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UIS' Gamble takes job at Providence

Lanphier graduate will be director of player development

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Kevin Gamble, the only coach the University of Illinois Springfield Prairie Stars men's basketball team has ever had, said Sunday he has accepted the director of player development position at NCAA Division I Providence College in Providence, Rhode Island.

Providence will announce the move today, according to Gamble.

Gamble, a Lanphier High School graduate, took charge of UIS' new men's basketball program in 2000. His career record at the NCAA Division II school was 130-79. The 2009-10 team was 11-13 overall and 7-11 in its first season competing in Division II and the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

UIS left the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and American Midwest Conference in 2009. Under Gamble, UIS won the AMC tournament during the 2005-06 season and advanced to the NAIA national tournament where it lost in the first round.

He was voted the AMC Coach of the Year that season and the next. The Stars won the AMC tournament in 2007 and made it as far as the national tournament before losing in the second round to the eventual champion Oklahoma City.

Gamble has ties to the East Coast and the Providence program.

His wife, Alesha, is a native of Boston, which is located 41 miles from Providence, and Gamble played for the Boston Celtics from 1988 to 1994 .

Providence is coached by Keno Davis, the son of Tom Davis, Gamble's college coach at Iowa.

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