

IVORY

MILES-WILLIAMS





Former College of Idaho guard Ivory Miles-Williams (22) drives the ball down the court against Oregon Tech on Jan. 25, 2020. Miles-Williams was named interim coach at Rocky Mountain High last month. Jake King / Idaho Press

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Former Yote Miles-Williams embracing quick rise to Rocky Mountain coach

JOHN WUSTROW jwustrow@idahopress.com Jan 19, 2023

Ivory Miles-Williams found out hours before the Rocky Mountain boys basketball team's game against Kuna on Dec. 21 that he would be coaching the Grizzlies that evening.

Since then, the former College of Idaho basketball player has gone head first into his first head coaching gig.

Since taking over for Brian Sweaney, who resigned before the Kuna game, Miles-Williams has coached Rocky Mountain (6-9, 2-4 5A Southern Idaho Conference) to a 2-4 record, with wins over Middleton and Nampa. Miles Williams will coach the rest of the season with an interim tag, but is hoping to get the full-time job after the season.

"I see this as a 12-game job interview," Miles-Williams said. "I'll see what I can do and how the boys respond to me."

Calls placed to Rocky Mountain athletic director Troy Rice seeking comment on reasons for Sweaney's departure went unreturned.

For Miles-Williams, 23, the rise to head coach has been a quick one in his young coaching career. Just last March, he was concluding his senior season at the College of Idaho, where he ranks fourth all-time in program history with 129 career games played.

“I think it’s great to get this opportunity right out of college,” said Miles-Williams. “A lot of people don’t get this opportunity for 5-10 years, sometimes they never get the opportunity to get their foot in the door, especially at the 5A level. I was talking to a few coaches that I’ve coached against recently and they said I got to be one of the youngest coaches to ever coach at the 5A level.”

It was a few years into his College of Idaho playing career that Miles-Williams said he realized he wanted to get into coaching. As he looked back on his career, he realized just how much his coaches had shaped it. Whether it was his mother, Rebecca Miles, who coached Miles-Williams his first three years at Lapwai High, Bob Sobotta, who coached his senior year, Scott Garson and Colby Blaine at the College of Idaho or any of the assistant coaches he’s had along the way, every single one of them left an impact on him.

“There’s probably 10-15 I can name, but they were all great coaches,” Miles-Williams said. “They were great leaders and I was like ‘I want to be like that, I want to be a coach too.’” During summers while with the College of Idaho, he began coaching with the Select Basketball Club, taking teams to tournaments around the West Coast. When he graduated after last season, there was an opening as a varsity assistant on Sweaney’s staff. Miles-Williams applied and got the job. After Sweaney’s departure, Miles-Williams was in line to take over for the rest of the season and, if things go the way he hopes, beyond.

“Rocky Mountain, historically, has been a powerhouse,” Miles-Williams said. “Throughout my high school career, they were really good. They have that mentality still, but they need to put in the work. That’s been my message to them, ‘let’s do this.’ I don’t plan on going anywhere, I want stay here and be here.”

John Wustrow

John Wustrow is the assistant sports editor of the Idaho Press. He is a Michigan native and a graduate of Indiana University.



Biography

AT COLLEGE OF IDAHO: Miles-Williams is in his fifth season with the Coyote men's basketball program; heads into his senior season with 491 points and 318 rebounds in his career.

2020-21: Saw action in the first two games of the year, before an injury sidelined him for the remainder of the COVID shortened season; scored 10 points and added eight rebounds in the opening victory at Montana Tech, adding two assists and a blocked shot at Boise State.

2019-20: Had a breakout junior season, earning honorable mention All-Cascade Conference honors after averaging 9.5 points and 5.6 rebounds in 34 games; converted 51-percent of his field goal attempts; scored 10-or-more point 15 times, including a career-high 29 points in a home win over Northwest Christian, while posting two double-digit rebound games; logged a double-double vs. Eastern Oregon, scoring 13 points with 10 rebounds; scored at least two points in all 34 games.



2018-19: Saw action in 23 games as a sophomore, averaging 4.8 points and 2.7 rebounds per game; recorded three double-digit scoring games, including a career-high 13 points in a home win over Evergreen; recorded a season-high seven rebounds in home wins over Northwest and Warner Pacific; made 6-of-7 field goals, scoring 12 points in road win at Multnomah.

2017-18: Played in 35 games as a true freshman, averaging 1.3 points and 1.6 rebounds per game; scored a season-high eight points and added six rebounds in a home win over Northwest Christian; added three points in a first-round win over Mayville State at the NAIA National Championships.

HIGH SCHOOL: A 2017 graduate of Lapwai High, where he led his team to the 2017 1A state title; averaged 15.9 points, 8.2 rebounds and 4.8 assists per game, earning Idaho 1A Player of the Year honors; is a two-time 1A All-State selection and three-time All-White Pine League pick.

PERSONAL: Psychology major.



Statistics

Season:

2021-22

2017-18

Freshman

G

6'3" 205 lbs

12

2018-19

Sophomore

G

6'3" 215 lbs

22

2019-20

Junior

G

6'3" 225 lbs



2021-22
Men's Basketball

22

Position G
Height 6-4
Weight 195
Class Senior

Hometown (Previous School) Lapwai, Idaho (Lapwai HS)

