

= Mitch Henderson =

Mitchell G. " Mitch " Henderson (born August 14 , 1975) is an American college basketball coach , currently serving as head coach for the Princeton Tigers men 's basketball team . Before taking the Princeton job in 2011 , he served as an assistant for the Northwestern Wildcats men 's basketball team for eleven seasons under Bill Carmody . He had been a member of three consecutive Ivy League champion Princeton teams as a player (two of which went undefeated in conference , the first tying the school record with 19 consecutive wins and the second achieving 20) . He was a co-captain of the second of these undefeated league champions along with Steve Goodrich .

= = Early life = =

Henderson was a twelve letter varsity letter winner at Culver Military Academy in football , basketball and baseball . He had been drafted by the New York Yankees with the 24th pick of the 29th round , 815th overall in the 1994 Major League Baseball draft . In baseball , he was a pitcher . He was named the 1994 South Bend Tribune high school Male Athlete of the Year . He did not sign with the Yankees and retained his amateur status although he chose to pursue basketball rather than baseball in college .

As a basketball player , he was a four year starter at Princeton University , where he was captain of the Ivy League champion 1997 ? 98 Princeton Tigers men 's basketball team as well as a member of the 1995 ? 96 and 1996 ? 97 conference champions . The latter two teams were undefeated in conference play . These two undefeated Ivy League seasons were coached by Carmody . The 1995 ? 96 team was notable for its upset of the defending national champion UCLA Bruins in the 1996 NCAA Tournament .

The 1996 ? 97 team finished the regular season on a school record 19 game winning streak . In the 1997 NCAA Men 's Division I Basketball Tournament , against the fifth seeded California Golden Bears , the team lost 55 ? 52 . Henderson had tied the score at 50 with 1 : 37 to play . Henderson was a 1997 honorable mention All Ivy League selection .

The 1997 ? 98 team posted a 27 ? 2 overall record , reached the top 10 in the national polls , and achieved a 14 ? 0 conference record . The Tigers entered the 1998 NCAA Men 's Division I Basketball Tournament on a 19 game winning streak and finished the season ranked eighth in the final USA Today / NABC Coaches Poll . He was a 1998 2nd team All Ivy League selection . In the 1998 tournament opening game for the fifth seeded Tigers , he scored 19 points to help them defeat the UNLV Runnin ' Rebels 69 ? 57 , which marked the team 's 20th consecutive win ? a school record .

He was briefly a member of the Atlanta Hawks of the National Basketball Association during the 1998 ? 99 NBA season , but he did not appear in any regular season games . He also played professional basketball in Sligo , Ireland , from August 1998 to January 1999 .

= = Coaching career = =

Henderson served as an assistant to his former coach Carmody during Carmody 's first eleven seasons as the coach at Northwestern University . Carmody used Henderson , who commonly scrimmaged with the players , as part of a joke for a Sports Illustrated : " I don 't mind that Mitch is cagier and smarter than all those guys on the court . The thing that bothers me is that he 's faster than all of them . " During Henderson 's final three seasons at Northwestern , the team qualified for the National Invitation Tournament .

Henderson was selected to replace outgoing Princeton head coach Sydney Johnson . He inherited a 2010 ? 11 team that narrowly lost to Kentucky in its opening game of the 2011 NCAA Men 's Division I Basketball Tournament . The team returned its 2nd leading scorer and rebounder , Ian Hummer , who as a sophomore was a 2nd team All Ivy selection .

With a new head coach who is a first time head coach , the 2011 ? 12 Tigers got off to a slow start with a 1 ? 5 record , but won 18 of its final 24 games and started its conference schedule with a

2 ? 3 record , but won 8 of its final 9 games . Eventually , Princeton earned its first home win against a ranked opponent since the 1976 ? 77 team 's January 3 , 1977 victory over Notre Dame by defeating Harvard (No. 21 Coaches / 25 AP) on February 11 , 2012 . The win was also its first against a ranked opponent on any court since November 11 , 1997 , which is when the 1997 ? 98 team opened its season with a victory over a ranked Texas team at Meadowlands Arena (now named Izod Center) in East Rutherford , New Jersey . Princeton also defeated eventual 2012 ACC Men 's Basketball Tournament Champion Florida State five weeks after Harvard did . The team qualified for the 2012 CBI Tournament and earned a first round 95 ? 86 victory over Evansville . In the subsequent game against Pittsburgh , Princeton lost 82 ? 61 to end the season .

The 2012 ? 13 Tigers finished with a 17 ? 11 (10 ? 4) record and did not qualify for the post season . Princeton had entered the final weekend of the season with three games remaining and a half game lead over Harvard . The team got swept in its two weekend games while Harvard won both its games to clinch the 2012 ? 13 Ivy League title .

The 2013 ? 14 team lost in the second round of the 2nd Round CBI to finish with a 21 ? 9 (8 ? 6) record .

= = = Head coaching record = = =

= = Personal = =

Henderson earned his A.B. from Princeton in 1998 in economics and worked as a research associate for Lendx Corporation in San Francisco before beginning his coaching career . He was senior @-@ year roommates with James Mastaglio , who was a 1998 honorable mention All @-@ Ivy League selection .