



DUNLEAVY HAS BASKETBALL IN HIS BLOOD

New men's head coach recruiting and rebuilding

BY BRIAN KOONZ
PHOTO AUTUMN DRISCOLL

THE MOMENT BAKER DUNLEAVY WAS HIRED as the new head men's basketball coach, he brought stature to the program. He had served as the associate head coach of Villanova's 2016 national championship team. His father, Tulane coach Mike Dunleavy Sr., is a former NBA player and head coach. His brother, Mike Dunleavy Jr., is a 15-year NBA veteran out of Duke.

Dunleavy knows this is fundamentally a rebuilding job. The Bobcats were 10-21 last season, including a

7-13 record and an eighth-place finish in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.

So how does Dunleavy expect to develop a winning program? He strokes his chin for a moment, contemplating the question as much as his response. The short answer will always be recruiting.

"The model I'm most comfortable with—Villanova—is something I believe would work really well here," said Dunleavy, a first-time head coach. "It will require a little more patience because I want to do most of our recruiting work from high school and build from within."

With an immediate need for help after losing several players to graduation or transfer, Dunleavy hit the recruiting trail hard after his March hiring. Penn State graduate transfer Isaiah Washington is eligible to play this season. Other players already have committed to play for Quinnipiac starting with the 2018-19 season.

Dunleavy's offense will value shooters and floor spacing to create open looks, especially from 3-point range. On defense, the Bobcats will play a versatile, man-to-man system that can defend a deliberate offense as well as an uptempo one.

"We were very simple, but very effective at Villanova, which allowed our players to be really confident and aggressive," Dunleavy said. "I hope that's what people will see here at Quinnipiac."

New men's basketball head coach Baker Dunleavy is eager for the season to begin.