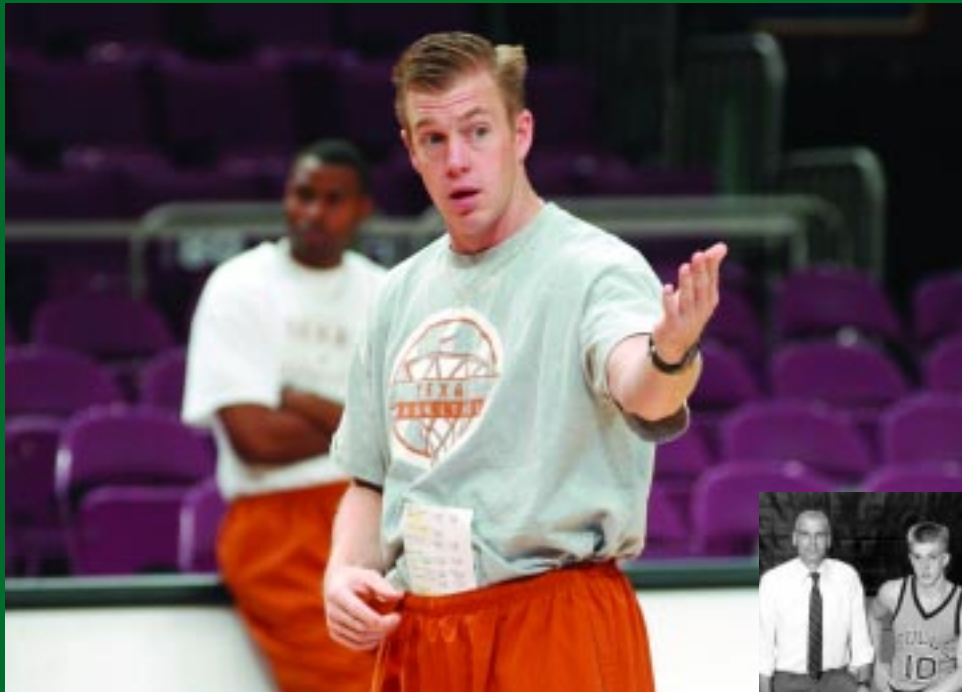


# Sea Gull Alum Helps Herd 'Horns to Hoops Heaven



Division I when he began coaching as an assistant at SU.

Springmann stayed two seasons at SU before getting the head varsity boys job at Mardela High in Wicomico County, MD. The team won 13 games in 1993-94 and appeared in the state regional semifinals. Springmann was named the Bayside Conference Coach of the Year and Mason-Dixon Coach of the Year for his efforts.

But after the 1995-96 season he took a leave of absence from his teaching job to become a volunteer administrative assistant in the men's basketball office at the University of Florida.

He worked several jobs to pay the bills just for a chance to work with Gator Head Coach Billy Donovan, considered one of the top young coaches in the country. After two seasons at Florida, Springmann became an administrative assistant at Texas prior to the 1998-99 season. Springmann, who was promoted to assistant coach prior to the 2000-01 season, is the only Texas assistant who has been with Head Coach Rick Barnes for all five seasons in Austin.



by David Driver

## Varsity Club Hosts Special Events

Alumni, parents of athletes, and friends of SU athletes attended several Varsity Club special events last fall. Sports luncheons were held in the Commons every Thursday during football season. Receptions were held at Sea Gull Stadium and at Maggs Center to coincide with SU games. The Varsity Club also had a reception at the Newport News football game in Hampton, VA. The "Oyster Bowl" game is an annual fundraiser for the Shriners in the Tidewater area of Virginia. Look for more special events in 2003!

Did you know you can join the Varsity Club online? Go to the Varsity Club Web site, <http://varsityclub.salisbury.edu>, and click on "Membership Application."



For further information on the SU Varsity Club, contact Ralph Murray, director, at 410-677-5069 or e-mail him at [remurray@salisbury.edu](mailto:remurray@salisbury.edu).

**R**ussell Springmann doesn't work at Blockbuster.

And he is not a television news director.

But the Salisbury University graduate may watch more film than people in those occupations.

Springmann, 33, is an assistant college basketball coach at Division I University of Texas, and one of his duties is to dissect videotape of his team's upcoming opponents.

"It takes me awhile," Springmann said of trying to break down flaws in opponents. "I really try to pay attention to detail."

That approach has served Springmann well.

He was a four-year letterman for SU in basketball and was the team captain as a senior. Springmann was also the school's Scholar-Athlete of the Year in 1989-90.

Springmann didn't turn 17 until the September he first arrived on the SU campus as a 5-foot-9, 140-pound freshman. Springmann grew to 6-2, 190 pounds and became one of the top players in the conference.

He began his coaching career during the 1990-91 season under Ward Lambert at SU.

"We didn't pay him very much, I can tell you that," SU athletic director Mike Vienna said. "What we got out of him was fantastic. He has a real thorough knowledge of the game."

Springmann did not imagine big-time



Donovan and Barnes are among the top coaches in the country, and Springmann realizes how fortunate he is to have worked for both.

"They are very similar. The first thing, they are great people with a sincere love of the game. They are easy to get along with," he said. "They get along with everyone. You would never realize they are million-dollar-a-year coaches. I have been blessed to work under them."

Springmann wants to one day follow in their footsteps.

"I want to be a head Division I coach at a major program. I am looking forward to that opportunity," Springmann said.

*David Driver, a former Division III baseball player, is a free-lance writer in Maryland who has covered basketball for nearly 20 years.*

## Field Hockey

- ▲ CAC Champion
- ▲ NCAA Final Four
- ▲ All Americans: Lindsey Elliott-1st team, Jill Cressor-2nd team
- ▲ CAC Player of the Year: Lindsey Elliott (pictured)



## SCOREBOARD

# Fall Sports Recap

An outstanding fall sports season yielded three conference championships, three NCAA Tournament appearances and one Final Four berth for the Sea Gulls. Salisbury claimed Capital Athletic Conference championships in field hockey, men's soccer and men's cross country. In addition, the football team earned its first NCAA playoff invitation in 16 years while finishing with a final 9-2 record, and the field hockey team returned to the NCAA Final Four for the sixth time overall and second time in three years. In the December Director's Cup Standings, SU ranked 20th, placing SU in the top 5 percent of the nation's 400 Division III schools.



- Men's Soccer**
- ▲ CAC Champion
  - ▲ NCAA Tournament Appearance
  - ▲ All American: Mike Steinen-1st team (pictured)

## Men's Cross Country

- ▲ CAC Champions



# Hoops Milestones

Women's basketball Head Coach Bridget Benschetler (right) recorded her 200th career victory on January 4 with a 96-61 win over Southern Virginia. Already the winningest coach in team history, Benschetler has piloted SU to eight straight winning seasons and five NCAA Tournament berths. Salisbury hopes to capture its fourth straight Capital Athletic Conference championship in 2003. Not to be outdone, senior All-American guard Amy Champion reached her own career milestone on January 11, becoming the all-time scoring leader in Salisbury women's history. Champion netted 30 points in SU's 82-62 victory at St. Mary's that day, passing Lisa Neylan '01 (1,540 points) as the career scoring leader.



- Football**
- ▲ NCAA Tournament Appearance
  - ▲ All-American Beau Ridgway-AFCA 1st team



For the latest sports schedules and scores visit [www.salisbury.edu/athletics](http://www.salisbury.edu/athletics)