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## Beilein looks at staffing options

New U-M coach has reputation for hiring the right assistants

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**BY NATHAN FENNO**  
News Sports Reporter

John Beilein is a busy man.

Barely three days into his tenure as the University of Michigan men's basketball coach, there are radio appearances and meetings with recruits and the first practices with his team and an endless series of people to meet and hands to shake.

There is also a less-public challenge: Assembling a staff.

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Since Tommy Amaker was fired March 17, a skeleton crew, including former administrative assistant Chuck Swenson, has handled day-to-day duties in the basketball office.

Beilein conducted the first two practices by himself.

"I'm still looking at all the options," Beilein said. "I came up here to look at the situation. My staff is back still on the payroll at West Virginia, hanging back until I decide what's appropriate and what the needs are from a standpoint of teaching, recruiting, director of basketball, all those different things."

That West Virginia staff - including assistant coaches Matt Brown, Jerry Dunn, Mike Maker - are in limbo after Beilein's departure and Thursday's hiring of Bob Huggins to replace him.

Brown and Dunn have been on Beilein's staff for at least the last four years. That's one of the hallmarks of Beilein's staffs - they stay together. Coaches who have worked with Beilein say hiring the right assistants is one of his strengths.

Several former Beilein assistants - including Eastern Kentucky's Jeff Neubauer, Providence's Phil Seymore and Penn State-Behrend's Dave Niland - are now head coaches.

"He makes very good decisions in terms of hiring his own people," said Seymore,

who coaches Providence's women's team. "It's something he takes a lot of thought into. Everybody sticks around for a while, too."

One of the most-watched parts of Beilein's assistant search will be what - if any - Michigan ties the hires have. After Michigan athletic director Bill Martin fired Amaker, he said he wanted a staff that included ties to Midwest high school and AAU coaches, particularly in Michigan. It's similar to when he hired Amaker, who brought in Swenson as an assistant with Big Ten experience.

Dunn spent 20 years at Penn State, including eight as head coach.

Brown has been with Beilein for the last 10 years, including all of his stint at Richmond. Neither Brown nor Maker, mentioned as a possible Beilein replacement before Huggins was hired, have any obvious Midwest connections.

Two assistants who do are Oronde Taliaferro from Arkansas and Mike Jackson, the ex-Michigan assistant who accepted a job at Illinois State last week. Taliaferro played at Wayne State, coached high school basketball in Detroit and has spent the last five years at Arkansas before Stan Heath was fired last month. Jackson played at the University of Detroit and coached Michigan's guards the last two years.

Beilein's oldest son, Patrick, who played for his father at West Virginia from 2003-06, could join the staff in an administrative role.

"I'm looking into it," Patrick Beilein said. "I'm also looking into playing for a couple more years. So, we'll see. It's one of those things my dad and I will have to work out."

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