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Paula Miller reflects on her success at the helm of women's tennis

By NOAH KIM
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Quinnipiac Athletics has been fortunate to have many successful, long-tenured coaches across all of its programs. One coach with the pedigree to be at the forefront of this conversation is Paula Miller, head coach of women's tennis.

Miller has coached women's tennis at Quinnipiac since the 2014-15 season after 17 seasons on the coaching staff under then head coach Mike Quitko, who tallied 526 career wins and 18 conference championships over his 23-year career. Miller has since recorded 150 wins over an 11-year career, along with nine MAAC conference championships and an in-conference record of 73-2, a 97% win rate against conference opponents.

"I never really thought I'd be a head coach," Miller said. "But I didn't want anything to change on how he built the programs."

Miller and Quitko's careers have been forever intertwined, with Miller being Quitko's first recruit in his tenure with the Bobcats in 1992, the program then competing at the Division II level.

"I knew him from high school," Miller said. "He was one of the big influences on why I came here."

Over Miller's four-year playing career, she won 83 matches and the team won three Northeast-10 Conference championships. In 2010, she and the 1993 women's team were inducted into the Quinnipiac Athletics Hall of Fame.

"I never wanted to coach," Miller said. "But (Quitko) was like a dad to me, and when I graduated, he's like, 'you want to be an assistant?'"

After her time as a player, Quitko brought Miller on as an assistant coach in 1997, just as Quinnipiac made the transition to Division I. During her time as an assistant, the Bobcats won six NEC conference titles and thus made their first six appearances in the NCAA tournament. For Quitko, he became the first Quinnipiac Athletics head coach to eclipse 500 career wins.

"I always thought I'd just kind of be in (Quitko's) background," Miller said. "He's the one that really built the programs, and I kind of learned from him."

What followed was Quinnipiac going undefeated in six of its first seven seasons under Miller, now a member of the MAAC. The streak was broken by a lack of conference play for the 2020 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In total, a pair of matches against the Fairfield Stags, one in 2022 and another in 2024, mark Miller's only two regular-season MAAC losses over her tenure as head coach. The Bobcats have yet to miss the conference championship match in each of Miller's 11 seasons at the helm. After the 2026 season, Miller claimed MAAC Coach of the Year honors for the ninth time.

When considering the team's long-term success, Miller pointed to recruiting as one of her strong suits.

"I think being an alum here and selling the campus of how much I loved it as a player, kind of shows the longevity of me being here," Miller said. "I think it shows a lot of parents that, 'okay, this coach will be here all four years.'"

Over her tenure, Miller has been able to bring in a number of remarkable players, five of them winning MAAC Most Outstanding Player. Jacqueline Raynor '15, Sydney Young '17, Jennifer Lu '19 and junior Willow Renton all won the award twice, while Alessia Truden '23 won once.

"I really do get to know my players when I recruit them," Miller said. "I try to get fits that fit Quinnipiac and myself."

Another strong point for the Bobcats that Miller pointed out was a sort of chemistry, one that connected players together long after their time on the court.

"It's just like it was one big family," Miller said. "I still have text messages with Sarah (Viebrock '13) and Rachel (Horton '18)."

With its dominance in conference play, Quinnipiac has earned nine bids to the NCAA tournament, but has been unable to secure a victory.

"It's kind of impossible," Miller said. "A lot of these programs are fully funded, and unfortunately money talks. We're not even half fully funded."

In particular, in the past two years, the Bobcats have been matched with the Texas A&M Aggies, who in 2025 finished runner-up to the Georgia Bulldogs and last season won the national title outright.

"It's going to be hard to compete nationally without having that scholarship money to even get the kids," said Miller.

Regardless of results, Quinnipiac's nine national tournament appearances still are the most of any Metro program, and it is simply another mark on Miller's impressive resume.

As the fall season wraps up, her and her team's eyes will be set on the 2027 spring season, as they pursue a third straight undefeated season and a ninth conference championship. Along with it, a chance to continue to grow the Quinnipiac tennis brand on a national scale, and hopefully one day Miller can add NCAA championship to her already fantastic career.



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Quinnipiac head coach Paula Miller huddles up with her team before a meet versus Niagara, April 23.

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WOMEN'S TENNIS HEAD COACH