

Alumni profile – Ryan Osterloh

Former Eagles' standout has developed into a fine player for the Utes

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

If you look closely at the University of Utah men's basketball team this year, Skyline fans might see a familiar face.

He may not get much playing time, but he's there, dressed in red and ready to contribute.

It's Ryan Osterloh.

Last year, he chose to walk-on to coach Larry Krystkowiak's team and he turned some heads.

"I transferred to the U. and they needed guys for the practice squad, so I went to tryouts and made the team," Osterloh said. "I was a 'practice player' last year, then they invited me to be part of the team officially."

Osterloh is now 6-foot-3 and is still pegged as a shooting guard. He said the Utes are looking much better this year after a disappointing 6-25 record last year.

"We got a couple of big recruits," he said. "We have Jordan Loveridge (from West Jordan) and a lot of new faces, but we're more of a team than we used to be."

Playing on a Pac-12 squad has also helped Osterloh elevate his game.

"It's kind of like going from junior high to high school," he said. "You have to put in more time and be more physical. It's a different culture, but it's wasn't as bad because of what I had gone through at Skyline."

Osterloh graduated in 2009 after an impressive career here. He scored 677 points in three seasons, and was a major contributor to the team that started his senior year with 11 straight wins and a No. 1 ranking in 5A. As a senior, he made the all-state team after averaging 17.8 points per game, which was the fourth highest in 5A. He reached a high of 28 twice – against Cottonwood and Judge Memorial.

Osterloh moved on to Utah State, where he hoped to play basketball there. When it didn't work out,



After taking a couple of years off from basketball, **Ryan Osterloh's** career is back on the upswing at Utah.

he returned home. He attended Salt Lake Community College and figured his basketball career was over.

"There were some smaller schools in California and Wyoming I was looking into, but it really wasn't something I wanted," he said. "I wanted to be around here and do something other than basketball."

It wasn't easy to walk away, though. Osterloh continued to follow Skyline because his younger brother, Jake, was on the team. Then Skyline coach Derek Bunting asked him to join his staff as an assistant coach.

"I was a loyal fan of coach Bunting's, and when I got into coaching I loved it," he said. "I would help with scouting and stuff on the bench. I was one of those guys who had been through the system before and I'd help the players."

Osterloh said Bunting's system helped get him where he is now.

"Playing for coach Bunting was awesome," he said. "It prepared me for the college basketball environment. How much he cares about his players and his program.

"If I didn't have coach Bunting as a coach, I wouldn't have progressed as much as I did. He shared his basketball IQ with his players. Even at the college level, most guys aren't blessed with amazing talent and have to put a lot of effort into it."

Osterloh doesn't expect his experience at the U. to turn into an NBA career. But he also doesn't have time to be part of Skyline's staff this year and, in fact, plans to graduate with a degree in business next May.

After that, he's not sure.

"Being a coach is something I've thought about," he said. "I want to stay around the game, that's for sure. I'll have to make some choices."

Skyline possibly awaits.

"We'd love to have Ryan back as a coach at Skyline," Bunting said. "He understands the game as well as any player I have coached. He also relates well to the players and can help them maximize their potential because he understands our system so well."