

Who will replace Roy Williams when he retires? Five potential choices

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Not fun fact: There will come a day when Roy Williams will no longer be the head coach of the North Carolina men's basketball team.

While Williams technically signed a 10-year extension back in 2018, it wouldn't be sports journalism if we didn't make wild speculations with zero accountability to their accuracy. Plus, we're taint-deep in the offseason.

So, without further ado, here are the top choices to replace Roy Williams as the next head coach of your North Carolina Tar Heels.

Jerod Haase

While his name isn't as synonymous with Chapel Hill as the others on this list, Haase is probably the closest to Williams. In 2017, Williams described his relationship with Haase as "a little bit of a father-son."

After serving as Williams' assistant at Kansas and at North Carolina and as the head coach of the JV team, Haase took over the head coaching job at UAB. There, he led the Blazers to one NCAA tournament appearance and one first-place finish in conference play, before a loss in the C-USA tournament sent them to the NIT.

Haase was then tapped to replace Johnny Dawkins at Stanford, where the Cardinal have been mostly mediocre. He sports a .567 career win percentage.

Even though Haase never played for the Tar Heels, there's reason enough to love him. As a freshman at California, Haase scored 13 points as the Bears sent the Duke Blue Devils back to Durham in the second round of the 1993 NCAA Tournament.

Why he'd be a great choice

Haase is clearly a Roy Williams protogé. A cerebral "system-first" kind of coach that follows in the footsteps of Williams and Dean Smith. Style-wise, it wouldn't be much of an adjustment.

Why he wouldn't be

This is Chapel Hill. As accomplished (and probably overlooked) as Haase was as a player and coach, he's not exactly a marquee name. If Haase can't make more of a name for himself over the next several seasons, he may simply not have the gravitas attached to his name needed to generate excitement and render patience among the Tar Heel fanbase.

Wes Miller

Tar Heel fans should remember Wes Miller from his playing days. The National Champ ('05) went from a walk-on transfer as a Freshman to starter his Junior year.

Miller didn't have a huge role in the offense. But he was a hard worker and a reliable position and on-ball defender, despite being undersized. He could also put the ball in the basket when he needed to, averaging 7 PPG his Junior season.

Following a brief stint playing pro ball in England, Miller took a job as an assistant at Elon University. He then took a job at High Point University before landing at UNC-Greensboro.

After just one year as an assistant coach, Miller was tapped to replace Mike Dement as UNCG's head coach in 2011.

Following a slightly bumpy start, Miller has led the Spartans to consistent success. UNCG has not finished outside the top 3 of the SoCon since the 2015-2016 season, including finishing atop the conference once. Miller was named SoCon Coach of the Year twice.

Why he'd be a great choice

If the last few years are any indication, Wes Miller is a success as a head coach. Miller took UNCG from perennially average to consistent winner in just a few years. His teams play up-tempo, working-class basketball reminiscent of UNC's traditional style.

Why he wouldn't be

Miller's star is on the rise. If he continues this trajectory and Williams does finish out his contract and stay until 2028, there's an almost guarantee that Miller will be a fixture at a P5 school by then. That could make luring him to Chapel Hill potentially difficult.

Hubert Davis

Only two people boast a better career three-point percentage in the NBA than Hubert Davis—Steve Kerr and Steph Curry.

Davis was a respected role player during his NBA career. He averaged 8.2 points, 1.5 rebounds and 1.7 assists per game playing for the Knicks, Mavericks, Pistons, Wizards, and Nets.

After joining the UNC coaching staff in 2012, Davis has served as both an assistant to Williams and as the head coach of North Carolina's JV team. He has also moved to the forefront of UNC's recruiting efforts in the last several years.

Why he would be a great fit

Word around town is that Davis has made excellent connections with UNC's players. This should come as no surprise as Davis is generally regarded as a super nice dude. Davis' NBA pedigree undoubtedly helps on the recruiting trail. His uncle, Walter, is one of the most beloved Tar Heels of his generation. That strong family lineage and his penchant for Royesque blazers makes "Hubie" a natural choice for a program steeped in tradition and "family."

Why he wouldn't be

If Davis remains at Williams' side for the next seven seasons, it would be a gamble for one of the nation's most pressure-packed programs to pick someone without head coaching experience.

Jerry Stackhouse

Regardless of coaching ability, that's some Roy Williams-level suit-rocking there.

Though he doesn't seem to get much recognition beyond his savage posterization of Cherokee Parks and Eric Meek in 1995, Jerry Stackhouse was absolutely electrifying in college.



Watch Video At: <https://youtu.be/1hmWoCLxOCc>

Let's be fair though, we'd all love to be remembered by something like this.

His sophomore and final season at UNC, Stackhouse averaged 19.2 PPG while shooting 52% from the floor.

Drafted third in the 1995 NBA draft, Stack went on to have a successful career in The League. He was a two-time NBA All-Star and averaged 17 PPG over his 18-year stint. In the Pistons' 2001-2002 campaign and one of his All-Star seasons, he averaged 30 PPG.

Stackhouse started his coaching career as an assistant to the Toronto Raptors. He later headed the Raptors' G-League team Raptors 905, where he was named "D-League Coach of the Year" in 2017. Stackhouse then became an assistant for the Memphis Grizzlies and last year, signed on as the new head coach at Vanderbilt University.

Although Vanderbilt had as miserable a 2019-2020 season as anyone other than North Carolina, Stack's success in the pro ranks indicates that he has tremendous coaching potential.

Why he'd be a great fit

Stackhouse has arguably the best highlight clip in Tar Heel history (an honor that would've gone to Marcus Paige, but for Kris "Fucking" Jenkins), and was truly great for several seasons in the NBA.

While not a household name these days, it doesn't take long on YouTube to realize Jerry Stackhouse was a bad, bad man on the court. In this day and age where the internet drives so much of college basketball recruiting, just like everything else, that's not nothing.

Stack's return to Chapel Hill would generate insane buzz. If he can turn Vanderbilt around and prove himself as a head coach on the college level, he would be a powerful recruiter and a huge draw to the program.

Why he wouldn't be

College is different than the pros. While Stackhouse found immediate success in the G-League, North Carolina is a do-or-die situation for any coach. He has yet to prove his chops at this level.

Rasheed Wallace

Hey, a man can dream, right?

Rasheed Wallace is a national treasure.

Sheed is known for leading the NBA in all-time technical fouls, but he is also the all-time leader in being misunderstood.



Watch Video At: <https://youtu.be/pjDdFLKkP94>

Honestly, this video kind of tells you everything you need to know about Rasheed Wallace.

A two (or three)-time All-Star and NBA champion, nobody questioned Wallace's game on the court. However, he never could shake the negative reputation that followed him even into retirement, despite his life off the court as a pretty chill guy.

Maybe Sheed just never felt the need to correct anyone.

Wallace has been one of the most active celebrity voices in addressing the Flint water crisis. Since 2016, he has been delivering water door-to-door. He also wrote an impassioned plea for awareness and help in the Players' Tribune, inspiring numerous other NBA players to take up the cause as well.

In 2019, Wallace signed on to become the new head coach of your C.E. Jordan High School boys' basketball program in Durham. The team struggled in Wallace's first season, posting a 9-16 record. However, the Falcons finished the regular season strong with four straight wins before losing to Riverside in the Tri-8 Tournament.

Why he would be a great fit

Why not?

Rasheed Wallace's legacy transcends basketball. He is one of the sport's most unique characters. If he finds success as a coach, he would certainly be the most exciting choice. And how fun would it be to see him deal with Teddy Valentine from the sidelines?

Why he wouldn't

This is admittedly pretty far-fetched.

That said, it seemed like a good opportunity to bring attention to the work Rasheed Wallace is doing for a city that STILL DOESN'T HAVE SUITABLE WATER FOR ITS CITIZENS IN THE YEAR 2020 CE.

If you'd like to help from afar, you can donate to Citizens for a Greater Flint. CFGF is a local non-profit established by Flint residents for Flint that helps families in need.

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