1970s: Blazing a Trail of Success

From Club Sport to Ivy League Champion in 1979, Yale’s Rise to Power was Swift

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 historic tributes in each one of these programs on the Yale Women’s Basketball website at 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. Starting this series, we will honor the teams and alumnae from the 1970s.

In the fall of 1969, when undergraduate women were admitted to Yale, they entered a school that had been dedicated to educating men for the previous 268 years. At the same time, they were invited to participate in one of the best collegiate athletic programs in the country. They were confronted with a tradition that equated the Yale student with the Yale man. No one was quite sure what would come of this, but it was certain that things would never again be the same.

When Title IX went into effect on June 23, 1972, it required gender equity for men and women in every educational program that receives federal funding, including sports. The passing of Title IX signaled a new era for athletics at Yale, and women’s basketball made its debut as a club sport that fall for the 1972-73 season.

Pam Rollings was the second captain in Yale’s basketball history, serving in that role for her final two seasons, and Barb (Liebowitz) Bettigole ’78 was the first 1,000-point scorer, helping Yale become one of the top programs in the region. What is remarkable about the era is how fast the women’s basketball program at Yale grew from very humble beginnings to become one of the prominent programs in the region.

“What stands out most is quite simply the change in status and services over the four years,” Bettigole said. “As freshman, we couldn’t have been more delighted by the distribution of team sneakers on the first day of practice. We felt extremely privileged, so we didn’t mind washing our own uniforms, mostly in our dorm bathroom sinks, and hanging them to dry over bathroom radiators. Gradually, we were treated to laundering, better practice times, good press coverage and team meals. By senior year, even our practice gear was washed and laid out on the benches in front of our lockers.’

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 MAW Eastern Regionals, leading the Bulldogs to a third-place finish in 1978 after winning three of their four games. At the time, the MAW 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’s midseason tournament held at Yale.

During her three seasons as Yale’s head coach, O’Neal coached the Bulldogs to three straight wins over UConn for Yale’s only wins in the all-time series (3-7), long before UConn’s rise to prominence.

As the early “building blocks” for the women’s basketball program at Yale, the student-athletes had to face the adversity that was no stranger to women in the early years of Title IX. However, it was still an experience of a lifetime to the women who were among the first to be called Bulldogs.

“These early years were so full of joy and camaraderie,” Bettigole said. “Competitive spirit and team chemistry were genuine and needed no gimmicks for team-building. In part, I attribute that to the fact that most of us had not started playing when we were 6 and we were not from state championship teams. We were just awed by Payne and drive of the athletes that I’ve seen play for our good fortunes in being able to play basketball in college. I have been overwhelmed by the talent..."
2012-13 Yale Athletics Corporate Sponsors

Yale Bulls

2012-13 Yale Athletics Corporate Sponsors

Brown Bears

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.

Laxas Morz: Webpage.com/sustainability

Facebook: @bulldogsustainability

Twitter: @bulldogsustain

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

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

34 Janna Graf F Jr. 6-0 ES
32 Meredith Boardman F Fr. 6-1 BR Oak Park, Ill./Fenwick
25 Amanda Tyson G Jr. 5-7 TD Charlotte, N.C./Ardrey Kell
21 Whitney Wyckoff G Fr. 5-9 TC West Chester, Ohio/Lakota East
10 Hayden Latham G So. 5-10 DC Greenville, S.C./Christ Church Episcopal
3 Emmy Allen C Fr. 6-3 TD Overland Park, Kan./Shawnee Mission S.
1 Sarah Halejian G So. 5-9 PC Wyckoff, N.J./Ramapo

No. Name Pos. Cl Ht RC Hometown/High School

Yale Athletics

Notes:
- The 2012-13 schedule marks the 45th season of women’s basketball at Yale. In 1972-73, no league was formed. Lightfoot Yale to a 32-0
- * denotes Ivy League Game
- Terriers Classic at U. of Maryland

Yale Bulldogs

Yale Athletics

Notes:
- * denotes Ivy League Game
- Terriers Classic at U. of Maryland

Yale Bulldogs

Yale Athletics

Notes:
- * denotes Ivy League Game
- Terriers Classic at U. of Maryland

Brown Bears

Notes:
- Brown wins Sunday's game with a 6-6 overall record, which included a 1-4 mark against the Ivy League (2-4-20).
- Brown is averaging just 52.2 points per game, which is ranked second in the Ivy League.
- Brown is ranked seventh in the Ivy League (57.9 ppg.).
- Brown is also ranked fifth in field goal defense (50.4 percent), just behind Yale's 50.5 percent.

Yale Bulldogs

Yale Athletics

Notes:
- * denotes Ivy League Game
- Terriers Classic at U. of Maryland

Yale Bulldogs

Yale Athletics

Notes:
- * denotes Ivy League Game
- Terriers Classic at U. of Maryland

Brown Bears

Notes:
- Brown wins Sunday's game with a 6-6 overall record, which included a 1-4 mark against the Ivy League (2-4-20).
- Brown is averaging just 52.2 points per game, which is ranked second in the Ivy League.
- Brown is ranked seventh in the Ivy League (57.9 ppg.).
- Brown is also ranked fifth in field goal defense (50.4 percent), just behind Yale's 50.5 percent.

Yale Bulldogs

Yale Athletics

Notes:
- * denotes Ivy League Game
- Terriers Classic at U. of Maryland

Yale Bulldogs

Yale Athletics

Notes:
- * denotes Ivy League Game
- Terriers Classic at U. of Maryland

Brown Bears

Notes:
- Brown wins Sunday's game with a 6-6 overall record, which included a 1-4 mark against the Ivy League (2-4-20).
- Brown is averaging just 52.2 points per game, which is ranked second in the Ivy League.
- Brown is ranked seventh in the Ivy League (57.9 ppg.).
- Brown is also ranked fifth in field goal defense (50.4 percent), just behind Yale's 50.5 percent.

Yale Bulldogs

Yale Athletics

Notes:
- * denotes Ivy League Game
- Terriers Classic at U. of Maryland

Yale Bulldogs

Yale Athletics

Notes:
- * denotes Ivy League Game
- Terriers Classic at U. of Maryland

Brown Bears

Notes:
- Brown wins Sunday's game with a 6-6 overall record, which included a 1-4 mark against the Ivy League (2-4-20).
- Brown is averaging just 52.2 points per game, which is ranked second in the Ivy League.
- Brown is ranked seventh in the Ivy League (57.9 ppg.).
- Brown is also ranked fifth in field goal defense (50.4 percent), just behind Yale's 50.5 percent.

Yale Bulldogs

Yale Athletics

Notes:
- * denotes Ivy League Game
- Terriers Classic at U. of Maryland

Yale Bulldogs

Yale Athletics

Notes:
- * denotes Ivy League Game
- Terriers Classic at U. of Maryland

Brown Bears

Notes:
- Brown wins Sunday's game with a 6-6 overall record, which included a 1-4 mark against the Ivy League (2-4-20).
- Brown is averaging just 52.2 points per game, which is ranked second in the Ivy League.
- Brown is ranked seventh in the Ivy League (57.9 ppg.).
- Brown is also ranked fifth in field goal defense (50.4 percent), just behind Yale's 50.5 percent.

Yale Bulldogs

Yale Athletics

Notes:
- * denotes Ivy League Game
- Terriers Classic at U. of Maryland

Yale Bulldogs

Yale Athletics

Notes:
- * denotes Ivy League Game
- Terriers Classic at U. of Maryland

Brown Bears

Notes:
- Brown wins Sunday's game with a 6-6 overall record, which included a 1-4 mark against the Ivy League (2-4-20).
- Brown is averaging just 52.2 points per game, which is ranked second in the Ivy League.
- Brown is ranked seventh in the Ivy League (57.9 ppg.).
- Brown is also ranked fifth in field goal defense (50.4 percent), just behind Yale's 50.5 percent.

Yale Bulldogs

Yale Athletics

Notes:
- * denotes Ivy League Game
- Terriers Classic at U. of Maryland

Yale Bulldogs

Yale Athletics

Notes:
- * denotes Ivy League Game
- Terriers Classic at U. of Maryland

Brown Bears

Notes:
- Brown wins Sunday's game with a 6-6 overall record, which included a 1-4 mark against the Ivy League (2-4-20).
- Brown is averaging just 52.2 points per game, which is ranked second in the Ivy League.
- Brown is ranked seventh in the Ivy League (57.9 ppg.).
- Brown is also ranked fifth in field goal defense (50.4 percent), just behind Yale's 50.5 percent.

Yale Bulldogs

Yale Athletics

Notes:
- * denotes Ivy League Game
- Terriers Classic at U. of Maryland

Yale Bulldogs

Yale Athletics

Notes:
- * denotes Ivy League Game
- Terriers Classic at U. of Maryland

Brown Bears

Notes:
- Brown wins Sunday's game with a 6-6 overall record, which included a 1-4 mark against the Ivy League (2-4-20).
- Brown is averaging just 52.2 points per game, which is ranked second in the Ivy League.
- Brown is ranked seventh in the Ivy League (57.9 ppg.).
- Brown is also ranked fifth in field goal defense (50.4 percent), just behind Yale's 50.5 percent.

Yale Bulldogs

Yale Athletics

Notes:
- * denotes Ivy League Game
- Terriers Classic at U. of Maryland

Yale Bulldogs

Yale Athletics

Notes:
- * denotes Ivy League Game
- Terriers Classic at U. of Maryland

Brown Bears

Notes:
- Brown wins Sunday's game with a 6-6 overall record, which included a 1-4 mark against the Ivy League (2-4-20).
- Brown is averaging just 52.2 points per game, which is ranked second in the Ivy League.
- Brown is ranked seventh in the Ivy League (57.9 ppg.).
- Brown is also ranked fifth in field goal defense (50.4 percent), just behind Yale's 50.5 percent.