

Oglesby ready to run-and-gun with the Hawkeyes

Written by Tom Fruehling

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Sure, he's a proud dad.

But after 32 years of coaching basketball, the last five as an assistant at Mount Mercy University following a successful stint at Kirkwood, Ted Oglesby knows college talent, too.

And he's convinced his high school senior son Josh will shine next year for the revitalized run-and-gun Iowa Hawkeyes under new coach Fran McCaffery.

"They like to get out and go, and Josh is athletic enough that he'll fit right in," the elder Oglesby said Wednesday at Washington High School after his son signed his formal national letter of intent to attend the University of Iowa.

"I wouldn't have said this a year ago, but the coaching philosophy there now is perfect for Josh. He brings a lot of dimensions to the game."

A 6-foot-6 shooting guard who averaged 16.2 points a game for the Warriors as a junior while hitting on 40 percent of his three-point shots, Oglesby is also a deft passer.

"He'll do well in (Iowa's) shared offense," said Ted Oglesby, who coached his son when he was younger to be a playmaker first and shoot only when he had a layup.

For his part, Josh Oglesby says he was excited to see his future team score 111 points last week in its season opening exhibition game.

"I like that style of basketball," he said at his signing after committing to Iowa in late September. "You can shoot off screens and pass off the dribble."

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After growing an inch and putting on 20 pounds of muscle last season, when Washington made it to the state quarterfinals, Oglesby opened coaching eyes in the summer AAU circuit. He was offered 14 Division I scholarships (although Illinois withdrew its offer after signing another recruit) and chose Iowa following visits to Arizona State and Minnesota.

“I really want to be part of making Iowa basketball the way it used to be when I was growing up, when Carver-Hawkeye was always full and the fans were excited like they are for football.”

And while he's McCaffery's first in-state signee, the sharpshooting swingman hopes there will be more to come, singling out high school junior phenoms Marcus Paige of Linn-Mar and Sioux City East 7-foot center Adam Woodbury.

“If we can get more of those Iowa kids, we can make Hawkeye basketball exciting again.”