Marc Hostetter (Lyons, Indiana) returns for his fourth season as an assistant coach to Head Coach Rick Herdes. Hostetter's third season was highlighted with USI’s return to the NCAA II Elite Eight. The 2003-04 appearance in the championship marked the third time that Hostetter and Herdes have appeared in the title game and Hostetter’s first as a coach. Hostetter rejoined the USI program after spending two seasons as an assistant coach to Mike Leeder at Longwood College in Virginia. Hostetter helped lead the Lancers to a 23-8 overall record, Longwood’s first-ever Carolinas-Virginia Athletic Conference championship, and an NCAA Division II Tournament appearance.

“Marc has the complete package, both as a person and a coach,” said Coach Herdes. “I recruited Marc to USI, and his knowledge of the system and University as well as the league and Division II basketball is a great asset to my program.”

In 2000-01, Hostetter returned to the USI team he helped lead to the 1995 NCAA Division II National Championship and a 105-17 record in four seasons as a point guard. During Hostetter’s four seasons, the Screaming Eagles were ranked number one nationally at some point during the season in three of four seasons.

After his playing days, Hostetter joined the staff of former USI Head Coach Bruce Pearl for two seasons as an assistant coach. During his two seasons on the bench, USI finished as the GLVC Tournament runners-up twice while making a pair of NCAA II Tournament Sweet 16 appearances.

A 1998 USI graduate, Hostetter returns to Indiana with his wife, the former Nikki Jordan ’98. They have a son Leo.

Robert Ward (Murray, Kentucky) begins his first season as an assistant coach to Head Coach Rick Herdes. Ward comes to USI after spending the last five years in the high school ranks at Hamilton Ross High School in Hamilton, Ohio, and Bourbon County High School in Paris, Kentucky. He was the Region 10 “Coach of the Year” in 2000-01 at Bourbon County and led the Colonels to a 25-7 record and a top-10 ranking in 2001-02.

During a coaching career that has spanned four decades, Ward has been an NCAA Division I assistant coach at Murray State University (1976-78), Pan American University (1982-84), Arkansas State University (1984-87), and the University of Tennessee-Martin (1991-99). He also was an assistant coach under GLVC legend Joe Reibel at Bellarmine University when the Knights earned a share of the conference title and appeared in the NCAA II Great Lakes Regional Tournament.

Prior to his tenure at Bellarmine, Ward was the head coach at Southeast Community College (1980-82) and Union University (1987-89).

Ward graduated from Murray State with a bachelor’s degree in physical education and health education and a master’s degree in education. He has a daughter Clare and a son Samuel.