

# SPRING HILL COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL 2021-2022

NCAA Division II  
**MAKE SHC YOURS**





After playing through a 10-game, one-month rump season due to the Covid-19 Global Pandemic in 2020-2021, the Spring Hill College (SHC) Badgers men's basketball team and head coach Craig Kennedy are ready to get back to a sense of normalcy in the 2021-2022 season. "Last was what last year was," said Kennedy. "But we're ready to move on and we don't think about it. We're focused on this year, not last."

The Badgers fought to a disappointing 3-7 record in 2020-2021 under bizarre circumstances that saw them playing in front of empty bleachers with no crowds, cheerleaders or family members due to NCAA Covid Protocols. SHC was also an extremely young team last season and that does not appear to be any different this year as the Badgers feature four true freshmen, four redshirt freshmen, and four sophomores on their roster. "There's no doubt that we are a very young team," said Kennedy. "And that means we'll have a lot of learning and maturing to do this year."

Making things tougher on the Badger cubs will be the fact that the first half of the schedule is crowded with topnotch opponents. "The schedule is front loaded and we'll take some lumps," Kennedy said. "But we need to get ready for the conference portion of our schedule in a hurry. As the younger players find their way, we'll get better and better."

The early workouts showed that the Badgers will be a guard-oriented offense this season with the inside players learning the ropes of the physical play required to be successful in the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC). Redshirt freshman guard Sam Davidson of Melbourne, Australia will be asked to take on a larger role in the Badger offense, but the significant amount of time he was on the court last season should be a benefit toward his development. Freshman guard Eli Lenihan from Cork, Ireland should grow into his position. Kennedy likes Lenihan's consistent play during the offseason and sees him becoming a major contributor late in the year.

Last year, freshman Jaden Gray of Tampa, Fla. showed flashes of what the future holds and Kennedy hopes that his ability to get to basket is used to its full potential this year. Freshman Tana Kopa from Perth, Western Australia is a pure shooter and his sharpshooting should make life easier on the inside for the young Badger post players as he stretches opposing defenses.

Sophomore guard John Abate of Orange Park, Fla.

became a grittier player for the Badgers in 2020-2021 and likes to do a multitude of things on the court. Whether it comes to rebounding, passing or defense, Abate will do what it takes to get the job done. Freshman guard Steven Lyles is the finesse player every team needs. He can find the cracks in a defense and slip in for opportunities that the more physical players cannot. Sophomore Ashton Hawkins of Hattiesburg, Miss. earned a spot on the Badger varsity roster last season, moving up from the varsity roster and proving his worth. He should see increased playing time as a role player this year.

Stepping into the inside position for the Badgers this year will be sophomore forward Denys Bobchuk from Kyiv, Ukraine and freshman center Timothy Reilly of Saint Petersburg, Fla. Both of the Badger big men are young, but they will be christened by fire once the SIAC slate begins.

Two of the most important pieces to the puzzle this year will be forwards senior David Daniels of Homer Glen, Ill. and freshman Beril Kabamba of Clearwater, Fla. Daniels is a wily veteran with the experience and knowledge to attack opposing defenses and Kabamba is a talented redshirt freshman who showed the ability to take over games at stretches last season. "Kabamba will be a major factor in SHC basketball throughout his emerging career," said Kennedy. "He's young and still learning, but once we get him to focus his talent and size in the right direction, the sky's the limit for him."

Freshman forward Chance Beard of Birmingham, Ala. is a quiet player who does not get as much recognition as he deserves, but he uses that oversight to his advantage. What he accomplishes on the court does not show up in the box score every night, but it is vital to Badger success. Sophomore forward Georgios Kostikas from Thessaloniki, Greece proved to be a valuable "first-off-the-bench" reserve in 2020-21 and looks to fill that role again in 2021-2022. True freshman forward Luka Erdtmann joins the Badgers from Berkeley, Calif. Kennedy has high expectations for the youngster, but sees this season as more of a developmental year as Erdtmann adjusts to the speed and physicality of the collegiate game.

"This year will be a learning year for all of us," said Kennedy. "We are just a young, talented team that is still learning the system, learning our opponents, and learning about each other, but keep an eye on us. It's a long season and it's all about where we finish and not about where we start."

## Craig Kennedy - Head Coach

Craig Kennedy was named the head coach of Badger Basketball in June 2018 and is a 38-year coaching and teaching veteran who has coached at Troy University, Georgia Southern University, Auburn University and the University of Winnipeg. Kennedy has also served as an Assistant Athletic Director for the Badgers since 2015.



Kennedy got his coaching start in his native Canada as an assistant women's basketball coach with the University of Winnipeg where the program won three Canadian University National Championships and compiled a 101-2 record. Those teams also tied the UCLA men's basketball record of 88 consecutive wins during that span. Kennedy concluded his time at the University of Winnipeg by serving as the interim head coach and leading the team to a Top Ten finish after the team graduated 97% of its offense from the previous season. Four players from that team went on to play professionally overseas prior to the founding of the WNBA.

Kennedy holds a Bachelor of Education in American History from the University of Winnipeg and a Master of Science in Sports Management from Troy. He is the father of two children, Melissa and Hunter.

## Pat Niland - Assistant Coach

Pat Niland joined the Badgers as the assistant men's basketball coach in January 2020 after spending the fall 2019 semester as a volunteer coach. Niland came to SHC from the University of Alabama men's basketball team where he served as a Graduate Assistant during to 2018-19 and 2019-20 seasons. Niland also earned a Master's in Sport Management during his time with the Crimson Tide.



Prior to his time with the Crimson Tide, Niland served as a Student Manager for University of South Alabama (USA) men's basketball team between 2014-18. He was the Head Manager for his final two seasons with the Jaguars. Niland earned his Bachelor's in History with a minor in Spanish during his time at USA.

Niland was born and raised in Mobile, Ala. and is excited to be back in his hometown and looking forward to helping the Badgers continue to improve on their previous successes. "Pat was my original choice as a GA when I was first hired," said SHC head coach Craig Kennedy, "But for some reason he chose to pursue the opportunity at Alabama. I am really excited to have him as a part of our program. He is a really good person who has a great mind for the game and is passionate about helping young people achieve their goals on and off the court."

## Christian Brandt - Student Assistant Coach

Christian Brandt moved from the court to the bench in the fall of 2021, opting to become a Student Assistant Coach after three seasons of play.

In the 2020-21 season, Brandt started all 10 games of the Covid-shortened season scoring 2.90 points per game with 2.30 rebounds per game and was a member of the SIAC Commissioner's All-Academic Team. He had 20 starts in 25 appearances in his sophomore season and had 12 starts in 26 appearances as a true freshman.



Brandt prepped at Auburn (Ala.) High School under head coach Frank Tolbert where he scored 1,469 career points - the third highest all-time scorer AHS history as well as the school's all-time leader in assists and steals. He is majoring in Health Science.

## GENERAL FACTS

Institution: Spring Hill College  
City/State/Zip: Mobile, AL 36608  
Founded: 1830  
Enrollment: 1,200  
Nickname: Badgers  
School Colors: Purple, white  
Home Facility: Arthur R. Outlaw Recreation Center  
Capacity: 1,500  
Affiliation: NCAA Division II  
Conference: Southern Intercollegiate Athletic  
Division: West  
President: E. Joseph Lee, Ph.D.  
Athletic Director: Joe Niland  
Alma Mater: SUNY Buffalo, 1981  
Deputy AD for Compliance: Chad LeBlanc  
Assistant AD: Craig Kennedy  
Senior Woman Administrator: Emily Marcoulier  
Faculty Athletic Representative: Steve Almquist, Ph.D.  
Athletic Department Phone: 251-380-3485  
Athletic Department Fax: 251-460-2196  
Sports Information Director: Jim Stennett  
Alma Mater: Mississippi State, 1990  
SID Phone: (251) 380-4468  
SID Email: [jstennett@shc.edu](mailto:jstennett@shc.edu)  
Athletic Web Site: [www.shcbadgers.com](http://www.shcbadgers.com)  
Facebook: SHCBADGERS  
Twitter: SHCBADGERS  
Instagram: SHCBADGERS

## COACHING STAFF:

Head Coach: Karen McConico  
Alma Mater: High Point, 1998  
Record at school/years: 112-144/10 years  
Career record/years: 112-144/10 years  
Office Phone: (251) 380-3488  
Assistant Coach: Sydney Westry (1st year)  
Basketball Athletic Trainer: Ian Rogol, ATC  
Office Phone: 251-380-3493

## TEAM INFORMATION:

Overall Record Last Year: 3-5  
Conference/Finish: 0-0 (SIAC opted out of 2020-21)  
Starters returning/lost: 4/1



# MEN'S ROSTER

No.	Player	Pos.	Class	Ht.	Exp.	Hometown / Previous School(s)
1	Steven Lyles	G	Fr.	6-4	HS	Johns Creek, Ga./Valor Christian Academy
2	John Abate	G	R-So.	6-1	SQ	Orange Park, Fla./Orange Park HS
3	Chance Beard	FWD	R-Fr.	6-5	RS	Birmingham, Ala./Briarwood Christian School
5	Ashton Hawkins	G	R-So.	5-10	SQ	Hattiesburg, Miss./West Harrison HS
10	Tana Kopa	G/F	Fr.	6-6	HS	Perth, Western Australia / Grace Baptist Academy (Miss.)
12	Timothy Reilly	C	Fr.	6-10	HS	Saint Petersburg, Fla./Saint Petersburg Catholic HS
13	David Daniels	FWD	R-Jr.	6-5	1L	Homer Glen, Ill./Marist HS
14	Georgios Kostikas	FWD	R-So.	6-9	1L	Thessaloniki, Central Macedonia, Greece / Hellenic College of Thessaloniki
20	Jaden Gray	G	R-Fr.	6-3	RS	Tampa, Fla./Tampa Prep
21	Eli Lenihan	G	Fr.	6-5	HS	Cork, Ireland / SMGS Blamey / The McDuffie School (Mass.)
24	Beril Kabamba	FWD	R-Fr.	6-7	RS	Clearwater, Fla./Dunedin (Fla.) HS
35	Sam Davidson	G	R-Fr.	6-3	RS	Melbourne, Australia / Montverde (Fla.) Academy
44	Luka Erdtmann	FWD	Fr.	6-8	HS	Berkeley, Calif. / Clearwater (Fla.) Academy International
45	Denys Bobchuk	FWD	R-So.	6-8	1L	Kyiv, Ukraine / The Storm King School (N.Y.)

## 2020-2021 RESULTS

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	RESULT
Tues., Feb 2	at Troy University (Exhibition)	Troy, Ala.	L, 73-90
Sat., Feb 6	Miles College	Home	L, 76-86
Sun., Feb 7	Miles College	Home	L, 49-64
Sat., Feb 13	Tuskegee University	Home	W, 74-73
Sun., Feb 14	Tuskegee University	Home	L, 69-78
Tues., Feb 23	at Miles College	Fairfield, Ala.	L, 58-75
Weds., Feb 24	at Miles College	Fairfield, Ala.	L, 51-65
Sat., Feb 27	at Tuskegee University	Tuskegee, Ala.	W, 65-61
Sun., Feb 28	at Tuskegee University	Tuskegee, Ala.	L, 73-78
Fri., Mar 5	Albany State University	Home	L, 92-101
Sun., Mar 7	at Albany State University	Albany, Ga.	W, 80-70



## 2020-2021 SIAC FINAL STANDINGS

School	Conf*	Overall
<b>EAST</b>		
Benedict	0-0	9-1
Albany State	0-0	3-8
Clark Atlanta	0-0	0-0
Fort Valley State	0-0	0-0
Savannah State	0-0	0-3
<b>WEST</b>		
Miles	0-0	9-0
Tuskegee	0-0	6-7
Spring Hill	0-0	3-7
Kentucky State	0-0	0-4

\*The SIAC opted out of the 2020-21 season due to the Covid-19 Global Pandemic



Steven Lyles  
Freshman

John Abate  
Sophomore

Chance Beard  
Freshman

Ashton Hawkins  
Sophomore

Tana Kopa  
Freshman



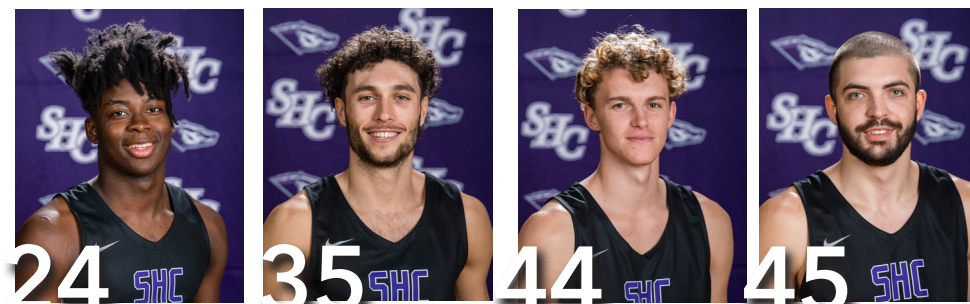
Timothy Reilly  
Freshman

David Daniels  
Junior

Georgios Kostikas  
Sophomore

Jaden Gray  
Freshman

Eli Lenihan  
Freshman



Beril Kabamba  
Freshman

Sam Davidson  
Freshman

Luka Erdtmann  
Freshman

Denys Bobchuk  
Sophomore



Vaughn Terrell  
Student Manager

# 2021-2022 ROSTER



# 2021-2022 SCHEDULE



DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
Tues., Nov 9	at University of South Alabama (Exhibition)	USA Mitchell Center	7 p.m.
Thurs., Nov 11	at Samford University (Exhibition)	Birmingham, Ala.	7 p.m.
Sat., Nov 13	at University of New Orleans (Exhibition)	New Orleans, La.	3 p.m.
Tues., Nov 16	Loyola University (La.)	Home	7 p.m.
Bahama House Shootout; Daytona Beach, Fla.			
Fri., Nov 19	at Embry-Riddle University	Daytona Beach, Fla.	7 p.m. (east)
Sat., Nov 20	vs. Flagler College	Daytona Beach, Fla.	5 p.m. (east)
Weds., Nov 24	University of West Florida	Home	7 p.m.
Sat., Nov 27	at Allen University	Columbia, S.C.	3 p.m. (east)
Mon., Nov 29	*at Benedict College	Columbia, S.C.	7:30 p.m. (east)
Fri., Dec 3	Flagler College	Home	7 p.m.
Sat., Dec 11	*Albany State University	Home	4 p.m.
Mon., Dec 13	*Morehouse College	Home	7 p.m.
Sat., Dec 18	*at Clark Atlanta University	Atlanta, Ga.	4 p.m. (east)
Mon., Jan 3	*Savannah State University	Home	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Jan 8	*Tuskegee University	Home	4 p.m.
Tues., Jan 11	at University of Mobile	Univ. of Mobile	7 p.m.
Sat., Jan 15	*at Lane College	Jackson, Tenn.	4 p.m.
Tues., Jan 18	*Fort Valley State University	Home	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Jan 22	*Miles College	Home	4 p.m.
Mon., Jan 24	*LeMoyne-Owen College	Home	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Jan 29	*at Kentucky State University	Frankfort, Ky.	3 p.m. (east)
Mon., Jan 31	*at Central State University	Wilberforce, Ohio	7:30 p.m. (east)
Sun., Feb 6	*Central State University	Home	4 p.m.
Mon., Feb 7	*Kentucky State University	Home	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Feb 12	*at LeMoyne-Owen College	Memphis, Tenn.	7:30 p.m.
Mon., Feb 14	*at Miles College	Fairfield, Ala.	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Feb 19	*Lane College (Senior Day)	Home	4 p.m.
Tues., Feb 22	*at Tuskegee University	Tuskegee, Ala.	7:30 p.m.
Weds., Feb 25	at University of West Florida	Pensacola, Fla.	7 p.m.
Feb 28-Mar 5	at SIAC Championship Tournament	Rock Hill, S.C.	TBD

\*SIAC game

[www.shcbadgers.com](http://www.shcbadgers.com)



SPRING HILL COLLEGE