

Dan Hurley turns down Lakers head coaching job to stay at UConn

In a decision that has reverberated throughout the basketball community, Dan Hurley has chosen to remain at UConn, turning down a reported lucrative offer from the Los Angeles Lakers to become their next head coach.

"I am humbled by this entire experience," Hurley said. "At the end of the day, I am extremely proud of the championship culture we have built at Connecticut. We met as a team before today's workout and our focus right now is getting better this summer and connecting as a team as we continue to pursue championships."

The offer, reportedly worth \$70 million over six years, was apparently not enough to entice Hurley away from UConn, where he now seeks a three-peat — hoping to become the first head coach to do so since UCLA's John Wooden, who won an unprecedented seven straight titles between 1967 and 1973.

For Hurley, the allure of the NBA was undeniable. The Lakers presented a compelling vision and a chance to lead one of basketball's most storied franchises.

However, the bond Hurley has forged with UConn, a program he has elevated to unprecedented heights, proved stronger. His decision to stay reflects a deep-seated commitment to his players, his staff and the legacy he continues to build in college basketball.

At UConn, Hurley has crafted a dynasty, securing back-to-back national championships and a record-breaking 12 consecutive double-digit tournament victories.

His leadership has transformed the Huskies into a lasting powerhouse, blending tactical brilliance with an unwavering focus on player development. This dedication has not only brought success on the court but has also instilled a culture of excellence and resilience within the program.

In choosing to stay at UConn, Hurley reaffirmed his belief in the values that have guided his career. The relationships he has nurtured, the young talents he has developed, and the community he has inspired all played a crucial role in his decision. This choice underscores the importance of legacy and loyalty in a world often driven by ambition and opportunity.

Hurley's journey from high school coaching to leading UConn to national prominence is a testament to his relentless pursuit of excellence.

His background, deeply rooted in a family of coaches — his father, Bob Hurley Sr., a Naismith Hall of Fame coach, and his brother Bobby, head coach at Arizona State — has been instrumental in shaping his career.

Staying at UConn is not just about continuing a job; it's about honoring a legacy and pushing the boundaries of what the program can achieve.