Looking Back at 40 Seasons

1979 Ivy League Championship, 3 Postseason Appearances Highlight 40 Years of History

In 1972-73, women’s basketball appeared on the Yale scene as a club sport and became a varsity sport the following year under the leadership of Yale’s first head coach, Chris Simmons. The Bulldogs made an impressive Ivy debut, finishing second in the League in 1974-75 thanks to the guidance of head coach Mike Baskauskas ’74, who was a two-time captain of Yale’s men’s basketball team.

In 1976, Louise O’Neal was hired as the first full-time women’s basketball coach, and she led the program into the national spotlight. In her first season at the helm, O’Neal coached the Bulldogs to the Connecticut Small College Tournament championship. She followed that with two consecutive appearances in the AIAW Eastern Regionals, leading the Bulldogs to a third-place finish in 1978 after winning three of their four games. At the time, the AIAW Tournament was the equivalent of today’s NCAA Tournament. In her final season as Yale’s head coach, O’Neal guided the Bulldogs to their first Ivy League championship in 1979 following victories over Cornell, Harvard and Princeton in the Ivy League Tournament held at Yale.

In 1979-80, new head coach Maggie Maldonado led Yale to its best season ever at 17-9. In 1984-85, Diann Nestel took over the reins of the program and beginning in her second season posted four consecutive non-losing seasons. Her 1988-89 squad won 15 games and finished second in the Ivy League.

A number of talented individuals have donned the Yale blue uniforms since 1973-74. In 1978, Barb Liebowitz ’78 became the first Yale woman to score over 1,000 points in her career. Lisa Beunmel ’81 was a three-time first-team All-Ivy selection and broke Liebowitz’s scoring record. Mary Hutchison ’83 was a two-time All-Ivy first-team pick, amassing over 800 rebounds during her playing career.

Sue Johnson ’86 broke nine different records during her senior year and set Yale’s all-time scoring record with 1,560 career points. An Academic All-American, she won the prestigious Francis Gordon Brown Prize, awarded each year to the Yale junior who best combines athletics and scholarship. Johnson was also one of four Division I players to receive an NCAA Post-Graduate scholarship.

In 1989, Randi Meberg became the second-leading scorer in Yale’s history with 1,496 career points. Then, 1990-91 Yale captain Tonya Lawrence surpassed Meberg, scoring 1,514 points and becoming the second-highest point producer in Yale women’s basketball history. Lawrence remains Yale’s only Ivy League Player of the Year, winning the award in 1988-89.

Mary Kalich arrived on the scene in 1991 and immediately began rewriting the record books. She poured in 424 points that year to become the highest scoring freshman in Yale’s history, a feat which helped her earn Ivy League Co-Rookie of the Year honors. She reached the 1,000-point plateau in her junior year, and upon graduation in 1995, became Yale’s all-time scoring leader with 1,663 career points. Her career scoring average of 16.0 points per game is the best in the program’s history.

In 2005, Chris Gobrecht was hired as the ninth head coach of Women’s Basketball. She came to Yale with a reputation for turning programs around. During her first seven seasons, Gobrecht has restored Yale’s status as one of the premier women’s basketball programs in the Ivy League.

Erica Davis finished her career in 2007 as the program’s all-time leader with 182 blocks. She is also ranked seventh in rebounding (670) and eighth in scoring (1,262). Davis was an All-Ivy selection three times. Melissa Colborne was named the Ivy League’s Rookie of the Year in 2006-07 and earned All-Ivy First Team laurels in 2007-08. She surpassed the 1,000-point plateau as a junior and finished her Yale career with 1,418 career points.

With Gobrecht at the helm, Yale’s resurgence as a contender for the Ivy League championship has continued to intensify over the last two seasons. Gobrecht coached the Bulldogs to a 16-12 mark in 2011-12 and 14-15 record in 2010-11, the team’s best two-year record in 18 years, when the Bulldogs finished 15-11 in 1992-93 and 16-10 in 1993-94. Under Gobrecht’s leadership, Yale also recorded the most Ivy League wins in a two-year span (18, 10-4 in 2010-11, 8-6 in 2011-12) in the program’s history.

Gobrecht coached the Bulldogs to a stunning reversal in the 2010-11 season. Following a 4-10 start, Yale recorded a 10-4 mark in Ivy League play to finish in second place and earn the League’s automatic bid to the Women’s National Invitational Tournament. It was Yale’s first-ever appearance in the WNIT and first postseason appearance since O’Neal guided Yale into the AIAW Eastern Regionals in 1979. The 2010-11 season was historic on another level as well, as Yale earned its first-ever victory over a nationally ranked opponent, a 91-85 victory over No. 14 Florida State on Dec. 18, 2010.

While history was made in 2010-11, the 2011-12 season was especially memorable on several fronts. On Feb. 10, Yale earned an 86-73 win over visiting Cornell. The victory was Gobrecht’s 500th win of her career. In the win, Megan Vasquez became the 17th player in Yale’s history to record 1,000 career points. By season’s end, Vasquez became the sixth Yale player to earn All-Ivy League First Team recognition in multiple seasons, while freshman guard Sarah Halej became the fourth Yale player to win the Ivy League’s Rookie of the Year award.
2012-13 Yale Athletics Corporate Sponsors

Yale Bulldogs

2012-13 Yale Athletics

Corporate Sponsors

BUCKNELL BISON

2012-13 Schedule/Results

2012-13 Schedule/Results

No. Name Pos. Cl Ht Hometown/High School

00 Felicia Mgbada F Sr. 6-2 Edison, N.J./Blair Academy
13 Tiler Craig C Fr. 6-3 Columbus, Ohio/St. Francis DeSales
04 Claire Maree O’Bryan G Fr. 5-10 Darwin, Australia/The Hill School
12 Rachel Yuss F Fr. 6-1 Cincinnati, Ohio/Avon
13 Alyssa Dunn G Sr. 5-10 Mason, Ohio/Seven Hills School
15 Shelby Romine G Jr. 5-8 Centre, Va./Westfield
20 Ashley Baxter G Sr. 5-8 Springfield, Pa./Merion Mercy Acad.
23 Tara Wilk G So. 5-5 Washington, D.C./Janney Academic
31 Katherine Harris G So. 5-5 Derry, N.H./Pinkerton Academy
33 Jen Heider F So. 6-2 Alpharetta, Ga./Mariot School
34 Sheara Jones G Fr. 5-9 Cincinnati, Ohio/Colerain
35 Mack Impellizeri G Jr. 5-10 Newfield, N.Y./St. Anthony’s
44 Audrey Doton F So. 6-1 Vienna, Va./Flint Hill School
55 Lindsay Burbank F Sr. 6-1 Avon, Conn./Avon

Head Coach: Aaron Russell
Assistant Coaches: Christian Stefanopoulos, Mike Lane, Kate Adams
Director of W. Basketball Operations: Brittany Pinkney
Captains: Lindsay Burbank, Shelby Romine

No. Name Pos. Cl Ht Hometown/High School

01 Sarah Halejian G So. 5-9 PC Wyckoff, N.J./Ramapo
03 Emily Allen C Fr. 6-3 TD Overland Park, Kan./ Savior Mission S.
04 Nysa Sarju G Fr. 6-0 BK Seattle, Wash./Garfield
10 Hayden Latham G So. 5-10 DC Greenville, S.C./Christ Church Episcopal
11 Zenab Kiria C Jr. 6-2 PC Raleigh, N.C./Pomont School
13 Alexandra Osborn-Jones F Jr. 6-1 KY Valhalla, N.Y./Rye Country Day
14 Allie Messimer G Sr. 5-8 MC The Woodlands, Texas/Colege Park
15 Megan Vasquez G Sr. 5-8 DC Mercer, N.Y./Sanford H. Calhoun
21 Whitney Wyckoff G Fr. 5-9 TC West Chester, Ohio/Lakota East
25 Amanda Tyson G Jr. 5-7 TD Charlotte, N.C./Ardrey Kell
32 Meredith Boardman F Fr. 6-1 BR Oak Park, Ill./Fenwick
33 Jamine Bryant G So. 6-2 MC Detroit, Mich./Renaissance
34 Janna Graf F Jr. 6-0 ES Mission Woods, Kan./Shawnee Mission E.

Joel E. Smilow, Class of 1954 Head Coach: Chris Gobrecht
Assistant Coaches: Lauren Thomer, Jarietta Benton, Kelly Rotan
Athletic Trainer: Lindsey Sternecki


Captain: Allie Messimer ’13

Notes

- The 2012-13 Bulldogs broke the 40th season of women’s basketball in Yale. In 1972-73, women’s basketball debuted at Yale as a club sport and became a varsity sport the following season. In 1976, Leona (Lew) Fowell was the first full-time woman basketball coach. She led Yale to the Ivy League championship in 1979.
- The Bulldogs lead from 161 games since their debut. Throughout the season, Yale will be holding an annual program’s achievement award.

- Captain: Allie Messimer ’13

2012-13 Schedule/Results

Nov. 9 at Holy Cross ... L, 71-87
14 NEW HAMPTON ... W, 51-57
17 HILLSIDE ... W, 84-40
19 at Deford ... W, 47-46
21 at northeastern ... W, 75-83
QUNIDIPH ... W, 93-31
Dec. 1 at Army ... W, 47-53
4 FORDHAM ... W, 67-53
8 at St. Francis, NY ... W, 66-62 (OT)
10 MARIST ... W, 50-62
15 at Georgetown ... W, 71-69
Jan. 2 at Sacred Heart ... L, 62-67
5 BUCKNELL ... W, 88-57
16 at Bryant ... L, 70-74
18 BROWN ... L, 60-69
20 at Harvard ... L, 63-69
22 at Massachusetts ... W, 70-60
23 at Princeton ... W, 67-57
25 at Harvard ... W, 60-57
Feb. 1 Harvard ... W, 64-59
2 BARTON ... W, 63-47
7 PENN ... L, 69-60
9 Princeton ... W, 74-58
15 at Columbia ... W, 90-69
20 at Binghamton ... L, 63-75
22 at Dartmouth ... W, 60-57
23 at Harvard ... L, 73-70
Mar 1 COLBY ... L, 83-71
2 CORNELL ... L, 60-69
7 BROWN ... L, 59-74
8 at Princeton ... L, 60-69
9 at Penn ... L, 60-69

- Denotes Ivy League Game

Home Games (in CAPS) are played at the John J.

Notes

- The mission of Building Sustainability is to cultivate a culture of sustainability in Yale Athletics by integrating environmental and social values into internal operations, staff and student behavior, and sporting events. You can do your part by disposing of all waste and recycling in the appropriate containers.

Yale Athletics

Building Sustainability

The mission of Building Sustainability is to cultivate a culture of sustainability in Yale Athletics by integrating environmental and social values into internal operations, staff and student behavior, and sporting events. You can do your part by disposing of all waste and recycling in the appropriate containers.

Notes

- Most games this season’s games with a 9-5 record, which includes a 4-1 mark on the road against a 3-2 record from a team in the Patriot League.

Notes

- All games this season’s games with a 9-5 record, which includes a 4-1 mark on the road against a 3-2 record from a team in the Patriot League.

Notes

- Most games this season’s games with a 9-5 record, which includes a 4-1 mark on the road against a 3-2 record from a team in the Patriot League.

Notes

- All games this season’s games with a 9-5 record, which includes a 4-1 mark on the road against a 3-2 record from a team in the Patriot League.

Notes

- All games this season’s games with a 9-5 record, which includes a 4-1 mark on the road against a 3-2 record from a team in the Patriot League.

Notes

- All games this season’s games with a 9-5 record, which includes a 4-1 mark on the road against a 3-2 record from a team in the Patriot League.

Notes

- All games this season’s games with a 9-5 record, which includes a 4-1 mark on the road against a 3-2 record from a team in the Patriot League.

Notes

- All games this season’s games with a 9-5 record, which includes a 4-1 mark on the road against a 3-2 record from a team in the Patriot League.