasons at UNCA, Towe accepted the head coaching position at Santa Fe Community College in Gainesville, Fla., where he led the Saints to a 46-21 overall record and two Mid-Florida Conference Tournament Championships. In 2000-2001, Towe led the Saints to a 26-8 overall mark, the third highest win total in school history. Towe lettered three years at Oak Hill High School in Converse, Indiana. He also lettered in golf, football and baseball. He was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in March 2002 and the Grant County Hall of Fame in 2009. His number '25' jersey was honored and hung in the RBCCenter rafters in January 2002, and he was NC State's Legend at the 2009 ACC Tournament. Towe is married to P.D. Towe.

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