Rick Stansbury

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With two exhibition games under his belt, new WKU head coach Rick Stansbury is ready to officially kick off basketball season this weekend.

Amy Bingham talks with Coach Stansbury about his move to WKU in this week’s View from the Hill.

As a graduate of both Meade County High school and Campbellsville University, Rick Stansbury’s western Kentucky roots run deep. That’s part of what has made his move to WKU as the Hilltopper head coach so special.

When the smoke clears you quickly see that WKU basketball has more than a new coach this year.

 “Basically one player returned that really played, that was Justin Johnson. Only two others had minutes at all, that’s Ben and Waters, outside that it’s a totally new team.”

Long time Mississippi State basketball coach (and later Texas A & M assistant) Rick Stansbury decided over six months ago to become the Hilltoppers 15th head coach in school history.

Biggest surprise? When I left my press conference to go watch my team play and I had no guards.”

 “That’s been our biggest challenge, putting together a team that gives us a fighting chance.”

Stansbury wasted no time filling out his roster.

 “I watched more film this year than I have in my whole 32 years of coaching.

Already raspy voiced from intense practice sessions, Stansbury calls WKU the first basketball school he’s worked for and is excited to return the team to it’s former glory.

 “We all know this, deep roots people love basketball. I love to be at a place where there’s so much excitement.”

For Stansbury’s family returning to this area has been a smooth transition.

Adjustment for my boys has been real easy.”

 “We’ve pulled off this exit many times driving from Starkville to Meade County

Coach Stansbury says after being gone from Kentucky for more than thirty years, it’s been great to be home again.

 “Everyday seems to be someone else who knows someone I know because of where I’m from, that’s always good.”

 “People ask me all the time do I like Bowling Green. I say I lived in Starkville Mississippi for 24 years, have you been to Starkville? We love Bowling Green.”

The Hilltoppers take on Alabama State at 7 o’clock Saturday night at E.A. Diddle Arena.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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