

The Coast is clear: It's Enfield

AD Kavanagh calls former FSU assistant 'the best fit' to guide FGCU basketball team

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ESTERO — Andy Enfield is the new men's basketball coach at Florida Gulf Coast University.

The five-year Florida State assistant, who was named as one of "five super assistant coaches in college basketball" by ESPN The Magazine

during the 2008-09 season, was announced as FGCU's second coach by athletic director Ken Kavanagh during a press conference at Alico Arena on Wednesday afternoon.

Enfield was in Southwest Florida on Tuesday, but Kavanagh said he did not offer him the job until Wednesday morning. Enfield's five-year contract will begin paying him \$152,500 when he officially starts Friday. He is slated for at least five percent annual raises, and his contract has the usual incentives for Atlantic Sun titles, coach of the year awards, NCAA wins, etc.

FGCU did not post the job, but

Kavanagh said he received "about 100" résumés and spoke face-to-face with "seven or eight" candidates about the position.

"When it came down to it, I started to focus overall on who would be the best fit," Kavanagh said. "Certainly there were a number of folks who could have been our head coach and I would have really been pleased. I just felt in my gut it was Andy."

In front of Kavanagh, university President Wilson Bradshaw, 10 current basketball players, much of FGCU's coaching staffs, boosters and fans, the 41-year-old Enfield

wore a black suit, paisley blue tie, blue FGCU "Athletics" cap and a big grin as he stepped to the podium.

His wife, Amanda, did not accompany him as she is scheduled to give birth to the couple's first son "any minute." The Enfields have two daughters — Aila, who will be 5 next week, and Lili, 3.

"We're very excited," Enfield said. "The No. 1 reason I took this job is because of the vision of Dr. Bradshaw and Mr. Kavanagh. The second reason was because my daughters love the Eagle mascot.

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"I've been preparing for this day for a long time.

I know we're going to build a successful program and we're going to work hard to do it the right way."

— **Andy Enfield**
on becoming the second Eagles coach in program history



Florida Gulf Coast University athletic director Ken Kavanagh, left, hands a gift basket to new men's basketball coach Andy Enfield, whose hiring was announced during a press conference Wednesday. Enfield comes to Southwest Florida after serving as an assistant coach at Florida State, where he helped the Seminoles reach the Sweet 16 of this year's NCAA tournament. **Manuel Martinez/Staff**