

NEW BASKETBALL COACH EXPECTED TO BE NAMED IN THE COMING WEEKS

In recent weeks there has been a good deal of speculation (much of it better left in the realm of fantasy) about the future of Providence College's basketball program. All of this talk began after Dave Gavitt sat before a bevy of reporters, cameras

many years, then a number of changes must be made and the biggest is having a full-time coach."

—"After 18 years as a basketball coach, the challenges facing the athletic director are more satisfying to me," he has told reporters.

His decision to step down came as no real surprise to college officials. As far back as 1974, Dave and Father Peterson could foresee that

construction of a new recreational facility to accommodate this growing interest in participation athletics.

And there is the basketball program itself. According to Dave, "If we are to continue competing at a high level, then many things must be done in the administrative area to assist the new head basketball coach."

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and microphones and announced that he would be stepping down as head coach at the end of this season. Dave will devote his complete energies to the growing responsibilities of Athletic Director. He has had to divide his attention between the two jobs for the last eight years.

In a way it is understandable that such a significant career decision by one of the nation's most respected sports figures and the 1980 Olympic coach would leave some people in a quandry.

Perhaps some questions can be answered here and some of the unfounded speculation put to rest.

Why would a young (41 years old) and successful coach decide to leave one of the most enviable positions in collegiate basketball: the head coaching job of a program with a unique winning tradition of 20 years that never adopted the high pressure philosophy of win at any cost?

There are two basic reasons that repeatedly surface in Dave's conversations:

—"The time has come for Providence College to have a full-time basketball coach and a full-time athletic director," says Dave. "If we are to compete at the same level of success that we've enjoyed for so



the time was approaching when the college would need to separate the jobs of athletic director and head basketball coach.

To understand this situation is important if one is to fully comprehend Dave's decision.

Since assuming the athletic directorship, he has witnessed PC's intercollegiate program expand from seven sports to 19. At the same time, there has been the formation of the women's intercollegiate program.

With more than 2,000 students participating in intramural contests, the college is now considering the

As for the head basketball coach, times have changed. More schools are vying for the top student-athletes and the competition has become quite rigorous. (Perhaps that's a nice euphemism for saying "rough". Dave has not tried to hide his displeasure with some of the recruiting tactics that have gained favor in some quarters.) A new coach at Providence will have to confront the problem of recruiting as well as organizing and teaching his players.

Gavitt speaks frankly about PC's future. "We are at a crossroads in the development of basketball at Providence College. The NCAA rulings are making it impossible for us to maintain the type of program we have been while staying in the ECAC. One of my tasks will be determining the long range future of our program. We have to decide whether to remain in a league or to resume our former position as a national independent. This is a critical question that I must deal with."

A persistent rumor is that Dave's decision is a signal that college officials are deemphasizing the program. If someone is searching for signs as to the future of PC basketball, here are a few indications about its direction:

—The college has signed a series of four-year agreements with Louisville, Ohio State, Purdue and Kansas. All of these teams are nationally ranked.

UPDATE

—Three college vice presidents are participating in the selection of a new coach.

“Within the rules of the NCAA and the philosophy of Providence College, we are making every effort to maintain and perhaps even enhance our position as a national power,” remarked Dave. “With a full-time coach we are hoping to improve upon our recruiting and our decision concerning a possible league or resuming our former position as a national independent will all come together and we will emerge a better and stronger program.”

“This is an exciting time for the college’s athletic program,” continued Gavitt. “We are entering a new era. Joe Mullaney was the right man when he guided the team through the 1950s and 1960s. I think I was the right man when I came. Different approaches and different attitudes are needed at various times. While retaining its unique philosophy towards athletics, PC has been able to recognize that events present new challenges and require new solutions.”

The coaching position has attracted a large number of candidates. The college has received more than 100 applications. In addition to the applicants, the college has developed its own list of potential candidates. Dave has already met with several interested persons. It is hoped that a new coach will be named in March.

As for qualifications, Dave says, “We are looking for an enthusiastic and hard working individual who is organized and who can recruit, coach and teach within the philosophy of the college.”

He added, “Obviously we are going to hire the best person possible and Father Peterson and the administration have given us the backing necessary to attract a first rate coach.”

An advisory committee has been appointed by the President to assist in the selection process. The committee members are Dr. Kenneth Walker, the alumni representative; Father Robert Morris, Executive

Vice President; Father Francis Duffy, Vice President for Student Affairs; Joseph Byron, Vice President for Business; Mrs. Helen Burt, Assistant Athletic Director; Joseph Brum, Alumni Director; Dr. George Raymond, a faculty representative, and Dan Callenda, the student representative on the Athletic Council.

FATHER RYAN ELECTED PRIOR, HEADS LARGEST DOMINICAN COMMUNITY

The Very Reverend William B. Ryan, O.P. has been elected Prior of the Dominican Community at Providence College.

As Prior, Father Ryan is the religious superior for the more than 70 Dominican priests and brothers who are members of the St. Thomas Aquinas Priory. The Priory at Providence College is the largest community of Dominican priests in the world.

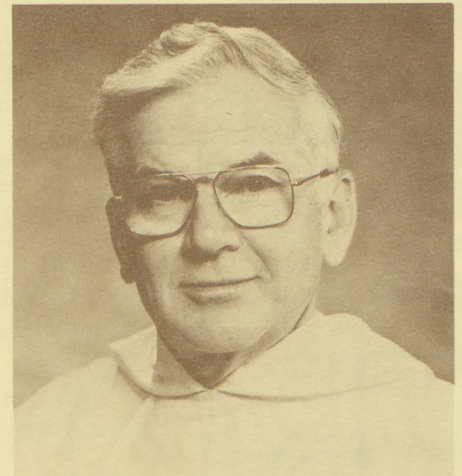
Father Ryan succeeds the late Father Aloysius B. Begley, who passed away on September 27.

A native of Yonkers, New York, Father Ryan graduated from Manhattan College Prep School in 1935 and received a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from Manhattan College in 1939.

The sixty-year old prelate was ordained in 1947 following studies in philosophy and theology at the General Studium of the Province of St. Joseph in Washington, D.C.

Father Ryan also holds the degrees of Lector in Sacred Theology from the Dominican General House of Studies in Washington, D.C.; Licentiate in Sacred Theology from the Immaculate Conception Pontifical Faculty of Theology, also in Washington, D.C.; and a Doctor of Canon Law from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas in Rome, Italy. In 1963, Father Ryan received the Master in Sacred Theology degree, the highest theological degree conferred by the Dominican Order.

Father Ryan was a professor of Canon Law for nearly twenty years at Immaculate Conception in



Washington, D.C. During that time he also served as Secretary of Studies (registrar) there. Father Ryan has also lectured during summer sessions at Marygrove College in Michigan; Immaculata College in Pennsylvania, and at Providence College.

In 1967 Father Ryan was the Canonical Consultant to the Congress of Provincials of the Order of Preachers in Rome, Italy, and acted as Consultant to the Provincial of the Province of St. Joseph in 1968. He has also been the canonical consultant to various congregations of religious women including the Adrian Dominican Congregation of Adrian, Michigan, the Newburgh Dominican Congregation of Newburgh, New York, and the Sisters of Mercy in Plainfield, New Jersey.

Father Ryan is currently a member of the Provincial Council and the Economic Council for the Province of St. Joseph. He also holds a seat on the Providence College Corporation.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND ESTABLISHED IN MEMORY OF RICHARD FRITZ '52

Richard E. Fritz, Jr., the director of Purchasing and Personnel at Providence College for eleven years, passed away on December 20 after a long illness.

After receiving his Bachelor's degree in Economics from Providence in 1952, he later earned the Master of Business Administration degree in Marketing and

continued on back page

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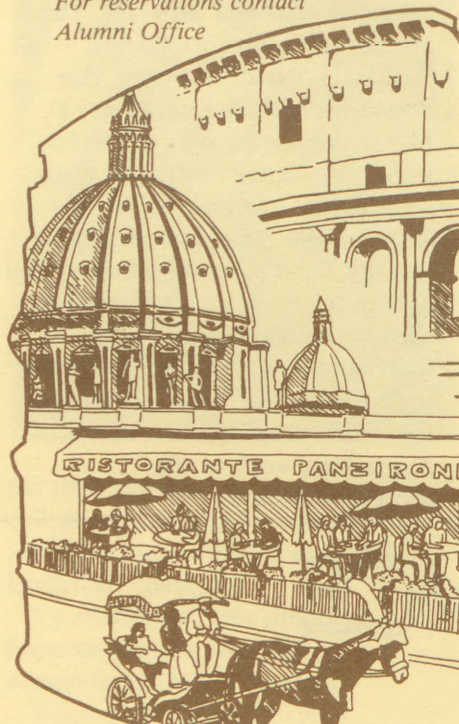
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Office Of Public Information
Joseph T. McAleer, *Director*;
and the Alumni Office.
Joseph Brum, *Director*.
Providence College

Industrial Administration from the University of Connecticut in 1962.

The 47-year-old Navy veteran was a native of Stonington, Conn. and served on the Stonington Board of Education from 1975 until shortly before his death. A communicant of St. Michael's Church in Pawcatuck, Conn., Dick was a member of the Holy Name Society there. He also coached the Stonington Grammar School Basketball League, St. Michael's CYO Basketball and the YMCA basketball teams.

Dick was an active member of the Providence College Alumni Association. Two of his four children, Richard and Mary Beth, are presently attending Providence.

A scholarship fund in his memory has been established at the college. If you wish to contribute to the memorial scholarship, please send your donation (payable to Providence College) to the attention of William T. Nero, Assistant Vice President for Development, Providence College, Providence, R.I. 02918.

ALUMNI SUPPORT FOR COLLEGE AMONG THE BEST IN THE COUNTRY

There are more than 3,100 colleges and universities in the United States. And Providence College ranks

among the top 5% of them in the area of alumni support. The Council for Financial Aid to Education selected Providence College as a finalist in last Spring's Alumni Giving Incentive Awards Program. Providence was chosen because of the sustained high level of giving among its graduates.

Continuing in this tradition, the current Loyalty Fund is setting new standards of success as it moves towards its record goal of \$425,000.

As of February 1, \$345,724 in pledges had been received from 4,498 alumni, parents and friends. This compares with \$298,362 and 4,048 pledges at the same point in last year's drive.

Adding to the significance of this achievement are the following facts:

- Providence College has a bare-bones development program. There are no frills and a small staff. William T. Nero, Assistant Vice President, and his aide, Roger D. Robitaille, are the only professional development officers. Most colleges and universities have far larger staffs. An evaluation of the Loyalty Fund program indicates that despite the personnel shortages, its success is attributable to the leadership and devotion among the college's alumni volunteers and to the creative management and painstaking work of the professional staff.

- In all 38% of the college's alumni participated in last year's campaign. This compares with a 39% level of participation at Brown, an institution with an older and more well established alumni.

- Because of the continuing level of alumni support, Providence received \$41,657 from the New England College's Fund. Many foundations use alumni support as a criteria in their decisions to award grants.

- To date, more than \$7,200 has been contributed by non-alumni faculty and staff to this year's fund. This includes gifts from 95% of the staff in the Food Service Department.

The Loyalty Fund is now in its Regional Phase in which alumni are called through phonathons conducted in various cities throughout the country. In April the Fund will move into solicitation by class with phonathons held on the college campus for all of the classes.

The Fund continues through June 30, 1979 and Chairman Joseph B. McCarty, who opened the drive with a \$15,000 gift, urges all that can do so to forward their pledges as early as possible to continue the drive's excellent momentum, reduce telephone and mailing expenses, and "put our money to good use at the college in such areas as library acquisitions and student loans."

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