Dan Leibovitz learned a number of valuable lessons from his mentor, John Chaney, the legendary Temple University basketball head coach.

“John Chaney taught me that you always have to aspire to something greater,” Leibovitz says. “You have to think big and schedule big to become big.”

The former Temple Owls assistant coach replaces Larry Harrison, who resigned as head coach of Hartford’s men’s basketball team in mid-March. This is his first head coaching job.

Leibovitz joined the Temple coaching staff prior to the 1996–97 season, eventually becoming Chaney’s right-hand man and top recruiter. He helped guide the team to 10 straight postseason appearances, five NCAA tournaments, two Elite Eight appearances, four Atlantic Conference regular-season championships, and two conference championships.

“He is a person of great character and substance,” says President Walter Harrison of Leibovitz. “I have full confidence that we will experience success under his leadership.”

With a young team and young coaching staff, Leibovitz acknowledged that there will be challenges along the way but predicts that the Hawks will come out strong this year and build from there.

“We’ll be competitive throughout the season and get to the tournament and make something happen,” says the new coach. “Our goal from day one will be to get to the NCAA Tournament. We’re not building for a year, we’re building for the long term.”

Leibovitz has named John Gallagher as associate coach and Chris Gerlufsen and Elliott Broadnax as assistant coaches. Gallagher and Broadnax come to the Hawks from Lafayette College in Easton, Pa. Gerlufsen was formerly an assistant coach at The Citadel in Charleston, S.C.

Leibovitz, who completed his master’s degree in sports management and leisure studies at Temple in 1998, is a 1996 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. A product of Bryn Mawr, Pa., he was a three-year varsity letterman in basketball at Episcopal Academy under Philadelphia coaching great Dan Dougherty.

On June 30, Leibovitz and his wife, Nancy, welcomed their first child, Kaiya Daisy.
When the University of Hartford hired Bill Poutre in December 2005 as head men’s golf coach, he set a goal of making the Hawks one of the top three teams in New England by the end of the 2006–07 season.

A bit ambitious? In fact, with a year to go on that original plan, Poutre’s team seems way ahead of schedule. They captured the 2006 America East Men’s Golf Championship in May, besting Binghamton University and Boston University.

“The University of Hartford has an amazing tradition in golf,” Poutre says. “But the team we had here didn’t know how to win. By winning the America East trophy and having individual medalists, we became a team, and we learned how to win as a team.”

At 32-3, the Hawks had the second-best 2005–06 record in New England. The team also posted a record of 35-6-1 in NCAA Division I play, which was the second-best winning percentage in the district.

“We were truly dominant in New England,” Poutre says. “This was the most competitive schedule this school has ever seen. It will be significantly tougher next year.”

The America East win was the 11th conference title for the Hawks and their fourth in six years. Poutre was named America East Coach of the Year.

Throughout her career at the University of Hartford, golfer Jo-Anna Krupa ’06 earned a reputation as a fierce competitor on the course.

But when Krupa plays a round of golf, she’s not just looking to improve her game or best an opponent. She says she’s often imagining how she would shape the terrain for maximum beauty, how she would use natural contours and elements to create a challenging environment for golfers.

This fall, Krupa will be combining her love of golf and her bachelor’s in architectural engineering technology from the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture to earn a master’s degree in golf course architecture at the Edinburgh College of Art in Scotland, the country known as the birthplace of golf. The 18-month program begins in late September.

“I was lucky to be accepted and to be able to attend the college,” Krupa says. “I visited in January and absolutely fell in love with Edinburgh. I knew I wanted to go there.”

While in Edinburgh, Krupa will study with famed American golf architect Paul Albanese, a partner in the firm Albanese & Lutzke of Plymouth, Mich. Krupa and her classmates will also research and play some of the best courses in the United Kingdom.

Krupa credits Terri-Ann Hahn, adjunct professor of architecture, for her success.

“I pretty much owe everything to this woman,” Krupa says. “She’s the reason I’m going to Edinburgh College of Art.”

After obtaining her master’s degree, Krupa hopes to work for a prestigious golf course architectural firm and eventually open her own business.