

DJ Jones leaving Green Tech to lead boys' basketball program at KIPP Capital Region

Coach compiled a 118-39 record in seven years at the helm

By [James Allen](#), *Sports Writer, Times Union*

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The Green Tech boys' basketball team has produced impressive results in recent years, which included winning the program's second state title in 2024. DJ Jones, the head coach for the Eagles the last seven years during the program's finest overall run of success, has stepped down in order to become the athletic director and boys' basketball coach at the KIPP Capital Region Charter School in Albany.

KIPP Capital Region, located on Northern Boulevard, is a co-ed program that will compete in Section II as a Class C school to start.

"I had a lot of great years at Green Tech, 12 years overall and a lot of success with students, on and off the court," Jones said. "KIPP is intriguing because it is a brand new K-through-12, so I have an opportunity to create a feeder program starting at the early ages in the inner city."

Jones compiled a 118-39 varsity record at Green Tech, a mark that included three straight sectional titles from 2022-24 and the 2024 Class AAA state championship. The Eagles fell in the 2025 Class AAA sectional final against Shaker, a squad that went on to win its first state title in Binghamton.

Jones said it was important for him to send this year's senior class at Green Tech off, featuring standout players U'Mier Graham, Ramere Brown and Oli Owens. Green Tech began the month by competing in the Vertical Hoops Eurocup in Wroclaw, Poland where the team went 3-1.

"These guys had the opportunity to see the world and go to Florida on several occasions, win a state championship and travel across the country. Not a lot of high school students can say they did that," Jones said. "I want to be able to do something similar that I did at Green Tech. KIPP has a great academic program and they are looking to build a great athletic program. I have community ties and I think this will be good for the Capital Region and the Albany area."

Green Tech made five straight trips to a sectional final. How well KIPP Capital Region will do starting out remains to be seen. Junior point guard Indavier Barnes, who played shooting guard on the 2024 Class AAA state title team, will be playing for Jones at KIPP Capital Region.

Jones said the decision to leave was not an easy one to make. He wants to repeat history at KIPP Capital Region.

"It is appealing and it is a challenge I am looking forward to," Jones said. "People think getting kids at Green Tech in ninth grade was an easy task. Being able to build relationships with kids from elementary school to middle school and then all the way through high school is something I look forward to."