



University of Great Falls  
**ARGONAUTS**

## **SPORTS INFORMATION \* NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Chaffin Steps Down As Head Women's Basketball Coach; Himmelberg Promoted To Position**

**Great Falls, MT** – University of Great Falls Interim Athletic Director Arunas Duda announced today that Shawn Chaffin has stepped down as Head Women's Basketball Coach after four seasons. Chaffin is pursuing new opportunities including business and entrepreneurial interests. Bill Himmelberg, who has served as Chaffin's lead assistant for the past three seasons has been promoted to head coach and will assume those responsibilities immediately.

"We want to thank Shawn for his dedication and service to the University of Great Falls and our women's basketball program," Duda said. "Shawn spent countless hours in his effort to build the program. We wish Shawn the best of luck in his future endeavors."

Chaffin's best season came in 2007-08 when he led the Lady Argos to a 12-19 mark, giving the team their most successful season since women's basketball was re-introduced to the university in 2000, after a 15-year hiatus. The highlight of Chaffin's time at UGF has to be the Lady Argos' 78-74 win over Carroll College on January 31, 2009, marking UGF's first win over their long-time rival in this latest era of Lady Argo basketball.

"I would like thank Dr. McAllister and everyone within the University of Great Falls athletic department for four great years," Chaffin said. "I am excited for the future of UGF as an academic institution and an athletic power. I feel like I am passing the torch to the very capable hands of Bill Himmelberg, who has been a great friend and advisor for me. With the new campus housing, the phenomenal wellness center and the upgraded scholarships, I am confident that the women's basketball team at UGF will be very competitive in the Frontier Conference in short order. I am excited about my business ownership opportunity in the private sector. I have been blessed throughout my life to be surrounded by very knowledgeable and caring people who have opened a lot of doors for me."

Himmelberg accepted the promotion offered by UGF President Dr. Eugene McAllister and gets his first shot as a head coach at the collegiate level in the process. Prior to his stint as Chaffin's assistant, Himmelberg spent six seasons as an assistant varsity coach at C.M. Russell High School while also coaching the Rustlers' sophomore team. Himmelberg also brings experience as the head boys' coach of the Great Falls Home School team, a position he held from 1994-99. During that time, his teams racked up 118 wins against just 39 defeats.

"I am very grateful for having had Shawn Chaffin as a mentor and friend and am highly thankful for President McAllister's confidence in my abilities," Himmelberg said. "It is an exciting time here at the university. With the additional housing and additional resources in our program we have a great opportunity to make big strides. We have already started with recruiting. We are really focused on bringing in freshmen players that are good students, with a spiritual base who will not only be active and engaging on the court but in the classroom as well."

Himmelberg also took the opportunity to announce that Chelsey Muri, who served as a graduate assistant this past season, will take over his previous job as lead assistant.

"I am enthused about Chelsey Muri taking over the lead assistant job," he said. "Chelsey clearly established that she is the best fit for our situation. She had great success as an All-American player at Southern Oregon University and brings a positive personality, great integrity, excellent work habits and established relationships with our current players."

Lastly, Himmelberg took the chance to shed some light on the future of the Lady Argo basketball program, saying, "Our red-shirt class is really strong and we have a number of returning upperclassmen. This spring we will be working to further develop the players already in our system. I am really excited about the team we will be able to work with next season."