



# COMMUNICATIONS

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## **ERIE BAYHAWKS ANNOUNCE ADDITIONS TO COACHING STAFF**

**ERIE, PA** – The Erie BayHawks, NBA G League affiliate of the Atlanta Hawks Basketball Club, have named Calbert Cheaney, Sam Newman-Beck, Mfon Udofia and Shelden Williams as assistant coaches on Head Coach Noel Gillespie’s coaching staff.

“When looking for assistant coaches, Derek (Pierce) and I wanted to find high-character people who share the same passion for player development as we do,” said Gillespie. “I strongly believe we found that in these four coaches. Each coach brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and positive energy that I know myself and our players will benefit greatly from.”

**Cheaney** begins his first season as an assistant coach for the Erie BayHawks. Most recently, he was an assistant coach for the St. Louis University men’s basketball team (2013-16).

Drafted by the Washington Bullets with the sixth overall pick in the 1993 NBA Draft, Cheaney enjoyed a 13-year NBA playing career, suiting up for the Bullets/Wizards, Boston Celtics, Denver Nuggets, Utah Jazz and Golden State Warriors. Cheaney appeared in 825 regular season games (497 starts), owning career averages of 9.5 points, 3.2 rebounds and 1.7 assists in 26.7 minutes per game.

Following his playing career, Cheaney spent two seasons working for the Warriors, first as a special assistant in the front office (2009-10), before being promoted to an assistant coach (2010-11). He then spent two seasons as Director of Basketball Operations for the Indiana University men’s basketball team (2011-13).

The Evansville, IN, native played collegiately at Indiana University under legendary head coach Bob Knight (1989-93). The Hoosiers compiled a 105-27 (.795) record over Cheaney’s four years at Indiana, capturing the Big Ten crown twice (1991, 1993). Named the Naismith Men’s College Player of the Year in 1993, Cheaney is a three-time All-American and the Big Ten’s all-time leading scorer with 2,613 career points.

Cheaney and his wife, Yvette, have one son, Julian, and one daughter, Sydney.

**Newman-Beck** comes to Erie after spending the past eight seasons with the Minnesota Timberwolves. Over his tenure with the Timberwolves, Newman-Beck has served as assistant video coordinator, head video coordinator and coaching associate/video scouting director.

He was promoted to Coaching Associate/Video Scouting Director prior to the start of the 2017-18 season, a season which saw the Timberwolves in the NBA Playoffs for the first time since 2003-04.

Prior to his time with Minnesota, he worked for the Boston Celtics as a video intern during the team’s 2009-10 NBA Finals run. Newman-Beck is a 2009 graduate of Emerson College, where he played four years for the Lions men’s basketball team (2005-09).

**Udofia** joins the BayHawks after spending the past two seasons as Player Development Assistant/Assistant Coach for the Delaware Blue Coats. He brings three years of NBA G League playing experience to Erie, having played for the Delaware 87ers (2013-14) and Austin Spurs (2014-16).

An Atlanta, GA, native and Georgia Tech University graduate, Udofia was a member of the Yellow Jackets men's basketball team for four years (2009-13).

**Williams** enters his first season as a member of Noel Gillespie's coaching staff. He brings both NBA (and overseas) playing experience to the BayHawks.

Williams was drafted by the Atlanta Hawks with the fifth overall pick in the 2006 NBA Draft. Over his six-year NBA career, Williams saw action with the Hawks, Sacramento Kings, Minnesota Timberwolves, Boston Celtics, Denver Nuggets, New York Knicks and New Jersey Nets. In 361 regular season contests (104 starts), Williams averaged 4.5 points and 4.3 rebounds in 15.5 minutes of play.

Additionally, he suited up for Elan Chalon of the LNB Pro A and the Tianjin Ronggang of the Chinese Basketball Association.

Prior to his professional playing career, Williams was a four-year member of the Duke University men's basketball team (2002-06). He is currently the all-time leader in Blue Devils history in total rebounds (1,262), offensive rebounds (447) and blocked shots (422). Williams was named the National Defensive Player of the Year twice throughout his collegiate career (2005, 2006).

Williams' No. 23 jersey was retired by Duke University on January 28, 2007.

A native of Oklahoma City, OK, Williams has one daughter, Lailaa.

The Erie BayHawks will hold an open tryout this Saturday, September 15, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Georgia State University. Erie will open the 2018-19 regular season by hosting back-to-back home contests, beginning on Friday, November 2 at 7:00 p.m. against the Grand Rapids Drive. Season and group tickets are available by calling the BayHawks office at 814-790-5600.

The Erie BayHawks, presented by LECOM, are the NBA G League affiliate of the Atlanta Hawks. The NBA G League, founded in 2001, is the NBA's official minor league whose teams have direct affiliations to NBA franchises. The BayHawks, established in 2008, play their home games at Erie Insurance Arena and were one of the first teams in the G League to establish a marquee partnership. The BayHawks marquee partner, the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM), LECOM School of Dental Medicine and LECOM School of Pharmacy offer innovative and affordable education in osteopathic medicine, dentistry and pharmacy. From campuses in Erie, Pennsylvania, Greensburg, Pennsylvania and Bradenton, Florida, LECOM provides student-centered pathways to prepare the next generation of healthcare professionals. LECOM physicians serve as the BayHawks medical staff, the team practices at the state-of-the-art LECOM Medical Fitness & Wellness Center, and together the BayHawks and LECOM promote education, health and wellness throughout Erie County.

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