

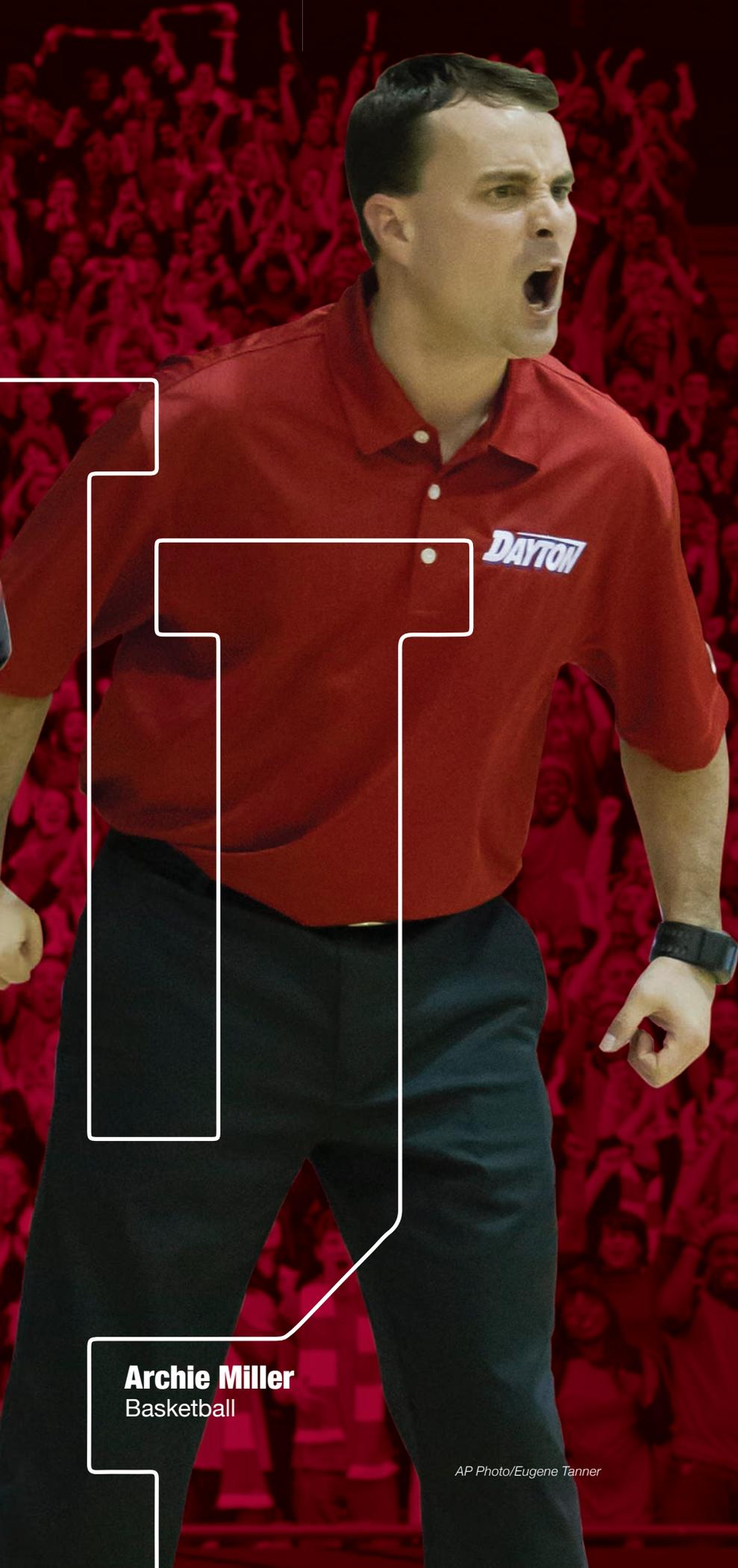
By Peter Dorfman
Photography by Rodney Margison

A New Era Begins

Only three times before—in 1905, 1916, and 1923—has Indiana University started an academic year with new head coaches in both football and men’s basketball. Expectations are high.

Photo courtesy of IU Athletics

Tom Allen
Football



Archie Miller
Basketball

AP Photo/Eugene Tanner

The fall athletic season will usher in a major reboot as Indiana University introduces new head coaches in both of the major money sports. Tom Allen, 47, replaces Kevin Wilson, assuming his first college head-coaching job in football after a season as IU's defensive coordinator. And Ryan "Archie" Miller, 36, a veteran basketball head coach at the University of Dayton, replaces Tom Crean, who was fired in March after nine seasons.

Like his predecessor, Miller becomes the highest-paid public employee in the state of Indiana, at \$3.35 million a year, reflecting the deep cultural significance Hoosiers attach to basketball at Simon Skjodt Assembly Hall. Allen stands to make just shy of \$1.8 million in salary and promotional income, plus contingent bonuses.

For Athletic Director Fred Glass, who initiated the changes, the 2017-18 season is pivotal. He is under pressure to return IU to national championship contention. He also seeks to set an example amid mounting criticism of college athletics over recruiting violations, alleged hollowing of educational standards for players passing through NCAA programs on their way to the NBA or NFL, and the perceived inequities in a system that generates big paydays for everyone involved in college money sports except the athletes.

Both head coaches will have the recruiting advantage of the forward-looking IU Student-Athlete Bill of Rights, instituted by Glass in 2014, which guarantees, among other benefits, that scholarship athletes in good standing who have played at least two seasons can return to complete their education at IU at any time if they leave early (for example, to pursue a professional career in their sport).

The IU football season kicks off at home August 31 against Ohio State, considered by many prognosticators to be the best team in the country. The basketball team plays a tougher-than-usual pre-Big Ten schedule that includes Duke and the University of Louisville. There will be no easing into the job for either Wilson or Miller.

Bloom caught up with both men at their summer camps, where they spoke candidly about the challenges ahead and the state of college athletics in general.



Tom Allen
Football

With Tom Allen as IU defensive coordinator in 2016, the Hoosier defense allowed 129.4 fewer total yards and 94.1 fewer passing yards than in 2015. Both stats ranked first in the nation.

Tom Allen Steps Up

BLOOM: When you were hired, Athletic Director Fred Glass said this about you: “He’s a leader of men. He’s demanding without being demeaning. He’s a proven, successful coach on a national scale, with deep Indiana ties. He cares about his players and they care back.” What are your thoughts on that particular endorsement?

ALLEN: I do care about my players, deeply. When they know it and believe it, it affects the way they respond to you. It’s important to me that they know that they are valued because of who they are, not just because of what they do for our team on Saturdays.

I think Fred’s statement speaks to high standards, high expectations. It’s about relentlessly pushing guys to be great. Sometimes in our profession that can be done in a way that could be considered demeaning. I believe there’s a positive way to get the best out of them, by being right there with them, celebrating with them when they make

big plays, running with them after practice. When your relationship with them is strong, you can expect a lot out of them.

The good Lord decides how big or how fast some guy’s going to be. But attitude, effort, focus—I expect high levels of those things, and they decide whether to give it or not. When they don’t, you hold them accountable. I think those are the kinds of things Fred was talking about.

BLOOM: Is that the same philosophy you had as a high school coach?

ALLEN: Absolutely. It’s not only about winning. I know, as a coach at this level, that’s how you’re judged. That’s how you keep employed, by winning games. But if that ever becomes my number one objective, I think I’ve lost my way.

BLOOM: What’s been the impact of the Student-Athlete Bill of Rights that Fred Glass put in place?

ALLEN: It’s been great from the perspective of letting the players understand and know that when you come to school here, as long as you do what you’re supposed to do, we’ll take care of you. If you get your shot and you leave early and go play in the NFL, you have the chance to come back and finish your degree. For the players and their parents, there is the peace of mind of knowing we’re looking out for their son’s best interests. I’ve never coached anywhere that has anything like it.

BLOOM: Does it encourage some players to make the jump early?

ALLEN: I guess you can assume that. It’s a safety net. It might encourage a player who thinks he has a legitimate chance to take the risk, knowing he can always come back. And I think if a player’s likely to go in the top three rounds of the draft, he probably should go. There’s a window of time that you have to work within as a player, when you’re healthy and performing well. Football is one of those games where one injury can change everything dramatically.

Last year, 90 guys came out of college early and 30 of them didn’t even get drafted. To leave early and not get drafted—that’s

tough. In football, once you declare for the draft, as far as the NCAA's concerned, you're done. It's not like in basketball, where you only have that problem if you hire an agent. It would be worth a discussion with the NCAA about changing that, so that a guy in that situation does have a chance to come back, even if he has to wait a year.

BLOOM: You've said in earlier interviews that you are looking for a "breakthrough" with this team. What did you mean by that?

ALLEN: Last season we were in five games against top-ranked teams, and we were ahead or we were within a touchdown in the fourth quarter. But we got beat. We've been so close, right down to the wire, and we came up short.

In the bowl game [against Utah], once again, we were winning late in the fourth quarter, and with a minute and a half to go they kicked a field goal and went up by two points. We didn't find a way to win. Now,

The overtime win against Michigan State last year was huge for us as a program. We got into overtime, and we got two huge sacks, and knocked them out of field goal range. All our offense had to do was get into field-goal position and go kick the game-winning field goal. For the mindset of our defense, it was a huge step in the right direction. Finally, we were the reason why we won.

BLOOM: You recently gave an interview where you suggested the defense is lacking in trust and confidence.

ALLEN: That's the way it was when I first got here a year ago. They didn't trust each other; they didn't have confidence. They didn't believe in each other or their coaches. The way I found that out was when I met with all of our guys, one-on-one. I just asked them, "Why do you believe we're in this position defensively?" I think we've gained confidence, and now we've got to get to where we expect to make the plays we didn't make a year ago.

BLOOM: You've had some strong running backs, but one of the crown jewels has been the offensive line.

ALLEN: I agree with that.

BLOOM: You have a new offensive line coach. Is that a concern?

ALLEN: I don't think it's a concern. Obviously, Coach [Greg] Frey did a great job here, developing a lot of those players, along with Coach [Kevin] Wilson and the offensive staff. Coach Frey chose to go to Michigan, and we wish him nothing but the best. But I still think our line is one of our strong points. Coach [Darren] Hiller is a tremendous developer of players. He's put 20 guys in the NFL—and not all players who started as four- and five-star guys. That's why I wanted him here. We're thrilled to have him.

BLOOM: You open this year against Ohio State. Would you rather have had a tune-up game first, or is this the way you want it?

ALLEN: Well, you're not given an option so it really doesn't matter. But I would rather have a high-quality first opponent. I've seen how it changes the way the players approach spring, summer, and fall camp. There's a sense of urgency. Ohio State is who they are. ESPN has them number one in the preseason. The chance to play a team of that caliber right out of the gate is a tremendous opportunity for us.

BLOOM: And opening up against former Indiana head coach Kevin Wilson? How do you think your players feel about that, especially the ones who played for him last year?

ALLEN: That's definitely a unique situation. But I think opening against Ohio State creates all the drama you need. The fact that Coach Wilson [now Ohio State's offensive coordinator] is in the mix makes for some great talking points, and I'm going to get asked about it 100 more times before kickoff. But that's not been the conversation with our team. The conversation has been: "We're playing Ohio State, August 31." It's the biggest home opener in the history of Indiana University football.



"I ask each guy to tell me what are the three most important things in his life, and let him talk. Usually faith is one of the three. And if he doesn't mention it, I don't bring it up."

Utah ended up having eight guys drafted, so they were very, very talented. But I said this in the press conference: "I'm sick and tired of being close. It's time for us to break through."

So I made that our focus for the whole off-season. It's about belief, expectation, how you prepare, and all the little things you're willing to do to change the outcome.

Offensively, we're in a similar position. We've had one of the better offenses in the Big Ten. Last year, we had a good year in most statistical categories. But we didn't finish.

The spring intersquad game was very back and forth. That's what you want—iron sharpening iron, both sides making each other better.

BLOOM: You're going to coach your son. Do you see any issues with that?

ALLEN: I talked to guys who had played for their dads in college, and I talked to dads who had coached their sons. Coach Mallory [former IU head coach Bill Mallory] chose not to. His three boys played for Michigan. But of those who did it, every one of them said it was the best thing they ever did.

Here's the reality: If you don't coach him, you'll never see him. He's off doing his deal and you're doing yours. You'll never see him

play. My son loves the way I coach. We are pretty close. I kind of put it on him: What do you want to do? He knows I'm going to be hard on him. But it was his decision.

BLOOM: The word "faith" comes up in interviews with you. It doesn't seem unusual for faith to be part of a football coach's style. But it keeps coming up. Is there something unusual in the way you incorporate faith?

ALLEN: I get asked about it a lot. It's who I am. To me, it's a huge part of how I connect individually with my players. I understand the way some people might feel about that in a public university, but at the same time, I have to know what has true meaning and value to these guys.

I ask each guy to tell me what are the three most important things in his life, and let him talk. Usually, that's one of the three. And if he doesn't mention it as one of his three most important things, I don't bring it up.

I want to know about this young man as a person. What does he care about? What does he want to be 10 years from now? Knowing those things helps me motivate him and hold him accountable.

BLOOM: Are you concerned about what's happened to the money sports in college? Football and men's basketball are big business. It's regularly suggested that no-show courses are created for athletes, and grades are being inflated ...

ALLEN: Anytime you put an excessive amount of money into anything, the objectives can get confused. There's a big concern about coaches going into the profession because of the money, and not going into it for the right reasons. And there's so much pressure on the players to win right away, because the university is going to lose a bunch of money if they don't. The leash is really short for coaches. It's an unhealthy situation.

That pressure to win can affect the way coaches treat their players. It makes it harder to do the job. Just in moving from Division III to the Big Ten—the Division III kids are all paying to go to school. Those kids don't miss class. The top Division I players are handed a lot of things. Success in their minds means winning games, and corners get cut for them. I think that's not

Allen inspecting a formation of high school players at his summer camp.





Allen working the sideline at the 2016 Foster Farms Bowl game, his first as IU's head coach. The University of Utah Utes beat the Hoosiers 26-24. Photo courtesy of IU Athletics

healthy. It's a negative from all the pressure that's being created to win.

BLOOM: You grew up in Indiana. What's your impression of Bloomington? Is this where you want your kids to be?

ALLEN: I was raised in New Castle, which has about 20,000 people, so this is a much bigger city. But it has a small town feel. I guess that's what I like about it. Everybody seems to know everybody. It's a picturesque setting for a major university, with the downtown Square and all the restaurants. The campus is beautiful. It has a really cool feel to it as a college town, and I've been in several. Some have that quality and some don't.

People obviously enjoy living here. It's 15 minutes to the big lake and state parks. Very few places in Indiana compare. I'd heard about Bloomington a lot and it lives up to its billing. It feels like a good place to raise a family.

BLOOM: A Big Ten head coach is probably the most public position you've ever been in. What's it like for you?

ALLEN: There's pressure and there's stress. You have to maintain your priorities. No

matter how much money or prestige you have, you have to stay humble and remember where you've come from.

But it's a tremendous honor to be the head coach at Indiana. Very few guys get this opportunity. My wife is good at keeping me humble if she ever sees somebody carrying my stuff or driving me around. But yeah, it's in the nature of the job—they didn't invite me to be in the Indy 500 parade when I was coaching at Wabash.

My wife is an educational consultant. She works from home. In the smaller schools where I coached before, I didn't make the kind of money I do now, and her working really made it possible. I wouldn't be here if she hadn't worked.

BLOOM: Is she amused at the whole celebrity element of what you're doing?

ALLEN: She is. People want your autograph and want to take pictures with you, and she just laughs at it. The kids laugh, too. Even in the parade—they were in the convertible behind us, waving to the fans. They just think it's humorous that people want their dad's autograph.

“That’s how you keep employed, by winning games. But if that ever becomes my No. 1 objective, I think I’ve lost my way.”

—Tom Allen



Archie Miller Men's Basketball

In six years as head coach at the University of Dayton, Archie Miller had a 139-63 record and took the team to four NCAA tournaments. Last season, he won Atlantic 10 Coach of the Year.

Archie Miller: On the Hot Seat

BLOOM: It's your first season at IU and media expectations for a turnaround in basketball are high. You can read a sense of urgency in the coverage. Would you prefer to see the media step back and let you work?

MILLER: I don't necessarily know if the approach is to ask everybody to step back and take a deep breath. But that's what we have to do. We just have to do our jobs. Expectations are high, but nobody's expectations are any higher than ours.

My timeline will never be the same as the timeline of our fan base or the outside world. They want [a national championship] tomorrow. That's impossible. But if we do things the right way, we should be able to reach as high as any program at our stage of development.

BLOOM: What are the realistic expectations for this season?

MILLER: There is no expectation, except that we will start off the right way. This season is going to be a monumental one for us because the starting guys who returned—and the guys are just growing into their roles—they are going to become the backbone of what we do. We owe a lot to the older guys as they get ready to finish out their careers. There's a lot going on. But we can't skip a step in terms of the process. We have guys who are very motivated, and that's always a key.

BLOOM: A lot of key players were hurt last year. You have a new strength coach, Clif Marshall. Is this his challenge, to keep them healthy?

MILLER: Our entire staff has to have a plan. You want these athletes to be at their best at the right times. In basketball, that's January, February, March. With 17-, 18-, 19-year-old kids, we have to help them reach their po-

tential. How you eat, how you sleep, how you recover—those are things that they might not understand. As you get older, you get better at it. We have our system in place—pre-practice, post-practice, post-workout. We have great resources and facilities.

I think Clif is the finest in the business. And then we have Tim Garl [head athletic trainer] and our doctors and myself. We really should be able to train our guys to be ready at the right time.

BLOOM: You talk about "inside-out recruiting," an emphasis on Indiana recruits first ...

MILLER: Inside-out is more of a philosophy. We call Indiana the breadbasket. The number one factor in successfully recruiting a kid is distance from home. That just is what it is, and it plays a big role 90 percent of the time. So we spent a lot of time with the guys closest to our campus, and then

we branch out to a blueprint that I refer to as our Big Ten blueprint, focusing on the bordering states and the big cities where the prospects are.

Indiana basketball is a national brand, and it can help to recruit difference-makers from anywhere. But if you're spread too thin, you're going to miss out on guys who can really help you, who are from right here. The better we do in the state of Indiana, the better our chances of being relevant year in and year out.

BLOOM: After Tom Crean was fired, some of the kids he recruited got the jitters and a couple of them had second thoughts about their commitments to IU. You got them back. Are you satisfied with commitments you have from the recruiting class?

MILLER: Yeah, all three guys are great kids coming from great families. The previous staff recruited them very hard, and they signed for the right reasons. Academics was No. 1 in importance for all three of them. The IU brand and playing at Indiana was a big



(top) Miller signing autographs for campers; (above) "I don't have a lot of interests outside of basketball," Miller says. "To me, basketball is life."; (left) Tutoring kids at a summer basketball camp.

factor, embracing this fan base and all the great things that come with it. They love that.

There's always disappointment when there's change. But we were able to sit down and share our vision for our players on and off the campus. You recruit all over the country and you get to see these guys play, so you have a feel for how they fit your

system, and you explain that. At the end of the day, it's still Indiana University. It's still got the great tradition, great facilities. It's Assembly Hall. We're very thankful all three of them came.

BLOOM: How did they respond to Fred Glass' Student-Athlete Bill of Rights—the ability to come back and finish their education if they leave early, and so on?

MILLER: They were way ahead of the game on that. It's an incredible avenue to explore. Some of these guys are going to leave early for professional opportunities, but if they do a great job while they are here, they'll always be welcome back to finish their education, and that's a huge advantage.

BLOOM: Of course, if you recruit too well, you'll have guys who will help you for a year or two and then they're gone.

MILLER: You can't ever recruit too well. You can't really limit a 17- or 18-year-old kid who has an opportunity to go and make millions of dollars. College basketball and the NBA, hopefully, will get on the same page someday and develop a better system. When you have two conflicting organizations, it's never really going to work as well for one as it does for the other. And the kids are caught up in it.





Like his predecessor, Tom Crean, Miller is active on the sideline during games. Photo by Patrick Gorski (Icon Sportswire via AP Images)

The NBA is a dream for millions of kids. But really, only about 2 percent of college players are ever going to have the opportunity to play there. When a young man or his family decides to pursue this kind of decision, the head coach or the staff that's brought him along can seem to be the enemy. Our staff is just trying to give him information, educate him, and help him make the right decision. We're here to support, to develop, to help him grow. We're not trying to hold anyone back.

BLOOM: The NCAA and the NBA have conflicting objectives?

MILLER: Yeah, they are two multibillion-dollar organizations. They want the same thing, which is the best product.

BLOOM: There is a perception that everyone makes a fortune in college sports—except the athletes.

MILLER: True.

BLOOM: Do you think the athletes, ultimately, will get paid for what they do?

MILLER: Probably, at some point. I can't speak to when or how much. But I will say this about the way that student-athletes' rights are going: Voices are being heard. People are getting smarter about the politics of the business in general.

The universities provide these guys with an unbelievable stage, a great education, resources ... things they could never dream of. At the same time, I think the amount of work that goes into being a student-athlete is a lot different from what most people imagine—the travel demands, the academic demands. They're asked to do a lot. There's got to be some give-and-take.

I do think at some level, down the road, there is going to be some format or plan [to compensate college athletes], because there is a hunger for it. As times change, you have to change with them.

BLOOM: Fred Glass has argued that critics of the college athletic system have undervalued the education athletes get.

MILLER: I think from Fred's perspective, from the legal and business side of things, that's true. When you can get a \$250,000 or \$300,000 education, you can be set up to do



“College basketball and the NBA, hopefully, will get on the same page someday and develop a better system. When you have two conflicting organizations, it’s never really going to work as well for one as it does for the other. And the kids are caught up in it.”

—Archie Miller

anything you want to do in life as a professional. The thing we have to hold ourselves accountable for is to maximize the value of the education. We work in a world-class university, and these kids have the best of the best in terms of that. If they leave with their degree, and the networking skills that come with being a student-athlete, then they are getting set up for life to earn a great living.

BLOOM: Who, in particular, should we be watching to make big-time contributions this season?

MILLER: If you look at the most experienced guys, I’ve been very impressed with Collin Hartman. Everything I’d heard about him on the front end has been true. He’s an extension of our staff. He’s locked in, completely motivated on his recovery, and he’s really come a long way, health-wise. I like that.

Rob Johnson has been very motivated. He’s sort of a quiet warrior. We’re trying to get him to speak up a little bit more. Nobody has worked harder. Juwan Morgan’s got a real opportunity to seize a different role. He’s healthy right now, and we’re seeing some real progress in the weight room and whatnot. I love his vibe—there’s a great vibe among the guys now.

De’Ron Davis and Curtis Jones have spent five weeks with us this summer. Curtis is really working to get better physically and working on his game. He has a chance to take on a new role. And De’Ron is about as important a guy on our team as we’ve got. Some key people have left, so De’Ron has to make the big leap and produce.

We’ll know more about the other guys as we get closer to the season. We’re going to have to ask some of them to do things they’ve never shown us before. With change comes opportunity, and with opportunity comes excitement. I have great faith that we can bring out the best in all of our guys.

BLOOM: Is this the year that Tim Priller gets to play? He hasn’t gotten many minutes, but he’s a fan favorite.

MILLER: There’s a good chance that my man Tim Priller’s going to be in there. Tim’s got to see himself a little differently than he did yesterday. He’s got to go from being a fan favorite to being coach’s favorite. That’s the key.

BLOOM: You’ve talked about toughening up the preconference schedule. Have you got what you wanted?

MILLER: I think we’ll play one of the toughest preconference schedules in the country, partly by design and partly by inheritance. You build a national contender by having the opportunity for marquee moments, playing some true home-and-homes, or putting yourself in some neutral-site games where you’re playing against the best. The Big Ten, obviously, is challenging. But I think we have a great blueprint ... to position ourselves to be at our best for conference play, and when they look at us for the postseason, I think they’ll see that our plan was to challenge ourselves to play a very, very hard schedule.

BLOOM: IU Sports is a major cultural phenomenon in Bloomington. Coaches are major public figures. Do you plan to be out in public a lot, making appearances, speaking for charities?

MILLER: Oh yeah. For me, personally, I’m much more of a low-profile guy. But I have to take advantage of my position here to help people. My staff and I will always be available to help in any way we can—whether that’s speaking to groups at the Cook luncheon or talking to youth groups. This is a great platform to help people.

BLOOM: What you think of Bloomington so far?

MILLER: I like it a lot. I’ve always been a big-campus guy. The big changes in my life have always been on college campuses. I’ve been involved in college athletics since I was 18 years old. My wife is from a small town—Salisbury, North Carolina—but we went to school together at North Carolina State. She was with me when I played, so she’s used to big-campus life. I think Bloomington will be very convenient for us.

BLOOM: What are your interests outside of basketball that you’re hoping to take advantage of here?

MILLER: I don’t have a lot of interests outside of basketball. To me, basketball is life. If I’m not there, I’m usually with my family. That approach got me this far, so I’m going to stick with it. This is a terrific place to raise a family, and I’m hoping we’ll be here a long time. ✨