

TUSCULUM

BASKETBALL

PETE CARRIL

The month of March is synonymous with the NCAA Tournament & there is nothing more exciting in the tournament than the huge upset. Former Princeton coach Pete Carril orchestrated one of the great upsets in tournament history in 1996 when his Tigers defeated the 4th seeded UCLA Bruins. Another of the epic tournament battles was his near upset of #1 seed Georgetown in the first round of the 1989 tournament.

The following are some thoughts from Coach Carril taken from his book, *The Weak Take from the Strong*. Obviously well known for his development of “The Princeton Offense”, Coach Carril is one of the great thinkers of the game and has a tremendous ability to communicate his thoughts and concepts in a unique way.

Here is one of those key thoughts:

What to be Good At?

“As a player, you want to be good at those things that happen a lot – that cannot be overstated. If what you are doing – what you are good at – doesn’t happen that often then there’s no real benefit to being good at it.”

- Pete Carril

The above is a fairly simplistic thought, but it is one that runs through the course of every aspect of play. We are a team with a tremendous reliance on screening and cutting. Those elements of our offense are going to occur on literally every possession of half court offense. We spend time in every practice developing and shaping that part of our game. Even at the peak moments of our season – conference and NCAA Tournament preparation – we were still making the development of our screening and cutting a priority in our practice sessions.

On the defensive side of the ball we were emphasizing stance, vision, and communication. Though our defensive set-up will vary from game to game based on the strengths and weaknesses of our opponent, the three key elements are always stance, vision, and communication. Stance is as basic a part of the game as there is, yet no player understands the absolute value it has in each successful defensive possession. Maintaining an active, athletic, ready stance throughout the duration of a defensive possession does more to secure a defensive stop than anything else. Vision is also a necessity – simply put if you can’t see it, you can’t stop it. Communication runs through every aspect of play, and is an extreme emphasis of ours from the first day of 4 player workouts in the fall until the final possession of our season.

The above offensive & defensive thoughts are not unique to Tusculum Basketball. What is unique is the extraordinary emphasis we place on them. We want to be good at what happens a lot. Screening and cutting happen a lot. We don’t want to perfect a “special play” that may only be used every so often; we want to try and perfect the meat of our offense that will occur multiple times per possession. Stance, vision, and talk happen a lot. We base our success on those areas of play.

TUSCULUM BASKETBALL

The following are two articles and a player blog compliments of our Sports Information Department that chronicle our run in the NCAA Tournament. Our at-large berth into the tourney was the 1st in school history, and capped off a season of many “firsts” for TC Basketball. With 4 returning starters, we are obviously more than excited about building on the success of this season.

[MEN'S BASKETBALL EARNS AT-LARGE BERTH TO NCAA TOURNAMENT, OPEN WITH AUGUSTA STATE](#)

Sunday, March 9, 2009

INDIANAPOLIS --- For the second time in school history, the Tusculum College men’s basketball team will play in the NCAA Division II postseason. The 64-team, eight-region bracket has been announced and the Pioneers have earned an at-large berth and are the No. 8 seed in the Southeast Regional, which will be in Augusta, Ga.



Tusculum (20-10) will face the top-seed and regional host Augusta State University, this Saturday (Mar. 14) at the Christenberry Fieldhouse on the ASU campus. Game time will be announced on Monday.

The Pioneers return to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2005. Tusculum was the No. 8 seed in the South Atlantic Regional that year as dropped a heartbreaking, 91-88 overtime loss to No. 1 seed and host Bowie State University in the Pioneers’ only other NCAA postseason appearance.

This year’s eight-team Southeast Regional includes three teams from the South Atlantic Conference, four teams from the Peach Belt Conference and one team from Conference Carolinas.

Augusta State (25-4) earned an automatic berth by winning the Peach Belt Tournament. The Jaguars advanced to last year’s national championship game. The winner of the Tusculum/Augusta State game will face either No. 4 seed Georgia College & State University or No. 5 seed Barton College. Barton earned the automatic bid by winning the Conference Carolinas title, while GC&SU received an at-large berth.

In the other half of the bracket, Catawba College is the No. 6 seed and will take on Armstrong Atlantic State University. Catawba won Sunday’s SAC Tournament championship, by defeating Tusculum in a thriller, 63-61. Also playing on Saturday will be No. 3 seed USC Aiken against No. 6 Lenoir-Rhyne University. Both received at-large berths to the tournament.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL RALLY FALLS SHORT IN UPSET BID OF NO. 4 AUGUSTA STATE

Saturday, March 14, 2009

AUGUSTA, Ga. -- Top-seeded and fourth-ranked Augusta State University survived a furious late-game charge by No. 8 seed Tusculum College, winning 62-60, in the quarterfinals of the 2009 NCAA Division II Southeast Regional, Saturday night at Christenberry Fieldhouse.

With the victory, the host Jaguars (27-4) extend their winning streak to 13 straight and match the school record for wins in a season. ASU advances to its third consecutive region semifinal, which will take place on 7:30 p.m. on Sunday evening. The Jags will face the winner of No. 4 seed GC&SU and No. 5 seed Barton College. Tusculum finishes its season at 20-11 in just its second NCAA Regional berth in school history.



Trailing 62-60 with 13 seconds left, Tusculum guard **Jimmy Boone** came up with a steal of a **Fred Brathwaite** pass, but his off-balance three-pointer was short with two seconds left. Augusta State guard Steve Smith missed the front end of his one-and-one, but Tusculum was unable to get a quality shot off in the final 1.1 seconds after securing the rebound.

It was the stellar play of South Atlantic Conference Player of the Year **Kyle Moore** that willed the Pioneers back into the game late in the second half. Augusta State led by as many as 17 points after halftime, but a Moore lay-up cut the lead to single digits, 54-45, with 4:38 left, then Moore hit two 3-pointers to make it 55-51 with 1:34 remaining. A 32-foot three-pointer by Moore from in front of the Tusculum bench made it a one-possession game, 60-57, with 22.9 seconds left, and another three-pointer by **Ryan Troutman** with 16.7 seconds left brought the score to two, 62-60, setting up the late-game drama.

Tusculum weathered an early **Ben Madgen** storm in the first half. Madgen, the Southeast Region Player of the Year, scored 10 of the Jaguars' first 12 points as Augusta State opened up with a 12-7 lead. Tusculum got back-to-back three-pointers from Moore and a bucket by Taylor Hobbs to take a 23-15 lead with 5:46 left in the first half.

Augusta State responded with a 13-2 run at the end of the half, sparked by a **Fred Brathwaite** three-pointer and a dunk on consecutive possessions, to take a 30-27 lead into halftime. Madgen's 10 points led the host Jaguars at halftime, while Moore had 12 at the intermission to lead Tusculum.

The blistering play by Augusta State at the end of the half continued after halftime as the Jaguars scored the first six points of the second half on a Madgen steal and layup, a Garrett Siler dunk and a **Greg Hire** driving layup. The 25-4 run covering the final five minutes of the first half and the first five minutes of the second half was capped by back-to-back Madgen three-pointers, giving ASU a seemingly insurmountable 42-29 lead with 14:38 remaining.

Madgen led a trio of Jaguar players in double figures with 18 points. Garrett Siler recorded his ninth double-double of the season with 15 points and 11 rebounds, his 19th straight game with double digit scoring. Fred Brathwaite added 16 points for the Jaguars.

Moore led the Pioneers on the night with his game-high 23 points on 8-of-16 shooting from the floor, which included 7-of-12 shooting from beyond the arc. Rob Troutman notched 14 points, while Ryan Troutman added 13 points on a perfect 3-of-3 night from three-point range.

Tusculum hit 11-of-20 shots from three-point range on the night (55 percent) and 46.9 percent from the floor (23-of-49 shots). Augusta State hit 46.8 percent from the floor (22-of-47 shots), including 7-of-17 from three-point range (41.2 percent).

Moore finishes the season with 101 three-point field goals, which is a new South Atlantic Conference single-season record, but falls one short of a new school mark of 102, held by Shane Banks during the 1997-98 campaign. Moore finishes the season with 654 points which are tied for the fifth most ever by a Pioneer and fourth in SAC history.

Ryan Troutman wraps up his two-year career at Tusculum with 338 assists in his 59 games in a Pioneer uniform. His 5.73 assists per game average is a new SAC record. His 192 helpers this year are the third most in TC history and fifth in the SAC Record Book.

Tusculum also established a single-season team record with its .761 free throw percentage.

[TUSCULUM BASKETBALL PLAYER BLOG: JIMMY BOONE](#)

AUGUSTA, Ga. --- During Tusculum's run in the NCAA Division II Men's Basketball Tournament, junior guard **Jimmy Boone** (Greeneville, Tenn.) will be providing a daily blog from this year's Southeast Regional in Augusta, Ga.:



Saturday, March 14, 2009

Well, I guess this is my last BLOG entry – which really, really hurts. Losing a close hard fought game is really tough, especially when it's the last game of the year – enough said.

One of the great things about college basketball is winning, but what makes winning so special is the people you do it with and the relationships that you develop with your teammates over the season. The long practices, the running, the sacrifices, and all the things you do to make winning possible. So the worst thing about tonight, it's the last time we get to play with Ryan Troutman and Marko Kostic.

We played a hard game, we didn't play our smartest game – but oh did we battle. True to our program and our leadership, we played hard for 40 minutes. I missed a shot, the kind you dream about making growing up as a kid, to win the game. We were down by two points with 15 seconds to go against the fourth-ranked team in the nation, on their court. We got a really good trap, and I was lucky enough to come up with the steal. We had a chance to win and I guess that's all you can ask for.

Following the game, Augusta fans were lined up outside the doors from our locker room to congratulate us on how hard and how well we played. They thought it was the best game they had seen all year long. People were just so impressed with our screening and our defensive effort. Our conference commissioner, Patrick Britz, personally congratulated our team on one of the guttiest performances he has ever witnessed.

It was an awesome feeling going down the stretch as we kept getting stop after stop after stop – and, Kyle and Ryan could not be stopped hitting shot after shot. But, as Coach says, we didn't lose tonight, we just ran out of time. And I truly believe that if we would have had just 30 more seconds we would be playing Barton College in the semi-finals tomorrow.

Nonetheless, there are so many people to thank for such a special season with so many first, but most of all I just want to thank my teammates – especially Ryan and Marko, they have taught us all how to be the winners that we are.

Tonight's loss hurts very, very bad, but it just shows us how good we can be when we do the things that we set out to do. I whole-heartedly believe that you will see the Tusculum Pioneers in the NCAA Tournament next season.

Friday, March 13, 2009

Today was a pretty easy day in the life of a Tusculum Pioneer. We got to sleep in until about 11 a.m., and yes I did finally get some much needed sleep. We left the hotel as a team for a TC favorite, Chick-Fil-A.

After that we went to Augusta State's Christenberry Fieldhouse where the regional tournament is held. We had a short, but intense and hard practice. The NCAA is very strict and structured; we all had to enter the arena together and had exactly 55 minutes to practice. We did a lot of shooting and worked on several things. We want to be sharp, offensively for Saturday's game. Our guys were able to get a lot of shots up, as well as getting a feel for the gym that we will be playing in.

Coach Boone told us that the NCAA rep that watched all the teams practice today, was very, very impressed with our work ethic, our intense approach, and our enthusiasm – it was fun!

Following practice we went to grab a late lunch at a small pizza place, which was very good. When we finished eating, we got back on the bus, watched some of the Ohio State and Michigan State game, as we headed back to our hotel to just chill until the Regional Banquet later in the evening.

At the banquet, our junior guard Kyle Moore was announced to the All-Region First Team. Kyle has had an amazing season for us this year, doing so many different great things for our team. Also, the team that we will be playing on Saturday, Augusta State, had two players named to the All-Region team as well as the Region Player of the Year.

After the banquet, we met again as a team at 10:30 p.m. back at the hotel. Coach likes to close the evening giving us his thoughts for the coming day. Our assistant coaches have done a great job in our preparation. Tonight, Coach McBride gave us a hand-out detailing the importance of our team controlling the pace of the game and how the stats are highly in our favor. Also, Coach Oliver injected several key points into the meeting and how excited he is about tomorrow. Coach Ellis – well, he just makes everything go. I don't know how we would make it without him. We went over some more of our game plan, especially on the defensive end. It's going to be a battle tomorrow night, and we are going to be as prepared as possible. It's important now for us all to get as much rest as possible for a big, big day tomorrow!

Thursday, March 12, 2009

I know that I speak for my teammates in saying that we are very, very excited to have made the NCAA Tournament and have such a tremendous opportunity to play fourth-ranked Augusta State.

This week has been a very demanding one for us, not only in our intense preparation for Saturday's game – but also just the whirlwind of activities a team goes through in making the NCAA's. Our families are all excited and making plans to travel south. My cell phone has been ringing nonstop with people congratulating me and wishing us the best in the tournament. I hate to pack, especially for a longer period of time, but in this case it's great!

Practice has been intense and competitive. It's like a new start for our team, as coach says – we have three seasons; the non-conference season, the conference season, and the post-season. We actually practiced twice on Tuesday, once on Wednesday, and came in this morning to put the finishing touches on our game plan for Augusta. (Editor's note -- Tusculum is on Spring Break this week).

We finally departed Tusculum at 2 p.m. to head to Augusta. On the way most people slept, some guys watched college basketball via satellite on the bus – it's pretty neat to have the games on the bus. We got to our hotel at around 7 p.m., settled in and headed to a team dinner at Logan's Roadhouse.

All the guys were geeked to have an awesome dinner at Logan's. It's amazing how many people stopped us to talk about the game on Saturday – it's definitely the talk of the town. Getting back to the dinner, I think Marko Kostic ate about three 12 oz steaks while we were there, and assistant coach Josh Ellis was up to 12 of Logan's butter rolls, to be honest, I'm not sure which was the most impressive.

Team meeting is set for 11 p.m. tonight to go over some of the particulars of our game plan for Saturday. Coach Boone has laid out a very detailed plan for our attack, as always – giving us a little more each day in our preparation.

TUSCULUM BASKETBALL

Coach Jim Boone's

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JUNE 18-20

Elite Competition from throughout the Southeast
Overnight Accommodations Available
V / JV levels
Practice Time Available
Individual Skill Development Sessions with TC Coaches
Coaches Roundtable
Coaches Gear



INDIVIDUAL CAMP

JUNE 23-26

Open to Players from Grades K-12
Conducted by Tusculum College Coaching Staff
Fundamental Skill Development
5/5 & 3/3 Play
Each Camper receives a T-shirt and Basketball
Motivational Materials



SHOOTING CAMP

JULY 27-29

Open to Players from Grades 4-12
Conducted by Tusculum College Coaching Staff
Overnight Accommodations Available
Individualized Instruction
Complete Shot Breakdown
Moving Without the Ball
Notebook Sessions
Each Camper receives a T-shirt and Basketball
Motivational Materials



ELITE CAMP

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Open to Players Entering Grades 9-12
Overnight Accommodations Available
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Intense Instruction from the Tusculum College Staff
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Contact Coach Mike McBride for further details.

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“We prepare. We guard.

EVERY possession means something.”

- Bruce Weber, Head Coach University of Illinois

