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I think the biggest thing we talk about is, like you said, the family, but to be pushed, to be challenged, not only to grow as a basketball player, but as a person, as a student, all those things matter to us. We celebrate all those victories, we celebrate all those accomplishments, not just basketball, it's really about the holistic approach of building you up from the personal side to the athletic side.

John Boccacino:

And you mentioned the word family, I know that that phrase gets used quite a lot around the men's basketball program, and you've got that unique perspective of both having been a former student athlete here, an assistant coach, and ts,oaet(padnt coa\$.haou)1 (qui)1 (bo)1 (Syracuras[k e] t b)1 all)1 (thassi)1 te t

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John Boccacino:

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different things, trying times, whether it was a four or five game losing streak or whether it was a six or seven game winning streak, he would approach every day the same and never be too happy or never get too down.

John Boccacino:

I really appreciated in some of the press conferences you've held, you've talked about the importance of being prepared for a big moment. Who taught you the value of preparation, and how have you been preparing yourself to coach this program?

Adrian Autry:

Obviously, once I've graduated from college and being a professional and being able to play over there for 10 years, it was tough because it's hard, it's a lot of players for them to pick, so no different than the NBA. And to play at the level that I played at, I never could get out of shape because a phone call could come at any time, or once I was there, I always had to do what I needed to do because at any moment in time they can call and replace you.

I always had that mentality after I left to take advantage and never take anything for granted, each e call

Adrian Autry:

Man, it was a fight, it was a brawl, every night you went out, Providence with Rick Barnes, they were physical, when you played Georgetown, you knew the game was going to be in the fifties and you were going to get foul. If they called three, you probably got foul nine times because they were so physical. But that's just the way that band of basketball was played back then, it was a physical league. With UConn you knew that was like, get up and down, they're going to try to score a ton of points and they were going press.

Again, all those things, you had the different styles, but we had Riley who he could play fast, slow the game up, it just was in different styles. But it was a war every night and everyone had a respect, but they didn't like each other and they competed with each other, so it was fun, it was no easy games, no days off, no nights off. I think at the time, Boston College was the only team that struggled through my four years, and that was only the first two years because they played all freshmen. And then by their junior, senior year, they had Howard Eilsey, Bill Curley, Gerrod Abram, all those guys, that's when Boston College, they took off, I think they went to the Elite Eight, they beat us a couple of times, the league just was getting ... every team, it was a hard game.

John Boccacino:

I love hearing you reminisce about the good old days of the Big East, I know we have a good thing still with the ACC, but those are some ... growing up, I remember falling in love watching Cuse, watching the dome be packed for those big Monday games. And your teams were successful too, you had a cast of characters and you won on the court, any favorite memories that stand out to you? Any big games or big wins that really come to the front of your mind?

Adrian Autry:

I think obviously my last home game versus Georgetown, we actually won that senior night. One comes to mind, overtime or double overtime game versus Connecticut at the dome, I think the score was like 100 to 90 something, it was something, it was up there. And then I was playing against Kentucky and I'm a 14 in the country coming in at the dome, sold out, packed, a big game. It was so many big games, I remember Seton Hall, we had a really long winning streak against them up until my junior year, and I think remember one of those games we were down nine points for two minutes and we came back and won by five or six, so there's so many great memories.

But I remember the Kentucky game and it was sold out, it was packed, everyone was excited, I remember us playing against Fire and Ice, Rodney Monroe, NC State, Tom Gugliotta, that was the inaugural of the Big East ACC challenge, that was a great game, but there was just so many great games. I felt like every game we played at home was a big game, I really, really did, especially once you got to January.

John Boccacino:

No doubt, the postseason ramping up for a March Madness run, and you guys were no strangers to March Madness. How was it different playing in the dome versus coaching a team in the dome?

Adrian Autry:

I think think it's very similar, the energy is unbelievable. Especially when the dome is rocking, I think you get that extra juice, you get that extra vibe sitting there encouraging your guys, encouraging your

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players to feed off the energy and play and stay focused and not get too carried away. I think you still feel that way as a coach, I know I feel that way as a coach sometimes.

John Boccacino:

People love you and they love your story. I was going to ask you about Red and if your student athletes knew about the nickname and what they thought of you as a player.

Adrian Autry:

I don't talk about my basketball, I just walk past to show them my picture up there with a shirt and that's about it, so that I got my pride right there.

John Boccacino:

I absolutely love it. And when you graduate from Syracuse, you get this degree in speech communication and, for people that don't know, you had a really successful career playing over in European leagues, you had a stint in the US Basketball League. So it wasn't like you left Syracuse and stopped playing, you had a really good playing career. But when did you decide that coaching was what you wanted to do next?

Adrian Autry:

I think I decided I wanted to coach after I brought my family up and my oldest son at the time, he was young and I brought him up with my family, I wanted to show them Syracuse and let them see where I went to school and where I played at. And I sat down and talked with Coach Boeheim and then I talked to Mike Hopkins and they were just asking me what I was doing, what I planned on doing and then they both encouraged me to get into coaching and think that I would be great, "you should do this." And that started me thinking and then they put me in touch with a couple of guys and the next thing you know, it just happened just like that after that visit from Syracuse.

John Boccacino:

And we are very thankful that you decided to listen and participated in that coaching because we wouldn't be having this conversation, I don't think, if you hadn't decided to.

Adrian Autry:

No, I never thought of that, but that is absolutely true, if I never brought my family up here with Adrian Junior at the time, we probably would not be having this conversation.

John Boccacino:

I do want to give a little credit too, obviously you're well known as being a family man and we know coaching can be such a demanding profession. What kind of support has your f

floor, we want to speed people up defensively, and offensively, we want to go right back down and be aggressive and get the ball to court.

John Boccacino:

You guys will be a fun team to watch in the dome for sure. And I got to ask you this one too coach while I got you on here, how many times has somebody come up and asked you, "coach, you are playing the 2-3 zone?"

Adrian Autry:

Man, if I had even a penny for 5 cents and I'd be a rich man right now when it comes to when answering that question.

John Boccacino:

Look, we're all excited to see you put your mark on this program and I know that it's been really fun watching you in action, watching you on the recruiting trail, it's going to be great to see when the games kick off in the dome. I did have two more quick questions for you, you being an alum yourself, you also had two children who attended and graduated from Syracuse in Aliyah and Adrian Jr. What kind of pride does that give you knowing that two of your kids decided to follow in your footsteps and become Orange alums?

Adrian Autry:

That was very, very, awesome, I'm proud. And again, especially when you sit around and you start having these family discussions or you are talking to different people and having that pride of, like you said, not only did I have a great experience, but my two older kids shared the same experiences and have that Syracuse and alumni pride, it means a lot.

John Boccacino:

And I know there's probably not a lot of this now because the season's ramping up, but when you do have some free time on your hands, what do you like to do when you're not coaching or recruiting?

Adrian Autry:

If I'm not coaching or recruiting, I'm with the family, probably going to eat some dinner, listen to music a little bit and try to play golf. Man, I've been trying to play golf, that's something new that I picked up, so I definitely like to try to get out there and swing it, but I don't have as much time as I used to.

John Boccacino:

Well, I hear there's a Hall of Fame coach that is pretty proud of his golf game, you might be able to lean on f Coach Boeheim ever wants to share. Have you talked golf with him a lot?

Adrian Autry:

Not as much, we do talk, but not like that. He knows a little bit about everything, but we've talked golf, but not as much. More of our conversations has just been me bouncing some ideas off of him getting his thoughts and opinions on different things as I get prepared.

