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Randi Peterson will coach closer to her family

Summary: Randi Peterson, head women's basketball coach for the UMM Cougars has resigned. Peterson has accepted the position of head women's basketball coach and assistant athletic director at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

(June 27, 2006)-The University of Minnesota, Morris has announced that Randi Peterson, head women's basketball coach for the UMM Cougars, has resigned. Peterson has accepted the position of head women's basketball coach and assistant athletic director at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Peterson shared with the Morris Sun Tribune that her departure is more a matter of "moving back" than it is "moving on."

"I wasn't at all looking for a job," Peterson told the Sun Tribune. "I loved my job in Morris and I loved the people. The only reason to leave was to be closer to home." The Cedar Falls, Iowa, native estimated that her parents, five siblings, grandparents and an assortment of aunts and uncles live within 50 miles of Coe, according to the Sun Tribune.

"Family was the swaying factor," Peterson said.

UMM athletic director Mark Fohl said, "Everyone at UMM is proud of the success the women's basketball team had during the past season. It has been exciting to see the team develop into a contender for the conference championship."

Peterson was named head women's basketball coach for the Cougars in 2005 after serving as an assistant coach at UMM for the previous two seasons. In her first head coaching position, Peterson helped build the Cougar women's basketball team into a contender in the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) leading UMM to a 10-4 record in the league.

Peterson was named UMAC Coach of the Year after leading the team to their first-ever UMAC post-season tournament.

The Cougar women's basketball team finished the year at 16-10 overall, the most successful season since the 1997-98 team finished with a 17-12 record. The year prior to Peterson's arrival as assistant coach, the Cougars were 1-26 and struggling in the NCAA Division II. Over the next three seasons, Peterson helped rebuild Cougar women's basketball during the Cougars' NCAA Division III transition, posting records of 13-14, 10-15 and 16-10.

Fohl added, "Obviously we will miss Randi and we also want to wish her well in her new position. We are committed to continuing the progress the team made last season, and finding an outstanding replacement for Randi is a top priority. Our next head women's basketball coach will inherit a strong, talented team of returning athletes and new recruits."

The process to find a replacement for Peterson is beginning. Details will be available on the Cougar Athletics Web site www.ummcougars.org A new head coach will lead the Cougars when practice for the new season begins in October. The Cougars open the 2006-07 women's basketball season November 17 at the Valley City Classic.

The full Morris Sun Tribune story is available at <http://www.morrissuntribune.com/>

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