

Entering his third season as head coach of lona College, Kevin Willard continues to build on the foundation of his program. With a second solid recruiting class under his belt, Willard's Gaels will look to continue to compete for the MAAC Championship and an NCAA Tournament Appearance.

During his first year as a head coach - and first in New Rochelle - the Gaels finished with 10 more victories than the previous year, one of the top turnarounds in NCAA Div. I in 2007-08. He instilled his foundation of up tempo, aggressive play with an emphasis on having fun playing the game of basketball to his young team. At 33, Willard is one of the youngest coaches in Division I. In

2008-09, his squad boasted one of the youngest lineups in the nation with eight freshmen and three sophomores. Scott Machado set a new lona rookie standard for assists and became the third player in program history to win the MAAC's Rookie of the Year Award.

Director of Athletics Patrick Lyons announced the appointment of Kevin Willard as the 11th men's basketball head coach on Apr. 10, 2007 as a part of an official press announcement in the Hynes Athletics Center. Willard returned to the tri-state area after serving the previous six seasons as an assistant and associate head coach at the University of Louisville.

# Kevin WILLARD Head Coach

#### **HEAD COACH KEVIN WILLARD**



#### THE WILLARD FILE

Year at Iona: Second Season
Birth Date: April 6, 1975
Age: 34
Hometown: Northport, N.Y.
Wife: Julie
Children: Colin (3), Chase (1)
High School: Bowling Green HS,
Bowling Green, Ky.
College: BA, Univ. of Pittsburgh, 1997



Mentored by college coaching legend Rick Pitino at Louisville, Willard is the latest former Pitino assistant to join the head coaching ranks; a list that includes several current NCAA head coaches. Cincinnati's Mick Cronin, Florida's Billy Donovan, Arizona State's Herb Sendek, Minnesota's Tubby Smith, and Holy Cross' Sean Kearney are among the many successful members of the Pitino coaching tree.

"There are not too many times you get say that your dreams have come true, but this has truly been a dream of mine since I've been following my father around St. Dominic's High School in Long Island as a little kid," said Willard. "This is truly an honor, not only because I'm becoming a head basketball coach but I'm becoming a head coach at a college with such great tradition and history. To follow the footsteps of Coach Valvano and Coach Welsh at such a great institution is a complete honor and a dream."

In addition to Pitino, Willard credits his father Ralph as one of his coaching influences. He will look to continue the up-tempo style, pressure defense, and strong work ethic that helped Louisville's return to national prominence during his six seasons at the University.

"The three-pointer is one of the most important aspects of the college game," said Willard. "Scoring from and defending the perimeter will be one of the keys to this 'fun' style of basketball. Fun for the players and fun for the fans."

At Louisville, Willard was responsible for assisting with Louisville's game preparations, scouting and preparing game plans to aid the Cardinals in the attack of their opposition. He also served as chief recruiting coordinator.

During his tenure, Louisville was ranked in the Top 25 for five seasons and reached the post season in each of his six years. The squad reached the NCAA Tournament on four occasions including a visit to the 2005 Final Four, the first time in 19 years that the Cardinals had advanced that deep into the post season. In his six seasons at Louisville, the Cardinals posted a phenomenal 142-58 record averaging nearly 24 wins per season.

In the historic 2004-05 campaign, Louisville finished as the No. 3 team in the nation in the final 2004-05 ESPN/USA Today poll while posting a stellar 33-5 record. The win total matched the most victories in U of L history. The Cardinals also earned their first-ever Conference USA regular season title and also claimed the league tournament championship. Louisville reached its first NCAA Sweet 16 since 1997 as the No. 4 seed in the Albuquerque Regional before advancing to its first NCAA Final Four since 1986.

When Pitino took a short medical leave in 2004, Willard guided the Cardinals to a 64-48 victory over Houston in Freedom Hall for the one game during Pitino's absence.

Prior to Louisville, Willard worked with Pitino as a coaching associate with the Boston Celtics for four years. His duties with the Celtics included game and practice preparation, scouting and assisting the coaching staff in all basketball matters. He provided advance scouting, video tape breakdowns and assisted with individual workouts prior to games.

Willard, 34, was a collegiate basketball point guard, playing his last three years at Pittsburgh. He earned BIG EAST All-Academic honors while appearing in 75 games for the Panthers.

He played his freshman season at Western Kentucky, where he played in the

### **HEAD COACH KEVIN WILLARD**

Hilltoppers' backcourt and sank over 40 percent of his three-point goals.

Willard hails from New York, but played his high school basketball at Bowling Green High School (Ky.) while his father was the head coach at Western Kentucky. He earned Second Team All-State honors as a senior and helped his team to a combined 76-15 record in his final three prep seasons.

He played in college for his father Ralph, a former head coach at Western Kentucky, Pittsburgh and Holy Cross and current Associate Head Coach at Louisville

He is married to the former Julie Wagner and they have two sons, Colin, who was born in August, 2006 and Chase born in June, 2008.



### ATHLETIC PLAYING BACKGROUND

**Bowling Green High School** Bowling Green, Ky.

Western Kentucky University Bowling Green, Ky.

**University of Pittsburgh** *Pittsburgh, PA* 

### BASKEBAUL COACHING EXPERIENCE

1997-2001

**Coaching Associate** 

Boston Celtics National Basketball Association

2001-2005
Assistant Coach
University of Louisville

2005-2007
Associate Head Coach
University of Louisville

2008-Present Head Coach Iona College

COACHING RECORD				
<u>Year</u>	School	Position	W-L	<u>Postseason</u>
2001-02	Louisville	Asst. Coach	19-13	NIT
2002-03	Louisville	Asst. Coach	25-7	NCAA
2003-04	Louisville	Asst. Coach	20-10	NCAA
2004-05	Louisville	Asst. Coach	33-5	Final Four
2005-06	Louisville	Assoc. Head Coach	21-13	NIT
2006-07	Louisville	Assoc. Head Coach	24-10	NCAA
2007-08	lona	Head Coach	12-20	
<u>2008-09</u>	lona	Head Coach	12-19	
Assistant Totals		Six years	142-58	
Head Coach Totals		Two Years	24-39	

### SHAHEEN HOLLOWAY

### **ASSISTANT COACH**

Shaheen Holloway returns for his third season under head coach Kevin Willard and will continue to serve as the squad's top recruiter. Hired on June 11, 2007, Holloway came to lona after serving the 2006-07 season as an administrative assistant at Seton Hall.

"Shaheen has continued show his great relationship with the Metropolitan area, with his ability to recruit the type of student-athlete that we're looking for at lona," said Coach Willard. "He has displayed a great passion for the game of basketball. The fact that he is not too far removed from his playing days gives him a unique ability to understand the player-coach relationship."

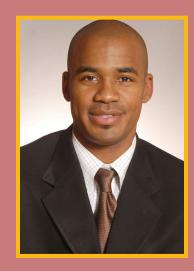
As an administrative assistant for head coach Bobby Gonzalez' Seton Hall team, Holloway was responsible for coordinating film exchange, analyzing game tapes and assisting with scouting of opponents. He supervised fall conditioning as well as the year-round weight training program. Holloway was also responsible for academic progress reports for team members as well as the organization of all aspects of team travel for the Pirates.

Holloway made his way back to his alma mater after serving as an assistant coach at the high school level at Bloomfield Tech. He was a four-year standout at Seton Hall from 1996-00 and helped lead his team to the 2000 NCAA Sweet Sixteen. A native of Queens, Holloway was a McDonald's All-American who played at St. Patrick's High School in Elizabeth, N.J.

"Shaheen gained valuable experience at the college level working for Coach Gonzalez and his staff," said Coach Willard. "Also having worked for Nick Marinello at Bloomfield Tech and the opportunity to play for Kevin Boyle at St. Patrick's has given him a great pedigree and the tools to succeed."

Holloway, the Pirates' all-time assist leader with 681, scored 1,588 points during his career, the 12th highest total in school history. He also recorded 231 steals (2nd all-time) and hit 185 three-pointers (5th all-time) in 116 games. In 2000, he was named the BIG EAST's Most Improved Player, while earning all-league status three times and All-Metropolitan accolades in each of his four seasons at Seton Hall.

After his collegiate success Holloway played professionally in England for the Chester Jets and London Towers as well as a season in Ulm, Germany and Istanbul, Turkey. Back in the U.S. he had stints with the Brooklyn Kings of the USBL and Newark, Las Vegas and Chicago in the ABA. He was invited to three preseason NBA camps with the Knicks, Nets and Golden State Warriors.



#### THE HOULOWAY FILE

Year at Iona:	Third Season
Birth Date:	October 7, 1977
Age:	32
Hometown:	Queens, N.Y.
High School:	St. Patrick's HS (N.J.)
	Elizabeth, N.J.
College: BA	, Seton Hall Univ., 2000



### DAN MCHALE ASSISTANT COACH

Dan McHale returns for his third season in New Rochelle as an assistant under head coach Kevin Willard after serving on the University of Louisville men's basketball staff as Director of Video Operations.

At Louisville, McHale was responsible for advance scouting video of Cardinal opponents as well as evaluation video for U of L players. McHale served for four seasons with head coach Rick Pitino's staff along with current long head coach Kevin Willard.

Prior to being named video coordinator, McHale was a staff assistant for the Cardinals during Pitino's first two years at U of L. His primary duties then included assisting in opponent scouting through extensive film breakdowns, game preparation, and assisting in on-campus recruiting efforts.

As an undergraduate, McHale was a student manager for four years at the University of Kentucky (1997-2001) working closely with former UK and current Minnesota head coach Tubby Smith. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration in 2001 and graduated with honors as a marketing major from Kentucky.

A native of Chatham, N.J., McHale was a high school letterman in basketball, track and cross country. He is married to the former Jackie Hering of Owensboro, KY. Their daughter, Lily, was born in February, 2009



### THE MCHAIL FILE

Year at Iona:	Third Season
Birth Date:	October 8, 1979
Age:	30
Hometown:	Chatham, N.J.
Wife:	<u>Jackie</u>
Children:	Lilly (10 mo.)
High School:	Morristown Beard HS
	Morristown, N.J.



2009-10 IONA COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

### STEPHEN SAUERS ASSISTANT COACH

Stephen Sauers returns for his second season with the Gaels in 2009-10 after joining the his staff in Aug. 2008. Sauers serves as an assistant coach and came to New Rochelle after spending two years as the Director of Basketball operations at Seton Hall.

"Stephen's coaching experience is great asset to our young program," said Coach Willard. "Having coached and recruited in the Northeast for over 15 years, he adds tremendous value to our program in all areas."

Sauers joined head coach Bobby Gonzalez' staff for the 2006-07 season at Seton Hall after a year at the Hoop Group, out of Neptune, N.J. where he woked for Rob Kenney, current MAAC-TV color analyst. He was responsible for the recruitment of high school student-athletes to all company events, and was Director of the Eastern Invitational Camps and Top 100 clinics. Sauers was also the site director for all high school and AAU tournaments.

Sauers' long background in coaching began at Marist upon his graduation from the University at Albany in 1990. He served under former Red Fox head coach and current Army women's coach Dave Magarity from 1990-2004. Sauers moved up the ladder during his tenure at Marist, starting as a Graduate Assistant Coach, a full-time Assistant by 1993, Senior Assistant Coach in 1996, and Associate Head Coach in 2001. Marist enjoyed both an NIT appearance in 1996 and a MAAC regular season championship in 2000 during his tenure in Poughkeepsie. Sauers was responsible for recruiting 15 All-MAAC performers at Marist. He was instrumental in signing the core class from the Red Foxes' 2007 regular season championship team including MAAC Player of the Year and current New Orleans Hornet Jared Jordan and All-MAAC performers Will Whittington and Ryan Stilphen

In 2004-05, Sauers was the head coach at the United States Military Academy Prep School in Fort Monmouth, NJ, leading the team to a a school best, 16-7 record.

In addition to his responsibilities at Marist, Sauers also gained international coaching experience, having coached for the Nigerian National Team as an assistant coach from 1992-96. His father, Richard "Doc" Sauers, was a legendary coach at Albany State from 1956-97, winning over 700 games.

He is a 1990 graduate of Albany, with a bachelor's degree in sociology. While a player at Albany under his father, Sauers was a two-year starter and helped his team to a four-year record of 77-34. He currently ranks No. 4 all-time on the Great Danes' assist list with 386 and still holds the single-game record for assists with 15.



### THE SAVERS FILE

Year at Iona:	Second Season
Birth Date:	March 23, 1967
Age:	42
Hometown:	Albany, NY
High School:	Guilderland H.S.
College:	BA, Albany, 1991



### CASEY **STANLEY** VIDEO COORDINATOR

Casey Stanley returns for his second season on head coach Kevin Willard's staff in 2009-10. Stanley will serve as the program's Video Coordinator.

"Casey is one of the most hardworking and dedicated young men I've been around in college coaching," said Willard on Stanley. "I'm looking forward to his continued enthusiasm and loyalty to Iona as he continues the second year of his career in college basketball."

Stanley began his career at Iona following a four-year stint as team manager. With his new responsibilities, Stanley takes on the operations of travel coordination, video scouting and exchange while also assisting the coaching staff in game day and practice preparation.

In the off season Stanley has worked several camps along the East Coast including numerous Hoop Group events. He also will be the Director of the lona College Basketball camp held each summer.

Stanley, 23, graduated in 2008 with a degree in Political Science and currently resides in Mount Vernon, NY. He is the son of long-time Iona radio play-by-play voice Gary Stanley.



### THE SAVERS FILE

Variable en	Canada Canada
Year at Iona:	<u>Second Season</u>
Birth Date:	August 30, 1986
Age:	23
Hometown:	Pleasantville, NY
High School:	Pleasantville
College:	BA, Iona College, 2008

## RYAN **WHALEN**ASST. VIDEO COORDINATOR

Ryan Whalen enters his first season with the Iona College men's basketball program and will serve as a video coordinator. Whalen comes to New Rochelle after spending last season at Towson University.

The 2008 graduate of Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, PA Whalen was an administrative assistant and video coordinator under former lona head coach Pat Kennedy at Towson in 2008-09. At Saint Joseph's, Whalen played two years of JV basketball for the Hawks before becoming a student assistant coach for Phil Martelli.

In the summer of 2007 he served an internship with the Philadelphia 76ers. He earned his degree in food marketing.

Whalen attended Shore Regional High School in West Long Branch, N.J. where he lettered in basketball (shooting guard) and football (wide receiver and defensive back). He also played AAU ball for the Jersey City Boys Club, winning five straight New Jersey state titles. Whalen hails from an athletic family. His dad served as an assistant to Bob Hurley at St. Anthony's High School which finished 2007-08 as the nation's number one ranked prep team with a perfect 32-0 record. A younger sister is currently attending East Stroudsburg where she plays field hockey. An older sister played field hockey while an undergraduate at Villanova.



#### THE SAVERS FILE

Year at Iona:	<u>First Season</u>
Birth Date:	November 27, 1985
Age:	24
Hometown:	West Long Branch, NJ
High School:	Shore Regional
College: BA,	Saint Joseph's (Pa.), 2008