“Forty years is a long time to be at the same institution in the same job,” says Parker. “I think I’m a little long in the tooth. I haven’t lost a step, but I don’t want to lose a step.”

He says that he probably would have retired at the end of the 2011–2012 season, but stayed on after two of his players were arrested on sexual assault charges in separate incidents. “I wanted to see the team through the task force” appointed by Brown to investigate the team’s culture, he says. Last fall, the task force report faulted what it called a culture of sexual entitlement among players and lax oversight.

The court case against one accused player was dropped, while the second pleaded guilty to reduced charges.

Parker’s career wins total 897, but his legacy is greater than the tally of his triumphs. It includes seeding the ranks of professional and college hockey with about 40 coaches, assistant coaches, and officials who once skated for him as Terriers.

David Quinn (CAS’89), one of the most highly regarded of Parker’s coaching progeny, takes over as the University’s head coach next season. Quinn has been a coach at BU, Northeastern, and the University of Nebraska Omaha, and has coached the US National Under-17 team, the American Hockey League’s Lake Erie Monsters, and the NHL’s Colorado Avalanche.

Quinn, who was one of Parker’s assistant coaches during the 2008–2009 season, which culminated in a national title for the team, says he realized during that apprenticeship how much his coaching philosophy relied on Parker’s, particularly his demand for accountability from his players.

Many who played for Parker echo that sentiment, saying he branded their lives and careers with lessons learned on the bench and on the ice. One of those lessons—surprising from a coach who wasn’t shy about combating referees he disagreed with—was, don’t be seduced by your own wins record.

Kenny Rausch (SMG’95), manager of youth ice hockey for USA Hockey, the sport’s national governing body, borrowed two of Parker’s patented phrases when he coached boys’ hockey camps and US teams at the Junior World Cup: “Those who play well will be rewarded with further play” and “This is a simple game complicated by many.” Such phrases were among the tools Parker used to gain “complete control of the bench when he coached, and I try to do the same,” says Rausch. “Other than my father, he is the man who has had the greatest influence on my life. He gave me a chance as a walk-on and also gave me my first coaching job. I would not be in the position I am today without him.” RB