

Decision

Rice chosen as YSU coach

Dan Pecchia

YSU ended its long search for a head basketball coach Wednesday when it named Michael T. Rice to the post.

Rice was the survivor of a long process of review of over 60 applicants seeking the post left vacant by Dom Rosselli's April 1 announcement of his resignation. Rosselli will officially resign July 1.

Rice was head coach at Duquesne University 1976-82, where he was named Eastern Eight Coach of the Year twice.

He led the Dukes to a post-season appearance in the 1979-80 campaign and repeated the feat the following year.

Rice spoke to a crowd of about 30 persons at a press conference

in Kilcawley Center Wednesday.

He said YSU's move to Division I status and the Ohio Valley Conference last year was an influential factor in his applying for the position. "Division I basketball is much like a business and we want to succeed in it," Rice said. "The conference that we're now in is much more difficult than 90 per cent of the people in the United States realize.

"YSU's a young school in Division I and the challenge is tremendous as far as recruitment, staying afloat academically and competing with West Virginia and maybe Ohio State for top ball players."

Rice said the keys to YSU becoming a "power" are recruiting and scheduling.

The former Duquesne mentor established a reputation as a top recruiter during his years with the Dukes. He was once quoted as

saying, "Recruiting is the name of the game."

"I think YSU has tremendous potential because it's in an area of outstanding athletes," he declared. "If we can get them to stay in Youngstown, we have an excellent opportunity of winning."

Rice says he would like to establish a summer basketball clinic for area high school players to aid the Penguins' recruiting efforts.

"You have to have ability to recruit in this area to do well," he pointed out. "That's going to be our major goal. We're starting a basketball camp at Youngstown so that will help us with the young players.

"I'm sure we'll be able to get some free clinics for area elementary and junior players so that we can get to know the coaches and promote some good will among high school coaches."



Mike Rice addressed reporters at a press conference Wednesday morning. Rice was selected as the new YSU head basketball coach from a list of over 60 applicants. (Photo by Clem Marion)