



**Serratore Says 'Things Could Work at UNO - Omaha World-Herald (NE) - June 26, 1996 - page 25sf**

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The man many observers have said has the inside track to become head coach of the **UNO hockey** program wrapped up his interviews on Tuesday.

**Frank Serratore**, the former Omaha Lancers coach who is director of **hockey** operations for the Winnipeg Moose of the International **Hockey** League, returned to his Minneapolis home after spending 1 1/2 days discussing the new University of Nebraska at Omaha program with officials, administrators, coaches and athletic department members.

"If all the numbers are right, there's a very good chance that things could work out here," **Serratore** said.

**Serratore** was the third of four finalists to interview for the **UNO** job. Wisconsin Assistant Coach Mike Kemp was to interview Wednesday, while Minnesota Assistant Coach Mike Guentzel and Denver Assistant Coach Greg Drechsel interviewed last week.

Guentzel, another ex - Lancer coach, withdrew his name from consideration on Monday.

"They still have three excellent candidates," said Guentzel, who was considered to be as viable a candidate as **Serratore**.

**Serratore** was the only coach among the four finalists meeting one requirement **UNO** Athletic Director Don Leahy had been seeking for the Mavericks' first **hockey** coach: previous NCAA Division I head coaching experience.

**Serratore** left the Lancers - Omaha's junior **hockey** team - after winning regular season and playoff championships in 1989 - 90 to become head coach at Denver, a member of the Western Collegiate **Hockey** Association.

He coached at Denver from 1990 - 91 through 1993 - 94, compiling a 49 - 92 - 2 record.

He then left for his current job with the former Minnesota Moose of the IHL, a top minor - league organization.

The Moose is relocating to Winnipeg for next season, so **Serratore** is prepared to move to either Winnipeg or Omaha in August.

"I have a young family, and this is an opportunity for us to settle in one place for a while," the 38 - year - old **Serratore** said. "At this point in our lives, we would like that."

**UNO** announced on May 1 that it would begin an NCAA Division I program for the 1997 - 98 season.

A coach is expected to be named either Thursday afternoon or Friday morning. The coach will then have a year to recruit, promote the program and develop a schedule.

**UNO** hopes to be admitted to the WCHA for the 1999 - 2000 season. Nearly 6,400 season tickets have been reserved for the 8,200 - seat City Auditorium.

"This program is so exciting because it has so much potential," **Serratore** said.

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