Yale Athletics is celebrating 40 seasons of Women's Basketball at Yale throughout the 2012-13 season. Each of the 10 game programs this season pays homage to the history of women's basketball at Yale with a look back at the coaches, captains, award winners, and other highlights from the past 40 seasons. Alumni, faculty, staff, students and fans can view the historical tributes in each one of these programs on the Yale Women's Basketball website: WWW.YaleBulldogs.com/sports/W-baskbl/game_Day_Central.

The remaining game programs will take a look back at each decade, honoring the teams that became a part of 40 seasons of women's basketball history at Yale and the nearly 200 alumnae who have worn the Yale Blue and White uniform. To conclude this series, we will honor the teams and alumnae from 2000-2013.

Yale Women's Basketball ushered in a new era beginning with the 1999-2000 season with the introduction of Amy Backus as the eighth head coach in the history of the program. With head coaching stops at Middlebury (Vermont) and Otterbein (Ohio) and assistant coaching stops at Northwestern and Vermont, Backus came to Yale with a reputation for setting the highest standards of academics and community involvement for her players. During her time at Yale, Backus also molded the Bulldogs into one of the top 3-point shooting teams in the country.

The 3-point shot became a signature of Yale's basketball at Yale shines bright as the program looks to the 2013-14 season and beyond. The rise of the program continued in 2011-12, highlighted by 16-12 finish, which is the most wins in a season since 1979-80 (17-9). The 2011-12 season also included a game at Buley, the nation's top-ranked team.

While the 40-year history of Yale Women's Basketball has seen an Ivy League Championship (1979) and plenty of star players and record-breaking performances, there is much more to come. As the talent of the student-athletes that join the program continues to rise, the future of women's basketball at Yale shines bright as the program looks to the 2013-14 season and beyond.

“Having the honor of coaching at Yale for the past eight seasons has been a life-changing experience. It starts with just being at Yale – it is the most dynamic, engaging, inspiring, and eye-opening environment I’ve experienced in my 33 years of Division I coaching,” Gobrecht said. “The best part though has been the student-athletes who have shared a big part of their lives with me over the years at Yale. It is safe to say they have taught me more than I may have taught them. I also know that what they learn on that court will be as meaningful in their future lives as the learning that even Yale provides. I’m proud to be a part of that.”

And in the three seasons that followed Mady Gobrecht’s debut at Yale, the recruiting classes improved by leaps and bounds, bringing in star players that could score, shoot from outside and compete with the best in the country.

Those classes gave Chris Gobrecht one of Yale’s all-time top scorers in Megan Vasquez, another tough post player in Michelle Cashen ’12, and a true outside shooter in Jamin Graff. With those players on the roster, along with Mady Gobrecht, the Bulldogs stunned one of the top teams in the nation and recorded perhaps the biggest victory in the program’s 40-year history on Dec. 18, 2010, with a 91-85 win over Florida State, the No. 14 ranked team in the nation. It was Yale’s first-ever win over a nationally ranked opponent.

Amazingly, that 2010-11 season only got better. The Ivy League season was highlighted by Yale’s first sweep of Harvard in 17 years, which led to a second-place 10-4 finish in Ivy League play, which gave the Bulldogs the opportunity to win the Ivy League in its first season, by scoring 20 points or more in any Ivy League game during its six seasons as head coach.

Backus coached the Bulldogs until the end of the 2004-05 season and became an administrator in the athletic department. She is now a Senior Associate Athletic Director at Yale. But her teams and players made a lasting mark on Yale’s record books during her six seasons as head coach.

Of the nine players listed on Yale’s single-seasonmade 3-pointers list, three of them played at Yale during Backus’ tenure, including Maria James, who drained a Yale-record 62 3-pointers as a sophomore in 2000-01 and occupies two of the 20 places on the list. Tori Mauseth is listed three times on the list, including a high of 55 made threes in 2003-04. On Yale’s all-time made 3-pointers list, three of Backus’ former players occupy the list. Mauseth is 3rd on the list with 165, Sineath (126) and Bonnie Smith is eighth with 108.

While her players left their mark on the Yale record books, Backus, most importantly, left a lasting impression on the players that wore the Yale Blue and White during those six seasons.

“Playing for Coach Backus was incredibly rewarding,” said Byram Gingras ’04, now on-air reporter for NBC News 4 New York. “She gave me confidence and taught me to trust my instincts. She fine-tuned my leadership skills and taught me to be a good listener. Nothing has shaped my life more than the four years I spent at Yale.”

Backus also recruited one of the best players to ever don the Yale uniform in Erica Davis and coached her for two seasons. Davis left Yale as the all-time leader in blocked shots (182), and she closed out her career with 1,262 points, which is currently ninth on Yale’s all-time scoring list. Davis was one of the players who bridged the gap between the Amy Backus era and the current era under Chris Gobrecht, who became the Joel E. Smilow, Class of 1954, Head Coach of Women’s Basketball in 2005-06.

Gobrecht has coaching credentials that include stops at women’s basketball programs in the Pac-12 and Atlantic Coast Conference, and she came to Yale in 2005 with a reputation for turning programs around. During her eight seasons, Gobrecht has introduced Yale’sstatus as one of the top women’s basketball programs in the Ivy League.

But her start at New Haven was a rocky one. Davis left Yale as the all-time leader in blocked shots (182), and she closed out her career with 1,262 points, which is currently ninth on Yale’s all-time scoring list. Davis was one of the players who bridged the gap between the Amy Backus era and the current era under Chris Gobrecht, who became the Joel E. Smilow, Class of 1954, Head Coach of Women’s Basketball in 2005-06.

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YALE BULLDOGS

2012-13 YALE ATHLETICS PINK ZONES

Name | No. | Pos. | Cl | Ht | RC | Hometown/High School
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Janna Graf F Jr. | 34 | 5-9 | PC | 6-0 | N.J./Ramapo
Arrice Bryant | 5-10 | 6-2 | ME | Detroit, Mich./Renaissance
Allie Messimer G Sr. | 14 | 5-8 | MC | The Woodlands, Texas/College Park
Zenab Keita C Jr. | 11 | 6-2 | PC | Raleigh, N.C./Pomfret School
Alexandra Osborn-Jones Fr. | 13 | 6-1 | SY | Valhalla, N.Y./Rye Country Day
Allie Messimer G Sr. | 14 | 5-8 | MC | The Woodlands, Texas/College Park
Megan Vasquez | 15 | 5-8 | DC | Merrick, N.Y./Sanford H. Calhoun
Whitney Wyckoff | 25 | 5-7 | PC | West Chester, Ohio/Lakota East
Amanda Tyson | 32 | 5-7 | TD | Charlotte, N.C./Ardrey Kell
Meredith Boardman Fr. | 33 | 6-1 | RR | Oak Park, IL/Frenwick
Arnie Bryant | 34 | 6-2 | ME | Detroit, Mich./Renaissance
Janna Graf Fr. | 34 | 6-0 | ES | Mission Woods, Kan./Shawnee Mission E.

Joel E. Smilow, Class of 1954 Head Coach: Chris Gobrecht
Assistant Coaches: Lauren Thoni, Jarietta Benton, Kelly Rotan
Athletic Trainer: Lindsey Szynski
Captain: Allie Messimer

2012-13 SCHEDULE/RESULTS

Nov. 9 at Holy Cross 1 71-87
14 NEW HAMPSHIRE 1 65-57
17 HOUSTON 1 84-60
19 at Davidson 1 68-95
21 at North Florida 1 75-83
23 at Quinnipiac 1 62-80
Dec. 1 at UConn 1 47-53
4 FORDHAM 1 67-73
8 at St. Francis, N.Y. 1 66-82 (OT)
20 MARIST 1 50-68
Jan. 2 at Sacred Heart 1 62-67
3 Bucknell 1 62-82
6 at Bryant 1 78-65
9 at George Washington 1 67-68
15 at Sacred Heart 1 62-67
18 at Harvard 1 82-42
21 at Bryant 1 78-65
25 at Brown 1 67-68
Feb. 1 Harvard 1 84-67
2 Dartmouth 1 46-63
9 at Penn 1 66-66
9 at Princeton 1 53-39
15 at Cornell 1 67-88
16 at Columbia 1 62-43
22 at Dartmouth 1 68-66
25 at Harvard 1 60-60
Mar. 1 COLUMBIA 1 62-43
2 CORNELL 1 60-68
2 CORNELL 1 60-68
2 Princeton 1 60-68
2 Penn 1 70-70

* Denotes Ivy League Game
Home Games (in CAPS) are played at the John J. Lee Amphitheater.

It is the goal of the Yale University Athletic Department to raise more than $10,000 during the course of the 2012 schedule of Pink Zones events, which will benefit the Smilow Cancer Hospital for breast cancer research. Yale has raised more than $5,000 annually since first participating in the WBCA initiative in 2008.

Special thanks to those who contributed to making Yale Athletics Pink Zones a success:

Sponsors

Yale Athletics Pink Zones Event Committee

Head Coach: Paul Nixon
Assistant Coaches: Shanna Cook, David Elliott, Trena Trice-Hill

COLUMBIA LIONS

No. | Name | Pos. | Cl. | Ht. | RC | Hometown/High School
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
00 | Mira Tachihana | G | So. | 5-4 | Los Angeles, Calif./Malibu
1 | Taylor Flynn | F | Jr. | 5-7 | Oregon City, Ore./Oregon City
2 | Sara Mead | G | Fr. | 5-7 | Winchester, Va./Millbrook
3 | Caitlyn Unsworth | G | So. | 5-9 | Sijouf/A/Hampton Roads Academy
4 | Taylor Ball | G | Sr. | 5-9 | Las Vegas, Calif./Malibu
10 | Brittany Simmons | G | Sr. | 5-8 | McIntosh, Ala./McIntosh
12 | Diaa Lee | G | Sr. | 5-8 | San Jose, Calif./Lynbrook
13 | Agata Jankova | F | Fr. | 6-1 | Bart, Slovakia/Slovakia/Gymnazium Andra Salkova
15 | Lizzy Schonock | F | So. | 6-3 | Des Moines, Iowa/South-Clear Catholic
20 | Tyler Simpson | F/G | Sr. | 5-9 | Lawrenceville, N.J./Lawrenceville School
24 | Crystal Owusu | G/F | So. | 5-10 | Oshar, Cala/Coho Christian
25 | Bailey O’Toole | F/C | Fr. | 5-11 | Pompton Lakes, N.J./Pompton Lakes
30 | Karyll Patton | G | Fr. | 5-10 | Fountain Hills, Ariz./Fountain Hills
32 | Campbell Mobley | G | Fr. | 6-1 | Nashville, Tenn./Harrell Eth
34 | Amara Abusibwe | G | Sr. | 6-1 | Boise, Id./Boise
44 | Nicole Santucci | G | Jr. | 6-4 | Beaverton, Ore./Southridge
51 | Courtney Bradford | Fr. | 6-1 | Alpharetta, Ga./Chattahoochee

No. | Name | Pos. | Cl. | Ht. | RC | Hometown/High School
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
3 | Kristina Danielik | G | Jr. | 5-6 | Poughkeepsie, N.Y./St. Anthony's
11 | Sarah Poland | F | So. | 6-3 | Valley View, Ohio/Hawthorn Brown
12 | Shelby Lyman | G | Jr. | 5-8 | Snohomish, Wash./Archbishop Murphy
13 | Christie Kline | G | So. | 5-5 | Staten Island, N.Y./St. Peter's for Girls
14 | Molly Merigolli | G | Fr. | 5-10 | Waukesha, Wisc./Madison Edgewood
21 | Sarah Talamantes | G | So. | 5-8 | Bloomfield, Colo./Holy Family
26 | Spencer Lane | G | Fr. | 5-7 | Blais-Bickel, Md./Denton County Day
30 | Aspen Chandler | G | Jr. | 5-7 | Dallas, Texas/Elle
38 | Clare Fitzpatrick | F | Jr. | 5-10 | Southbury, Conn./Canterbury School
39 | Jodee Flynn | G/F | Jr. | 5-10 | Hyattsville, Md./St. John's College H.S.
41 | Allison Bockrath | G | So. | 6-0 | Santa Clarita, Calif./Westview
42 | Allyson D'Maggio | G | Jr. | 5-11 | Fairfield, N.Y./Fairfield

CORNELL BIG RED

No. | Name | Pos. | Cl. | Ht. | RC | Hometown/High School
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
3 | Kristina Danielik | F | Sr. | 6-1 | Georgetown, Texas/Liberty Hills
4 | Stephanie Long | G | Jr. | 5-7 | Norwalk, Conn./Norwich Free Academy
10 | Taylor Flynn | F | So. | 5-9 | Floral Park, N.Y./St. Anthony's
11 | Sarah Poland | F | So. | 6-3 | Valley View, Ohio/Hawthorn Brown
12 | Shelby Lyman | G | Jr. | 5-8 | Snohomish, Wash./Archbishop Murphy
13 | Christie Kline | G | So. | 5-5 | Staten Island, N.Y./St. Peter's for Girls
14 | Molly Merigolli | G | Fr. | 5-10 | Waukesha, Wisc./Madison Edgewood
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41 | Allison Bockrath | G | So. | 6-0 | Santa Clarita, Calif./Westview
42 | Allyson D'Maggio | G | Jr. | 5-11 | Fairfield, N.Y./Fairfield

Head Coach: Dayna Smith
Assistant Coaches: Val Klopfer, Kharmit Wingard, Daan de Heus

Institute designated comprehensive cancer center in the Northeast to also have the NAPBC accreditation. The Program of Breast Centers. The Center's affiliation with Yale Cancer Center makes it the only National Cancer Institute designated comprehensive cancer center in the Northeast to also have the NAPBC accreditation. The Breast Center provides rapid diagnosis and treatment, and access to the most up-to-date technology and research. Most importantly, patients receive personal, friendly, confidential care that is designed to meet the needs of the patient, not just the disease.