

Interesting People

Jim Les
Bradley Braves
Basketball Coach

Interesting People

The Beginning of Jim

- James Allen Les
 - August 18, 1963, Niles, Illinois
- Father
- Mother
 - Older brother, Tom: early 70s, point guard, Bradley
 - Jim, ball boy
- Fondest childhood memory

Interesting People

Pre-Pro: Basketball

- Grade school
- Niles Township High School (retired #10)
 - 5’11” Point guard; 165 pounds
- Cleveland State University (#15)
 - Transfer
- Bradley University: Finance, Dean’s List
 - Accounting Student Association
 - Delta Epsilon
- Bradley Records (#15)
 - Hall of Fame
 - 2nd most assists in NCAA history
 - Most valuable player; co-captain
 - 29 game winning streak (85-86)
- 1986
 - 32-3 record/NCAA tournament
 - MVC Player of the Year
 - 10th on NCAA’s all time assists: 884
 - With Tom: 1,103 assists
- Bradley: 63/100 greatest basketball programs

Interesting People

Pro: Basketball

- 1986: Chicago Express, Springfield Express, Omaha Racers (ass't coach)
 - Continental Basketball Association
 - Islanders; bike; \$300
 - Engaged to Jodi Martineau
- 1989: Draft, 3rd round (70th overall); Atlanta Hawks
- 7 years: Phil 76s; Utah Jazz; LA Clippers (10-day contract); Sacramento Kings
 - Defended Michael Jordan; Hall of Fame
 - 7.2 PPG, 5.4 APG, steals 1.04, field goal, .444
 - 3 point .461; led NBA 90-91
- 1992: 2nd to Craig Hodges Long Distance Shootout, NBA All-Star competition
 - “The difference was he made the moneyball and I choked it.”
- Cumulative points 1,211; 396 games
- Cumulative: professional compensation: \$1,589,000

Interesting People

Polish Chicago

- Chet Ostrowski (football)
 - Weber, Notre Dame, Washington Redskins
- Ted Kluszewski (baseball)
 - 1959 World Series, .391
- Jim Grabowski (football)
 - Taft High, UofIll, leading rusher, MVP in 1964 Rose Bowl, Green Bay, two Super Bowls, Chicago Bears
- Jim Les (?) (basketball)
 - MVC player of the year 1986, 1990-91 led league .461 3-pt percentage, 4 teams
 - Francis Pomeroy Naismith Hall of Fame
 - Best basketball player under 6'

Interesting People

Post-NBA

- Sutro & Co., Sacramento, California
 - Vice-president status
 - \$50 million in assets; 200 clients
- Coaching “tipping point”
- WNBA’s Sacramento Monarchs
 - Assistant Coach, 3 years (60/36)
 - WNBA playoffs
- Bradley Head Coach: 2003
 - Improved record first two seasons
 - Sweet 16: 2006
 - NIT: 2008
 - College Basketball Invitational Tournament
 - 4 consecutive 20-win series

Interesting People

Spouse/Dress/Final Four

- Advanced to the Fashionable Four/2009
 - Defeated Gary Waters of Cleveland State
- Will meet Santa Clara's Kerry Keating
 - Louisville's Rick Pitino vs. Willanova's Jay Wright
- "I have to give (Les) wife, Jodi, credit for stepping up his wardrobe this year. If it weren't for her, Coach would still be in the '80s gear he was wearing in college." Eric Buescher, Associate Head Coach
- Jodi Les: must wear red
 - CBS close-ups
- Jodi Martineau: California girl
 - Tyler
 - Amber
 - Hannah

Interesting People

Les on Coaching

- Book: 94-Foot Transition Game & Drills
- Why coaching?
- Why Bradley?
- Game preparation
 - Motivation: Jim; team
 - Alone vs. isolated
 - Warp speed chess
 - Information considered
- The pain/coming down
- “How much dysfunctionality is just enough to make you a coach?”

Interesting People

Les on Living: The Private Jim Les

- Describe the experience that changed the course of your life?
- What makes your profession pleasurable?
- The meaning to you of your day job?
- Passions?
- Non-professional interests?
- Attitude/philosophy
- The little engine that could
- Daydreams
- “...being on the margins of life, seeing the world with a view toward making sense of it...”

Interesting People

The Business of Predicting the Future: Divergent Mind

- Your team
- Individuals
- You
- Your family

Interesting People

Son, Tyler

- “Tyler Les was an outstanding shooter...quick release, able to come off screens, dribble and create shots and hit them while on the move and not just a stand-still spot up shooter.”
- Bergan vs. Niles Notre Dame
 - 60-49
 - Brother, Tom: Niles Notre Dame
 - Watonga Award ‘75
 - Eddie Mathews
 - Tom; Jim: 1,103 assists
- His future
 - 3 pt. shooting star: 6’2”
 - King of the Hill: 3A winner
 - Potential to be Jim Les?

Interesting People

Closing

- Biggest hurdle?
- Lowest depth?
- Most treasured possession?
- Absent talent?
- Most difficult decision?
- Your worst memory?
- Secret ambition?
- Wildest dream?
- Ideal day?
- Greatest fear?
- With whom would you most wish to visit?
- Rewind your life?
- How do you handle your success?
- What next?