

## DIETER HORTON

When Dieter Horton was named Marauders' Head Men's Basketball Coach in May 2006, it was by Marauder Athletics' Athletic Director Newton Chelette, the man he would have to replace. Chelette had brought prominence to the basketball program at AVC, so following in his footsteps would probably be intimidating to many.



But Horton, whose first name is pronounced Dieter, in 10 seasons as Fullerton College's head coach built a program that was regarded as one of the premier community college basketball programs in the state. In those 10 years with the Hornets, Horton's teams made 10 postseason appearances, won the 2006 state championship and have had 30 Hornets sign with four-year schools.

In 2007, Horton just continued his and Chelette's excellence leading AVC to their first state championship final game in 51 years, and furthered it in 2007-08 when the Marauders won their 16th conference championship.

Horton became just the fifth Marauder Head men's basketball coach in 55 years and is a full-time faculty member in the Physical Education and Athletics Division.

"When it became clear that I would have to leave coaching here at AVC, we knew it was important to hire someone who could from the git-go keep the program at a level that the community has come to expect. With Dieter, we know we have accomplished that," said Chelette.

Horton, who embodies a dedication to discipline and a deep commitment to his student athletes, amassed a 31-7 inaugural season with AVC, setting a school record for wins in a season. Added to a 198-124 overall record at Fullerton, where he was the 5th winningest coach in school history, Horton is 229-131 in 11 seasons.

It was his second straight trip to the final game as his 2006 Fullerton team crafted a 37-0 season – the most wins in California community college history – for the Hornets' third state championship in men's basketball (the other two were in 1954 and 1961). The perfect record is only the fourth in state history, and his name is added to the likes of Jerry Tarkanian and Bill Mulligan as coaches with a perfect record in a California community college season.

He set a state record for consecutive games coached with 43, and is one of only two coaches (Tarkanian is the other) to win consecutive tournaments with different teams (Fullerton, Ran-

cho Vista Shootout) and coach different teams to the state championship game in consecutive years.

In his first two seasons at Fullerton, he guided the Hornets to consecutive second place finishes in the Orange Empire Conference, regarded as one of the most competitive conferences in the state. Before Horton took over in the 1996-97 season, the Hornets had not finished in second place since 1981-1982.

He is even more confident in his system, and how it can work to reach what he considers the ultimate goal – that which has long been the ultimate goal of Marauder Athletics: creating the "whole person."

"The major focus of our staff has been, and always will be, to help our players mature, learn accountability and graduate. If we can teach those things, our athletes will be better students, better players, and of course, they'll be better people," Horton said.

"It sounds so cliché, but the foundation of my program is built on class and respect – which is clearly the foundation that Newton's programs have been based.

"The major lessons we teach our kids have nothing to do with basketball; they have to do with life."

Horton's claims are backed by numbers -- All 55 of the sophomores who have finished a season with him have graduated. Sixty of his athletes (more than half) have received athletic-academic scholarships to major universities, including 35 to NCAA Division I schools.

Horton started the California Junior College Showcase seven years ago at Fullerton College. This event has become the largest junior college basketball recruiting event in America. Over 75 teams participate each year, and over 3,000 athletes have played in the event since its inception. In addition, the event has attracted recruiters from over 225 Division I universities throughout America.

The Cal State Fullerton graduate spent two years as the student manager for the Titan's Men's Basketball team, and another as the program's administrative assistant. Before his position at CSUF, he worked as an assistant at Villa Park and Fullerton High Schools.

A graduate of Fullerton High, Horton played three years of varsity basketball for the Indians.

Horton and his wife, Chelsie, live in Palmdale. Horton is the father of Charles "Chas" David Horton who is 5.

### Head Coach Fourth Season - 78-33 The Horton Era

YR	W	L	PCT	Conf. Finish	Playoffs
2006-07	31	7	.816	Foothill - Third	2nd in state
2007-08	25	11	.694	Foothill Champs	SoCal Finals
2008-09	21	15	.588	Foothill - Fourth	2nd round
<b>Totals</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>.703</b>		



## BRAD WIGGS

Brad Wiggs returns for his 12th season with the Marauder basketball program, his 10th as an assistant coach after spending two seasons as an assistant to the head coach.



Wiggs left the Marauders following the 1997-98 season after seven years with the program, took a year off, and then scouted for Cerro Coso from 1999 until the Coyotes dropped their program just before the 2003-04 season.

He then scouted the 2003-04 season for Point Loma College.

Wiggs currently teaches math and accounting at Boron High School.

Before coaching for AVC beginning in the 1991-92 season, Wiggs coached Boron for nine seasons, making playoffs in eight of those seasons. His 1990-91 team was 18-6 and averaged 84 points a game.

In 1984-85, his team won not only the Desert Inyo Small League but the CIF Small Schools Championship.

Wiggs received his master's degree in education from Chapman College, his bachelor's degree in accounting from San Diego State, and an associate's degree in business administration from Bakersfield College.

Wiggs resides in Quartz Hill with his wife, Heidi, and their son, Bradley (13), and daughter, Brooke (11).

Assistant Coach -- Fourth Season

## TIM ATKERSON

Tim Atkerson returns to the Marauder Men's Basketball bench for the second time, spending a three year stint from 2000 to 2004. In those three years the Marauders under the guidance of Newton Chelette won two conference titles and advanced to state.



Interestingly, Atkerson comes back to AVC after five years as the Rosamond High School boys basketball coach. He came to AVC the first time after a five year stint as head coach of the Roadrunners.

In those 10 years he holds a 180-66 overall coaching record, seven conference titles including the last five straight seasons. The Roadrunners went undefeated in the High Desert League in 1999-2000, earning a berth in the CIF Division IV AA Final Four appearance, the team in 2006-07 was CIF finalists and in 2007-08 won the CIF Championship. Atkerson was named CIF Coach of the Year in 2008 and has been named Conference Coach of the Year six times.

A 1988 graduate of Rosamond High School, he was named All-League in basketball and baseball. He received his bachelor's in secondary education (math emphasis) from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and his master's in education (physical education emphasis) from Azusa Pacific University. He was the founder of the HDMBCA and the High Desert Basketball Camp.

Atkerson and his wife of eight years, Amy, have three children -- Micha (12) and Madison (10) and Mackenzie (8). He has an uncle who was an assistant coach at Duke University under Mike Krzyzewski.

Assistant Coach -- First Season

