

# Oglethorpe University

## Stormy Petrels



### MENS BASKETBALL NEWSLETTER

Volume 5

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Issue 1

#### *A Note From Coach Ponder*

Greetings to all Stormy Petrel basketball fans. I hope everyone has had a great summer. For the past four years, I have been sending out periodic updates via just a regular e-mail letter. This year, we are upgrading a bit... thus the new look you see now. It's just another small way we are looking to improve things around Stormy Petrel basketball. A special thanks goes to assistant coach Thad Phillips for his help in putting this together. I hope you will find the improvements to your liking.

Classes have just started back here at OU and I am already looking forward to Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> and the start of practice. We lost quite a few players to graduation but have some returners that are ready to step into bigger roles. We will also have quite a few new faces this year and we are very excited about our recruiting class. It should be another exciting season. I normally wouldn't send something out quite this soon, but we are having something very exciting coming to Oglethorpe in late September that I thought some of you might be interested in. The Nike Championship Basketball Clinic is being held in our very own Dorough Fieldhouse on Pinholster Court. The line-up of coaches appearing includes Tubby Smith, Jim Calhoun, Jim Boeheim, Bobby Cremins, Hubie Brown, and many more. Please see the article about this clinic for more details. Needless to say, it will be an exciting weekend of basketball here at OU.

Also in this edition, you will find the 2006-07 season in review. It is one final look at last season, before we look ahead to the upcoming year. After this edition, the next one won't come out until after practice is underway. Finally, the alumni game has been set and the date is **December 8th, 2007**. The game will be in the afternoon to be followed by a varsity men's and women's doubleheader versus LaGrange College at 6 and 8 pm. There will be more details coming both here and from the alumni office as the date draws closer.

#### Top Coaches in the Nation Come to Oglethorpe with the Nike Coaches Clinic

The weekend of Sept. 21-23 will find some of the top coaches in all of basketball teaching their trade in Dorough Fieldhouse at Oglethorpe University. Nike Championship Basketball Clinics, which runs the largest coaching clinics in the nation, comes to Oglethorpe University for the first time this fall. Nike Championship Basketball Clinics will be doing three clinics this fall. The other two will be in Chicago and Cleveland.

The clinic usually comes to Atlanta every other year, and in the past has been held at the Atlanta Airport Marriot. With clinics around the nation trending toward "on-court" demonstrations, Oglethorpe head coach Philip Ponder called clinic director Ed Janka to see if he might be interested in holding the clinic at Oglethorpe. "I've been going to these clinics for years, and thought the opportunity to go "on-court" might be something Ed would be interested in doing," Ponder noted. "It is a great opportunity for the university not only to have all of these great coaches in our gym, but also to expose the hundreds of high school coaches attending to our campus, our facility, and our basketball programs."

The coaches will be putting players from NAIA Berry College through various offensive and defensive concepts and drills (NCAA rules prohibited the use of Oglethorpe players). The line-up of coaches includes: Tubby Smith, University of Minnesota; Jim Calhoun, University of Connecticut; Jim Boeheim, University of Syracuse; Bobby Cremins, College of Charleston; Hall of Famer Hubie Brown; Seth Greenberg, Virginia Tech; Sean Miller, Xavier; and many more. For more information and to register, you can go to [www.BasketballCoach.com](http://www.BasketballCoach.com)



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## 2006-07 Season in Review

### Petrels Excel On, Off Court

The 2006-07 basketball season was a season of near misses for the Stormy Petrels. In compiling a solid 14-12 record, the Petrels had an amazing eight losses by five points or less, including three in which their opponents made shots inside the last three seconds to win or tie the game. Despite the heart-breaking losses, the Petrels still finished with their most wins and best record in eight years.

The fast-paced Petrels played a style that was different than any other in the conference, forcing the tempo on offense and defense in **leading the conference in scoring** by a wide margin while also **leading the conference in steals** for the second consecutive season. The offense also scored at a proficient rate, finishing **second in the conference in field goal percentage**. For most of the year, the Petrels challenged both the conference and the all-time school records for points per game. The squad ended the season with the **second highest points per game average** in the 91-year basketball history of Oglethorpe University. The team also **led the conference in free throws made and attempted**, a feat they have accomplished in each of the past four seasons.

The Petrels opened the season 6-3, but a tough two weeks in January saw the squad sitting with a 6-6 record and an 0-4 start in conference play. With the season at a cross-roads, the Petrels reeled off six consecutive conference victories, including a **sweep of Trinity and Southwestern out in Texas**, becoming the first conference team to pull that off since 2002. The six consecutive conference wins was also the longest such streak for the Petrels in twelve years. The Petrels finished the regular season with a 14-11 record, and then lost on a last second shot to Trinity University in the conference tournament.

Several individuals had excellent seasons for the Petrels. **Senior Andrew Tulowitzky** capped his career off by being named **1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Conference**. The sharp-shooting Tulowitzky finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the conference in scoring (16.6 ppg) while leading the conference in three-point percentage, three-pointers made, and free throw percentage.

**Junior post Ahmad Kareem Shaheed** continued to elevate his play, averaging 15.3 ppg and 9.8 rpg. He finished the year leading the conference in both rebounds and field goal percentage. **Senior Arthur Pilkevics** had an excellent all-around season and **senior Terry Bailey** led the conference in steals for the third time in four years.

Off the court, the Petrels had a very successful year. **Seven team members were named Academic All-Conference**, a feat achieved by earning a 3.25 GPA or better. This marked the second year in a row the Petrels have had seven players earn this honor. The Petrels community outreach efforts were also recognized, as the team was named **"Volunteer of the Year"** for the entire Metro Atlanta area by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta.

## Community Service Work Continues

The Stormy Petrels will once again be working with the Brookhaven Boys and Girls Club this fall. Each team member will be volunteering two hours per week until practice begins in mid-October. This marks the fourth consecutive year that the men's team has worked with the Brookhaven club. The team members' duties range from helping with homework to working with the sports programs. This past summer, 16 kids from the club participated in the summer basketball camp on free scholarships and heavily discounted rates. For more information on the Boys and Girls Club, please visit [www.bgcma.org](http://www.bgcma.org).

## Pilkevics Signs Professional Contract

2007 graduate Arthur Pilkevics has signed a two year contract to play with the Valmiera club of the Baltic Basketball League ([www.bbl.net](http://www.bbl.net)). Pilkevics returned home to his native country of Latvia and signed the contract in July and reported to training camp on July 31. "I am thrilled that Arthur is going to get the chance to continue his basketball career and play professionally," said Head Coach Philip Ponder. "He was one of the hardest workers we have had here at Oglethorpe and I know his work ethic and attitude will take him as far as he can go in the professional ranks." The 6'4 forward averaged over 12 points and six rebounds per game last year and was named Honorable Mention All-Conference.