

# “BACKCOURT CLUB NEWS”

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
THE MEN’S BASKETBALL PROGRAM



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## A NOTE FROM HEAD COACH NATHAN DAVIS



Dear Friends of Bison Basketball,

How time flies! It seems like just yesterday we were gearing up to play Monmouth in the NIT. As always, it was a busy “off-season.” Camps and recruiting dominated the coaching staff schedule, while the players were off working hard to improve their abilities.

Amazingly, the season is here with a very busy few weeks ahead. Fortunately, our players really dedicated themselves through the summer and fall in preparation for what lies ahead. We felt it was vital that our players became stronger. When you have the opportunity to see

them in the coming weeks it will be obvious to you that the work they put in the weight room has made that a reality.

We felt it was imperative that we became better conditioned. The time our players spent in conditioning in the fall coupled with the effort they have given through workouts and practice has made that goal a reality.

Our schedule is challenging, but you do not come to Bucknell if you are not the type of person that wants to be challenged both on and off the court. There is not a single game on our schedule that we can take lightly and assume that we will prevail.

It has been an exciting opening to our year. I am pleased with the way the team is coming together and playing at the moment. It is important to understand that there is a long way still to go, and we need to continue to improve in all aspects if we are going to be a team that can compete for and win the Patriot League.

We will need to play with great mental toughness, pride and unselfishness to be successful this season. All the signs to this point show that is exactly what we will do this year. If we continue to come each day with the same focus and excitement for what we need to do to be successful, great things lie ahead.

Sincerely,

Nathan Davis  
Men’s Basketball Coach

## BROWN JOINS BISON STAFF

Jonathan Brown, a former team captain at Dominican College, joined the Bucknell men’s basketball staff as manager of basketball operations



in August 2016. At Bucknell, Brown is tasked with coordinating all types of team logistics, including key elements such as team travel, recruiting, camps and video editing and exchange.

Brown is a 2014 graduate of Dominican College in Orangeburg, New York. He was named the school’s top male athlete as a junior and senior while making the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference All-Academic Team and the school’s Academic Dean’s List all four years. He served as vice president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and was inducted into two honor societies.

In 2014-15, Brown served as assistant coach and academic coordinator at Virginia University of Lynchburg, and then last year he returned to his home area to become an assistant coach at Central Islip High School

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# 2016-2017 SCHEDULE/RESULTS

Date	Opponent	Time / Result
11/11	vs. Manhattan	W, 76-64
11/13	at Wake Forest	L, 94-74
11/16	vs. Robert Morris	W, 75-62

### Continental Tire Las Vegas Invitational

11/19	at Butler	L, 86-60
11/21	at Vanderbilt	W, 75-72
11/24	vs. Norfolk State#	W, 84-58
11/25	vs. No. Colorado#	W, 75-63

# - Las Vegas, Nevada

11/30	vs. Richmond	7:00 p.m.
12/03	at La Salle	2:00 p.m.
12/06	at Fairfield	7:00 p.m.
12/17	at Siena	12:00 p.m.
12/19	vs. Mount St. Mary's	7:00 p.m.
12/22	vs. Princeton	7:00 p.m.
12/30	at Navy*	7:00 p.m.
01/02	vs. Army-West Point*	7:00 p.m.
01/05	at American*	7:30 p.m.
01/08	at Holy Cross*	1:00 p.m.
01/11	vs. Lehigh*	7:00 p.m.
01/14	at Colgate*	2:00 p.m.
01/18	vs. Loyola-Md.*	7:00 p.m.
01/21	vs. Boston Univ.*	2:00 p.m.
01/25	at Lafayette*	7:00 p.m.
01/28	at Army-West Point*	3:00 p.m.
02/01	vs. American*	7:00 p.m.
02/06	vs. Holy Cross*	7:00 p.m.
02/08	at Lehigh*	7:00 p.m.
02/13	vs. Colgate*	7:00 p.m.
02/15	at Loyola-Md.*	7:30 p.m.
02/19	at Boston Univ.*	12:00 p.m.
02/22	vs. Lafayette*	7:00 p.m.
02/25	vs. Navy*	12:00 p.m.

### Patriot League Tournament

(all games played at higher seeds)

02/28	First Round	TBA
03/02	Quarterfinals	TBA
03/05	Semifinals	TBA
03/08	Championship	7:30 p.m. ET



## SENIOR CORNER WITH BEN OBERFELD

Ben Oberfeld, one of three seniors on this year's Bucknell team, took the time share his thoughts as his final campaign with the Orange and Blue gets underway.



*PLAYER BIO: Will not be able to play in 2016-17 due to injury ... when healthy was a big, strong frontcourt player ... recruited for both basketball and football coming out of high school and selected hoops ... very smart player, particularly on defense ... strong rebounder and defender ... worked hard on low-post technique on offensive end of floor ... battled injuries throughout his career.*

I think that I'm in a state of denial about my time here being almost over... but I am incredibly excited for my last basketball season to start! The team this year is one of the most athletic and fun-to-watch group of guys that I have ever played with, and I have never seen guys that are more committed to getting better on a daily basis. The best part about the Men's Basketball Program is easily the people on the team. I can't say enough about each and every one of them. I never grew up with any siblings in the house but after spending four years with my teammates, I consider all of them to be my brothers. The grind that we go through together on a daily basis is what brings us so close together and the bond we created through literal blood, sweat and tears means the world to me. When the game lights come on, there is no one I would rather be on the court with but them.

The preseason has been no joke this year! But I have never been more confident that we are ready for the real games to start. We are a fairly young team with only three seniors, so we will have to get some in game experience. Once March comes around and the playoffs start I know that everyone will be ready to go. The coaching staff this year has done a fantastic job, it was a process for them to implement their new coaching philosophies last year. However, this year is their second year and things are starting to come together. The team is understanding what exactly the coaches are asking of us and we have adjusted well to our new style of play.

It is DJ, John and I's last year as a part of the team. We are willing to push the team and ourselves farther and harder than we have ever pushed before. As a class we have never had the opportunity to play in an NCAA tournament game and we are going to go the extra mile to make sure we get that chance. I am extremely excited for this year and I can't wait to get this show on the road!

### *BROWN, cont. from pg. 1*

while also working as a customer support specialist with Synergy Sports Technology.

"J.B. has shown that no task is too small," said Davis. "He is engaging and possesses a tremendous work ethic. He will do a tremendous job representing Bucknell University and Bison Basketball." Brown is the younger brother of former Bison basketball standout Donald Brown '07, who played on Bucknell's 2005 and 2006 Patriot League championship and NCAA Tournament teams.



## IMPORTANT DATES

### Backcourt Club Luncheons

December 8th, 2016

La Primavera, 11:45 a.m.

January 12th, 2017

La Primavera, 11:45 a.m.

February 9th, 2017

La Primavera, 11:45 a.m.

February 23rd, 2017

La Primavera, 11:45 a.m.

### *Friends of Bison Basketball*

#### Golf Outing

May 13, 2017

Bucknell Golf Club

# MEET THE BISON FRESHMEN



## #13 Bruce Moore, F, 6'8", 210

Bruce Moore is a 6'8 forward from the Baltimore, Maryland area. Bruce attended McDonogh Private School four years, playing basketball all of those years. For his junior and senior year, he was nominated to the All MIAA conference team. Bruce came to Bucknell because he loved the campus and the high level of academics the university provided, enjoyed the family atmosphere of the team and loves to win. Bruce has enjoyed every second being alongside his teammates on and off the court. He is looking forward to playing alongside every single person on the team in route to another NCAA tournament appearance.



## #14 Ben Robertson, G, 6'5", 193

Ben Robertson is a 6'5 guard from High Point, NC. Ben played on a top 25 ranked team in high school, High Point Christian, where he played for 4 years. Ben decided to attend Bucknell because of the immediate team chemistry, the basketball team's success, and the school's academic reputation. From his time on campus, Ben has enjoyed working out with his team and meeting other students around the school. Ben is looking forward to helping his team win the Patriot League Championship and reaching the NCAA tournament.



## #11 Avi Toomer, G, 6'3", 187

Avi Toomer is a 6'2 combo guard from Grady High School in Atlanta, GA. Avi won freshmen of the year his first year. He was nominated for all region and all metro team his junior and senior years. He won player of the year his senior year and came in as runner up in his junior year. He led the region in points, assists, & rebounds his senior year. Avi decided on Bucknell because he loved the family environment the of the campus and the success and chemistry of the team. Avi is looking forward to doing all he can to help Bucknell reach the NCAA tournament.

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## BUCKNELL BASKETBALL ALUMNI UPDATE

### *Cameron Ayers Signs with Reno Bighorns*

Cameron Ayers finished up a great season in Lithuania last season. He is now back with Reno Bighorns, affiliate of the Sacramento Kings.

### *Muscala vital part of Hawks team*

Bucknell's current NBA player, Mike Muscala has started this season strong. Averaging 21.5 minutes in his first 18 games, he has put together a solid stat line of 9.1 points and 4.4 rebounds.



Mike Muscala

### *Morrison Wins TBT Again*

Adam Morrison, a 2008 graduate and member of the great Bison NCAA tournament teams in 2004-05 and 2005-06, is the manager of the championship winning team of the "TBT." The "TBT," also known as "The Basketball Tournament" is a 5v5 basketball tournament that welcomes players from all over the world to compete for a one million dollar prize. It is open to all non-NBA players across the globe.

### *Donald Brown with Rice*

Donald Brown, a 2007 graduate and member of the 2004-05 and 2005-06 basketball teams, is now the head strength and conditioning coach at Rice University for the men's basketball team. Donald is really excited to work with the players and continuing to help them develop.



Chris Haas

### *Chris Hass signs with Phoenix Hagen*

Chris Hass, a 2016 graduate and member of the 2012-2013 championship basketball team, is now playing professional basketball overseas for Phoenix Hagen who is in the top division in Germany. Averaging 26 minutes a game, Chris has been a valuable part of the team. He is currently averaging 11.4 points per game.

### *Charles Lee is promoted to Assistant Coach*

Charles Lee, a 2006 graduate and a member of the 2004-05 and 2005-06 basketball teams, has been promoted to assistant coach with the Atlantic Hawks. Charles has been working very hard throughout the summer with Bucknell's very own Mike Muscala and also Dwight Howard.



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## BUCKNELL MEN'S BASKETBALL NEEDS YOUR ASSISTANCE

Energy, passion, and togetherness have been the hallmarks of the Bucknell Men's Basketball Program for many years. This has been true not only for the student-athletes on the court, but for the group of supporters who have helped our program each year. As most of you know, the University budget covers only a fraction of the operating expenses to run a competitive Division I men's basketball program.

This year, we have been given a fundraising goal of \$200,000 to meet our program's budgetary needs. *As of the end of October we had raised just over \$30,000.* This money is spent in the three main areas of student-athlete recruitment, purchasing equipment to help train our team members, and covering the travel, lodging, and food costs for our team's travel. As you know, student-athlete recruitment is a year-round and highly competitive and intensive process that is of essential importance in fielding successful teams. In addition, we feel it is important to be able to travel safely, stay in quality hotels, and feed our student-athletes appropriately when we travel.

Our program needs your financial support to continue in our quest for excellence. Your earmarked contribution for men's basketball to the Bison Club will help make this a reality. We hope we can count on 100% participation from everyone on our support team. Thanks in advance for your assistance! -- Coach Nathan Davis

### Methods of Giving

**Check or Cash:** This is the most common way to give. When writing a check, make it out to Bucknell University and in the memo section note "Men's Basketball."

**By Credit Card:** The university accepts most major credit cards. Monthly payment plans can be arranged.

**Gifts of Stock/Securities:** To arrange a stock transfer, call the Office of Development & Alumni Relations at 570-577-3200.

**Pledges:** You can set up a payment schedule when you make a pledge, and payment reminders will be sent to you.

**Corporate matching gifts:** Many corporations match their employees' charitable donations to nonprofit institutions. Check with your benefits department for matching gift information and to see if they will match gifts to athletics.

**You can give on-line:** [www.BucknellBison.com](http://www.BucknellBison.com).