

Former Iowa Guard Bobby Hansen

On what he looks for in a coach

“Guys from my era, we were all in agreement on the same thing. We wanted a certain style of play, a guy that could recruit Division I talent and do it with honor and integrity. We don’t want any cheaters, and Fran has had success doing it the right way.”

What he likes most about McCaffery

“The turnarounds, especially at Siena. When you look back at the NCAA first round upsets, that’s when you noticed Siena. Also, the type of man he is. I like his family; I like a guy that’s juggling a lot of things, not just solely and directly basketball. Life is about all kinds of experiences and he’s able to do this with a very young family.”

On what Iowa needs most

“They need a style-of-play change. I think the fans told us that they wanted to see the team get up and down the court and that was very evident in what Fran’s teams did at Siena. I think the community wants to see some athletes come back here.”

On former players returning

“I’m around here all the time, but the other players need to make an effort to come over here. Like everyone else, for whatever reason, they felt they were kept at arm’s length. We have to make an effort to get over here for all the events, the golf outings and all that stuff. We have a lot of fun. There are a lot of generations of Iowa basketball. It’s big. It’s bigger than any one person or group of people. It always has been one big family. It seems that Fran has opened up his arms to getting people back here.”

Former Iowa Forward Ryan Bowen

On the announcement of Head Coach Fran McCaffery

“I was excited after reading about Fran and his record and history. I got a lot of calls yesterday from former coaches that know him very well and they all said wonderful things about him. I think everyone is excited to have him here and see how it goes.”

On former players being involved in the program

“I think it’s so important. We spent our four years here and gave a lot to the program and a lot of us grew up in Iowa and still live in Iowa so I think it’s important to have us. We just want to help the current players and that’s what it’s all about. It’s not about us, it’s about letting these current players enjoy their time here at the University of Iowa.”

On what impressed him the most about McCaffery

“Just listening to him you can tell he was sincere talking about his family and wanting to raise them here in Iowa. I can relate to that, raising my family in Iowa. Just seeing that passion in his face and looking at his family was really neat to see. They seemed really excited to be here.”

Former Iowa forward Jess Settles

On what he expects from the program

"I think the guys that are still here will come and have more fun than they have in the past. With everything that's on the line, it's still about the kids and you want kids to come to Iowa and have a good time. They need to win and compete, but you need to enjoy the game."

On seeing "Dr. Tom's" style back in Carver

"It'd be nice to get a little press going here in the Big Ten. It sounds like he's pretty flexible and able to build around the talent he has. That's good. You need to be able to these days. The three-point line has changed the game and you need to be able to speed it up and slow it down to run the shot clock down. It sounds like he can do all that and it's great."

"We pressed forty minutes most nights so I can relate to that and it is fun. You have a lot of runs; down 20 sometimes and up 20 others but you give up leads and battle back. I think ultimately he understands the Big Ten. You need toughness. You need to get some guys in here that can play injured and battle, fight and claw because it's such a blue-collar league. It takes some warriors and he knows that."

On coaching at four different Division I schools

"He's definitely paid his dues. He's been around the block and all over the country. This is a monumental job here. This program is at a low point, let's be real about that. He has a big mountain to climb, but he's going to get to the summit with one recruit at a time and one handshake at a time. You have to wear a lot of hats here and build a lot of relationships. There are not a lot of successful sports teams in the state right now, so he has a lot on the line and has to win a lot of the fans back. I really think that he can do it."

Former Iowa guard Kenyon Murray

On his memories of being recruited by Coach McCaffery

"Fran was always there. He was at AAU events and camps I went to, like Nike. He's a tireless worker. He and my high school coach actually have a pretty good relationship, so he remembers a lot of good things about Fran. He always did things the right way, but he was always there. That's the thing with Iowa right now, you have to have a presence and you have to have your name out there. Even if we're fifth or sixth on someone's list, at least we're there. That gives us the opportunity to get a recruit here."

On the importance of involving former players

"It means a great deal because a lot of programs have former guys involved. You want to let the program and the university know that we are a strong group and that we want to be involved and provide resources. Whether it's pointing out a kid that might want to come here, maybe one of us wants to be a GA or maybe even someone is looking for a coaching job. It's a great network of people from all areas of life and we just want to make sure that we're a resource to the university and to the basketball program."

On what he expects from Coach McCaffery

“Fran cut his teeth recruiting. Like I say, he’s a tireless worker and he’s going to go out and grind and that’s someone we need. Someone who’s not afraid to put us out there and say, ‘Hey, this guy is a top-10 recruit and we’re going after him because we’re Iowa’. I think that’s the way it should be. I want the program to be at the level where I chose Iowa over Notre Dame, Kentucky, Michigan and Michigan State. I think Fran is going to go out and do the work that he’s always done. He’s going to identify kids that he feels can take us to the next level, so I’m pretty happy about it.”

Former Iowa forward Wade Lookingbill

Thoughts on Coach McCaffery’s first impression

“I think what Coach McCaffery said today was terrific. He gave all the right answers and was talking about getting back to the way things used to be. He talked about the fans at Carver, which have been lacking the last few years, and it was nice that he talked about getting ex-players involved. That really excites someone like myself who grew up in Iowa and follows the team; someone who may not get to as many games as they’d like to, but would like to be part of this program and see it do well.”

On McCaffery’s style of play

“Personally, playing for Tom Davis, we had that same kind of style. Coach McCaffery talked about an upbeat tempo, pressing and that type of thing. I think that’s an exciting way to play. I think that’s the way kids want to play when you’re talking about attracting recruits. He told a great story about Carver-Hawkeye Arena in ’86. That was a while ago, but I don’t think we’re that far away from trying to get things back to the way it used to be.”

On what he expects from the program

“I think we all have the same goal, whether you’re a player, former player or just a fan, you want to see them win games. You don’t care if they score 40 points a game or 94, as long as they’re winning games. With the up-tempo style that Coach is talking about here, I think that will excite a lot more people that maybe weren’t excited previously. Time will tell and we just have to win some basketball games.”

On why fans should be excited about Iowa basketball

“I think it’s an exciting time to be a part of Iowa basketball. You come by the construction with the new practice facility and that’s a big step in getting our program elevated to a new level. With the way coach answered questions today - the up-tempo style, winning ball games and doing things the right way - it’s a great time to be a fan of Iowa basketball.”