

# Vernell “Bimbo” Coles

Vernell “Bimbo” Coles was a standout at Greenbrier East High School in Lewisburg, West Virginia and went on to play college basketball for the Virginia Tech Hokies for four seasons (1986–1990).

Coles finished his collegiate career as the leading all-time scorer in school and Metro Conference history and also set an all-time scoring mark for Division I players in the state of Virginia. He scored a total of 2,484 points during his four seasons and became the first player in Metro Conference history to lead the league in scoring three consecutive years. He remains the Hokies’ all-time leader in scoring and assists.

Coles burst on the national scene by becoming the university’s first student-athlete to play in the Olympics when he made the United States Olympic team in 1988. He played a leading role at point guard for the team that won the bronze medal in Seoul, South Korea.

His NBA career started when he was selected by the Sacramento Kings in the 1990 NBA Draft. Coles was a second-round pick of the Sacramento Kings, but was immediately traded to the Miami Heat. Over his 14-year NBA career, Coles would also play for the Golden State Warriors, Atlanta Hawks, Cleveland Cavaliers and Boston Celtics. Overall, Coles played in 852 games, scored 6,628 points, and had 3,318 assists. Coles served as an assistant coach and scout for the Miami Heat and was part of their front office.

Coles was inducted into the Virginia Tech Sports Hall of Fame in 2000. In January of this year, The Virginia Sports Hall of Fame announced that Virginia Tech men’s basketball great Bimbo Coles would be inducted into its class of 2017, and on March 1, the Virginia Tech athletics department appointed Hokies legends Andre Davis and Bimbo Coles to the position of Directors of Student-Athlete Support and Community Engagement, which includes a strong emphasis on student athlete mentoring.

Vernell, otherwise known as Bimbo, received his signature nickname from his cousin, who really enjoyed the country song “Bimbo” by Faron Young, and affectionately gave it to him.

Bimbo currently resides in Lewisburg West Virginia with his wife and four children. He is the Executive Director at The GROW Project, Inc. and Co-owner at CountryRoads CrossFit.

