



Tyrone Ellis Jr.

Biographical Information

NBA G League Northern Arizona Suns head mentor Ty Ellis was named an assistant coach for the 2017 USA AmericCup Team on July 5, 2017.

“I want to thank my wife and family for their support, and everyone involved for this wonderful opportunity,” said Ellis. “I feel truly blessed and honored to be a part of USA Basketball. Since the 1992 Dream Team, it has been my lifelong dream to be a part of USA Basketball and now, that dream has come true. I’m extremely fortunate to have an opportunity to learn from Coach Van Gundy and Coach Mo. I had a chance to experience Coach Van Gundy’s coaching early in my playing career and I always admired his knowledge, honesty, and attention to detail. Now I have a chance to be his assistant coach and be a part of USA Basketball. I’m living the dream!”

Serving as an assistant coach for the 2017 USA AmeriCup Team, he helped guide the American squad to a 5-0 record and the FIBA Americas Zone championship.

Current head coach for the NBA G-League Northern Arizona Suns, Ellis led the Suns to a 22-28 record in its inaugural 2016 season. Under Ellis, two Suns players, Johnny O’Bryant and Elijah Millsap, earned GATORADE Call-Ups to the NBA last season, and both signed multiyear deals with NBA teams.

Ellis was among four D-League coaches invited to participate in the 2017 NBA Draft Combine, where he helped lead the prospects, along with NBA coaches, during scrimmages and drills.



On Oct. 30, 2015, after stints with the Tulsa 66ers (2012-13), Reno Bighorns (2013-14) and Grand Rapids Drive (2014-15), Ellis was hired by the Bakersfield Jam as an assistant coach. Just 10 months later, on July 15, 2016, Ellis was named head coach of the Northern Arizona Suns.

Playing collegiately at NAIA Southern Nazarene University, Ellis played four years for the Crimson Storm and graduated ranked fourth all-time on the school's scoring list with 1,822 points. He also listed second all-time in 3-pointers made with 248 in 129 total games.

Ellis was also a member of the Georgia national team from 2006 to 2009 and also played professional basketball for the Huntsville Flight and in Germany (Frankfurt Skyliners), Turkey (Beşiktaş Cola Turka), Italy (Basket Napoli) and Spain (Casademont Girona, Cajasol Sevilla, Asefa Estudiantes). He also had Summer League stints with the Los Angeles Lakers and the Dallas Mavericks.

Having earned a reputation as a coach for his strength in player development, Ellis joined the coaching ranks following a successful 11-year career as a player in the D-League and internationally. His final five seasons were spent playing with three different clubs from 2007-12 in Liga ACB, Spain's first-tier professional league, where he also played in his first professional season overseas in 2002-03. Ellis played one season apiece with clubs in the highest-tier leagues in Italy and Turkey from 2005-07 and played two seasons with the Frankfurt Skyliners from 2003-05, helping the team to their first title in Basketball Bundesliga, Germany's highest league.

Ellis was a player in the NBA D-League's inaugural season; he was drafted by the Huntsville Flight and averaged 5.2 points in 56 games with the team in 2001-02, the first season of the D-League and his first professional season as a player.