

RADIANT SUNS COACHES AND MENTORS



L. Greg Smith

Greg was a star basketball player on the varsity team at Seton Hall Prep School. As a scholar athlete and highly recruited senior, Greg was offered scholarships to numerous Division 1 schools including Syracuse University, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Seton Hall University, the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Fordham University, St. John's University, Rutgers University, and Fairleigh Dickenson University. He decided to attend and play at Seton Hall University where he graduated with honors with a Bachelor of Science Degree in business administration and marketing from the W. Paul Stillman School of Business at Seton Hall. After graduation, Greg had an NBA tryout with the New Jersey Nets. He was later offered several opportunities to play professionally overseas but due to family obligations decided to remain in the United States.

Greg began coaching youth athletics while in high school. Greg is one of the founders of the Radiant Suns and Radiant Community Athletic Productions and has been President and leader of the organization since its inception in 2008. Of the student athletes he has coached and mentored through the Radiant program, there are over 23 Division 1 multi-sport athletes and over 100 Division 2 and 3 multi-sport athletes, including 1 NBA player, 2 NFL players, and several multi-sport professionals including basketball and soccer who have played in foreign countries.

In addition to Greg's interests and history in coaching athletics, Greg began studying martial arts at the age of 4 and has been teaching various arts since the age of 16. He has trained at the Princeton Academy of Martial Arts for over 20 years primarily studying several arts including Jeet Kune Do, Muay Thai, Kali, Savate, and Silat.

Greg is actively involved in many professional and community organizations including the American Society of Training & Development (ASTD), The Free & Accepted Masons, Shriners, Church and various youth groups. He has authored and co-authored seven books and

publications and delivers motivational speeches and programs on a wide variety of key social and professional topics to various businesses, educational institutions, and organizations. Greg holds over 75 Business Training Certifications.



Chuck Berger

Chuck is one of the three founders of the Radiant Suns and Radiant Community Athletic Productions and has served as Vice President since inception. Chuck's affinity for basketball emulated from being an avid New York Knicks fan of the late 1960's and early 1970's. This was followed by his close enjoyment of the very successful Rutgers University basketball teams of 1975-1977. Soon after, he enrolled at Rutgers in 1978 and served four years in the Rutgers Marching Band and Pep Band before graduating with a B.S. in Management in 1982. Chuck was fortunate that his participation and leadership with the Rutgers Bands enabled him to witness many NCAA basketball games featuring powerful teams and players, many of which moved on to successful professional athletic careers.

Chuck's priority has always been with his family including his wife, Shelley, his son Justin, and his daughter Rachel. His son was one of the initial Radiant Suns players and remained with the program through high school where he had a stellar career at Solebury School (PA) before playing in college. His daughter also played three seasons with the Lady Suns. Chuck not only served as V.P. of Radiant but coached and assistant coached many teams through the years. He has handled most of the numerous administrative tasks necessary for the organization. Chuck continues to serve Radiant, mostly in an administrative role including compiling and distributing monthly newsletters, annual journals, maintaining it's website, and facilitating new initiatives including our College Preparation Handbook that was inspired by our experiences with our own children's athletic and academic careers.



Leslie “Hook” Greene

“Hook” is one of the three founders of the Radiant Suns and Radiant Community Athletic Productions and has served as Vice President since 2008. He officiated High School Basketball IAABO Board # 33, HCUA Baseball, & SCOA Soccer for over 30 years. A Jersey City native, Hook attended Rutgers University prior to having a 30-year career at Verizon Communications. He is a proud member of King Solomon Lodge #19 F&AM (PHA) in Jersey City for 34 years. Also, Hook is a Golconda #24 Shriner (A.E.A.O.N.M.S.) for 26 years.



Ralph Dalton

Prior to Ralph Dalton’s successful Wall Street banking and sales career, he was a star member of the infamous Georgetown Hoyas basketball team in the early 1980’s playing for the legendary John Thompson, II. After sustaining a devastating season ending knee injury (which was studied in medical journals) in an intra-squad game prior to the start of his first season, Dalton persevered through a nine-month recovery to play alongside with his close friend Patrick Ewing including routes to the NCAA FINAL FOUR and becoming the 1984 NCAA Tournament Champions and the 1985 NCAA Tournament runner-up. In the 1985 Eastern Region Final where Ewing was in serious late foul trouble, Ralph stepped up to lead the Hoyas to victory. After graduating in the Spring of 1985, Ralph stayed on for his fourth year of varsity play and became the first basketball player ever at Georgetown University to earn an MBA. He has enjoyed a long and successful career on Wall Street in fixed income and emerging markets securities.



Wendell Alexis

Prior to his career in healthcare including serving as Director of Corporate Sponsorships at RWJBarnabas Health, Wendell Alexis played basketball for the Syracuse Orangemen from 1982-1986. He was a starter during his senior year. Alexis was drafted by the Golden State Warriors, just one pick ahead of future Hall of Fame member Dražen Petrović. He didn't play in the NBA and went on to play in Europe including seasons with Real Madrid (Spain), Forum Valladolid, Enichem Livorno (Italy), Maccabi Tel Aviv (Israel), Reggio Calabria (Italy), Levallois (France), ALBA (Germany), PAOK(Greece), and Mitteldeutscher BC (Germany) where he won the FIBA EuroCup Challenge. When playing for ALBA, he won the German League championship each season and was voted the MVP in 1997, 1998, 2000, 2002. He holds the all-time scoring record for ALBA with 5,922 points. Wendell represented the Western team of the FIBA EuroStars games in 1997-98 and 1998-99. He also represented the senior United States national team at the 1998 FIBA World Championship, where Team USA played without any NBA players being available, due to the NBA lockout. He won the bronze medal at the tournament, and he was the team's second highest scorer. After the end of his active professional basketball playing career, Alexis worked as an assistant coach of the NJIT Highlanders college basketball team. In September 2008, Alexis was named an assistant coach of the NBA Development League's Austin Toros. Wendell's son Julian was a member of the Radiant Suns program before going on to Babson College where he was a member of the 2017 NCAA Division III Championship team.