

Kochan selected as new B-ball coach

BY SCOTT SELHEIMER

John Kochan, a recent assistant coach at the University of Maryland, was named head coach of the MSC basketball team last Friday at a press conference.

Kochan, 34, replaces Mike Garman who led the Marauders to a 10-15 record last season after replacing long time coach Dick Dehart last October.

In announcing Kochan's approval by the board of trustees, Men's athletic director, Gene Carpenter, stated his happiness at having him join the program.

"We feel very fortunate to have attracted a very talented young man to coach our basketball team," said Carpenter, "we're looking forward to an exciting period in our basketball program.

Kochan, who was among seven finalists for the job, expressed his enthusiasm at being selected as coach.

"I'm really looking forward to working with the players, I don't know a lot about them, but we'll get to know each other over the next few weeks."

Kochan also expressed his happiness in coming into a program that is "moving in the right direction."

"I think this is a good situation to come into," said Kochan, "Millersville is good location with good facilities and fine support from the administration. I feel this will be a good place to work."

Kochan also expressed his strong belief in recruiting. As an assistant at Maryland, he was responsible for recruiting most of the team that advanced to the NCAA tournament this year. Maryland also defeated

national champion North Carolina State twice this season.

"I feel this is a great area to recruit," said Kochan, "Lancaster County, Philadelphia, and Maryland are all nearby, and have a lot of talented players."

"My strength at Maryland was recruiting, so I think we can still get some players here, if you talk to the right people."

While Kochan expressed the importance of recruiting, he noted that the current players are the most important elements of the program. And, according to team co-captain, Bill Benner, the basketball team is excited about Kochan.

"Everyone is impressed with his enthusiasm, I think nothing but positive things will come from that," said Benner.

"I think he will bring a lot of success to the team, you can't help but be excited about the season."

Kochan, a native of Yonkers, New York, graduated from City University of New York in 1972 where he was captain of the baseball and basketball teams.

He then received his masters degree in sports psychology in 1975 from the University of Maryland, where he was a graduate assistant coach to present coach Charles "Lefty" Driesell.

From there he served as assistant coach at Mansfield State College for one year and at Davidson College for three years.

Kochan then returned as an assistant at Maryland from 1979 until this past season. In his four years, the Terrapins recorded an 82-41 record in the tough Atlantic Coast Conference.



(Photo by Dan Miller)

New men's basketball coach John Kochan accepts coaching role at press conference.