New Loyola coach's goal is to challenge Butler
Moser taking over program he labels 'sleeping giant' because of facilities and academic prestige
By Shannon Ryan
April 6, 2011

Since being hired as Loyola's men's basketball coach, Porter Moser has been hearing about another Horizon League team.

"In the last 24 hours, 10 people said we're going to Butler next year," Moser said at his introductory news conference. "I like expectations."

Moser, a Naperville native who attended Benet Academy in Lisle, acknowledges it will take time to build Loyola into a contender like Horizon League power Butler, but he said the job was a "no-brainer."

New athletic director Grace Calhoun praised Moser's Chicago-area ties and ability to recruit in the area as well as his Jesuit background.

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Moser served the last four seasons on St. Louis' staff under head coach Rick Majerus and he played at Creighton from 1986-90.

He has served seven seasons as a head coach, going 105-101. At Arkansas-Little Rock (2000-03), he inherited a 4-24 team and turned it into an 18-11 squad the next season. He then took the helm at Illinois State, where he was fired in 2007 as the school went through multiple athletic director changes in his tenure.

"Everybody's going to get knocked down," he said. "I'm very fortunate to get back up. I feel terrific and blessed."

Porter has a solid reputation as a recruiter in Chicago.

He brought in Osiris Eldridge, from Phillips High, to Illinois State and two players on St. Louis' roster are from the area.

Porter, whom Calhoun lauded for his enthusiasm, called Loyola a "sleeping giant" with its new athletic facilities and education value.

"It's something the student-athletes in this area are going to look at and (say), 'Loyola's a great option,'" he said. "It's about building relationships."

Moser received a five-year contract at Loyola. The financial terms were not released.

Calhoun said she interviewed 10 candidates by phone and four in person.
Moser was hired to replace Jim Whitesell, who was fired last month after serving seven seasons and going 109-107.