

Young Miles Interviewed For Men's Basketball Post At MMC 20 Years Ago

BY JEREMY HOECK

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Chuck Iverson clearly remembers interviewing a young, energetic coach 20 years ago.

Iverson, the Mount Marty College athletic director, was searching for a new head men's basketball coach.

This particular candidate had just finished a stint as an assistant coach at Northern State.

"He was impressive," Iverson recalls. "He was young-looking; still is. He was impressive then and impressive now."

Who was that young coach?

Tim Miles.

Yes, that's right. Miles — owner of 326 career wins



Jeremy
HOECK

last person who didn't offer Miles a job.

"I'm not proud of that,"

Iverson said during his introduction of Miles during Wednesday night's FCA Evening of Champions event in Yankton.

To be fair, the guy Mount Marty hired turned out to be the smart move.

and now a Division I household name — was very nearly the head coach of the Lancers.

Iverson joked that he is the

Jim Thorson had been the former Yankton College head coach and athletic director, and was later the head coach at South Dakota State.

"Why are you interviewing me, when you know Jim Thorson could run for mayor of Yankton?" Miles recalls.

Miles joked that Iverson's reaction was, "No, no, we're open to this."

As Miles was 12 minutes outside of Yankton after his interview, he got a phone call. It was Iverson. Mount Marty was hiring Thorson.

Sure, there's an understandable sense of what-could-have-been, but even as Miles points out, he wasn't the same Tim Miles everyone now knows.

"They hired the perfect guy," Miles said. "I wasn't

ready."

Miles was later hired as the head coach at Mayville State, an NAIA school in North Dakota, and would go on to lead that men's program to a pair of national tournament appearances in his two seasons.

Mount Marty, conversely, found similar success right away with Thorson. He guided the Lancers to the NAIA National Tournament semifinals in his third season (1997-98). Thorson, who resigned two years ago, won 253 games in 18 seasons at Mount Marty.

Hindsight is 20/20, but it's certainly interesting to think about it, isn't it?

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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Mount Marty College athletic director Chuck Iverson introduces Nebraska head men's basketball coach Tim Miles during the FCA Evening of Champions on Wednesday at the YHS main auditorium. Miles interviewed with Iverson for the head men's basketball job at MMC in 1995, and Iverson's son, Colton, was at Colorado State as a redshirt during Miles' final season in Fort Collins.

Miles

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— in northeast South Dakota.

Doland, even for its small-town feel, had a history of producing famous names. It was the home of former Vice President Hubert Humphrey, former S.D. Governor Harvey Wollman, as well as two Air Force generals and two Olympic wrestlers.

"You always kind of felt like people were doing things constantly, so you thought, 'Hey, I can do anything,' Miles said.

Once he realized his college basketball career wasn't likely to happen, Miles pursued a path in coaching.

Following a stint as an assistant at Northern State, he was hired at NAIA Mayville State (N.D.), where he spent two seasons. Then came stops at Southwest Minnesota State (four seasons), North Dakota State (six seasons), Colorado State (five seasons) and now Nebraska (he will enter his fourth season).

Through all those stops — and 326 career wins — Miles says he has never forgotten those early life lessons from Doland, where he and his friends used to sit on the top of the high school gym roof to look at the stars and ponder life.

"I always knew I wanted to represent my family and who I was working with," Miles said.

Known for his energy and enthusiasm, Miles told the crowd Wednesday that he takes to heart the ques-

Ramping Up Technology A Key For Fans At Stadiums

(AP) — The Dallas Cowboys set the standard for technologically advanced NFL stadiums. The challenge to keep that unofficial title could be as tough as getting to the Super Bowl.

With new ballparks to debut in Minneapolis next year and Atlanta in 2017, keeping up with what fans want from technology is an endless process for NFL teams.

"We try to do that every year, have a new offering, whether through our app or experiential," says Charlotte Jones Anderson, the Cowboys' executive vice president and chief brand officer. "This year, we have a DraftKings fantasy sports lounge for our fans interested in playing and engaging in fantasy football."

Because AT&T is a partner and has naming rights to the Cowboys' building, Anderson believes the team has an edge in the tech world. Another corporate giant, IBM is helping design and implement the technology for the Falcons' new home.

IBM is trying to make sure the infrastructure for Mercedes-Benz Stadium doesn't need to be replaced as technology advances.

"It's critical to have future flexibility over time," says John Armstrong, North American leader for IBM interactive experience.

But it takes more than strong Wi-Fi to make football fans leave their living rooms and big screen TVs to pay for expensive tickets, parking and concessions at the stadium. .

The Cowboys think their fan app is a difference maker. It provides traffic updates, best routes into the parking lots, directions to your seat and ticket management. Fans can provide instant feedback when there is an issue such as long lines at the gates or rest room/concession problems.

The team has added touchscreens in the stadium on which fans can look up player bios, the history of the Cowboys cheerleaders, or descriptions of the stadium's art collection.

tion posed by author John Maxwell in his book "Today Matters."

The line?

What is a good day to you?

"You ask a basketball coach, they'll say winning the game," Miles said. "Well guess what, nine times out of ten, a coach is not happy with a win."

And so, in an effort to make sure he accomplishes what he wants in a given day, Miles carries with him a set of five daily goals.

Those include: Exercise early in the day, spend time with family, spend individual time with his team, one "extraordinary" act of recruit, and spend time to himself.

Sure, there are days — particularly during the season or when he's recruiting — where Miles doesn't

check off each item, but it's a daily reminder to be a better person, he said.

"Whatever dominates your thinking, make it something you can be proud of," Miles said.

As he has progressed in his career and his life, Miles admits that while his goals may change, his values have not wavered.

He shared with the crowd a list of values he once wrote down for himself in 1993, when he was a young assistant coach. One piece of advice, in particular, strikes a chord today, he said.

He had written down "Finance." The question was, how could he work to be more financially independent. By the time of his second season (1996-97) at Mayville State, Miles earned a small raise to \$29,000 a year.

Money, he said, is no longer a concern.

"They (Nebraska) pay me over two million dollars a year to coach basketball," Miles said. "And guess what, I don't care about money. It doesn't matter."

"In life, it's about your relationships," he added. "The people you hang out with are going to reflect your values."

Put another way: Show me your friends and I'll show you your future, Miles said.

It's those connections that mean most in a person's life, said Miles, who pointed out that some of his closest friends today were ones he made while in high school.

"Stay toughness and you'll be alright," he joked in closing, referring to his white board mishap.

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SDSU

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he said. "This is proof that they support football and want football to have what we need to compete at a high level."

Saturday's game has a chance to break Coughlin-

Alumni Stadium's attendance record of 16,498, which was set two years ago against North Dakota State and aided by temporary bleachers and a standing-room-only area.

"It's going to be nuts, a completely different atmosphere," said Cole Langer, a junior defensive lineman from Dell Rapids. "Hopefully it's a lot louder and will be a lot of fun to play in."

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