USI Head Coach Rick Herdes

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-GL VC 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 fund-raising 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).

Eagles on Air

In addition to USI basketball games being broadcast live by WGBF 1280 AM and WSWI 820 AM, Head Coach Rick Herdes also has a television and radio show.

- Rick Herdes on Basketball is broadcast live every Monday night during the season from Turonin's on Main Street and can be heard on WGBF 1280 AM.

- The Rick Herdes Show is a weekly television show that recaps USI basketball and gives fans an inside look into the USI men's basketball program. The show can be seen every Saturday on ESPN 2 at 10:30 a.m.
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.