Rick Herdes (Noble, Illinois) provided USI basketball fans with a marvelous March in just his third season as the head coach of the men's basketball program.

During 2003-04, Herdes directed the Screaming Eagles back to Division II's center stage as the NCAA II Elite Eight finalist and the Great Lakes Regional Champions. He was named the Division II Bulletin Coach of the Month for December when he led the Eagles to an 11-0 start last year and to the program's seventh NUMBER ONE ranking in 10 seasons. Herdes' Eagles also finished the season one win short of the school record with a 28-7 overall mark.

The 28 wins in 2003-04 has USI ranked eighth among NCAA Division I, II, and III men's basketball programs with 25.5 victories per season since 1992-93.

In his second season at the helm of the men's basketball program, Herdes took the Eagles back to the big dance and to within three points of the NCAA Division II Elite Eight.

Herdes directed the Eagles to a 25-7 overall record, a 16-4 mark in the GLVC, and the Great Lakes Regional finals after defeating No. 1 Michigan Tech University in the semifinals. The squad, which also boosted an honorable mention All-American, two All-Region performers, and three All-GLVC players, advanced in the sweet 16 of the national tournament for the seventh time in nine seasons.

In his first season at the helm of the Eagles, Herdes had a record-tying year. The Eagles posted a 22-8 overall record, tying the USI record for wins by a first-year coach. He also led the Eagles to a fourth-place finish in the GLVC with a 14-6 mark, advancing to the semifinals of the league's post-season tournament.

He had been with USI for nine seasons as an associate head coach and assistant coach before being tapped for the top position in 2001. Herdes was widely known as one of the best recruiters and top coaches in Division II basketball. The Eagles' successes since Herdes' arrival reflect his abilities.

In his 12 seasons at USI, Herdes has helped direct the Eagles to a 306-68 overall record (.818), the 1995 NCAA II National Championship, the 1994 and 2004 NCAA II National Championship game, three GLVC Championships, 11 NCAA II Tournament appearances, and 12 straight 20-win seasons.

USI's point man on the recruiting trail, Herdes brought in nearly all of the key players who contributed to USI becoming a national power in Division II. Some of those key recruits were two-time NABC/NCAA Division II Player of the Year Stan Gouard, All-American and GLVC Player of the Year Chad Gilbert, Division II Bulletin All-American Jeremy Pearson, and 2001 first-team All-American Derrick Lyons.

Herdes came to USI from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, where he was an assistant from 1986 to 1992. While at SIUE, Herdes helped Head Coach Larry Graham lead the Cougars to a 127-56 (.694) record and three NCAA II tournament appearances. He was responsible for coordinating recruiting and was the academic advisor to the basketball team as well as the director of summer camps and fundraising events.

In 19 collegiate basketball seasons, the programs Herdes has been involved with have a .777 winning percentage (433-124).

In 1991 and 1992 at SIUE, he was the head coach for the Illinois Prairie State Games, Southern Open Men's Division. His 1992 team received the silver medal.

Prior to working at SIUE, Herdes was an assistant basketball coach and physical education instructor at Lawrenceville (Illinois) High School, where he worked for current Indiana University assistant coach Ron Felling. LHS was the Illinois Class A State Champion in 1982 and 1983 and had a 68-game winning streak. Herdes was inducted into the Illinois High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame in 1998.

Herdes graduated from Graceland College in 1980 with a bachelor's degree in education. As a player, he led Lincoln Trail College to a ninth-place finish in the national tournament and helped lead Graceland to its first-ever appearance in the NAIA Tournament.

Herdes and his wife Sarah reside in Evansville with his two children, a daughter Taylor (12) and a son Connor (9).
Herdes in the GLVC

**As Assistant Coach**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Record</th>
<th>Accomplishments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 Years</td>
<td>231-46 (.834)</td>
<td>• 1995 NCAA II National Champions&lt;br&gt;• 1994 NCAA II Finalist&lt;br&gt;• Nine NCAA II Tournament appearances&lt;br&gt;• Ranked number one, nationally, six times&lt;br&gt;• Three GLVC championships</td>
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**As Head Coach**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Record</th>
<th>Accomplishments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001-02</td>
<td>22-8</td>
<td>• Tied USI’s season record for wins by a first-year head coach&lt;br&gt;• GLVC Tournament (4th straight season)&lt;br&gt;• Reached 20 wins for 10th straight season</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002-03</td>
<td>25-7</td>
<td>• GLVC Tournament (5th straight season)&lt;br&gt;• NCAA II Great Lakes Regional finalist&lt;br&gt;• Reached 20 wins for 11th straight season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-04</td>
<td>28-7</td>
<td>• NCAA II Finalist&lt;br&gt;• NCAA II Great Lakes Regional Championship&lt;br&gt;• Reached NCAA II Tournament for the 11th time in 12 seasons&lt;br&gt;• Ranked number one, nationally, for the seventh time in 10 years&lt;br&gt;• GLVC Tournament (6th straight season)&lt;br&gt;• Reached 20 wins for the 12th straight season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>75-22 (.773)/45-15 GLVC (.750)</td>
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**USI Head Coach Rick Herdes**

Head Coach Rick Herdes, the Division II Bulletin Coach of the Month for December 2003, has been a part of 433 victories during his collegiate coaching career.

Herdes has had a hand in nearly half of the USI men’s basketball program’s 625 victories. He has helped the Eagles to 306 victories in 12 seasons with the USI men’s basketball program.

In 2003-04, Herdes led the Screaming Eagles back to the NCAA II National Championship game for the first time in 10 years.

He has led the Eagles to back-to-back NCAA II Regional Championship games and has averaged 25 wins per year in his first three seasons at the helm of USI men’s basketball program.
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.
Brent Hancock,  
Student Strength & Conditioning Coach

Brent Hancock is in his second season as a student strength and conditioning coach for the USI basketball program.

Hancock, an exercise science major at USI, came to USI from North White High School in Monon, Indiana, lettering in basketball, football, and golf. He was an All-White County defensive back during his three years on the football team and an All-Conference performer on the golf team at NWHS.

Aaron Brothers,  
Graduate Assistant Coach

Aaron Brothers begins his first year as a graduate assistant coach for the USI basketball program.

Brothers, who is working on his master’s degree in business administration, comes to USI from Indiana Wesleyan University where he earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration and was a member of the men’s basketball program. He completed his collegiate career as IWU’s third all-time leading scorer.

Prior to attending IWU, Brothers was a two-sport letter winner at Memorial High School in Evansville.

Rick Herdes and Marc Hostetter have teamed throughout the years to lead the Screaming Eagles to new heights.

Herdes, as an assistant coach, and Hostetter, as a player, helped lead the Eagles to a national championship in 1995 and the NCAA II title game in 1994. During Hostetter’s playing days, the two were a part of 105 victories.

As a coaching tandem, Herdes and Hostetter have led USI to back-to-back Sweet 16 appearances as well as last season’s NCAA II title game.

Combined, Herdes and Hostetter have led the Eagles to 180 victories, and only 39 losses.