## Men’s Basketball 2003-2004

### 2003-2004 Falcon Men's Basketball Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pos</th>
<th>Ht</th>
<th>Wt</th>
<th>Yr</th>
<th>Hometown (Last Team)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jeff Holt</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>6-3</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>Jr</td>
<td>Elnwood, Wis.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Tyler Pivec</td>
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<td>5-9</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>Jr</td>
<td>Minneapolis, Minn. (MCTC)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Eric Kosssoris</td>
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<td>6-2</td>
<td>176</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Micah Helfrey</td>
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<td>5-10</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>Sr</td>
<td>Mesa, Ariz. (Scottsdale JC)</td>
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<td>Taylor Germain</td>
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<td>184</td>
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<td>Chris Becker</td>
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<td>6-1</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>Sr</td>
<td>Stone Lake, Wis. (Hayward)</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Jesse Lam</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>6-5</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>Jr</td>
<td>Brookfield, Wis. (East)</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Nick Hall</td>
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<td>190</td>
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<td>Hans Hoeg</td>
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<td>Matt Kukla</td>
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<td>Corey Rondeau</td>
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<td>225</td>
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<td>6-6</td>
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**Head coach:** Rick Bowen  
**Assistant coaches:** Jeff Berkhof, Dan Holle, Sam Huffman, Dave Young  
**Student coach:** Nick Schradle  
**Managers:** Joe Behnke, Kurran Sagan, Todd Schultz, Royce Wiersma
Meet the Falcons

**Chris Becker**
Guard 6-1 193 Senior #12
Stone Lake, Wis.
Hayward High School

Chris Becker doubled his playing time last year appearing in 22 games for the Falcons. Coach Rick Bowen calls him the team’s best passer. His numbers of 1.5 points and 1.0 rebounds figure to go up this season with Becker playing a vital role in the Falcon backcourt. Becker had a successful year with the Falcons in 2002 playing in 13 games demonstrating some very solid outside shooting potential. Against Simpson he was 4-6 from three-point range finishing with a career high 12 points. Chris red-shirted the 1999-2000 season. He is majoring in accounting. He is the son of Ryan and Joan Becker. Older brother, Kent, completed his stellar career with the Falcons in 2001-02. He played in the Red Cross All-Star game and was named to the All-Heart O’ North Conference second team after leading the league in assists. Spends summers working with dad and brothers for Becker Drywall in Stone Lake, WI. Mother, Joan, is a secretary with the Hayward School System.

**Billy Halter**
Forward 6-8 220 Senior #32
Apple Valley, Minn.
MSU-Moorhead

Billy Halter joins the Falcons for his final year after playing at MSU-Moorhead. At Eastview, Minn., High School he averaged 17 points and eight rebounds a game. He was named to the all-conference team twice and received All-Metro honorable mention honors twice. He received honorable mention All-State honors. He is the son of Nancy and Tom. He has one brother and one sister. He is majoring in broadcast journalism.

**Micah Helfrey**
Guard 5-10 174 Senior #10
Mesa, Ariz.
Scottsdale Community College

Micah Helfrey played in all 26 games for the Falcons last year. He led the team and the WIAC in assists with 115 and was third in scoring with a 9.2 average. He provided the Falcons with a consistent backcourt presence to distribute the ball on offense and helped shut down opposing team’s backcourts. Helfrey joined the Falcons last season after playing at Scottsdale, Ariz., Community College. He played there for former UW-RF assistant coach Paul Eberhardt. Helfrey played in 19 games for the Artichokes averaging eight points, three rebounds and four assists a game. At Apache Junction, Ariz., High School he was named to the first East Sky Region team when he averaged 16 points, three rebounds and 4.5 assists a game. He has one brother, Renda. He is the son of David and Carol. He is majoring in health & human performance.

**Matt Kukla**
Guard 6-2 190 Senior #23
Eden Prairie, Minn.
Eden Prairie High School

Matt Kukla was the Falcons main outside threat in 2003. He was the team’s second leading scorer with his 11.6 average. He posted career highs in points (35) against Marian and rebounds (8) against Wisconsin Lutheran. Kukla tied a Falcon record by making eight three-point baskets twice in the same week. His 43 percent three-point accuracy ranked 18th nationally and tops in the WIAC. Kukla was one of six Falcons to be named to the WIAC Scholastic Honor Roll. He was twice named the team's Player of the Week. Kukla had a break out year for the Falcons in 2002 playing in all but one game. He started seven times. He averaged 5.2 points and 1.3 rebounds a game. An outstanding outside shooter, he was 35-77 (.455) from three point range. In WIAC play, he finished 14th in three pointers per game and 5th in three point field goal percentage. In 2000-01 he played in 21 games and started two. He hit a three pointer at Whitewater to help lead the Falcons to a 71-70 win. Kukla is majoring in marketing communications and is in the UWRF Honors Program. He was the valedictorian at Eden Prairie, Minn., High School where he graduated in 2000. He averaged 18 points and four rebounds a game as a senior. He was named to the All-Lake Conference team as a junior and senior. He was a starter in his sophomore season when Eden Prairie placed third in the State Tournament. Kukla was named his team’s MVP after his final season. He is the son of Terry and Mary Ann. Terry is sales manager for Flo-Pac Midwest and Mary Ann is a teacher's assistant at Eden Prairie Family Center. Brother Joe attended UW-Madison and lives in Milwaukee and brother Jacob is in 10th grade.
Rich Melzer
Forward 6-8 225 Senior #34
Minneapolis, Minn.
River Falls High School

Rich Melzer comes into the 2004 season coming off one of the most prolific individual seasons in Falcon history. Already this year Melzer has been named the DIII News Preseason Player of the Year, to the D3Hoops.com preseason first All-American team and to the Street & Smith's College Basketball magazine preseason All-American team. He became the first Falcon ever to be named a NABC first team All-American last spring after averaging 28.1 points and 9.7 rebounds per game. He was named the WIAC Co-MVP and first team All-West Region. He scored a career-high 54 points at La Crosse on Jan. 29, 2003. His scoring average ranked second in NCAA Div. III, his rebounding average was 32nd and his 2.1 blocks were 37th nationally. Melzer was the Falcons MVP after leading the team in scoring, rebounding and blocks. He was named the WIAC’s Player of the Week four times and the UW-RF athlete of the week eight times. Melzer currently ranks fifth in scoring and rebounding in the Falcon record books and is on pace to finish second in both. Melzer was named to the first All-WIAC and NABC Div. III All-West Region teams as a sophomore when he averaged 21.6 points and 7.8 rebouds a game. Melzer earned honorable mention All-American honors in the 2002 Street & Smith's College Basketball magazine. He was given honorable mention to the All-WIAC team as a freshman when he averaged 16.4 points and 5.8 rebounds per game. He played in every game for the Falcons as a sophomore and was named the team’s Co-MVP. He scored in double figures in every game and had a career high 39 points against Superior. His best game came against Whitewater when he scored 38 points and grabbed 19 rebounds. He finished the year with six double doubles, led the team in scoring and blocked shots and was second in rebounding. Melzer was named the team’s Player of the Week four times. In the final NCAA Div. III statistics, he finished 28th in scoring and 33rd in blocked shots. In the WIAC stats, he was second in scoring, third in rebounding, first in blocks and ninth in field goal shooting. In the final three games of the 2002 season he was 35-60 (.583) from the field with 29 rebounds and 89 points. As a freshman in the WIAC, he finished 12th in scoring, 13th in rebounding and second in blocks. Melzer transferred to River Falls High School from Minneapolis Washburn after his sophomore season. He was named the 1999 Big Rivers Conference Player of the Year and led the Wildcats to the Section finals. He averaged 18.7 points and 10 rebounds a game his senior year in high school. He was named to the first All- NorthWest team and received honorable mention to the All-State squad. He was a red shirt with the Falcons in 1999-2000. He is majoring in health & human performance and business. He is the son of Paul and Teresa Cartwright.

Mitch Coffman
Center 6-8 220 Junior #41
St. Paul, Minn.
Cretin-Durham Hall High School

Mitch Coffman returns for the Falcons this season after contributing late last year as a walk-on. Against UW-Eau Claire he recorded career highs in points (4), rebounds (4) and assists (2). He figures to be a key contributor on the front line this season after appearing in 14 games as a sophomore. He is the son of James and Karon. Coffman is majoring in land use planning.

Jeff Holt
Forward 6-3 175 Junior #3
Elmwood, Wis.
Elmwood High School

Jeff Holt made the most of appearing in 20 games for the Falcons in 2003. He increased his scoring average to 2.7 points per game. His best outing came against Viterbo when he scored 13 points. Holt came off a red shirt season in 2001 and played in 13 games for the Falcons in 2002. His best game was a six-point performance against Northwestern. Holt, who is one of the best athletes on the team, will have opportunities to contribute in 2002-03. Holt attended Elmwood High School where he was named to the All-Conference team three times. He averaged 15 points per game as a senior. He played in the Red Cross All-Star game. Dad, Jerry, works for Timme Construction. Mom, Jayne, works as a legal assistant for West group in Eagan, Minn. Older brother Ryan also works for Timme Construction. He is majoring in marketing communications.

Mark James
Forward 6-5 175 Junior #22
Scottsdale, Ariz.
Scottsdale Community College

Mark James transfers to UW-RF after playing the past two seasons at Scottsdale, Ariz., Junior College. He played for former UW-RF assistant coach Paul Eberhardt. He attended Horizon, Ariz., High School where he was a two-year letter winner. He averaged 10 points, five rebounds, two assists and two blocks a game. James was named to the all-conference team and received honorable mention to the all-defensive squad. He is the son of Deborah and Bernell and has one brother and one sister. He is majoring in psychology.
Jesse Lam
Forward 6-5 188 Junior #14
Brookfield, Wis.
East High School

Jesse Lam was a vital presence on the front line for the Falcons in 2003. He posted career highs in scoring (16) against Macalester, rebounds (7) against La Crosse and assists (4) against Whitewater. Lam’s 7.3 point scoring average was fifth on the team. An excellent student, Lam was named to the WIAC Scholastic Honor Roll. He played in every game in 2002 and started twice. He averaged 3.5 points and 1.5 rebounds a game. His best scoring performance was an 11-point effort against Northwestern when he was 5-7 from the field, and a season high four rebounds and four steals in the game. He finished 39-75 (.520) from the field. He was a red shirt for the Falcons in the 2000-01 season. He is majoring in art education.

Tyler Pivec
Guard 5-9 145 Junior #4
Minneapolis, Minn.
Minneapolis Community & Technical College

Tyler Pivec is in his first year with the Falcons after playing at the Minneapolis Community and Technical College. His father, Jay, was his coach. At Minneapolis, Minn., Southwest High School he was a two year starter and letter winner. He averaged five points, three rebounds and seven assists with the Lakers. Pivec was named to the All-City team in 2001. He is the son of Mary Louise and Jay and has one brother and two sisters. He is majoring in psychology.

Josh Wacholtz
Forward 6-3 215 Junior #35
Rochester, Minn.
Rochester Community & Technical College

Josh Wacholtz red-shirted with the Falcons in 2003. He was named to the WIAC Scholastic Honor Roll last year. He played two seasons at Rochester, Minn., Community and Technical College. At RCTC he averaged 15 points, five rebounds and five assists a game. He hit on 42 percent of his shots from three-point range and was a 93 percent free throw shooter. He was named to the South Division All-Star team. At John Marshall High School he was a two-year starter and earned three letters. He averaged 19 points, nine rebounds and five assists as a senior. He was named the Rochester Winter Athlete of the Year in 1999-2000. Wacholz has two brothers, Ryan and Daniel. He is the son of Jim and Kathy. He is majoring in computer science.

Ellery Burks
Forward 6-6 194 Freshman #45
Brown Deer, Wis.
Brown Deer High School

Ellery Burks is in his first year with the Falcons after playing at Brown Deer High School. He was named to the all-conference team after earning three letters. He was a two-year starter. He helped his team reach the Wisconsin State semifinals in 2002. He is the son of Ceola and Michael and has one brother. He is majoring in health & human performance.

Taylor Germain
Guard 6-2 184 Freshman #11
Somerset, Wis.
Somerset High School

Taylor Germain is a first year player for the Falcons and will play guard. At Somerset High School he was twice named his team's Most Valuable Player. He averaged 15 points, seven rebounds and five assists. He was a three-year starter and earned three letters. He helped the Spartans to the regional title. He was named the conference’s Most Valuable Player the past two years. Germain played in the WBCA All-Star game. He is the son of Julie and Tim and has one brother.
Nick Hall
Guard 5-11 190 Freshman #15
Glenwood City Wis.
Glenwood High School

Nick Hall returns for his second year with the Falcons after red shirting in 2003. He had a great career at Glenwood City High School. He averaged 16 points, seven rebounds and four assists in 2002. He was named to the all-conference team in 2002 and was given honorable mention to the team in 2001. He helped the Hilltoppers to the 2001 Wisconsin State Championship and a 26-1 record. The team won the conference title in 2000 and 2001 with Hall as a starter. Hall was his team’s leading rebounder and top free throw shooter. He has one brother, Scott, and one sister, Jesa. He is the son and Neil and Terry. He is majoring in math education with a minor in health & human performance.

Hans Hoeg
Guard 6-3 182 Freshman #21
Litchfield, Minn.
Litchfield High School

Hans Hoeg joins the Falcons as a first year player. He helped Litchfield, Minn., High School to two state Class 2A championships. He averaged 14 points, four rebounds and three assists for the Dragons. Hoeg was named to the All-Area team twice and earned all-conference honors three times. He was named to the All-State tourney team in 2002 and 2003. He was a three-year starter and letter winner. He is the son of Beth and Tom and has one sister. He is majoring in business.

Eric Kossoris
Guard 6-2 176 Freshman #5
Waukesha, Wis.
South High School

Eric Kossoris red-shirted with the Falcons in 2003 after playing at Waukesha South High School. He earned three letters and was a two-year starter at South. He averaged 15 points, four rebounds and two assists a game in 2002. He was named to the second all-conference team and finished in the top 15 in scoring in school history. Kossoris has one sister, Erin. He is the son of Tom and Carole, who are both educators. He is majoring in elementary education.

Corey Rondeau
Forward 6-7 196 Freshman #33
Grand Rapids, Minn.
Grand Rapids High School

Cory Rondeau will play forward for the Falcons and is in his first year with the squad. He averaged 10 points, eight rebounds, two assists and three blocks a game last year at Grand Rapids, Minn., High School. He helped lead Grand Rapids to two conference titles and a third place finish in the Minnesota State tournament in 2002. He played in the Area All-Star game. He is the son of Kelly and Timothy. He has one brother and one sister. Rondeau is majoring in conservation.

Charlie Sowa
Forward 6-5 200 Freshman #40
Rochester, Minn.
Century High School

Charlie Sowa is in his first year with the Falcons after playing at Rochester, Minn., Century High School. He helped the Panthers to the sectional title in 2002 and a runner-up finish in 2001. Sowa averaged 11 points, seven rebounds and four assists a game. He was a two-year starter and earned three letters. He was twice named to the all-conference team. He is the son of Lisa and Tony and has one sister. He is majoring in journalism.

Lance Wiersma
Guard 6-2 165 Freshman #31
Black River Falls, Wis.
Black River Falls High School

Lance Wiersma joins the Falcons and will play guard. At Black River Falls High School he averaged 15 points, five rebounds and four assists for the Tigers. He earned three letters and was a two-year starter. The Tigers won conference championships the past two seasons. He is the son of Sarah and Leroy and has one brother and one sister. Wiersma is majoring in health & human performance.

Ryan Zylstra
Center 6-10 220 Freshman #44
Annandale, Minn.
Annandale High School

Ryan Zylstra will play center for the Falcons and is in his first season at UW-RF. At Annandale, Minn., High School he earned two letters and was a two-year starter. He averaged 17 points, 10 rebounds and one assist for the Cardinals. Zylstra was named to the all-conference team and was named his team's Most Valuable Player. He twice helped lead the team to the Sectional finals. He is the son of Darlene and Dave and has one brother and three sisters. He is majoring in business.
2003-2004 Falcon Men's Basketball Schedule

20-7 Overall, 12-4 WIAC

Nov. 21 at Puget Sound Classic
River Falls 74, Pacific Lutheran 63

Nov. 22 at Puget Sound
Puget Sound 104, River Falls 102

Nov. 25 at Macalester
River Falls 80, Macalester 77

Nov. 29 at St. Cloud
St. Cloud 72, River Falls 69

Dec. 3 at Stevens Point*
Stevens Point 56, River Falls 38

Dec. 6 Oshkosh*
Oshkosh 60, River Falls 59

Dec. 10 at La Crosse*
River Falls 77, La Crosse 60

Dec. 13 Viterbo
River Falls 76, Viterbo 66

Dec. 19 at Northwestern
River Falls 69, Northwestern 41

Dec. 29 Cenex Harvest States Classic
River Falls 73, North Central 63
Superior 59, St. Thomas 57 OT

Dec. 30 Cenex Harvest States Classic
River Falls 56, St. Thomas 50
Superior 89, North Central 73

Jan. 3 Whitewater*
River Falls 81, Whitewater 72

Jan. 7 at Eau Claire*
River Falls 73, Eau Claire 56

Jan. 14 Superior*
River Falls 69, Superior 53

Jan. 17 at Platteville*
Platteville 57, River Falls 56

Jan. 21 at Stout*
River Falls 71, Stout 63

Jan. 24 at Oshkosh*
Oshkosh 65, River Falls 62

Jan. 25 at Marian
River Falls 76, Marian 57

Jan. 27 La Crosse*
River Falls 75, La Crosse 58

Feb. 3 Stevens Point*
River Falls 70, Stevens Point 59

Feb. 7 Eau Claire*
River Falls 68, Eau Claire 60

Feb. 10 at Superior*
River Falls 79, Superior 76 OT

Feb. 14 at Whitewater*
River Falls 72, Whitewater 70

Feb. 17 Stout*
River Falls 64, Stout 61 OT

Feb. 21 Platteville*
River Falls 50, Platteville 47

Feb. 24 WIAC First Round vs. Eau Claire**
River Falls 82, Eau Claire 69

Feb. 26 WIAC Semifinals vs. Platteville**
Platteville 65, River Falls 62

* WIAC Games
** WIAC Tournament Games
Rick Bowen - Head Men's Basketball Coach

Rick Bowen begins his 18th season at UW-River Falls in 2003-04, and 35th season coaching overall. The 26 seasons prior to his arrival, UWRF was 208-379 (.350). In Bowen's 17-year tenure the Falcons have won 234 ball games and lost 205. Bowen surpassed the legendary George Schlaugenhauf in career wins with his 87th win on November 27, 1993 and reached milestone victory 200 in the 2000-01 season. Bowen now ranks seventh on the WIAC all time win list, and is the top active coach in career wins. Bowen has the longest tenure in the WIAC, enjoying his entire collegiate head-coaching career with the UWRF Falcons.

Bowen is also the interim athletic director at UWRF.

Bowen took charge of the Falcons in 1986 following five years as Wisconsin Badger assistant to Steve Yoder, and assistant at Ball State University.

He began his career at the high school level in Indiana, where he also taught physical education and political science for 12 years. Bowen has made a significant impact at River Falls since his arrival with seven consecutive winning seasons between 1989 and 1996; a victorious stretch that hadn't been felt at UWRF since 1915-1922. Bowen's Falcons made school history for a second, third, fourth, and fifth time by landing a spot in the NAIA District 14 playoffs in 1987, 1990, 1991, and 1992.

This past season’s 16-10 overall record gave the Falcons four straight years of wins in double figures. The Falcons finished 10-6 and in a tie for third place in the final WIAC standings. The Falcons, seeded third in the WIAC Tournament, lost a first-round game at home to UW-Eau Claire, 68-65. The Falcons won their final three regular season games to finish in a tie for third in the WIAC standings.

Between earning a B.S. in physical education from Indiana University in 1966 and a masters degree in 1971 from St. Francis College in Ft. Wayne, Ind., Bowen was awarded a bronze star while serving as a combat medic with the United States Army in Vietnam in 1968.

Rick and his wife Sandy met as students at Indiana University. Sandy teaches biology, botany and zoology at River Falls High School.

They have two sons. Matthew, 32, graduated from Indiana University in 1995 where he served as basketball manager for Bob Knight. Matt and wife Ashli have one daughter, McKenzi, and they reside in Valparaiso, Ind., where he is an assistant coach at Valparaiso University. Before coaching at VU, he was an assistant coach at Alabama-Birmingham for seven seasons.

Mike, 29, a Dakota County Technical School graduate and auto technician at Midway Chevrolet in downtown St. Paul is a regular at UWRF games. Michael is married to former UWRF grad and tennis player, Pamela Anderson. They live in River Falls.
Falcon Men's Basketball Assistant Coaches

**Jeff Berkhof** is entering his 10th season with the Falcon basketball coaching staff, his seventh as Coach Rick Bowen’s top assistant. Before joining the coaching ranks, he spent two seasons playing for Coach Bowen at UW River Falls. During his senior season, he was selected to the 1993-94 All-WSUC team and was chosen Co-MVP and co-captain by his teammates.

In addition to his assistant basketball coaching position, Berkhof is the head women’s golf coach and ad-hoc instructor in the health and human performance department. The golf team completed its second season of competition this past fall.

Along with his on the floor coaching duties and administrative tasks, he directs the Falcon recruiting efforts, coordinates scouting and film exchange, and is director of the Falcon summer basketball camps and annual high school varsity tournament – the Great Falcon Shootout.

"Jeff has been my right arm the past seven years. He knows the game, understands me and is very loyal. As an alum, he has the same passion for UWRF basketball as I do. I would be lost without him," said Bowen.

Before coming to River Falls, Berkhof played two years at Worthington, Minn., Junior College. In 1997, he was inducted into the Minnesota Junior College Athletic Hall of Fame. Prior to Worthington JC, he attended South Dakota State University and was a member of the SDSU football squad.

The Hills, Minn., native will finish his masters of education degree in sport management at the University of Minnesota in the spring of 2004. He completed his bachelor of science degree at UWRF with a major in physical education and a minor in athletic coaching. He and his wife Jill, a UWRF alum and fifth grade teacher at Lake Elmo, Minn., reside in Hudson, Wis.

**Sam Huffman** is in his fourth year as a volunteer assistant coach with the Falcons. He completed a very distinguished teaching career as professor of geology at UW-River Falls. Like Coach Bowen, Huffman is a native Hoosier. He is rekindling his life long passion and love of the game of basketball this season as a volunteer assistant coach. "Sam brings to us a lifetime of maturity and experiences. He is rapidly gaining on the technical learning curve he has been out of for the past 30 years. He will add a depth to our staff that I feel we need. I am delighted he is selflessly devoting his time to our program. He is a really nice asset to have around."

Besides his on court duties, Huffman handles the day to day monitoring of academics with the Falcon players and coordinates team travel.

Coach Huffman graduated from Kingman High School in 1954. The highlight of his stellar career included a game high of 40 points against Wallace High School. The 1954 season is significant in Indiana High School basketball history as the year Milan High School won the IHSAA state basketball championship. Milan was immortalized as Hickory High School in the very popular movie Hoosiers. Coach Huffman graduated from Indiana State University in 1962 and completed his Ph.D. at Indiana University in 1970.

**Dan Holle** enters his second year as an assistant coach with the Falcons. This is his sixth year with the program - he served as a student manager for four years. Holle will be responsible for player development, administrative duties, recruiting and scouting/film exchange.

Holle, who played basketball at Chippewa Falls, Wis., High School, earned his undergraduate degree in health & human performance in 2003 at UWRF. Holle plans on beginning his master’s program in 2004. Along with his coaching duties, he is the athletics event coordinator at UWRF and is currently employed as a youth sports director at the River Falls YMCA.