



Sept. 21, 2006

**IOWA ADDS ADDITIONAL YEAR TO COACH ALFORD CONTRACT**

IOWA CITY, IA - - University of Iowa Director of Athletics Gary Barta announced Thursday that men's basketball Coach Steve Alford's contract has been extended another year.

The five year agreement extends through June 30, 2011. Salary and other terms and conditions of the contract are not affected.

"I have met with Coach Alford several times since my arrival," said Barta. "We've talked about our successes, about recruiting and I've had a chance to meet his new assistants and all of his student-athletes. We've also talked about challenges that have come up over the years and areas in which we need to improve.

"Steve is a good coach and a good person," added Barta. "He's committed to making himself and his program better. I look forward to working with him and his team in the years ahead."

Alford is in his eighth season as head coach of the UI's men's basketball program. The Hawkeyes earned the 2006 Big Ten Tournament title. Iowa also claimed the Big Ten Tournament title in 2001 in Alford's second season and returned to the tournament championship game in 2002. Alford had guided the Hawkeyes to six consecutive winning seasons and six straight post-season appearances. His 291 career wins rank first among Division I coaches 42-years old or younger.

"I appreciate the support and confidence Gary and the UI administration has shown our program," said Alford. "We look forward to building on our past success and we're excited about the future. This solidifies Gary's trust in the overall state of the program and the direction we are heading in all areas.

"Gary has been very receptive to our thoughts and input as to our vision and goals for the future," added Alford. "We have worked hard to build the program on a solid foundation and we feel anxious to move forward under Gary's direction."

Iowa won 25 games last season, the second highest total in school history. The Hawkeyes won all 17 home games in Carver-Hawkeye Arena and begin the upcoming season with the third longest home win streak in the nation.

Alford has guided Iowa to three seasons of 20 or more wins, including each of the last two seasons. In addition to the on court success, Iowa a year ago was the only Division I program in the nation with two players earning academic all-America recognition.

