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- TRAVEL
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- FORUMS
- H. S. SPORTS
- LIVING
- ENTERTAINMENT
- JOBS
- AUTOS
- REAL ESTATE
- CLASSIFIEDS

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Jackson returns to assist Beilein

Ex-Amaker assistant quits Illinois State gig to join men's staff

Tuesday, April 10, 2007
BY NATHAN FENNO
 News Sports Reporter

The first member of new University of Michigan men's basketball coach John Beilein's staff is a familiar one.

Mike Jackson, a Wolverines assistant for the past two seasons before taking the same job at Illinois State last month, resigned Monday and will return to Michigan.

"Having the chance to come back and be with these kids that I grew close to and shared a lot with over the last two years makes it even more special," Jackson said.

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Jackson gives Beilein's staff instant local connections, though decisions about the rest of it haven't been finalized.

"I did a lot of research in the days since I was hired, and there's no doubt Mike is a tremendous fit for the future of this program," Beilein said. "His experience and connections with and around this program will only be a plus for us."

Jackson played high school basketball in Detroit and at the University of Detroit, and has been an assistant at Dayton, Toledo and Detroit before joining Michigan in 2005.

At Michigan, Jackson worked with the guards and was instrumental in the recruitment of DeShawn Sims and Ekpe Udoh, among others.

After Michigan coach Tommy Amaker was fired March 17, Jackson took a job with Illinois State, located in Normal, Ill.

"While it may not appear so on the surface, this is a story with a happy ending," said Illinois State coach Tim Jankovich, who was hired March 20. "Basketball is important to all of us, but keeping family together needs to be a priority."

Illinois State said family reasons were part of Jackson's decision to return to Michigan. Jackson's wife, Amira, is from Michigan and they have two young children, Mylan and Amani.

Jackson made \$79,567 last season, third-most on Michigan's staff.

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