Former Bobcat Amarri Monroe files lawsuit against NCAA

By EMILY MARQUIS
Associate Sports Editor

Former Quinnipiac men's basketball forward Amarri Monroe has filed a lawsuit against the NCAA in an attempt to gain an additional season of eligibility, as first reported by Mike Walters on Syracuse.com.

According to the lawsuit filed on Monroe's behalf to the Onondaga County Supreme Court by Steven Eychner, an attorney at Newman & Lickstein, Monroe is filing a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction against the NCAA, allowing him to compete in the 2026-27 season without penalty.

"Monroe accordingly seeks declaratory and injunctive relief restraining the NCAA from enforcing its old eligibility rules and its transition provisions to prohibit him from competing during the 2026-27 academic year, from interfering with Syracuse's decision to permit him to practice and compete, and from imposing or threatening sanctions or other adverse consequences against Syracuse or others for complying with an Order of this Court," according to the filing.

Monroe, who announced his transfer to Syracuse University Aug. 4 following the preliminary injunction granted in Wisne v. NCAA, was one of many student athletes deemed ineligible after the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals granted the NCAA a stay to the preliminary injunction Aug. 21.

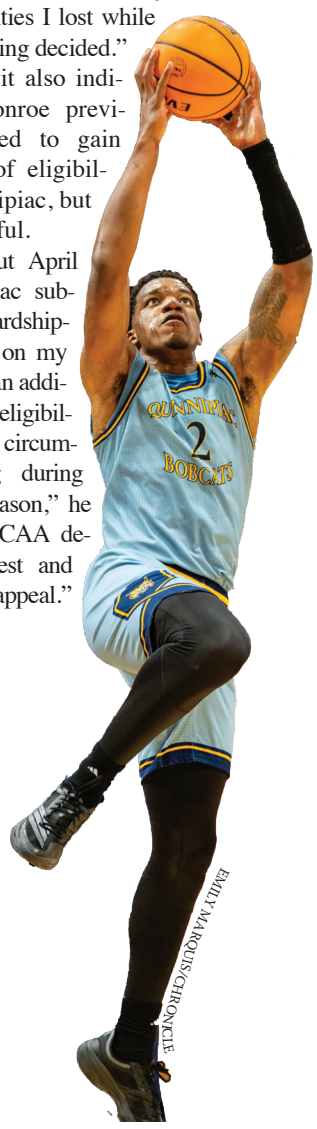
For student athletes in the enrollment class of 2022, including Monroe, the decision prevents them from receiving another season of NCAA eligibility, despite the enrolled classes of 2024, 2025 and 2026 receiving additional eligibility through "transition provisions" ahead of the NCAA's new five-year eligibility rules for all enrollment classes following 2026.

According to the filing, Monroe has already moved into Syracuse student housing and enrolled in Syracuse's College of Professional Studies in line with the beginning of the fall 2026 semester.

"Every day that passes matters," Monroe wrote in the affidavit. "Each day that passes that I am away from the team makes it more difficult for me to integrate into the teams once I am able. If I ultimately prevail in this action after weeks or months have passed, a later decision cannot recreate the practices, preparation, training, development, time with my teammates, or other opportunities I lost while the case was being decided."

The affidavit also indicates that Monroe previously attempted to gain another year of eligibility with Quinnipiac, but was unsuccessful.

"In or about April 2026, Quinnipiac submitted a hardship-waiver request on my behalf seeking an additional season of eligibility based upon circumstances arising during my 2022-23 season," he wrote. "The NCAA denied that request and the subsequent appeal."



EMILY MARQUIS/CHRONICLE

Women's cross country setting its sights high ahead of 2026 campaign

By COOPER WOODWARD
Sports Editor

In today's era of college athletics, it's nearly impossible to build a dynasty. Not only do athletes in mid-major schools often leave for greener pastures at more prestigious programs across the nation, but fresh batches of elite talent also emerge every year from the high school level to challenge the status quo.

Despite this, there are a few exceptions. One of those exceptions is the four-time defending Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference champions in Quinnipiac women's cross country, who are gearing up to defend their title for the fifth straight year; a feat accomplished only by the Iona Gaels, who won nine straight championships from 2005 to 2014.

"We're super excited," sophomore Ashley Carillo said. "There's a lot of gratitude heading into this year."

On Sept. 5, the journey to their fifth straight and sixth-ever Metro title begins in Stony Brook, New York, with the Stony Brook Season Opener. Let's take a look at this year's Bobcat roster:

RETURNERS AND NEW FACES

The Bobcats return 10 members of their 2025 roster for this year's campaign. Headlining that class are two MAAC All-Conference selections, senior Zoe Merryman and junior Madeleine O'Neil.

Merryman came to the Bobcats last season as a transfer from St. Thomas Aquinas College and made her presence felt, finishing with a 6k time of 21:23.3 in the MAAC Championship meet, a performance that earned her All-Conference honors, and placing 75th overall at the NCAA Northeast Region Cross Country Championships, with a time of 21:16.5.

Even though she didn't start her collegiate career in Bobcat gold, Merryman couldn't be more excited to end it representing Quinnipiac.

"I really just want to focus on being with my team this year," Merryman said. "I want them to come to me as much as I come to them."

O'Neil was even better in her sophomore campaign, earning a top-10 finish in the MAAC Championship, All-Conference honors and leading the Bobcats in the NCAA Regionals with a 21:05.6.

Even though last year was a year of growth for O'Neil, she's remaining steadfast in her desire to give everything she has to her teammates.

"I want to give my best to help this team improve," she said.

In addition to Merryman, O'Neil and the eight other returners, five freshmen will join the roster for the 2026 campaign. The top name of that incoming class? Freshman from Brewerton, New York, Kadence Williams.

To say Williams had a stellar high school career at Paul V. Moore High School would be an understatement. She captured 10 individual sectional event championships, was a New York State medalist in the 800m, recorded a personal best 5k time of 19:14 and helped her team reach a League Championship in cross country and a Sectional Championship in indoor track.

If there's anyone who sees a resume of greatness and is willing and able to contribute to it, it's Williams.

"It's very nice to line up with the girls and realize that they want this just as much as I do," she said. "They take it seriously, but they also like (to) have fun."

DEPARTURES

Although the Bobcats will return a trio of their top performers from their playoff run, Quinnipiac said goodbye to a pair of seniors last year in Rachel St. Germain '26 and Sierra Gray '26. The duo anchored the latest championship run, as they both placed in the top five in half of the regular season meets in 2025.

Head coach Carolyn Martin knows the impact they had on last year's team, but is confident that the skill and talent disparity is smaller than most people think.

"Losing (Gray and St. Germain) is pretty hard," Martin said. "But (Merryman), (O'Neil), and (junior Alexis Saccone) are all starting to close that gap."

The final step in matching or exceeding that talent gap? Belief. Belief in themselves, belief in each other, and belief that they can make noise not only at the conference level, but at the national level.

"We know we can win the conference, the evidence is right there," Martin said. "Now it's about seeing how high can we get up in the region and not thinking we're just little Quinnipiac."

Although the Bobcats have set high goals for themselves this year, their mentality is simple: have fun.

"We just want to enjoy the process and see where this goes," O'Neil said.

Quinnipiac's season kicks off Sept. 7 at the Stony Brook Season Opener, with the meet starting at 10:30 a.m.

Familiar faces power championship hopes for women's soccer

By EMILY MARQUIS
Associate Sports Editor

How do you rebuild a title contender?

After three straight seasons with conference championship appearances, a grueling home loss in penalty kicks during the semifinals to the Canisius Golden Griffins halted that streak and forced Quinnipiac women's soccer to consider that question.

To the Bobcats, who were selected to finish third in the Metro Preseason Poll, the pieces needed to rebuild are already in-house. What it will take is continuing the championship culture established in Hamden and using that year of experience — and its tough end — to fuel their desire to get back to championship glory.

It's a message that starts at the top, with Quinnipiac's elder statesman: graduate student forward Morgan Cupo.

The First Team All-MAAC and All-ECAC forward has seen the type of leadership it takes to win a championship through her five years with the Bobcats. A two-time champion, Cupo witnessed some of the brightest moments this program had to offer. However, her motivation and leadership derive from what was missing — a chance at the MAAC title in her senior campaign.

"The message really is just like always being better," Cupo said. "Get one percent better every day. That's been our big thing in just being relentless and wanting to always just put in the extra work, do the extra film, do the extra workouts. Everything is going to help us, and it's all gonna lead to November where we want to be."

Along with returning their top scorer in the form of Cupo, the Bobcats are further aided by overall continuity on the team. Despite losing vocal leaders and starters such as All-MAAC First Team defender Madison Alves '26, defender/midfielder Molly Andrews '26 and defender Milena Branco '26, Quinnipiac is boasting a lineup extremely similar to last season's.

What has been different, though, is the personnel. With players like sophomore defender Audrey Lefebvre scoring her first collegiate goal in a 1-0 victory over Yale Aug. 23, old faces in new places help keep the continuity of the culture while giving the Bobcats' lineup added depth.

"We have like 10 players who have gotten good experience, have gone into games," Cupo said. "They have a whole year under their belt, so it's really going to help us in that sense of just having players at different roles … and also just like having a really good depth on our bench."

However, certain stalwarts remain from last year's roster. All-MAAC Third Team junior goalkeeper Oliva Jarvis returns for her third season in Hamden, backstopping the Bobcats to a clean sheet in just her third appearance this season.

Senior defender Bianca D'Onofrio is also stepping into a leadership role, anchoring a new-look back line for the Bobcats. Even in Alves and Andrews' absence, the senior is spearheading a defense that was near the top of the conference in fewest goals allowed last season, allowing just 18 goals in 12 conference contests in 2025.

"Bianca has also been great because we do have new people on the back line," said sophomore defender/midfielder Corey Anderson. "So we are trying to communicate, talk things out."

Even though this is the smallest freshman class in head coach Dave Clarke's 27 years at the helm of the Bobcats — with just freshman midfielders Tatum O'Brien and Beatrice Plouffe rounding out the newest class — it doesn't mean that there isn't room to grow for the Bobcats.

With new faces like sophomore forward Skye Cuscuna, a transfer from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, earning her first point as a member of the Bobcats during a 2-2 draw in the season opener against Holy Cross Aug. 12 as well as returning players like sophomore defender Marina Mahon and senior midfielder/defender Anna Bean taking on significant starting roles for the first time in their Quinnipiac career, the Bobcats are far from treading out a tired lineup.

To Clarke, these changes mean the team as a whole still has room to grow together as both a unit and on the individual level.

"On paper we're still very young," Clarke said Aug. 23. "Hopefully they'll learn as they go."

Clarke called the team a work in progress. But the Bobcats are ready to work toward the end goal of returning to the Metro Championship through hard work and a positive mindset — starting with the first thing the home side sees every time they step onto the field: a simple whiteboard.

"We all write things on the board before every practice," Anderson said. "It's more of like a mindset thing. We write positive things, what we're going to do better, what we're going to learn from, things like that, and it sets the tone for our practice."

To Anderson, it's that positivity combined with the team's hard-working, disciplined mentality that will bring the Bobcats where they aim to be.

"I could see like all the work people put in over the summer and how eager they are to get back into season and get playing again," she said.

Quinnipiac looks to take a two game winning streak into Metro play. Sep. 5. Kick-off against the Niagara Purple Eagles is at 12 p.m.