2023-24

SOUTH CAROLINA

NCAA TOURNAMENT NOTES SUPPLEMENT

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

SOUTH CAROLINA NCAA TOURNAMENT HISTORY & RECORDS

2 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS • 5 NCAA FINAL FOURS • 7 NCAA ELITE EIGHTS • 14 NCAA SWEET 16s

8 SEC REGULAR-SEASON CHAMPIONSHIPS • 8 SEC TOURNAMENT TITLES

2 NATIONAL PLAYERS OF THE YEAR • NATIONAL FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR • 23 ALL-AMERICANS

9 SEC PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS • 58 ALL-SEC SELECTIONS

1982 • No. 3 Seed in Midwest Region • Sweet 16
Head Coach: Terry Kelly • **Final record:** 23-8 overall

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Site	SC Points	SC Rebs.	Opp. Points	Opp. Rebs.
3/14	No. 6 East Carolina	W	79-54	Columbia, S.C.	30-Southers	19-Southers, Foster	14-Denkler	9-Chaney
3/18	vs. No. 2 Kentucky	L	69-73	Ruston, La.	23-Foster	19-Foster	29-Still	13-Still

1986 • No. 7 Seed in Mideast Region • First Round
Head Coach: Nancy Wilson • **Final record:** 19-11 overall; 9-1 Metro

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Site	SC Points	SC Rebs.	Opp. Points	Opp. Rebs.
3/12	No. 10 Middle Tenn. St.	L	77-78 (OT)	Columbia, S.C.	24-Southers	18-Gilmore	20-Willbanks	11-Willbanks

1988 • No. 3 Seed in Midwest Region • Second Round
Head Coach: Nancy Wilson • **Final record:** 23-11 overall; 10-2 Metro

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Site	SC Points	SC Rebs.	Opp. Points	Opp. Rebs.
3/16	No. 9 Alabama	W	77-63	Columbia, S.C.	21-Middleton	11-Parker	22-Vaughn	12-Heard
3/20	at No. 1 Texas	L	58-77	Austin, Texas	15-Parker	10-Hawkins	19-Wimbish	9-Conwell

1989 • No. 6 Seed in Midwest Region • First Round
Head Coach: Nancy Wilson • **Final record:** 23-7 overall; 10-2 Metro

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Site	SC Points	SC Rebs.	Opp. Points	Opp. Rebs.
3/15	No. 11 Tenn. Tech	L	73-77	Columbia, S.C.	31-Hunt	12-Hunt	23-Brown	12-Clayton

1990 • No. 5 Seed in Mideast Region • Sweet 16
Head Coach: Nancy Wilson • **Final record:** 24-9 overall; 13-1 Metro

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Site	SC Points	SC Rebs.	Opp. Points	Opp. Rebs.
3/14	No. 12 Bowling Green	W	93-50	Columbia, S.C.	22-Middleton	11-Hunt	15-Thompson	7-Bonner
3/17	at No. 4 Northwestern	W	76-67	Evanston, Ill.	21-Middleton	15-Banner	19-Savage	7-Savage, Kennelly
3/22	vs. No. 1 Washington	L	61-73	Iowa City, Iowa	20-Hunt	10-Hunt	17-Deden	10-Deden

1991 • No. 7 Seed in Mideast Region • First Round
Head Coach: Nancy Wilson • **Final record:** 22-9 overall; 12-2 Metro

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Site	SC Points	SC Rebs.	Opp. Points	Opp. Rebs.
3/13	at No. 10 Vanderbilt	L	64-73	Nashville, Tenn.	27-Williams	14-Williams	24-Scholtens	16-Scholtens

2002 • No. 3 Seed in East Region • Elite Eight
Head Coach: Susan Walvius • **Final record:** 25-7 overall; 10-4 SEC

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Site	SC Points	SC Rebs.	Opp. Points	Opp. Rebs.
3/16	No. 14 Liberty	W	69-61	Columbia, S.C.	19-Ujhelyi	14-Penn	19-Walker	9-Foreid
3/18	No. 6 Cincinnati	W	75-56	Columbia, S.C.	21-Geter	10-Geter	13-Sharp, King	8-Wilder
3/23	vs. No. 7 Drake	W	79-65	Raleigh, N.C.	19-Penn, Gortman	8-Penn	20-Bennett	8-Anderson
3/25	vs. No. 1 Duke	L	68-77	Raleigh, N.C.	17-Gortman	9-Penn	24-Beard	7-Beard, Tillis

2003 • No. 5 Seed in East Region • Second Round
Head Coach: Susan Walvius • **Final record:** 23-8 overall; 9-5 SEC

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Site	SC Points	SC Rebs.	Opp. Points	Opp. Rebs.
3/23	vs. No. 12 Chattanooga	W	68-54	University Park, Pa.	18-Ciocan	14-Ujhelyi	18-Warfield	7-Patton
3/25	at No. 4 Penn State	L	67-77	University Park, Pa.	21-Penn	9-Penn	27-Mazzante	4-Joseph, Wright

2012 • No. 5 Seed in Fresno Region • Sweet 16
Head Coach: Dawn Staley • **Final record:** 25-10 overall; 10-6 SEC

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Site	SC Points	SC Rebs.	Opp. Points	Opp. Rebs.
3/17	vs. No. 12 E. Michigan	W	80-48	W. Lafayette, Ind.	12-Grant	7-Bruner	14-Redditt	12-Watkins
3/19	at No. 4 Purdue	W	72-61	W. Lafayette, Ind.	21-Grant	8-Welch	15-Houser	13-Ostarello
3/25	vs. No. 1 Stanford	L	60-76	Fresno, Calif.	18-Sutton	12-Welch	39-N. Ogwumike	10-Ogwumike, Ogwumike

2013 • No. 4 Seed in Norfolk Region • Second Round
Head Coach: Dawn Staley • **Final record:** 25-8 overall; 11-5 SEC

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Site	SC Points	SC Rebs.	Opp. Points	Opp. Rebs.
3/23	vs. No. 13 S. Dakota State	W	74-52	Boulder, Colo.	15-Bruner, Walker	11-Bruner	15-Eide	4-Boever, Dietel, Lingle
3/25	vs. No. 12 Kansas	L	69-75	Boulder, Colo.	16-Bruner, Welch	12-Bruner	27-Engelman	12-Gardner

2014 • No. 1 Seed in Stanford Region • Sweet 16
Head Coach: Dawn Staley • **Final record:** 29-5 overall; 14-2 SEC

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Site	SC Points	SC Rebs.	Opp. Points	Opp. Rebs.
3/23	vs. No. 16 CSU Northridge	W	73-58	Seattle, Wash.	24-Mitchell	16-Coates	26-Sharpe	6-Sharpe, Fong
3/25	vs. No. 9 Oregon State	W	78-69	Seattle, Wash.	21-Welch	11-Coates, Welch	21-Weisner	9-Gibson
3/30	vs. No. 4 North Carolina	L	58-65	Palo Alto, Calif.	22-Coates	11-Coates	19-DeShields	9-Mavunga

2015 • No. 1 Seed in Greensboro Region • Final Four
Head Coach: Dawn Staley • **Final record:** 34-3 overall; 15-1 SEC

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Site	SC Points	SC Rebs.	Opp. Points	Opp. Rebs.
3/20	No. 16 Savannah State	W	81-48	Columbia, S.C.	15-Wilson	9-Wilson	21-Kalu	8-Davis
3/22	No. 8 Syracuse	W	97-68	Columbia, S.C.	14-Coates, Mitchell	10-Welch	23-Peterson	7-Briana Day
3/27	vs. No. 4 North Carolina	W	67-65	Greensboro, N.C.	18-Cotes, Mitchell	10-Coates	15-Coleman	13-Mavunga
3/29	vs. No. 2 Florida State	W	80-74	Greensboro, N.C.	21-Mitchell	6-Mitchell	13-Romero	7-Romero
4/5	vs. No. 1 Notre Dame	L	65-66	Tampa, Fla.	20-Wilson	14-Welch	22-Loyd	8-Turner

2016 • No. 1 Seed in Sioux Falls Region • Sweet 16
Head Coach: Dawn Staley • **Final record:** 33-2 overall; 16-0 SEC

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Site	SC Points	SC Rebs.	Opp. Points	Opp. Rebs.
3/18	No. 16 Jacksonville	W	77-41	Columbia, S.C.	22-Coates	11-Wilson	17-B. Brown	6-Mercer
3/20	No. 9 Kansas State	W	73-47	Columbia, S.C.	20-Mitchell	10-Coates	21-Lewis	9-Lewis
3/25	No. 4 Syracuse	L	72-80	Sioux Falls, S.D.	18-Coates	16-Coates	26-Peterson	13-Briana Day

2017 • No. 1 Seed in Stockton Region • National Champion
Head Coach: Dawn Staley • **Final record:** 33-4 overall; 14-2 SEC

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Site	SC Points	SC Rebs.	Opp. Points	Opp. Rebs.
3/17	No. 16 UNC Asheville	W	90-40	Columbia, S.C.	22-Gray	12-Gray	12-Webb	7-Scott, Weaver
3/19	No. 8 Arizona State	W	71-68	Columbia, S.C.	21-Wilson	11-Wilson	20-Brunner	9-Brunner
3/25	vs. No. 12 Quinnipiac	W	100-58	Stockton, Calif.	28-K. Davis	8-Gray	12-Fay, Martucci	4-Fay
3/27	vs. No. 3 Florida State	W	71-64	Stockton, Calif.	23-K. Davis	7-Cliney	16-Romero	10-Slaughter
3/31	vs. No. 2 Stanford	W	62-53	Dallas, Texas	18-Gray	19-Wilson	14-McCall, Smith	14-McCall
4/2	vs. No. 1 Mississippi State	W	67-55	Dallas, Texas	23-Wilson	10-Gray, Wilson	12-Vivians	10-McCowan

2018 • No. 2 Seed in Albany Region • Elite Eight
Head Coach: Dawn Staley • **Final record:** 29-7 overall; 12-4 SEC

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Site	SC Points	SC Rebs.	Opp. Points	Opp. Rebs.
3/16	No. 14 NC A&T	W	63-52	Columbia, S.C.	19-Wilson	16-Wilson	21-Green	6-Foy
3/18	No. 10 Virginia	W	66-56	Columbia, S.C.	25-Wilson	11-Wilson	16-Two players	7-Willoughby
3/24	vs. No. 11 Buffalo	W	79-63	Albany, N.Y.	20-Jennings, Wilson	13-Wilson	29-Dillard	4-Oursler
3/26	vs. No. 1 UConn	L	65-94	Albany, N.Y.	27-Wilson	8-Wilson	23-Williams	7-Collier

2019 • No. 4 Seed in Greensboro Region • Sweet 16
Head Coach: Dawn Staley • **Final record:** 23-10 overall; 13-4 SEC

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Site	SC Points	SC Rebs.	Opp. Points	Opp. Rebs.
3/22	No. 13 Belmont	W	74-52	Charlotte, N.C.	15-Cooper	9-Jennings	13-Maggard	5-Harmeyer
3/24	No. 5 Florida State	W	72-64	Charlotte, N.C.	20-Herbert Harrigan	7-Jennings	19-Ekhomu	18-Gillespie
3/30	No. 1 Baylor	L	68-93	Greensboro, N.C.	16-Herbert Harrigan	5-Herbert Harrigan	25-Richards	14-Cox

2021 • No. 1 Seed in Hemisfair Region • Final Four
Head Coach: Dawn Staley • **Final record:** 26-5 overall; 14-2 SEC

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Site	SC Points	SC Rebs.	Opp. Points	Opp. Rebs.
3/21	No. 16 Mercer	W	79-53	San Antonio, Texas	20-Boston, Saxton	18-Boston	15-Neal-Tysor	6-Lewis
3/23	No. 8 Oregon State	W	59-42	San Antonio, Texas	19-Boston	11-Beal	13-Jones	5-Mitrovic, Oelhoffen
3/28	No. 5 Georgia Tech	W	76-65	San Antonio, Texas	17-Cooke	7-Amihere	20-Lahtinen	7-Cubaj, Fletcher
3/30	No. 6 Texas	W	62-34	San Antonio, Texas	26-Cooke	8-4 players	13-Warren	7-Taylor, Ebo
4/2	No. 1 Stanford	L	65-66	San Antonio, Texas	25-Cooke	16-Boston	24-Jones	13-Le. Hull

2022 • No. 1 Seed in Greensboro Region • Overall No. 1 Seed • National Champion
Head Coach: Dawn Staley • **Final record:** 35-2 overall; 15-1 SEC

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Site	SC Points	SC Rebs.	Opp. Points	Opp. Rebs.
3/18	No. 16 Howard	W	79-21	Columbia, S.C.	10-Boston, Feagin	13-Saxton	8-Warren	5-Warren
3/20	No. 8 Miami (FL)	W	49-33	Columbia, S.C.	11-Cardoso	16-Boston	15-Djaldi-Tabdi	5-Baba
3/25	No. 5 North Carolina	W	69-61	Greensboro, N.C.	28-Boston	22-Boston	23-Kelly	7-Ustby
3/27	No. 10 Creighton	W	80-50	Greensboro, N.C.	19-Boston	11-Saxton	12-Jensen	4-Saunders
4/1	No. 1 Louisville	W	72-59	Minneapolis, Minn.	23-Boston	18-Boston	18-Engstler	9-Engstler, Van Lith
4/3	No. 2 UConn	W	64-49	Minneapolis, Minn.	26-Henderson	16-Boston	14-Bueckers	6-Bueckers

2023 • No. 1 Seed in Greenville 1 Region • Overall No. 1 Seed • Final Four
Head Coach: Dawn Staley • **Final record:** 36-1 overall; 16-0 SEC

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Site	SC Points	SC Rebs.	Opp. Points	Opp. Rebs.
3/17	No. 16 Norfolk State	W	72-40	Columbia, S.C.	11-Cooke, Amihere	9-Boston	13-Wheeler	8-Wheeler
3/19	No. 8 South Florida	W	76-45	Columbia, S.C.	21-Cooke	11-Boston	20-Tsineke	8-Fankam Mendjiadeu
3/25	No. 4 UCLA	W	59-43	Greenville, S.C.	10-Beal, Cardoso, Hall	14-Boston	14-Osborne	7-Osborne
3/27	No. 2 Maryland	W	86-75	Greenville, S.C.	22-Boston	10-Boston	24-Miller	5-Meyers, Miller
3/31	No. 2 Iowa	L	73-77	Dallas, Texas	24-Cooke	14-Cardoso	41-Clark	7-Martin

2024 • No. 1 Seed in Albany 1 Region • Overall No. 1 Seed
Head Coach: Dawn Staley

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Site	SC Points	SC Rebs.	Opp. Points	Opp. Rebs.
3/22	No. 16 Presbyterian	W	91-39	Columbia, S.C.	21-Kitts	13-Kitts	9-Kindseth	6-Cunill
3/19	No. 8 North Carolina	W	88-41	Columbia, S.C.	20-Fulwiley	10-Cardoso	12-Ustby	6-Gakdeng, Ustby

Tournament Field: 32 teams 1982, 1984-85; 40 teams 1983, 1986-88; 48 teams 1989-93; 64 teams 1994-present; the 2020 NCAA Tournament cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Opponents listed with regional seed, not national ranking

NCAA TOURNAMENT HISTORY BY OPPONENT (46-17)

Alabama (1-0)
| 3/16/88 | W | 77-63 |

Arizona State (1-0)
| 3/19/17 | W | 71-68 |

Baylor (0-1)
| 3/30/19 | L | 68-93 |

Belmont (1-0)
| 3/22/19 | W | 74-52 |

Bowling Green (1-0)
| 3/14/90 | W | 93-50 |

Buffalo (1-0)
| 3/24/18 | W | 79-63 |

Chattanooga (1-0)
| 3/23/03 | W | 68-54 |

Cincinnati (1-0)
| 3/18/02 | W | 75-56 |

Connecticut (1-1)
| 3/26/18 | L | 65-94 |
| 4/3/22 | W | 64-49 |

Creighton (1-0)
| 3/27/22 | W | 80-50 |

CSU Northridge (1-0)
| 3/23/14 | W | 73-58 |

Drake (1-0)
| 3/23/02 | W | 79-6 |

Duke (0-1)
| 3/25/02 | L | 68-77 |

East Carolina (1-0)
| 3/14/82 | W | 79-54 |

Eastern Michigan (1-0)
| 3/17/12 | W | 80-48 |

Florida State (3-0)
3/29/15	W	80-74
3/27/17	W	71-64
3/24/19	W	72-64

Georgia Tech (1-0)
| 3/28/21 | W | 76-65 |

Howard (1-0)
| 3/18/22 | W | 79-21 |

Iowa (0-1)
| 3/31/23 | L | 73-77 |

Jacksonville (1-0)
| 3/18/16 | W | 77-41 |

Kansas (0-1)
| 3/25/13 | L | 69-75 |

Kansas State (1-0)
| 3/20/16 | W | 73-47 |

Kentucky (0-1)
| 3/18/82 | L | 69-73 |

Liberty (1-0)
| 3/16/02 | W | 69-61 |

Louisville (1-0)
| 4/1/22 | W | 72-59 |

Maryland (1-0)
| 3/27/23 | W | 86-75 |

Mercer (1-0)
| 3/21/21 | W | 79-53 |

Miami (FL) (1-0)
| 3/20/22 | W | 49-33 |

Middle Tennessee St. (0-1)
| 3/12/86 | L (ot) | 77-78 |

Mississippi State (1-0)
| 4/2/17 | W | 67-55 |

Norfolk State (1-0)
| 3/17/23 | W | 72-40 |

North Carolina (3-1)
3/30/14	L	58-65
3/27/15	W	67-65
3/25/22	W	69-61
3/24/24	W	88-41

North Carolina A&T (1-0)
| 3/16/18 | W | 63-52 |

Northwestern (1-0)
| 3/17/90 | W | 76-67 |

Notre Dame (0-1)
| 4/5/15 | L | 65-66 |

Oregon State (2-0)
| 3/25/14 | W | 78-69 |
| 3/23/21 | W | 59-42 |

Penn State (0-1)
| 3/25/03 | L | 67-77 |

Presbyterian (1-0)
| 3/22/24 | W | 91-39 |

Purdue (1-0)
| 3/19/12 | W | 72-61 |

Quinnipiac (1-0)
| 3/25/17 | W | 100-58 |

Savannah State (1-0)
| 3/20/15 | W | 81-48 |

South Dakota State (1-0)
| 3/23/13 | W | 74-52 |

South Florida (1-0)
| 3/19/23 | W | 76-45 |

Stanford (1-2)
3/24/12	L	60-76
3/31/17	W	62-53
4/2/21	L	65-66

Syracuse (1-1)
| 3/22/15 | W | 97-68 |
| 3/25/16 | L | 72-80 |

Tennessee Tech (0-1)
| 3/15/89 | L | 73-77 |

Texas (1-1)
| 3/20/88 | L | 58-77 |
| 3/30/21 | W | 62-34 |

UCLA (1-0)
| 3/25/23 | W | 59-43 |

UNC Asheville (1-0)
| 3/17/17 | W | 90-40 |

Vanderbilt (0-1)
| 3/13/91 | L | 64-73 |

Virginia (1-0)
| 3/18/18 | W | 66-56 |

Washington (0-1)
| 3/22/90 | L | 61-73 |

SOUTH CAROLINA NCAA TOURNAMENT GAME-BY-GAME LINE SCORES

Date	Team	Site	Result	1st	2nd	OT	Total	FG-A	Pct.	3FG-A	Pct.	FT-A	Pct.	Off-Def-Tot	PF	A	TO	Blk	Stl
3/14/82	South Carolina	H	W	34	45	–	79	33-57	.579	—	—	13-22	.591	50	21	20	25	8	7
	East Carolina			14	40	–	54	21-75	.280	—	—	12-22	.545	40	23	12	17	0	11
3/18/82	South Carolina	N	L	34	35	–	69	32-67	.478	—	—	5-9	.555	13-37-50	17	18	26	4	6
	Kentucky			38	35	–	73	33-74	.446	—	—	7-16	.438	13-22-35	14	17	12	0	12
3/12/86	South Carolina	H	L (OT)	35	31	11	77	32-70	.457	—	—	13-20	.650	48	18	22	16	3	9
	Middle Tennessee State			28	38	12	78	35-79	.443	—	—	8-17	.471	48	22	20	15	4	8
3/16/88	South Carolina	H	W	34	43	–	77	24-44	.545	1-3	.333	28-45	.622	13-31-44	17	18	22	7	10
	Alabama			22	41	–	63	26-72	.361	2-12	.167	9-21	.429	21-22-43	31	11	19	0	14
3/20/88	South Carolina	A	L	30	28	–	58	25-65	.385	0-4	.000	8-12	.667	21-24-45	19	7	24	2	7
	Texas			34	43	–	77	32-68	.471	0-0	—	13-24	.542	15-21-36	15	11	13	3	13
3/15/89	South Carolina	H	L	49	24	–	73	28-58	.483	3-9	.333	14-17	.824	12-17-29	16	21	16	4	8
	Tennessee Tech			38	39	–	77	34-67	.504	1-3	.333	8-13	.615	16-24-40	15	15	21	1	9
3/14/90	South Carolina	H	W	42	51	–	93	36-60	.600	4-7	.571	17-23	.739	8-35-43	16	23	20	3	13
	Bowling Green			22	28	–	50	19-65	.292	0-7	.000	12-16	.750	11-22-33	16	12	25	0	10
3/17/90	South Carolina	A	W	38	38	–	76	32-67	.478	5-5	1.000	7-12	.583	13-26-39	15	7	13	0	5
	Northwestern			32	35	–	67	28-60	.467	0-2	.000	11-14	.786	9-25-34	17	15	11	0	6
3/22/90	South Carolina	N	L	26	35	–	61	25-66	.378	1-6	.167	10-16	.625	18-16-34	13	8	21	0	10
	Washington			29	44	–	73	32-59	.542	1-3	.333	8-10	.800	11-27-38	17	9	17	3	9
3/13/91	South Carolina	A	L	31	33	–	64	26-64	.406	4-18	.222	8-13	.615	15-25-40	20	13	14	1	4
	Vanderbilt			25	48	–	73	26-62	.419	3-14	.214	18-23	.783	13-29-42	12	16	10	5	6
3/16/02	South Carolina	H	W	41	28	–	69	26-64	.406	4-16	.250	13-23	.565	19-28-47	16	22	19	3	10
	Liberty			29	32	–	61	24-64	.375	2-11	.182	11-15	.733	16-28-44	19	10	19	3	7
3/18/02	South Carolina	H	W	27	48	–	75	29-66	.439	4-12	.333	13-17	.765	14-30-44	13	19	12	5	9
	Cincinnati			24	32	–	56	20-62	.323	8-19	.421	8-9	.889	13-26-39	13	9	18	2	3
3/23/02	South Carolina	N	W	39	40	–	79	31-66	.470	7-15	.467	10-15	.667	20-17-37	14	20	12	1	16
	Drake			23	42	–	65	24-50	.480	6-18	.333	11-14	.786	11-18-29	11	15	21	3	6
3/25/02	South Carolina	N	L	22	46	–	68	30-68	.441	4-10	.400	4-6	.667	11-25-36	20	13	16	1	12
	Duke			35	42	–	77	28-58	.483	3-10	.300	18-24	.750	9-26-35	9	19	14	9	7
3/23/03	South Carolina	N	W	35	33	–	68	24-61	.393	6-28	.214	14-18	.778	18-29-47	17	15	20	3	7
	Chattanooga			32	22	–	54	21-60	.350	4-20	.200	8-13	.615	11-20-31	15	16	17	0	12
3/25/03	South Carolina	A	L	23	44	–	67	23-57	.404	6-18	.333	15-20	.750	13-28-41	19	15	22	3	8
	Penn State			37	40	–	77	30-60	.500	7-18	.389	10-16	.625	7-23-30	19	21	13	2	14
3/17/12	South Carolina	N	W	39	41	–	80	32-60	.533	5-19	.263	11-14	.786	11-27-38	18	22	17	11	11
	Eastern Michigan			23	25	–	48	16-60	.267	0-3	.000	16-22	.727	16-20-36	12	10	17	3	6
3/19/12	South Carolina	A	W	33	39	–	72	28-57	.491	6-16	.375	10-20	.500	10-20-30	15	11	12	2	11
	Purdue			26	35	–	61	22-56	.393	4-10	.400	13-17	.765	16-24-40	21	16	20	5	6
3/24/12	South Carolina	N	L	30	30	–	60	25-68	.368	4-12	.333	6-10	.600	18-20-38	19	10	11	3	7
	Stanford			36	40	–	76	28-53	.528	1-1	1.000	19-25	.760	9-27-36	11	15	11	9	5
3/23/13	South Carolina	N	W	44	30	–	74	25-52	.481	4-11	.364	20-26	.769	8-32-40	13	13	15	5	10
	South Dakota State			26	26	–	52	17-52	.327	3-14	.214	15-18	.833	5-23-28	21	6	16	2	10
3/25/13	South Carolina	N	L	41	28	–	69	27-72	.375	2-8	.250	13-22	.591	26-21-47	15	9	13	4	9
	Kansas			42	33	–	75	29-63	.460	5-10	.500	12-18	.667	17-26-43	17	14	15	6	7
3/23/14	South Carolina	N	W	36	37	–	73	22-50	.440	2-9	.222	27-43	.643	15-37-52	16	17	11	8	1
	Cal St. Northridge			26	32	–	58	21-68	.309	5-15	.333	11-15	.733	13-23-36	28	8	5	4	3
3/25/14	South Carolina	N	W	34	44	–	78	20-54	.370	4-6	.667	34-43	.791	16-29-45	18	10	9	2	6
	Oregon State			25	44	–	69	25-65	.385	10-30	.333	9-18	.500	17-23-40	21	15	14	7	5
3/30/14	South Carolina	N	L	21	37	–	58	23-61	.377	4-12	.333	8-10	.800	13-22-35	19	12	13	5	5
	North Carolina			29	36	–	65	24-58	.414	4-14	.286	13-18	.722	11-24-35	15	11	12	4	7
3/20/15	South Carolina	H	W	43	38	–	81	34-53	.642	3-11	.273	10-15	.667	12-21-33	20	23	15	5	10
	Savannah State			30	18	–	48	17-51	.333	2-9	.222	12-19	.632	14-10-24	17	4	15	2	8
3/22/15	South Carolina	H	W	53	44	–	97	32-58	.552	8-19	.421	25-31	.806	9-31-40	19	20	12	4	5
	Syracuse			25	43	–	68	21-63	.333	8-26	.308	18-23	.783	13-22-35	24	8	13	4	3
3/22/15	South Carolina	N	W	29	38	–	67	20-46	.435	7-16	.438	20-28	.714	8-29-37	17	14	15	5	4
	North Carolina			25	40	–	65	23-62	.371	4-13	.308	15-20	.750	13-23-36	22	9	9	4	8
3/22/15	South Carolina	N	W	38	42	–	80	30-49	.612	2-5	.400	18-27	.667	7-21-28	18	14	12	5	6
	Syracuse			41	33	–	74	25-59	.424	8-16	.500	16-21	.762	16-17-33	26	13	12	1	4
4/5/15	South Carolina	N	L	28	37	–	65	28-65	.431	2-12	.167	7-16	.438	16-29-45	13	13	13	6	7
	Notre Dame			32	34	–	66	26-64	.406	2-5	.400	12-14	.857	10-27-37	17	16	10	6	7

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SOUTH CAROLINA NCAA TOURNAMENT GAME-BY-GAME LINE SCORES

Date	Team	Site	Result	1st	2nd	OT	Total	FG-A	Pct.	3FG-A	Pct.	FT-A	Pct.	Off-Def-Tot	PF	A	TO	Blk	Stl
3/18/16	South Carolina	H	W	32	45	–	77	29-64	.453	3-15	.200	16-24	.667	14-30-44	10	13	10	4	14
	Jacksonville			21	20	–	41	14-50	.280	4-12	.333	9-9	1.000	5-25-30	23	6	21	5	4
3/20/16	South Carolina	H	W	45	28	–	73	26-60	.433	6-22	.273	15-26	.577	18-29-47	15	11	11	6	9
	Kansas State			26	21	–	47	18-56	.321	2-14	.143	9-13	.692	12-20-32	19	9	16	2	7
3/25/16	South Carolina	N	L	43	29	–	72	28-63	.444	8-32	.250	8-14	.571	15-27-42	23	21	18	5	8
	Syracuse			33	47	–	80	29-76	.382	8-23	.348	14-21	.667	24-23-47	15	7	10	3	5
3/17/17	South Carolina	H	W	48	42	–	90	37-65	.569	4-18	.222	12-16	.750	17-28-45	15	20	5	3	10
	UNC Asheville			22	18	–	40	15-58	.259	5-15	.333	5-8	.625	13-13-26	14	6	14	1	2
3/19/17	South Carolina	H	W	33	38	–	71	22-50	.440	4-12	.333	23-28	.821	7-22-29	20	11	12	5	10
	Arizona State			39	29	–	68	24-59	.407	5-11	.333	15-20	.750	14-22-36	23	14	15	0	8
3/25/17	South Carolina	N	W	45	55	–	100	36-59	.610	10-16	.625	18-19	.947	10-25-35	12	21	13	4	8
	Quinnipiac			27	31	–	58	22-51	.431	6-13	.462	8-10	.800	5-13-18	19	11	17	2	6
3/27/17	South Carolina	N	W	40	31	–	71	26-45	.578	3-10	.300	16-20	.800	2-29-31	11	8	18	5	7
	Florida State			29	35	–	64	26-71	.366	2-15	.133	10-13	.769	18-18-36	18	12	11	1	10
3/31/17	South Carolina	N	W	20	42	–	62	23-63	.365	3-13	.231	13-21	.619	20-23-43	11	10	14	5	6
	Stanford			29	24	–	53	23-62	.371	4-14	.286	3-5	.600	16-25-41	16	13	16	5	8
4/2/17	South Carolina	N	W	36	31	–	67	25-55	.455	0-3	.000	17-22	.773	13-27-40	14	7	11	8	6
	Mississippi State			26	29	–	55	19-55	.345	2-12	.167	15-18	.833	9-18-27	19	8	10	3	4
3/16/18	South Carolina	H	W	39	24	–	63	20-52	.385	4-12	.333	19-22	.864	8-34-42	13	7	19	8	9
	NC A&T			21	31	–	52	17-58	.293	7-17	.412	11-16	.688	9-23-32	17	10	13	3	10
3/18/18	South Carolina	H	W	30	36	–	66	23-54	.426	5-13	.385	15-23	.652	11-30-41	16	16	10	5	6
	Virginia			25	31	–	56	18-57	.316	7-20	.350	13-18	.722	11-20-31	18	10	11	4	4
3/24/18	South Carolina	N	W	40	39	–	79	30-59	.508	1-5	.200	18-20	.900	16-32-48	16	21	26	5	6
	Buffalo			31	32	–	63	24-68	.353	7-24	.292	8-13	.615	9-12-21	19	15	13	2	15
3/26/18	South Carolina	N	L	33	32	–	65	28-56	.500	1-7	.143	8-13	.615	9-18-27	12	10	13	1	5
	UConn			54	40	–	94	37-63	.587	12-20	.600	8-8	1.000	8-21-29	12	25	7	3	7
3/22/19	South Carolina	H*	W	29	45	–	74	31-56	.554	5-15	.333	7-11	.636	14-24-38	16	14	14	6	6
	Belmont			16	36	–	52	18-52	.346	7-25	.280	9-11	.818	10-12-22	13	11	17	2	3
3/23/19	South Carolina	H*	W	37	35	–	72	24-56	.429	4-12	.333	20-24	.833	10-23-33	14	12	12	9	5
	Florida State			30	34	–	64	27-76	.355	3-14	.214	7-11	.636	27-23-50	23	10	13	3	5
3/30/19	South Carolina	N	L	23	45	–	68	21-63	.333	4-19	.211	22-27	.815	10-20-30	18	9	11	7	6
	Baylor			49	44	–	93	37-71	.521	1-4	.250	18-24	.750	19-35-54	20	20	14	9	8
3/21/21	South Carolina	N	W	43	36	–	79	28-62	.452	3-14	.214	20-28	.714	21-31-52	11	12	17	4	8
	Mercer			32	21	–	53	24-65	.369	3-11	.273	2-3	.667	9-18-27	21	14	12	4	9
3/23/21	South Carolina	N	W	30	29	–	59	22-62	.355	1-15	.067	14-18	.778	14-36-50	12	8	12	8	10
	Oregon State			18	24	–	42	18-57	.316	3-19	.158	3-6	.500	5-27-32	15	11	13	8	6
3/28/21	South Carolina	N	W	39	37	–	76	31-55	.564	8-14	.571	6-6	1.000	7-22-29	8	16	13	3	5
	Georgia Tech			35	30	–	65	27-59	.458	6-12	.500	5-7	.714	11-17-28	10	12	12	0	7
3/30/21	South Carolina	N	W	37	25	–	62	25-57	.439	3-7	.429	9-10	.900	10-36-46	12	14	14	14	4
	Texas			22	12	–	34	14-61	.230	3-15	.200	3-6	.500	11-22-33	14	7	15	3	5
3/30/21	South Carolina	N	L	25	40	–	65	24-67	.358	9-20	.450	8-12	.667	22-18-40	15	9	11	5	6
	Stanford			31	35	–	66	25-60	.417	5-8	.625	11-12	.917	17-19-36	15	11	12	12	7
3/18/22	South Carolina	H	W	44	35	–	79	28-79	.354	8-38	.211	15-21	.714	30-39-69	6	20	14	5	12
	Howard			4	17	–	21	8-54	.148	1-9	.111	4-4	1.000	6-22-28	15	2	20	7	3
3/20/22	South Carolina	H	W	23	26	–	49	18-61	.295	4-18	.222	9-16	.563	19-30-49	10	9	16	8	5
	Miami (FL)			10	23	–	33	11-46	.239	5-19	.263	6-8	.750	6-25-31	15	6	19	4	6
3/25/22	South Carolina	N	W	39	30	–	69	23-69	.333	7-19	.368	16-22	.727	25-23-48	17	8	14	5	5
	North Carolina			31	30	–	61	24-52	.462	3-11	.273	10-16	.625	7-26-33	19	12	13	6	2
3/27/22	South Carolina	N	W	46	34	–	80	28-55	.509	3-9	.333	21-27	.778	12-31-43	10	10	7	5	5
	Creighton			25	25	–	50	21-56	.375	7-21	.333	1-5	.200	6-17-23	20	17	11	0	3
4/1/22	South Carolina	N	W	34	38	–	72	27-57	.474	6-17	.353	12-17	.706	11-25-36	11	19	15	4	11
	Louisville			28	31	–	59	27-63	.429	1-8	.125	4-7	.571	13-20-33	17	5	15	2	13
3/27/22	South Carolina	N	W	35	29	–	64	22-60	.367	3-16	.188	17-26	.654	21-28-49	11	9	14	4	6
	UConn			27	22	–	49	22-54	.407	4-16	.250	1-4	.250	6-18-24	21	14	15	5	4
3/17/23	South Carolina	H	W	34	38	–	72	21-54	.389	5-17	.294	25-41	.610	16-33-49	8	17	12	11	11
	Norfolk State			18	22	–	40	16-61	.262	4-12	.333	4-8	.444	14-19-33	24	6	17	0	11
3/19/23	South Carolina	H	W	33	43	–	76	30-71	.423	3-9	.333	13-18	.722	24-31-55	7	13	11	10	7
	South Florida			29	16	–	45	17-58	.293	6-14	.429	5-5	1.000	8-20-28	14	8	13	7	5
3/25/23	South Carolina	N	W	25	34	–	59	24-63	.381	4-16	.250	7-12	.583	15-27-42	11	19	10	6	5
	UCLA			15	28	–	43	15-51	.294	3-18	.167	10-13	.769	8-26-34	16	10	15	4	3
327/23	South Carolina	N	W	38	48	–	86	32-70	.457	6-15	.400	16-26	.615	25-23-48	12	19	13	6	4
	Maryland			30	45	–	75	29-58	.500	7-14	.500	10-15	.667	7-19-26	26	15	13	9	7
3/31/23	South Carolina	N	L	37	36	–	73	30-77	.390	4-20	.200	9-13	.892	26-23-49	20	9	1	5	6
	Iowa			38	37	–	77	28-57	.491	7-23	.304	14-14	1.000	5-20-25	18	14	10	1	8

* - In 2019, the team hosted games at Charlotte's Halton Arena due to the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament hosting games in Colonial Life Arena.

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SOUTH CAROLINA NCAA TOURNAMENT GAME-BY-GAME LINE SCORES

Date	Team	Site	Result	1st	2nd	OT	Total	FG-A	Pct.	3FG-A	Pct.	FT-A	Pct.	Off-Def-Tot	PF	A	TO	Blk	Stl
3/22/24	South Carolina	H	W	48	43	–	91	36-64	.563	9-24	.375	10-15	.667	13-31-44	8	18	9	7	11
	Presbyterian			25	14	–	39	17-60	.283	3-18	.167	2-4	.500	11-16-27	11	10	17	0	4
3/24/24	South Carolina	H	W	56	32	–	88	32-71	.451	9-20	.450	15-19	.789	19-35-54	14	17	13	7	13
	North Carolina			19	22	–	41	15-63	.238	3-18	.167	8-14	.571	14-19-33	17	6	18	7	4

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Team

Most Points Scored
Game: 100 vs. Quinnipiac, 3/25/17
Tourn.: 461 in 2017 (6 games)

Fewest Points Scored
Game: 49 vs. Miami (FL), 3/20/22
Tourn.: 64 in 1991 (1 game)

Margin of Victory
Game: 58 (79-21) vs. Howard, 3/18/22

Margin of Defeat
Game: 29 (65-94) vs. Connecticut, 3/26/18

Field Goals Made
Game: 37 vs. UNC Asheville, 3/17/17
Tourn.: 169 in 2017 (6 games)

Field Goal Attempts
Game: 79 vs. Howard, 3/18/22
Tourn.: 381 in 2022 (6 games)

Field Goal Percentage
Game: .642 (34-53) vs. Savannah State, 3/20/15
Tourn.: .526 (144-274) in 2015 (5 games)

3-Point Field Goals Made (Since 1987-88)
Game: 10 vs. Quinnipiac, 3/25/17
Tourn.: 31 in 2022 (6 games)

3-Point Field Goal Attempts (Since 1987-88)
Game: 38 vs. Howard, 3/18/22
Tourn.: 117 in 2022 (6 games)

3-Point Field Goal Percentage (Since 1987-88)
Game (Min. 10 3FGA): .625 (10-16) vs. Quinnipiac, 3/25/17
Tourn. (Min. 20 3FGA): .370 (10-27) in 2014 (3 games)

Free Throws Made
Game: 34 vs. Oregon State, 3/25/14
Tourn.: 99 in 2017 (6 games)

Free Throw Attempts
Game: 45 vs. Alabama, 3/16/88
Tourn.: 129 in 2022 (6 games)

Free Throw Percentage
Game (Min. 20 FTA): .900 (18-20) vs. Buffalo, 3/24/18
Tourn. (Min. 30 FTA): .842 (32-38) in 2003

Total Rebounds
Game: 69 vs. Howard, 3/18/22
Tourn.: 294 in 2022 (6 games)

Offensive Rebounds (Since 1987-88)
Game: 30 vs. Howard, 3/18/22
Tourn.: 118 in 2022 (6 games)

Defensive Rebounds (Since 1987-88)
Game: 39 vs. Howard, 3/18/22
Tourn.: 176 in 2022 (6 games)

Assists
Game: 23 vs. Savannah State, 3/20/15
23 vs. Bowling Green, 3/14/90
Tourn.: 84 in 2015 (5 games)

Blocked Shots
Game: 14 vs. Texas, 3/30/21
Tourn.: 38 in 2023 (5 games)

Steals
Game: 16 vs. Drake, 3/23/02
Tourn.: 47 in 2017 (6 games)
47 in 2002 (4 games)

Individual

Points Scored
Game: 31 by Beth Hunt vs. Tennessee Tech, 3/15/89
Tourn.: 115 by A'ja Wilson in 2017 (6 games)
Career: 306 by A'ja Wilson, 2015-18 (18 games)

Scoring Average
Tourn. (Min. 2 games): 23.0 by Sheila Foster in 1982 (2 games)
Career (Min. 2 yrs./4 gms.): 21.5 by Beth Hunt, 1989-90 (4 games)

Field Goals Made
Game: 13 by Brantley Southers vs. East Carolina, 3/14/82
Tourn.: 42 by Allisha Gray in 2017 (6 games)
Career: 109 by A'ja Wilson, 2015-18 (18 games)

Field Goal Attempts
Game: 23 by Brantley Southers vs. Middle Tennessee State, 3/12/86
Tourn.: 80 by Zia Cooke in 2023 (5 games)
Career: 222 by Zia Cooke, 2021-23 (16 games)

Field Goal Percentage
Game (Min. 10 FGA): .846 (11-13) by Allisha Gray vs. UNC Asheville, 3/1/17
Tourn. (Min. 15 FGA): .750 (21-28) by Alaina Coates in 2016 (3 games)
Career (Min. 30 FGA/2 yrs.): .642 (61-95) by Alaina Coates, 2014-16 (11 games)

3-Point Field Goals Made (Since 1987-88)
Game: *5 by MiLaysia Fulwiley vs. Presbyterian, 3/22/24*
5 by Zia Cooke vs. Stanford, 4/2/21
5 by Kaela Davis vs. Quinnipiac, 3/25/17
5 by Tina Roy vs. Syracuse, 3/25/16
5 by Karen Middleton at Northwestern, 3/17/90
Tourn.: 14 by Destanni Henderson in 2022 (6 games)
Career: 25 by Zia Cooke, 2021-23 (16 games)

3-Point Field Goal Attempts (Since 1987-88)
Game: 15 by Tina Roy vs. Syracuse, 3/25/16
Tourn.: 37 by Destanni Henderson in 2022 (6 games)
Career: 78 by Zia Cooke, 2021-23 (16 games)

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3-Point Field Goal Percentage (Since 1987-88)

Game (Min. 5 3FGA): 1.000 (5-5) by Karen Middleton at Northwestern, 3/17/90

Tourn. (Min. 10 3FGA): .625 (10-16) by Karen Middleton in 1990 (3 games)

Career (Min. 20 3FGA/2 yrs.): .407 (11-27) by Kelly Morrone, 2002-03 (6 games)

Free Throws Made

Game: 13 by Tiffany Mitchell vs. CSU Northridge, 3/23/14

Tourn.: 33 by A'ja Wilson in 2017 (6 games)

Career: 88 by A'ja Wilson, 2015-18 (18 games)

Free Throw Attempts

Game: 17 by Tiffany Mitchell vs. CSU Northridge, 3/23/14

Tourn.: 44 by Aliyah Boston in 2022 (6 games)

Career: 113 by A'ja Wilson, 2015-18 (18 games)

Free Throw Percentage

Game (Min. 10 FTA): 1.000 (10-10) by A'ja Wilson vs. Quinnipiac, 3/25/17
1.000 (10-10) by Alaina Coates vs. North Carolina, 3/27/15

Tourn. (Min. 15 FTA): .895 (17-19) by Aliyah Boston in 2021 (5 games)

Career (Min. 20 FTA/2 yrs.): .844 (27-32) by Mikiah Herbert Harrigan 2017-20 (13 games)

Total Rebounds

Game: 22 by Aliyah Boston vs. North Carolina, 3/25/22

Tourn.: 91 by Aliyah Boston in 2022 (6 games)

Career: 199 by Aliyah Boston, 2021-23 (16 games)

Rebounding Average

Tourn. (Min. 2 games): 19.0 by Sheila Foster in 1982 (2 games)

Career (Min. 2 yrs./4 gms.): 12.4 by Aliyah Boston, 2021-23 (16 games)

Offensive Rebounds (Since 1987-88)

Game: 12 by Aliyah Boston vs. North Carolina, 3/25/22

Tourn.: 32 by Aliyah Boston in 2022 (6 games)

Career: 70 by Aliyah Boston, 2021-23 (16 games)

Defensive Rebounds (Since 1987-88)

Game: 15 by Sheila Foster vs. Kentucky, 3/18/82

Tourn.: 59 by Aliyah Boston in 2022 (6 games)

Career: 129 by Aliyah Boston, 2021-23 (16 games)

Assists

Game: 9 by Tyasha Harris vs. Buffalo, 3/24/18
9 by Martha Parker vs. Tennessee Tech, 3/15/89

Tourn.: 22 by Destanni Henderson in 2021 (5 games)

Career: 52 by Tyasha Harris, 2017-20 (13 games)

Blocked Shots

Game: 9 by Laeticia Amihere vs. Texas, 3/30/21

Tourn.: 16 by A'ja Wilson in 2017 (6 games)

Career: 43 by A'ja Wilson, 2015-18 (18 games)

Steals

Game: 6 by Jocelyn Penn vs. Drake, 3/23/02
6 by Monica Williams vs. Alabama, 3/16/88

Tourn.: 12 by Bianca Cuevas-Moore in 2017 (6 games)

Career: 24 by Bianca Cuevas-Moore, 2015-19 (16 games)

Opponent Records

Team

Most Points:	94 by Connecticut, 3/26/18
Fewest Points:	21 by Howard, 3/18/22
Field Goals Made:	37 by Baylor, 3/30/19
	37 by Connecticut, 3/26/18
Field Goal Attempts:	79 by Middle Tennessee State, 3/12/86
FG %age:	.587 (37-63) by Connecticut, 3/26/18
3-Pt. FGs Made:	12 by Connecticut, 3/26/18
3-Pt. FG Attempts:	30 by Oregon State, 3/25/14
3FG %age (Min. 10 3FGA):	.600 (12-20) by Connecticut, 3/26/18
Free Throws Made:	19 by Stanford, 3/24/12
Free Throw Attempts:	25 by Stanford, 3/24/12
FT %age (Min. 20 FTA):	.783 (18-23) by Syracuse, 3/22/15
	.783 (18-23) by Vanderbilt, 3/13/91
Rebounds:	54 by Baylor, 3/30/19
Assists:	25 by Connecticut, 3/26/18
Blocks:	12 by Stanford, 4/2/21
Steals:	15 by Buffalo, 3/24/18

Individual

Points:	41 by Caitlin Clark, Iowa, 3/31/23
Field Goals Made:	15 by Caitlin Clark, Iowa, 3/31/23
Field Goal Attempts:	31 by Caitlin Clark, Iowa, 3/31/23
FG %age (Min. 10 FGA):	.818 (9-11) by Carla Bennett, Drake, 3/23/02
3-Pt. FGs Made:	5 by Caitlin Clark, Iowa, 3/31/23
	5 by Maeva Djaldi-Tabdi, Miami (FL), 3/20/22
	5 by Crystal Dangerfield, UConn, 3/26/18
	5 by Jamie Weisner, Oregon State, 3/25/14
3-Pt. FG Attempts:	17 by Caitlin Clark, Iowa, 3/31/23
3FG %age (Min. 5 3FGA):	.714 (5-7) by Crystal Dangerfield, UConn, 3/26/18
Free Throws Made:	8 by Lexie Hull, Stanford, 4/2/21
	8 by Lauren Cox, Baylor, 3/30/19
	8 by Stephanie Walker, Liberty, 3/16/02
Free Throw Attempts:	11 by Cierra Dillard, Buffalo, 3/24/18
FT %age (Min. 10 FTA):	.917 (11-12) by Nnemkadi Ogwumike, Stanford, 3/24/12
Rebounds:	16 by Wendy Scholtens, Vanderbilt, 3/13/91
Assists:	8 by Caitlin Clark, Iowa, 3/31/23
Blocks:	6 by Cameron Brink, Stanford, 4/2/21
Steals:	6 by Cierra Dillard, Buffalo, 3/24/18

SOUTH CAROLINA
UPDATED RECORD BOOK

2 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS • 5 NCAA FINAL FOURS • 7 NCAA ELITE EIGHTS • 14 NCAA SWEET 16s

8 SEC REGULAR-SEASON CHAMPIONSHIPS • 8 SEC TOURNAMENT TITLES

2 NATIONAL PLAYERS OF THE YEAR • NATIONAL FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR • 23 ALL-AMERICANS

9 SEC PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS • 58 ALL-SEC SELECTIONS

SCORING RECORDS

Team Records

Most Points Scored
Game:	137 vs. Wheeling College, 1/13/79	
1st Half:	75 vs. Wheeling College, 1/13/79	
2nd Half:	78 at Notre Dame, 1/31/81	
1st Qtr:	37 vs. Saint Peter's, 11/22/16	
2nd Qtr:	35 vs. Arkansas, 1/3/16	
3rd Qtr:	36 at Vanderbilt, 1/12/20	
4th Qtr:	*37 vs. Maryland, 11/12/23*	
Season:	2,972 in 2022-23 (37 games)	
SEC Game:	106 at Vanderbilt, 1/14/21	

Highest Scoring Average
Season:	82.0 in 2019-20 (2,707 in 33 games)
SEC Season:	*84.3 in 2023-24 (1,348 in 16 games)*

Scoring Margin
Game:	+103 (137-34) vs. Wheeling, 1/13/79
Season:	+28.6 (80.3-51.8) in 2022-23 (37 games)
SEC Game:	+63 (106-43) at Vanderbilt, 1/14/21
SEC Season:	+26.4 (80.0-53.6) in 2022-23 (16 games)

Fewest Points Scored
Game:	32 at Stanford, 11/26/10
1st Half:	9 vs. Georgia, 2/1/97
2nd Half:	13 vs. Mississippi State, 3/5/09
1st Qtr:	6 vs. UCLA, 12/18/16
2nd Qtr:	6 vs. St. John's, 11/25/17
	6 vs. Stanford, 3/31/17
3rd Qtr:	8, 5 times, most recent vs. Miami (FL), 3/20/22
4th Qtr:	5 vs. Appalachian State, 12/5/18
SEC Game:	33 at Vanderbilt, 1/5/97

Individual Records

Most Points Scored
Game:	51 by Jocelyn Penn vs. Stetson, 1/4/03
Season:	754 by Katrina Anderson in 1977-78 (34 games)
Career:	2,389 by A'ja Wilson, 2015-18 (138 games)
SEC Game:	38 by Shannon Johnson at LSU, 1/15/94
SEC Season:	287 by A'ja Wilson in 2017-18 (13 games)
SEC Career:	1,020 by A'ja Wilson, 2015-18 (59 games)

Highest Scoring Average
Season:	24.7 by Shannon Johnson in 1995-96 (691 in 28 games)
Career:	21.3 by Beth Hunt, 1989-90 (1,340 in 63 games)
SEC Season:	23.8 by Shannon Johnson in 1993-94 (262 in 11 games)
SEC Career:	19.0 by Shannon Johnson, 1993-96 (836 in 44 games)

20-Point Games
Season:	22 by Shannon Johnson in 1995-96 (28 games)
Career:	57 by Shannon Johnson, 1993-96 (109 games)
SEC Season:	9 by A'ja Wilson in 2017-18 (13 games)
	9 by Shannon Johnson in 1995-96 (11 games)
SEC Career:	23 by A'ja Wilson, 2015-18 (59 games)

Most Points Scored By Class
Freshman:	516 by Sheila Foster in 1978-79 (37 games)
Game:	40 by Sharon Gilmore at Florida International, 2/7/83
Sophomore:	634 by Shannon Johnson in 1993-94 (27 games)
Junior:	754 by Katrina Anderson in 1977-78 (34 games)
Senior:	747 by A'ja Wilson in 2017-18 (33 games)

20-Point Games By Class
Freshman:	7 by four, most recently, by Karen Middleton in 1987-88 (34 games)
Sophomore:	18 by Shannon Johnson in 1993-94 (27 games)
Junior:	21 by Beth Hunt in 1989-90 (33 games)
	21 by Katrina Anderson in 1977-78 (34 games)
Senior:	22 by Shannon Johnson in 1995-96 (28 games)

Career Leaders

Points
	Player	Gms	Pts
1.	A'ja Wilson (2015-18)	138	2389
2.	Sheila Foster (1979-82)	134	2266
3.	Shannon Johnson (1993-96)	109	2230
4.	Brantley Southers (1982-86)	120	1982
5.	Aliyah Boston (2020-23)	138	1942
6.	Jocelyn Penn (1999-2003)	117	1939
7.	Tiffany Mitchell (2013-16)	139	1885
8.	Zia Cooke (2020-23)	137	1845
9.	Schonna Banner (1987-90)	125	1791
10.	Martha Parker (1986-89)	124	1728

Scoring Average (Min. 50 GP)
	Player	Gms	Pts	Avg
1.	Beth Hunt (1989-90)	63	1340	21.3
2.	Katrina Anderson (1978-79)	71	1454	20.5
3.	Shannon Johnson (1993-96)	109	2230	20.5
4.	Denise Nanney (1975-77)	78	1388	17.8
5.	A'ja Wilson (2015-18)	138	2389	17.3
6.	Sheila Foster (1979-82)	134	2269	16.9
7.	Jocelyn Penn (1999-2003)	117	1939	16.6
8.	Brantley Southers (1982-86)	120	1982	16.5
9.	Charlene DuBose (1974-76)	50	806	16.1
10.	Schonna Banner (1987-90)	125	1791	14.3

30-Point Games
	Player	Gms
1.	Shannon Johnson (1993-96)	17
2.	Beth Hunt (1989-90)	6
3.	Jocelyn Penn (1999-2003)	5
	Brantley Southers (1982-86)	5
	Katrina Anderson (1978-79)	5
6.	A'ja Wilson (2015-18)	4
	Annie Lester (1997-2000)	4
	Marsha Williams (1990-93)	4
	Schonna Banner (1987-90)	4
	Sheila Foster (1979-82)	4
	Denise Nanney (1975-77)	4

20-Point Games
	Player	Gms
1.	Shannon Johnson (1993-96)	57
2.	A'ja Wilson (2015-18)	47
3.	Brantley Southers (1982-86)	41
	Sheila Foster (1979-82)	41
5.	Jocelyn Penn (1999-2003)	35
6.	Beth Hunt (1989-90)	34
7.	Katrina Anderson (1978-79)	33
8.	Marsha Williams (1990-93)	30
9.	Denise Nanney (1975-77)	30
10.	Evelyn Johnson (1980-83)	26

SEC Games Only – Career Leaders

Points

Player	Gms	Pts
1. A'ja Wilson (2015-18)	59	1020
2. Zia Cooke (2020-23)	63	915
3. Aliyah Boston (2020-23)	64	898
4. Tiffany Mitchell (2013-16)	64	862
5. Shannon Johnson (1993-96)	44	836

Scoring Average (Min. 25 GP)

Player	Gms	Pts	Avg
1. Shannon Johnson (1993-96)	44	836	19.0
2. A'ja Wilson (2015-18)	59	1020	17.3
3. Jocelyn Penn (1999-2003)	55	807	14.7
4. Zia Cooke (2020-23)	63	915	14.5
5. Aliyah Boston (2020-23)	64	898	14.0

30-Point Games

Player	Gms
1. Shannon Johnson (1993-96)	4
2. Annie Lester (1997-2000)	3
3. Jocelyn Penn (1999-2003)	2
4. Zia Cooke (2020-23)	1
Brionna Dickerson (2006-09)	1
Teresa Geter (2001-02)	1
Marsha Williams (1991-92)	1

20-Point Games

Player	Gms
1. A'ja Wilson (2015-18)	23
2. Shannon Johnson (1993-96)	21
3. Zia Cooke (2020-23)	13
Jocelyn Penn (1999-2003)	13
5. Annie Lester (1997-2000)	12

Season Leaders

Points

Player	Gms	Pts
1. Katrina Anderson (1977-78)	34	754
2. Beth Hunt (1989-90)	33	748
3. A'ja Wilson (2017-18)	33	747
4. Jocelyn Penn (2002-03)	30	716
5. Katrina Anderson (1978-79)	37	700
6. Shannon Johnson (1995-96)	28	691
7. Shannon Johnson (1994-95)	27	646
8. Shannon Johnson (1993-94)	27	634
9. Sheila Foster (1981-82)	31	627
10. A'ja Wilson (2016-17)	35	626

Scoring Average (Min. 20 GP)

Player	Gms	Pts	Avg
1. Shannon Johnson (1995-96)	28	691	24.7
2. Jocelyn Penn (2002-03)	30	716	23.9
3. Shannon Johnson (1994-95)	27	646	23.9
4. Shannon Johnson (1993-94)	27	634	23.5
5. Beth Hunt (1989-90)	33	748	22.7
6. A'ja Wilson (2017-18)	33	747	22.9
7. Katrina Anderson (1977-78)	34	754	22.2
8. Marsha Williams (1991-92)	28	598	21.4
9. Brantley Southers (1985-86)	30	615	20.5
10. Sheila Foster (1981-82)	31	627	20.2

20-Point Games

Player	Gms
1. Shannon Johnson (1995-96)	22
2. A'ja Wilson (2017-18)	21
Beth Hunt (1989-90)	21
Katrina Anderson (1977-78)	21
5. Jocelyn Penn (2002-03)	18
Shannon Johnson (1993-94)	18
Sheila Foster (1981-82)	18
8. Shannon Johnson (1994-95)	17
Marsha Williams (1991-92)	17
10. Brantley Southers (1985-86)	16

30-Point Games

Player	Gms
1. Beth Hunt (1989-90)	7
2. Shannon Johnson (1994-95)	6
Shannon Johnson (1993-94)	6
4. Katrina Anderson (1977-78)	5
5. Jocelyn Penn (2003-04)	4
Shannon Johnson (1995-96)	4
7. A'ja Wilson (2017-18)	3
Marsha Williams (1991-92)	3

SEC Games Only – Season Leaders

Points

Player	Gms	Pts
1. A'ja Wilson (2017-18)	13	287
2. Jocelyn Penn (2002-03)	13	280
3. Zia Cooke (2022-23)	16	272
4. Annie Lester (1997-98)	14	267
5. Aliyah Boston (2021-22)	16	265

Scoring Average (Min. 10 GP)

Player	Gms	Pts	Avg
1. Shannon Johnson (1993-94)	11	262	23.8
2. A'ja Wilson (2017-18)	13	287	22.1
3. Shannon Johnson (1995-96)	11	239	21.7
4. Jocelyn Penn (2002-03)	13	280	21.5
5. Marsha Williams (1991-92)	11	233	21.2

20-Point Games

Player	Gms
1. A'ja Wilson (2017-18)	9
Shannon Johnson (1995-96)	9
3. Jocelyn Penn (2002-03)	8
Shannon Johnson (1993-94)	8
5. A'ja Wilson (2016-17)	7

Single-Game Leaders

Points

Player	Pts
1. Jocelyn Penn vs. Stetson, 1/4/03	51
2. Jocelyn Penn vs. Wofford, 12/4/02	50
Shannon Johnson at Appalachian State, 1/31/96	50
4. Jocelyn Penn vs. College of Charleston, 11/24/02	45
5. Shannon Johnson vs. Appalachian State, 2/7/95	44
6. Shannon Johnson vs. East Tennessee State, 1/26/94	42
7. Katrina Anderson vs. Florida State, 2/11/78	41
8. Sharon Gilmore at Florida International, 2/27/83	40
9. Shannon Johnson vs. Arizona State, 12/20/95	39
Denise Nanney vs. Francis Marion, 1/28/76	39

SCORING RECORDS

SEC Games Only – Single-Game Leaders
Points

	Player	Pts
1.	Shannon Johnson at LSU, 1/15/94	38
2.	Shannon Johnson vs. Mississippi State, 12/8/93	36
3.	Jocelyn Penn vs. Kentucky, 2/27/03	35
	Jocelyn Penn vs. Arkansas, 1/13/02	35
	Shannon Johnson vs. Tennessee, 2/15/96	35

Year-by-Year Scoring Average Leaders

Season	Player	Class	Gms	Pts	Avg	Season	Player	Class	Gms	Pts	Avg
1974-75	Denise Nanney	So.	30	527	17.6	1999-00	Annie Lester	Sr.	28	354	12.6
1975-76	Denise Nanney	Jr.	22	391	17.8	2000-01	Teresa Geter	Jr.	27	312	11.6
1976-77	Denise Nanney	Sr.	26	470	18.1	2001-02	Jocelyn Penn	Jr.	32	525	16.4
1977-78	Katrina Anderson	Jr.	34	754	22.2	2002-03	Jocelyn Penn	Sr.	30	716	23.9
1978-79	Katrina Anderson	Sr.	37	700	18.9	2003-04	Cristina Ciocan	Sr.	27	317	11.7
1979-80	Sheila Foster	So.	36	589	16.4	2004-05	Lauren Simms	So.	26	306	11.8
1980-81	Sheila Foster	Jr.	30	534	17.8	2005-06	Melanie Johnson	Jr.	29	318	11.0
1981-82	Sheila Foster	Sr.	31	627	20.2	2006-07	Lauren Simms	Sr.	33	324	9.8
1982-83	Sharon Gilmore	Fr.	28	425	15.2	2007-08	Jordan Jones	Fr.	32	419	13.1
1983-84	Brantley Southers	So.	30	551	18.4	2008-09	Brionna Dickerson	Sr.	19	254	13.4
1984-85	Brantley Southers	Jr.	28	482	17.2	2009-10	Valerie Nainima	Jr.	29	492	17.0
1985-86	Brantley Southers	Sr.	30	615	20.5	2010-11	Ieasia Walker	So.	33	403	12.2
1986-87	Martha Parker	So.	30	466	15.5	2011-12	Markeshia Grant	Sr.	35	387	11.1
1987-88	Martha Parker	Jr.	34	563	16.6	2012-13	Aleighsa Welch	So.	33	395	12.0
1988-89	Beth Hunt	So.	.30	592	19.7	2013-14	Tiffany Mitchell	So.	34	527	15.5
1989-90	Beth Hunt	Jr.	33	748	22.7	2014-15	Tiffany Mitchell	Jr.	37	533	14.4
1990-91	Karen Middleton	Sr.	31	544	17.5	2015-16	A'ja Wilson	So.	33	530	16.1
1991-92	Marsha Williams	Jr.	28	598	21.4	2016-17	A'ja Wilson	Jr.	35	626	17.9
1992-93	Lori Joyner	Sr.	22	337	15.3	2017-18	A'ja Wilson	Sr.	33	747	22.6
1993-94	Shannon Johnson	So.	27	634	23.5	2018-19	Te'a Cooper	Jr.	30	357	11.9
1994-95	Shannon Johnson	Jr.	27	646	23.9	2019-20	Mikiah Herbert Harrigan	Sr.	33	432	13.1
1995-96	Shannon Johnson	Sr.	28	691	24.7	2020-21	Zia Cooke	So.	31	494	15.9
1996-97	Nikki Miars	So.	27	404	15.0	2021-22	Aliyah Boston	Jr.	37	623	16.8
1997-98	Annie Lester	So.	28	495	17.7	2022-23	Zia Cooke	Sr.	36	569	15.4
1998-99	Annie Lester	Jr.	27	397	14.7						

Team Records

Most Field Goals Made
Game:	60 vs. Wheeling College, 1/13/79
Season:	1,234 in 1978-79 (37 games)
SEC Game:	42 at Vanderbilt, 1/14/21
	42 at Florida, 2/27/20

Most Field Goal Attempts
Game:	105 vs. Georgia Southern, 12/9/78
Season:	2,524 in 1978-79 (37 games)
SEC Game:	82 vs. LSU, 2/14/98

Highest Field Goal Percentage
Game:	.717 (33-46) vs. Georgia Southern, 12/19/87
Season:	.527 (976-1852) in 1988-89 (30 games)
SEC Game:	*.672 (39-58) at Texas A&M, 1/21/24*

Individual Records

Most Field Goals Made
Game:	22 by Jocelyn Penn vs. Wofford, 12/4/02
Season:	316 by Beth Hunt in 1989-90 (33 games)
Career:	924 by Sheila Foster, 1979-82 (134 games)
SEC Game:	14 by Annie Lester vs. LSU, 12/1/98
SEC Season:	110 by A'ja Wilson in 2017-18 (13 games)
	110 by Jocelyn Penn in 2002-03 (13 games)
SEC Career:	384 by A'ja Wilson, 2015-18 (59 games)

Most Field Goal Attempts
Game:	37 by Shannon Johnson at Appalachian State, 1/31/96
Season:	573 by Brantley Southers in 1985-86 (30 games)
Career:	1768 by Brantley Southers, 1982-86 (120 games)
SEC Game:	28 by Shannon Johnson at LSU, 1/15/94
SEC Season:	243 by Zia Cooke in 2020-21 (16 games)
SEC Career:	815 by Zia Cooke, 2020-23 (63 games)

Highest Field Goal Percentage
Game: (Min. 10 FGM)	1.000 (13-13) by Aliyah Boston vs. NC A&T, 11/29/21
Season: (Min. 150 FGM)	.644 (168-261) by Alaina Coates in 2015-16
Career: (Min. 400 FGM)	.620 (597-963) by Alaina Coates, 2014-17
SEC Game:	.917 (11-12) by LeLe Grissett at Vanderbilt, 1/18/18
	.917 (11-12) by Jocelyn Penn at Vanderbilt, 1/16/03
SEC Season: (Min. 80 FGM)	.635 (99-156) by A'ja Wilson in 2016-17
	.635 (99-156) by Jocelyn Penn in 2001-02
SEC Career: (Min. 200 FGM)	.619 (266-430) by Alaina Coates, 2014-17

Highest Field Goal Percentage By Class (Min. 150 FGM)
Freshman:	.608 (174-286) by Aliyah Boston in 2019-20
Game:	1.000 (7-7) by Victaria Saxton at Arkansas, 2/3/19
	1.000 (7-7) by Alaina Coates vs. SC State, 12/22/13
Sophomore:	.576 (242-420) by Beth Hunt in 1988-89
Junior:	.644 (168-261 by Alaina Coates in 2015-16
Senior:	.628 (282-449) by Jocelyn Penn in 2002-03

Career Leaders

Field Goals Made
	Player	Gms	FGM
1.	Sheila Foster (1979-82)	134	924
2.	A'ja Wilson (2015-18)	138	893
3.	Brantley Southers (1982-86)	120	859
4.	Schonna Banner (1987-90)	125	775
5.	Shannon Johnson (1993-96)	109	772
6.	Aliyah Boston (2020-23)	138	762
7.	Jocelyn Penn (1999-2003)	117	757
8.	Evelyn Johnson (1980-83)	113	674
9.	Zia Cooke (2020-23)	137	653
10.	Sharon Gilmore (1983-86)	110	646

Field Goal Attempts
	Player	Gms	FGA
1.	Brantley Southers (1982-86)	120	1768
2.	Shannon Johnson (1993-96)	109	1759
3.	Sheila Foster (1979-82)	134	1712
4.	Zia Cooke (2020-23)	137	1709
5.	A'ja Wilson (2015-18)	138	1624
6.	Schonna Banner (1987-90)	125	1426
7.	Karen Middleton (1988-91)	128	1417
8.	Tiffany Mitchell (2013-16)	139	1400
9.	Aliyah Boston (2020-23)	138	1709
10.	Evelyn Johnson (1980-83)	113	1390

Field Goal Percentage (Min. 400 FGM and 2 years played)
	Player	FGM-A	Pct
1.	Alaina Coates (2014-17)	597-963	.620
2.	Jocelyn Penn (1999-2003)	757-1277	.593
3.	Aleighsa Welch (2012-15)	560-970	.577
4.	Beth Hunt (1989-90)	558-967	.577
5.	A'ja Wilson (2017-18)	893-1624	.550
6.	Aliyah Boston (2020-23)	762-1396	.546
7.	Schonna Banner (1987-90)	775-1426	.543
8.	Katrina Anderson (1978-79)	589-1084	.543
9.	Sheila Foster (1979-82)	924-1712	.540
10.	Martha Parker (1986-89)	626-1177	.532

Season Leaders

Field Goals Made
	Player	Gms	FGM
1.	Beth Hunt (1989-90)	33	316
2.	Katrina Anderson (1977-78)	34	306
3.	Katrina Anderson (1978-79)	37	283
4.	Jocelyn Penn (2002-03)	30	282
5.	A'ja Wilson (2017-18)	33	278
6.	Brantley Southers (1985-86)	30	266
7.	Sheila Foster (1981-82)	31	252
8.	Sheila Foster (1979-80)	36	245
9.	Beth Hunt (1988-89)	30	242
10.	Aliyah Boston (2021-22)	37	239
	Brantley Southers (1983-84)	30	239

FIELD GOAL RECORDS

Field Goal Attempts

	Player	Gms	FGA
1.	Brantley Southers (1985-86)	30	573
2.	Beth Hunt (1989-90)	33	547
3.	Shannon Johnson (1995-96)	28	544
	Katrina Anderson (1977-78)	34	544
5.	Katrina Anderson (1978-79)	37	540
6.	Denise Nanney (1976-77)	26	527
7.	A'ja Wilson (2017-18)	33	513
8.	Martha Suber (1974-75)	30	509
9.	Marsha Williams (1991-92)	28	508
10.	Shannon Johnson (1993-94)	27	506

Field Goal Percentage (Min. 150 FGM)

	Player	FGM-A	Pct
1.	Alaina Coates (2015-16)	168-261	.644
2.	Jocelyn Penn (2002-03)	282-449	.628
3.	Jocelyn Penn (2001-02)	218-351	.621
4.	Aliyah Boston (2019-20)	174-286	.608
5.	A'ja Wilson (2016-17)	233-396	.588
6.	Sheila Foster (1981-82)	252-432	.583
7.	Alexis Jennings (2017-18)	158-271	.583
8.	Sharon Gilmore (1982-83)	184-317	.580
9.	Beth Hunt (1989-90)	316-547	.578
10.	Beth Hunt (1988-89)	242-420	.576

Single-Game Leaders

Field Goals Made

	Player	FGM
1.	Jocelyn Penn vs. Wofford, 12/4/02	22
2.	Jocelyn Penn vs. Stetson, 1/4/03	19
	Shannon Johnson at Appalachian State, 1/31/96	19
	Denise Nanney vs. Francis Marion, 1/28/76	19
5.	Jocelyn Penn vs. College of Charleston, 11/24/02	18

Field Goal Attempts

	Player	FGA
1.	Shannon Johnson at Appalachian State, 1/31/96	37
2.	Beth Hunt vs. Southern Miss, 3/10/90	32
3.	Martha Suber vs. Anderson, 1/28/75	30
4.	Shannon Johnson vs. East Tennessee State, 1/26/94	31
5.	Jocelyn Penn vs. Stetson, 1/4/03	29
	Shannon Johnson vs. Appalachian State, 12/4/93	29

Field Goal Percentage (Min. 10 FGA)

	Player	FGM-A	Pct
1.	Aliyah Boston vs. NC A&T, 11/29/21	13-13	1.000
	Brantley Southers vs. Auburn, 1/30/84	10-10	1.000
3.	Sharon Gilmore vs. Marshall, 1/8/83	14-15	.930
4.	LeLe Grissett at Vanderbilt, 1/18/18	11-12	.917
	Jocelyn Penn at Vanderbilt, 1/16/03	11-12	.917
	Jocelyn Penn vs. South Carolina State, 12/22/99	11-12	.917
	Sharon Gilmore vs. NC State, 12/11/82	11-12	.917
8.	Teresa Geter at Alabama, 1/14/01	10-11	.909
	Rita Johnson at Notre Dame, 1/31/81	10-11	.909
10.	Victaria Saxton at Vanderbilt, 1/14/21	9-10	.900
	Alexis Jennings at Vanderbilt, 1/18/18	9-10	.900
	Lori Joyner at Cincinnati, 2/11/91	9-10	.900

Year-by-Year Field Goal Percentage Leaders
(Minimum 100 Made)

Season	Player	Class	FGM-A	Pct
1974-75	Charlene DuBose	Jr.	224-469	.478
1975-76	Denise Nanney	Jr.	164-340	.482
1976-77	Denise Nanney	Sr.	217-527	.412
1977-78	Katrina Anderson	Jr.	306-544	.563
1978-79	Katrina Anderson	Sr.	283-540	.524
1979-80	Sheila Foster	So.	245-452	.542
1980-81	Sheila Foster	Jr.	211-396	.533
1981-82	Sheila Foster	Sr.	252-432	.583
1982-83	Sharon Gilmore	Fr.	184-317	.580
1983-84	Mindy Ballou	So.	137-261	.525
1984-85	Sharon Gilmore	Jr.	110-215	.512
1985-86	Sharon Gilmore	Sr.	189-368	.514
1986-87	Schonna Banner	Fr.	183-350	.523
1987-88	Martha Parker	Jr.	202-359	.563
1988-89	Beth Hunt	So.	242-420	.576
1989-90	Beth Hunt	Jr.	316-547	.578
1990-91	Karen Middleton	Sr.	187-437	.428
1991-92	Marsha Williams	Jr.	236-508	.465
1992-93	Marsha Williams	Sr.	131-310	.423
1993-94	Shannon Johnson	So.	231-506	.457
1994-95	Cindy Kelly	Jr.	114-232	.491
1995-96	Shannon Johnson	Sr.	238-544	.438
1996-97	Annie Lester	Fr.	103-222	.464
1997-98	Annie Lester	So.	190-424	.448
1998-99	Jocelyn Penn	Fr.	130-247	.526
1999-00	Jocelyn Penn	So.	127-230	.552
2000-01	Teresa Geter	Jr.	113-190	.595
2001-02	Jocelyn Penn	Jr.	218-351	.621
2002-03	Jocelyn Penn	Sr.	282-449	.628
2003-04	Iva Sliskovic	Fr.	123-224	.549
2004-05	Lauren Simms	So.	122-293	.416
2005-06	Melanie Johnson	Jr.	127-241	.527
2006-07	Melanie Johnson	Sr.	110-259	.425
2007-08	Ilona Burgrova	Sr.	118-214	.551
2008-09	La'Keisha Sutton	Fr.	108-263	.411
2009-10	Kelsey Bone	Fr.	164-367	.447
2010-11	Ashley Bruner	So.	116-215	.540
2011-12	Ashley Bruner	Jr.	100-225	.444
2012-13	Aleighsa Welch	So.	134-224	.598
2013-14	Alaina Coates	Fr.	148-242	.612
2014-15	Alaina Coates	So.	141-251	.562
2015-16	Alaina Coates	Jr.	168-261	.644
2016-17	Alaina Coates	Sr.	140-209	.670
2017-18	Alexis Jennings	Jr.	158-271	.583
2018-19	Alexis Jennings	Sr.	144-263	.548
2019-20	Aliyah Boston	Fr.	174-286	.608
2020-21	Victaria Saxton	Jr.	114-199	.573
2021-22	Aliyah Boston	Jr.	239-441	.542
2022-23	Aliyah Boston	Sr.	185-331	.559

Team Records (Since 1987-88)

Most 3-Point Field Goals Made
Game:	17 vs. Western Carolina, 1/13/94
Season:	248 in 1993-94 (27 games)
SEC Game:	14 at Auburn, 1/5/17
	14 vs. Florida, 1/21/01
	14 at Alabama, 1/22/95

Most 3-Point Field Goal Attempts
Game:	46 at Florida, 2/20/94
Season:	744 in 1993-94 (27 games)
SEC Game:	46 at Florida, 2/20/94

Highest 3-Point Field Goal Percentage
Game:	1.000 (5-5) at Georgia Southern, 12/19/87
	1.000 (5-5) at Northwestern, 3/17/90
Season:	.446 (54-121) in 1988-89
SEC Game:	.700 (7-10) vs. Tennessee, 1/24/00

Individual Records (Since 1987-88)

Most 3-Point Field Goals Made
Game:	9 by Jordan Jones vs. NC A&T, 3/21/08
	9 by Shannon Johnson vs. Arizona State, 12/20/95
Season:	115 by Karen Middleton in 1990-91 (31 games)
Career:	317 by Karen Middleton, 1988-91 (128 games)
SEC Game:	7, seven times, last by Tina Roy vs. Arkansas, 1/3/16
SEC Season:	48 by Valerie Nainima in 2009-10 (16 games)
SEC Career:	111 by Kelly Morrone, 2000-04 (54 games)
	111 by Christi Timmons, 1992-95 (44 games)

Most 3-Point Field Goal Attempts
Game:	20 by Christi Timmons at Florida, 2/20/94
Season:	265 by Karen Middleton in 1990-91 (31 games)
Career:	794 by Christi Timmons, 1992-95 (107 games)
SEC Game:	20 by Christi Timmons at Florida, 2/20/94
SEC Season:	127 by Valerie Nainima in 2009-10 (16 games)
SEC Career:	358 by Christi Timmons, 1992-95 (44 games)

Highest 3-Point Field Goal Percentage
Game: (Min. 5 3FGA)	1.000 (6-6) by Tiffany Mitchell vs. San Diego St., 11/23/14
Season: (Min. 30 3FGM)	.541 (40-74) by Tiffany Mitchell in 2013-14
Career: (Min. 75 3FGM)	.445 (317-712) by Karen Middleton, 1988-91
SEC Game:	1.000 (5-5) by Courtney Newton vs. Georgia, 1/27/11
	1.000 (5-5) by Nicki Bass at Georgia, 1/18/92
SEC Season: (Min. 15 3FGM)	.567 (17-30) by Tiffany Mitchell in 2014-15
SEC Career: (Min. 35 3FGM)	.398 (43-108) by La'Keisha Sutton, 2009-12

Highest 3-Point Field Goal Percentage By Class
Freshman:	.434 (75-173) by Karen Middleton in 1987-88
Game:	1.000 (3-3) by La'Keisha Sutton at Tennessee, 1/18/09
	1.000 (3-3) by Sarah Burgess vs. Vanderbilt, 1/16/03
	1.000 (3-3) by Sarah Burgess vs. Stenson, 1/4/03
Sophomore:	.541 (40-74) by Tiffany Mitchell in 2013-14
Junior:	.469 (115-265) by Karen Middleton in 1989-90
Senior:	.452 (38-84) by Lindsey Spann in 2017-18

Career Leaders

3-Point Field Goals Made
	Player	Gms	3FGM
1.	Karen Middleton (1988-91)	128	317
2.	Christi Timmons (1992-95)	107	239
3.	Kelly Morrone (2000-04)	116	238
4.	Shannon Johnson (1993-96)	109	208
5.	Zia Cooke (2020-23)	137	196
6.	Tiffany Mitchell (2013-16)	139	180
7.	Tina Roy (2012-16)	139	164
8.	Heather Godfrey (1995-98)	108	159
9.	Destanni Henderson (2019-22)	129	157
10.	Nicki Bass (1991-94)	110	152

3-Point Field Goal Attempts
	Player	Gms	3FGA
1.	Christi Timmons (1992-95)	107	794
2.	Karen Middleton (1988-91)	128	712
3.	Kelly Morrone (2000-04)	116	650
4.	Zia Cooke (2020-23)	137	573
5.	Shannon Johnson (1993-96)	109	545
6.	Tina Roy (2012-16)	139	516
7.	Heather Godfrey (1995-98)	108	480
8.	Nicki Bass (1991-94)	110	470
9.	Tiffany Mitchell (2013-16)	139	451
10.	Stacy Booker (2004-07)	108	418

3-Point Field Goal Percentage (Min. 75 3FGM and 2 years played)
	Player	3FGM-A	Pct
1.	Karen Middleton (1988-91)	317-712	.445
2.	Tiffany Mitchell (2013-16)	180-451	.399
3.	Shannon Johnson (1993-96)	208-545	.382
4.	Destanni Henderson (2019-22)	157-414	.379
5.	Kelly Morrone (2000-04)	238-650	.366
6.	Zia Cooke (2020-23)	196-573	.342
7.	Valerie Nainima (2010-11)	115-340	.338
8.	Tatyana Troina (2000-02)	92-273	.337
9.	Markeshia Grant (2011-12)	96-287	.334
10.	Heather Godfrey (1995-98)	159-480	.331

Season Leaders

3-Point Field Goals Made
	Player	Gms	3FGM
1.	Karen Middleton (1990-91)	31	115
2.	Jordan Jones (2007-08)	32	97
3.	Christi Timmons (1991-92)	28	84
4.	Valerie Nainima (2009-10)	29	82
	Shannon Johnson (1995-96)	28	82
6.	Kelly Morrone (2003-04)	28	81
7.	*Te-Hina Paopao (2023-24)*	*33*	*79*
	Christi Timmons (1993-94)	26	79
9.	Karen Middleton (1989-90)	33	76
10.	Karen Middleton (1987-88)	34	75

3-POINT FIELD GOAL RECORDS

3-Point Field Goal Attempts

	Player	Gms	3FGA
1.	Karen Middleton (1990-91)	31	265
2.	Christi Timmons (1993-94)	26	244
3.	Jordan Jones (2007-08)	32	243
4.	Christi Timmons (1991-92)	28	241
5.	Valerie Nainima (2009-10)	29	229
6.	Shannon Johnson (1995-96)	28	202
7.	Kelly Morrone (2003-04)	28	199
8.	Christi Timmons (1994-95)	27	198
9.	Kelly Morrone (2002-03)	31	189
10.	Tina Roy (2015-16)	35	184

3-Point Field Goal Percentage (Min. 30 3FGM)

	Player	3FGM-A	Pct
1.	Tiffany Mitchell (2013-14)	40-74	.541
2.	Karen Middleton (1989-90)	76-162	.469
3.	Karen Middleton (1988-89)	51-112	.455
4.	Lindsey Spann (2017-18)	38-84	.452
5.	Karen Middleton (1990-91)	115-265	.434
6.	Karen Middleton (1987-88)	75-173	.434
7.	Tiffany Mitchell (2014-15)	57-137	.416
8.	Destanni Henderson (2020-21)	41-99	.414
9.	Kelly Morrone (2003-04)	81-199	.407
10.	Shannon Johnson (1995-96)	82-202	.406

Single-Game Leaders

3-Point Field Goals Made

	Player	3FGM
1.	Jordan Jones vs. NC A&T, 3/21/08	9
	Shannon Johnson vs. Arizona State, 12/20/95	9
3.	Kelly Morrone at Duke, 11/25/01	8
	Karen Middleton at Tulane, 2/23/91	8
	Karen Middleton vs. Auburn, 12/29/90	8
	Karen Middleton vs. Memphis, 3/12/88	8
7.	Tina Roy vs. Arkansas, 1/3/16	7
	Markeshia Grant vs. Tennessee, 2/2/12	7
	Jordan Jones at NC State, 3/24/08	7
	Kelly Morrone vs. Mississippi, 2/5/04	7
	Cristina Ciocan at Charlotte, 12/14/03	7
	Kelly Morrone vs. Mercer, 11/26/03	7
	Sarah Burgess vs. Mississippi, 3/6/03	7
	Tatyana Troina vs. Florida, 1/21/01	7
	Heather Godfrey vs. UTEP, 11/28/97	7
	Shannon Johnson vs. Appalachian State, 2/7/95	7
	Christi Timmons at Florida, 2/20/94	7
	Christi Timmons vs. Arkansas, 2/12/94	7
	Karen Middleton vs. Memphis, 1/3/91	7
	Karen Middleton vs. Memphis, 1/7/89	7
	Karen Middleton vs. Tennessee, 1/20/88	7

3-Point Field Goal Attempts

	Player	3FGA
1.	Christi Timmons at Florida, 2/20/94	20
2.	Valerie Nainima vs. Boston University, 12/28/09	17
	Jordan Jones vs. NC A&T, 3/21/08	17
4.	Karen Middleton at Auburn, 11/28/89	16
5.	Tina Roy vs. Syracuse, 3/25/16	15
	Jordan Jones at Mississippi, 1/20/08	15
	Christi Timmons vs. Fairleigh Dickinson, 12/31/94	15
	Karen Middleton vs. Memphis, 3/12/88	15
9.	Angela Hunter vs. Seton Hall, 12/30/04	14
10.	Kelly Morrone vs. Mercer, 11/26/03	14

3-Point Field Goal Percentage (Min. 5 3FGA)

	Player	3FGM-A	Pct
1.	Tiffany Mitchell vs. San Diego State, 11/23/14	6-6	1.000
	Courtney Newton vs. Georgia, 1/27/11	5-5	1.000
	Shannon Johnson vs. Miami, 11/28/93	5-5	1.000
	Nicki Bass at Georgia, 1/18/92	5-5	1.000
	Karen Middleton at Northwestern, 3/17/90	5-5	1.000
6.	Kelly Morrone at Duke, 11/25/01	8-9	.889
7.	Lindsey Spann at Clemson, 11/16/17	6-7	.857
8.	Zia Cooke vs. Georgia Tech, 3/28/21	5-6	.833
	Destanni Henderson vs. USC Upstate, 11/21/19	5-6	.833
	Zia Cooke at Dayton, 11/13/19	5-6	.833
	Kaela Davis vs. Quinnipiac, 3/25/17	5-6	.833
	Bianca Cuevas-Moore at Auburn, 1/5/17	5-6	.833
	Jenny Randall vs. Rice, 2/13/95	5-6	.833
	Jenny Randall vs. Campbell, 1/31/95	5-6	.833
	Karen Middleton at Tulane, 2/3/90	5-6	.833

Year-by-Year 3-Point FG Percentage Leaders
(Minimum 30 Made)

Season	Player	Class	3FGM-A	Pct
1987-88	Karen Middleton	Fr.	75-173	.434
1988-89	Karen Middleton	So.	51-112	.455
1989-90	Karen Middleton	Jr.	76-162	.469
1990-91	Karen Middleton	Sr.	115-265	.434
1991-92	Christi Timmons	Fr.	84-241	.349
1992-93	Christi Timmons	So.	30-111	.270
1993-94	Shannon Johnson	So.	44-111	.396
1994-95	Heather Godfrey	Fr.	43-106	.406
1995-96	Shannon Johnson	Sr.	82-202	.406
1996-97	Nikki Miars	So.	30-102	.294
1997-98	Heather Godfrey	Sr.	40-122	.326
1998-99	Nikki Miars	Sr.	33-105	.314
1999-00	Kelly Morrone	Fr.	50-135	.370
2000-01	Shaun Gortman	Jr.	34-105	.324
2001-02	Shaun Gortman	Sr.	52-143	.364
2002-03	Kelly Morrone	Jr.	62-189	.328
2003-04	Kelly Morrone	Sr.	81-199	.407
2004-05	Stacy Booker	So.	35-116	.302
2005-06	Stacy Booker	Jr.	38-122	.311
2006-07	Stacy Booker	Sr.	40-154	.260
2007-08	Jordan Jones	Fr.	97-243	.399
2008-09	Brionna Dickerson	Sr.	31-85	.365
2009-10	Valerie Nanima	Jr.	82-229	.358
2010-11	Valerie Nainima	Sr.	33-111	.297
2011-12	Markeshia Grant	Sr.	64-176	.364
2012-13	Ieasia Walker	Sr.	43-141	.305
2013-14	Tiffany Mitchell	So.	40-74	.541
2014-15	Tiffany Mitchell	Jr.	57-137	.416
2015-16	Tina Roy	Sr.	66-184	.359
2016-17	Bianca Cuevas-Moore	Jr.	37-99	.374
2017-18	Lindsey Spann	Sr.	38-84	.452
2018-19	Bianca Cuevas-Moore	Sr.	37-112	.330
2019-20	Tyasha Harris	Sr.	38-99	.384
2020-21	Destanni Henderson	Jr.	41-99	.414
2021-22	Destanni Henderson	Sr.	55-138	.399
2022-23	Brea Beal	Sr.	38-100	.380

Team Records

Most Free Throws Made
Game: 42 vs. Cincinnati, 2/12/84
Season: 627 in 2013-14 (34 games)
SEC Game: 33 vs. Georgia, 1/16/93

Most Free Throw Attempts
Game: 54 vs. Cincinnati, 2/12/84
Season: 930 in 2013-14 (34 games)
SEC Game: 51 vs. Georgia, 2/16/93

Highest Free Throw Percentage
Game: 1.000 (12-12) vs. Marshall, 3/7/88
Season: .730 (224-307) in 2018-19
SEC Game: .971 (8-12) at Auburn, 2/21/02

Individual Records

Most Free Throws Made
Game: 18 by Denise Nanney vs. James Madison, 3/7/75
Season: 186 by A'ja Wilson in 2017-18 (33 games)
Career: 597 by A'ja Wilson, 2015-18 (138 games)
SEC Game: 14 by Annie Lester vs. Alabama, 2/17/00
SEC Season: 75 by Tiffany Mitchell in 2013-14 (16 games)
SEC Career: 249 by A'ja Wilson, 2015-18 (59 games)

Most Free Throw Attempts
Game: 24 by Denise Nanney vs. James Madison, 3/7/75
Season: 254 by A'ja Wilson in 2017-18 (33 games)
Career: 835 by A'ja Wilson, 2015-18 (138 games)
SEC Game: 19 by Annie Lester vs. Mississippi, 1/31/98
SEC Season: 98 by Shannon Johnson in 1993-94 (11 games)
SEC Career: 357 by A'ja Wilson, 2015-18 (59 games)

Highest Free Throw Percentage
Game: 1.000 (14-14) by A'ja Wilson vs. Hampton, 11/20/16
Season: .856 (83-97) by Brantley Southers in 1985-86
(Min. 80 FTM)
Career: .802 (264-329) by Brantley Southers, 1981-86
(Min. 200 FTM)
SEC Game: *1.000 (12-12) by MiLaysia Fulwiley at Kentucky, 2/25/24*
(Min. 10 FTM)
SEC Season: .855 (47-55) by Tiffany Mitchell in 2014-15
(Min. 40 FTM)
SEC Career: .829 (218-263) by Tiffany Mitchell, 2013-16
(Min. 100 FTM)

Highest Free Throw Percentage By Class
Freshman: .689 (91-132) by Jocelyn Penn in 1998-99
  Game: .909 (10-11) by Jocelyn Penn vs. SC State, 12/22/98
Sophomore: .816 (124-152) by Nikki Miars in 1996-97
Junior: .838 (98-117) by Tiffany Mitchell in 2014-15
Senior: .856 (83-97) by Brantley Southers in 1985-86

Career Leaders

Free Throws Made
	Player	Gms	FTM
1.	A'ja Wilson (2015-18)	138	597
2.	Shannon Johnson (1993-96)	109	478
3.	Martha Parker (1986-89)	124	473
4.	Tiffany Mitchell (2013-16)	139	447
5.	Sheila Foster (1979-82)	134	418
6.	Jocelyn Penn (1999-03)	117	411
7.	Alaina Coates (2014-17)	133	409
8.	Aliyah Boston (2020-23)	138	387
9.	Nikki Miars (1996-99)	108	357
10.	Zia Cooke (2020-23)	137	343

Free Throw Attempts
	Player	Gms	FTA
1.	A'ja Wilson (2015-18)	138	835
2.	Shannon Johnson (1993-96)	109	679
3.	Martha Parker (1986-89)	124	641
4.	Alaina Coates (2014-17)	133	638
5.	Sheila Foster (1979-82)	134	624
6.	Jocelyn Penn (1999-03)	117	604
7.	Tiffany Mitchell (2013-16)	139	578
8.	Aleighsa Welch (2012-15)	137	545
9.	Marsha Williams (1990-93)	116	513
10.	Aliyah Boston (2020-23)	138	510

Free Throw Percentage (Min. 200 FTM and 2 years played)
	Player	FT-A	Pct
1.	Brantley Southers (1982-86)	264-329	.802
2.	Tyasha Harris (2017-20)	251-317	.792
3.	Mikiah Herbert Harrigan (2017-20)	235-297	.791
4.	Tiffany Mitchell (2013-16)	447-578	.773
5.	Bianca Cuevas-Moore (2015-19)	218-283	.770
6.	Aliyah Boston (2020-23)	387-510	.759
7.	Mindy Ballou (1983-86)	211-280	.754
8.	Nikki Miars (1996-99)	357-474	.753
9.	Zia Cooke (2020-23)	343-457	.751
10.	Martha Parker (1986-89)	473-641	.738

Season Leaders

Free Throws Made
	Player	Gms	FTM
1.	A'ja Wilson (2017-18)	33	186
2.	A'ja Wilson (2016-17)	35	160
3.	Tiffany Mitchell (2013-14)	34	157
	Martha Parker (1987-88)	34	157
5.	Shannon Johnson (1994-95)	27	154
6.	Katrina Anderson (1977-78)	28	142
7.	Jocelyn Penn (2002-03)	30	138
8.	Katrina Anderson (1978-79)	37	134
9.	Shannon Johnson (1995-96)	28	133
10.	Aliyah Boston (2021-22)	37	131
	A'ja Wilson (2014-15)	37	131

Free Throw Attempts
	Player	Gms	FTA
1.	A'ja Wilson (2017-18)	33	254
2.	Katrina Anderson (1977-78)	34	242
3.	Martha Parker (1987-88)	34	231
4.	Shannon Johnson (1994-95)	27	227
5.	A'ja Wilson (2016-17)	35	217
6.	Marsha Williams (1991-92)	28	200
7.	A'ja Wilson (2014-15)	37	198
	Tiffany Mitchell (2013-14)	34	198
9.	Nicki Bass (1991-92)	28	196
10.	Katrina Anderson (1978-79)	37	195

FREE THROW RECORDS

Free Throw Percentage (Min. 80 FTM)

	Player	FT-A	Pct
1.	Brantley Southers (1985-86)	83-97	.856
2.	Tiffany Mitchell (2014-15)	98-117	.838
3.	Tiffany Mitchell (2015-16)	124-152	.816
	Nikki Miars (1996-97)	124-152	.816
5.	Kaela Davis (2016-17)	82-101	.812
6.	Martha Parker (1988-89)	119-150	.793
7.	Tiffany Mitchell (2013-14)	157-198	.793
8.	Zia Cooke (2022-23)	114-144	.792
9.	Annie Lester (1997-98)	115-148	.777
10.	Zia Cooke (2020-21)	88-114	.772

Single-Game Leaders

Free Throws Made

	Player	FTM
1.	Denise Nanney vs. James Madison, 3/7/75	18
2.	Joyce Gilbert vs. North Greenville, 2/2/77	17
3.	A'ja Wilson vs. Rutgers, 11/24/17	15
4.	A'ja Wilson vs. Hampton, 11/20/16	14
	Annie Lester vs. Alabama, 2/17/00	14
	Annie Lester vs. Mississippi, 1/31/98	14
7.	Kaela Davis at Ohio State, 11/14/16	13
	Tiffany Mitchell vs. Cal State Northridge, 3/23/14	13
	Jocelyn Penn vs. Wofford, 12/8/01	13
	Shannon Johnson vs. Michigan, 12/1/94	13
	Shannon Johnson vs. Kentucky, 3/4/94	13
	Schonna Banner vs. Cincinnati, 1/9/87	13
	Sheila Foster vs. Notre Dame, 2/20/82	13

Free Throw Attempts

	Player	FTA
1.	Denise Nanney vs. James Madison, 3/7/75	24
2.	Annie Lester vs. Mississippi, 1/31/98	19
	Beth Hunt vs. Florida State, 1/22/90	19
4.	A'ja Wilson at Maryland, 11/13/17	18
	Joyce Gilbert vs. North Greenville, 2/2/77	18
6.	A'ja Wilson vs. Rutgers, 11/24/17	17
	Tiffany Mitchell vs. Cal State Northridge, 3/23/14	17
	Annie Lester vs. Alabama, 2/17/00	17
	Shannon Johnson vs. Kentucky, 3/4/94	17
8.	Kaela Davis at Ohio State, 11/14/16	16
	Shannon Johnson vs. Florida, 2/18/95	16
	Sheila Foster vs. Notre Dame, 2/20/82	16
	Katrina Anderson vs. NC State, 12/20/77	16

Free Throw Percentage (Min. 10 FTM)

	Player	FTM-A	Pct
1.	A'ja Wilson vs. Hampton, 11/20/16	14-14	1.000
	MiLaysia Fulwiley at Kentucky, 2/25/24	*12-12*	*1.000*
	Nikki Miars vs. Clemson, 12/18/96	12-12	1.000
	Sharon Gilmore vs. Indiana, 12/29/83	12-12	1.000
	Alaina Coates vs. North Carolina, 3/27/15	10-10	1.000
	Tiffany Mitchell vs. Georgia, 2/27/14	10-10	1.000
	Nikki Miars vs. Furman, 11/23/97	10-10	1.000
	Nikki Miars vs. Cornell, 12/30/96	10-10	1.000
	Nicki Bass at Florida, 2/8/92	10-10	1.000
	Rita Johnson at Clemson, 3/10/81	10-10	1.000
	Jocelyn Penn vs. Wofford, 12/8/01	12-13	.923

Year-by-Year FT Percentage Leaders
(Minimum 50 Made)

Season	Player	Class	FTM-A	Pct
1974-75	Denise Nanney	So.	87-123	.707
1975-76	Denise Nanney	Jr.	63-94	.670
1976-77	Joyce Gilbert	Fr.	66-75	.880
1977-78	Katrina Anderson	Jr.	142-242	.587
1978-79	Katrina Anderson	Sr.	134-195	.687
1979-80	Becky Parker	Fr.	51-70	.729
1980-81	Rita Johnson	Sr.	78-97	.804
1981-82	Evelyn Johnson	Jr.	50-71	.704
1982-83	Marsi McAlister	So.	63-89	.708
1983-84	Brantley Southers	So.	73-88	.830
1984-85	Brantley Southers	Jr.	60-78	.769
1985-86	Brantley Southers	Sr.	83-97	.856
1986-87	Monica Williams	Jr.	55-72	.764
1987-88	Martha Parker	Jr.	157-231	.680
1988-89	Martha Parker	Sr.	119-150	.793
1989-90	Beth Hunt	Jr.	115-171	.673
1990-91	Karen Middleton	Sr.	55-67	.821
1991-92	Nicki Bass	So.	81-106	.764
1992-93	Lori Joyner	Sr.	104-135	.770
1993-94	Jenny Randall	Jr.	51-59	.864
1994-95	Cindy Kelly	Jr.	54-78	.692
1995-96	Shannon Johnson	Sr.	133-179	.743
1996-97	Nikki Miars	So.	124-162	.816
1997-98	Annie Lester	So.	115-148	.777
1998-99	Shannon Segres	Fr.	70-93	.753
1999-00	Shannon Segres	So.	51-64	.797
2000-01	Teresa Geter	Jr.	74-99	.747
2001-02	Teresa Geter	Sr.	69-85	.812
2002-03	Cristina Ciocan	Jr.	57-74	.770
2003-04	Iva Sliskovic	Fr.	61-88	.693
2004-05	*None with Minimum FTM*			
2005-06	Iva Sliskovic	Jr.	75-106	.708
2006-07	Iva Sliskovic	Sr.	66-93	.710
2007-08	Ilona Burgrova	Sr.	60-87	.690
2008-09	La'Keisha Sutton	Fr.	77-114	.675
2009-10	Valerie Nainima	Jr.	68-90	.756
2010-11	Ieasia Walker	So.	91-146	.623
2011-12	La'Keisha Sutton	Sr.	68-90	.756
2012-13	Aleighsa Welch	So.	126-178	.708
2013-14	Tiffany Mitchell	So.	157-198	.793
2014-15	Tiffany Mitchell	Jr.	98-117	.838
2015-16	Tiffany Mitchell	Sr.	124-152	.816
2016-17	Kaela Davis	Jr.	82-101	.812
2017-18	Mikiah Herbert Harrigan	So.	53-69	.768
2018-19	Tyasha Harris	Jr.	76-89	.854
2019-20	Tyasha Harris	Sr.	66-77	.857
2020-21	Zia Cooke	So.	88-114	.772
2021-22	Aliyah Boston	Jr.	131-170	.771
2022-23	Zia Cooke	Sr.	114-144	.792

Team Records

Total Rebounds
Game: 82 vs. Claflin, 1/24/78
Season: 1,830 in 2022-23 (37 games)
SEC Game: 74 vs. Arkansas, 1/22/23

Rebounding Average
Season: 49.5 in 2022-23 (1830 in 37 games)
SEC Season: 49.3 in 2022-23 (789 in 16 games)

Rebounding Margin
Game: +57 (74-17) vs. Arkansas, 1/22/23
Season: +20.4 (49.5-29.1) in 2022-23 (37 games)
SEC Game: +57 (74-17) vs. Arkansas, 1/22/23
SEC Season: +21.3 (49.3-28.0) in 2022-23 (789 in 16 games)

Offensive Rebounds (Since 1987-88)
Game: 35 vs. Louisiana-Lafayette, 11/18/01
Season: 679 in 2022-23 (37 games)
SEC Game: 32 vs. Arkansas, 1/22/23

Defensive Rebounds (Since 1987-88)
Game: 50 vs. College of Charleston, 11/25/20
Season: 1,151 in 2022-23 (37 games)
SEC Game: 42 vs. Arkansas, 1/22/23

Individual Records

Total Rebounds
Game: 26 by Demetress Adams vs. Arkansas, 2/3/08
Season: 462 by Aliyah Boston in 2021-22 (37 games)
Career: 1,493 by Aliyah Boston, 2020-23 (138 games)
SEC Game: 26 by Demetress Adams vs. Arkansas, 2/3/08
SEC Season: 212 by Aliyah Boston in 2021-22 (16 games)
SEC Career: 729 by Aliyah Boston, 2020-23 (64 games)

Rebounding Average
Season: 12.8 by Katrina Anderson in 1977-78 (434 in 34 games)
Career: 11.3 by Katrina Anderson, 1978-79 (805 in 71 games)
SEC Season: 13.3 by Aliyah Boston in 2021-22 (212 in 16 games)
SEC Career: 11.4 by Aliyah Boston, 2020-23 (64 games)

Offensive Rebounds (Since 1987-88)
Game: 12 by Aliyah Boston vs. North Carolina, 3/25/22
              12 by Marsha Williams at Furman, 1/20/93
Season: 150 by Aliyah Boston in 2021-22 (37 games)
Career: 518 by Aliyah Boston, 2020-23 (138 games)
SEC Game: 10 by Annie Lester vs. Ole Miss, 1/31/98
              10 by Marsha Williams vs. Ole Miss, 11/25/92
SEC Season: 69 by Aliyah Boston in 2021-22 (16 games)
SEC Career: 244 by Aliyah Boston, 2020-23 (64 games)

Defensive Rebounds (Since 1987-88)
Game: 17 by A'ja Wilson vs. LSU, 2/22/18
              17 by Demetress Adams vs. Arkansas, 2/3/08
Season: 312 by Aliyah Boston in 2021-22 (37 games)
Career: 975 by Aliyah Boston, 2020-23 (138 games)
SEC Game: 17 by A'ja Wilson vs. LSU, 2/22/18
              17 by Demetress Adams vs. Arkansas, 2/3/08
SEC Season: 143 by Aliyah Boston in 2021-22 (16 games)
SEC Career: 485 by Aliyah Boston, 2020-23 (64 games)

Total Rebounds By Class
Freshman: 329 by Sheila Foster in 1978-79 (37 games)
  Game: 25 by Aliyah Boston vs. Arkansas, 1/9/20
Sophomore: 379 by Sheila Foster in 1979-80 (36 games)
Junior: 462 by Aliyah Boston in 2021-22 (37 games)
Senior: 391 by A'ja Wilson in 2017-18 (33 games)

Career Leaders

Total Rebounds

Player	Gms	Reb
1. Aliyah Boston (2020-23)	138	1493
2. Sheila Foster (1979-82)	134	1427
3. Alaina Coates (2014-17)	133	1230
4. A'ja Wilson (2015-18)	138	1195
5. Marsha Williams (1990-93)	116	1026
6. Aleighsa Welch (2012-15)	137	956
7. Schonna Banner (1987-90)	125	901
8. Sharon Gilmore (1983-86)	110	882
9. Denise Nanney (1975-77)	78	877
10. Brantley Southers (1982-86)	120	862

Rebounding Average (Min. 50 GP and 2 years played)

Player	Gms	Reb	Avg
1. Katrina Anderson (1978-79)	71	805	11.3
2. Denise Nanney (1975-77)	78	877	11.2
3. Aliyah Boston (2020-23)	138	1493	10.8
4. Sheila Foster (1979-82)	134	1427	10.6
5. Beth Hunt (1989-90)	63	613	9.7
6. Alaina Coates (2014-17)	133	1230	9.2
7. Marsha Williams (1990-93)	116	1026	8.8
8. A'ja Wilson (2017-18)	138	1195	8.7
9. Sharon Gilmore (1983-86)	110	882	8.0
10. Cynthia Jacobs (1978-80)	65	515	7.9

Offensive Rebounds (Since 1987-88)

Player	Gms	Reb
1. Aliyah Boston (2020-23)	138	518
2. Aleighsa Welch (2012-15)	137	449
3. Marsha Williams (1990-93)	116	427
4. Alaina Coates (2014-17)	133	380
5. A'ja Wilson (2015-18)	138	374
6. Victaria Saxton (2019-23)	166	365
7. Annie Lester (1997-2000)	110	348
8. Jocelyn Penn (1999-03)	117	345
9. Ashley Bruner (2010-13)	128	338
10. Kamilla Cardoso (2022-present)	*97*	*299*

Defensive Rebounds (Since 1987-88)

Player	Gms	Reb
1. Aliyah Boston (2020-23)	138	975
2. Alaina Coates (2014-17)	133	850
3. A'ja Wilson (2015-18)	138	821
4. Marsha Williams (1990-93)	116	599
5. Petra Ujhelyi (2000-03)	119	579
6. Aleighsa Welch (2012-15)	137	507
7. Iva Sliskovic (2004-07)	119	491
8. Schonna Banner (1987-90)	125	489
9. Brea Beal (2020-23)	138	474
10. Demetress Adams (2006-09)	112	462

REBOUNDING RECORDS

SEC Games Only – Career Leaders

Total Rebounds

	Player	Gms	Reb
1.	Aliyah Boston (2020-23)	64	729
2.	Alaina Coates (2014-17)	62	599
3.	A'ja Wilson (2015-18)	59	540
4.	Aleighsa Welch (2012-15)	62	430
5.	Annie Lester (1997-2000)	54	376

Rebounding Average (Min. 25 GP and 2 years played)

	Player	Gms	Rebs	Avg
1.	Aliyah Boston (2020-23)	64	729	11.4
2.	Alaina Coates (2014-17)	62	599	9.7
3.	A'ja Wilson (2017-18)	59	540	9.2
4.	Annie Lester (1997-2000)	54	376	7.0
5.	Aleighsa Welch (2012-15)	62	430	6.9

Offensive Rebounds

	Player	Gms	Reb
1.	Aliyah Boston (2020-23)	64	244
2.	Aleighsa Welch (2012-15)	62	190
3.	Victaria Saxton (2020-23)	78	182
4.	A'ja Wilson (2015-18)	59	177
5.	Annie Lester (1997-2000)	54	166

Defensive Rebounds

	Player	Gms	Reb
1.	Aliyah Boston (2020-23)	64	485
2.	Alaina Coates (2014-17)	62	437
3.	A'ja Wilson (2015-18)	59	363
4.	Petra Ujhelyi (2000-03)	56	249
5.	Aleighsa Welch (2012-15)	62	240

Season Leaders

Total Rebounds

	Player	Gms	Reb
1.	Aliyah Boston (2021-22)	37	462
2.	Katrina Anderson (1977-78)	34	434
3.	A'ja Wilson (2017-18)	33	391
4.	Sheila Foster (1980-81)	30	381
5.	Sheila Foster (1979-80)	36	379
6.	Katrina Anderson (1978-79)	37	371
7.	Aliyah Boston (2022-23)	37	364
8.	Denise Nanney (1974-75)	30	361
9.	Alaina Coates (2015-16)	35	360
10.	Aliyah Boston (2020-21)	31	357

Rebounding Average (Min. 20 GP)

	Player	Gms	Reb	Avg
1.	Katrina Anderson (1977-78)	34	434	12.8
2.	Sheila Foster (1980-81)	30	381	12.7
3.	Aliyah Boston (2021-22)	37	462	12.5
4.	Denise Nanney (1975-76)	22	267	12.1
5.	Denise Nanney (1974-75)	30	361	12.0
6.	A'ja Wilson (2017-18)	33	391	11.8
7.	Aliyah Boston (2020-21)	31	357	11.5
8.	Marsha Williams (1991-92)	28	315	11.3
9.	Sheila Foster (1981-82)	31	338	10.9
10.	Alaina Coates (2016-17)	28	300	10.7

Offensive Rebounds (Since 1987-88)

	Player	Gms	Reb
1.	Aliyah Boston (2021-22)	37	150
2.	Kamilla Cardoso (2022-23)	36	134
3.	Marsha Williams (1991-92)	28	133
4.	Aleighsa Welch (2012-13)	33	131
5.	Aliyah Boston (2020-21)	31	127
6.	Marsha Williams (1990-91)	31	126
7.	Aliyah Boston (2022-23)	37	124
8.	Victaria Saxton (2021-22)	37	118
9.	Aliyah Boston (2019-20)	33	117
10.	A'ja Wilson (2017-18)	33	115

Defensive Rebounds (Since 1987-88)

	Player	Gms	Reb
1.	Aliyah Boston (2021-22)	37	312
2.	A'ja Wilson (2017-18)	33	276
3.	Alaina Coates (2015-16)	35	253
4.	Aliyah Boston (2022-23)	37	240
5.	Aliyah Boston (2020-21)	31	230
	Beth Hunt (1989-90)	33	230
7.	Alaina Coates (2016-17)	28	208
8.	Alaina Coates (2013-14)	34	203
9.	A'ja Wilson (2015-16)	33	199
10.	Petra Ujhelyi (2002-03)	31	198

SEC Games Only – Season Leaders

Total Rebounds

	Player	Gms	Reb
1.	Aliyah Boston (2021-22)	16	212
2.	Aliyah Boston (2020-21)	16	196
3.	Alaina Coates (2015-16)	16	177
4.	A'ja Wilson (2017-18)	13	166
	Alaina Coates (2016-17)	15	166

Rebounding Average (Min. 10 GP)

	Player	Gms	Rebs	Avg
1.	Aliyah Boston (2021-22)	16	212	13.3
2.	A'ja Wilson (2017-18)	13	166	12.8
3.	Aliyah Boston (2020-21)	16	196	12.3
4.	Alaina Coates (2016-17)	15	166	11.1
5.	Alaina Coates (2015-16)	16	177	11.1

Offensive Rebounds

	Player	Gms	Reb
1.	Aliyah Boston (2021-22)	16	69
2.	Aliyah Boston (2020-21)	16	62
3.	Aliyah Boston (2022-23)	16	57
4.	Aliyah Boston (2019-20)	16	56
	Aleighsa Welch (2012-13)	16	56

Defensive Rebounds

	Player	Gms	Reb
1.	Aliyah Boston (2021-22)	16	143
2.	Alaina Coates (2015-16)	16	140
3.	Aliyah Boston (2020-21)	16	134
4.	Alaina Coates (2016-17)	15	123
5.	A'ja Wilson (2017-18)	13	113

Single-Game Leaders

Total Rebounds

	Player	Reb
1.	Demetress Adams vs. Arkansas, 2/3/08	26
2.	Aliyah Boston vs. Arkansas, 1/9/20	25
3.	A'ja Wilson vs. LSU, 2/22/18	24
	Denise Nanney vs. Anderson, 1/28/75	24
5.	Denise Nanney vs. Davidson, 2/6/75	23
6.	Aliyah Boston vs. North Carolina, 3/25/22	22
	Sheila Foster at Clemson, 3/10/81	22
	Sheila Foster vs. UCLA, 1/5/81	22
	Katrina Anderson vs. East Carolina, 3/11/78	22
	Katrina Anderson vs. Claflin, 1/24/78	22
	Denise Nanney vs. UNC-Greensboro, 2/14/75	22

Offensive Rebounds (Since 1987-88)

	Player	Off Reb
1.	Aliyah Boston vs. North Carolina, 3/25/22	12
	Marsha Williams at Furman, 1/20/93	12
3.	Michelle Murray vs. Georgia Southern, 2/3/92	11
4.	Aliyah Boston vs. Arkansas, 1/9/20	10
	Six other times, most recently, Jocelyn Penn vs. Stetson, 1/4/03	10

Defensive Rebounds (Since 1987-88)

	Player	Def Reb
1.	A'ja Wilson vs. LSU, 2/22/18	17
	Demetress Adams vs. Arkansas, 2/3/08	17
3.	A'ja Wilson vs. St. John's, 11/25/17	16
	Alaina Coates at Kentucky, 2/2/17	16
5.	Aliyah Boston vs. Arkansas, 1/9/20	15
	Beth Hunt vs. Old Dominion, 1/20/90	15
	Brantley Southers vs. UNC Asheville, 2/24/86	15
	Sheila Foster vs. Kentucky, 3/18/82	15

SEC Games Only – Single-Game Leaders

Total Rebounds

	Player	Reb
1.	Demetress Adams vs. Arkansas, 2/3/08	26
2.	Aliyah Boston vs. Arkansas, 1/9/20	25
3.	A'ja Wilson vs. LSU, 2/22/18	24
4.	Aliyah Boston at Florida, 1/30/22	19
	Alaina Coates at Arkansas, 2/5/17	19
	A'ja Wilson at Kentucky, 3/1/15	19

Offensive Rebounds

	Player	Reb
1.	Aliyah Boston vs. Arkansas, 1/9/20	10
	Annie Lester vs. Mississippi, 1/31/98	10
	Marsha Williams vs. Mississippi, 1/25/92	10
4.	*Kamilla Cardoso vs. Tennessee, 3/3/24*	*9*
	Aliyah Boston vs. Texas A&M, 1/13/22	9
	Aleighsa Welch vs. Tennessee, 2/23/15	9
	Aleighsa Welch at Georgia, 2/25/15	9
	Demetress Adams vs. Arkansas, 2/3/08	9

Defensive Rebounds

	Player	Reb
1.	A'ja Wilson vs. LSU, 2/22/18	17
	Demetress Adams vs. Arkansas, 2/3/08	17
3.	Alaina Coates at Kentucky, 2/2/17	16
4.	Aliyah Boston at Florida, 1/30/22	15
	Aliyah Boston vs. Arkansas, 1/9/20	15

Year-by-Year Rebound Average Leaders

Season	Player	Class	Gms	Reb	Avg
1974-75	Denise Nanney	So.	30	361	12.0
1975-76	Denise Nanney	Jr.	22	267	12.1
1976-77	Denise Nanney	Sr.	26	249	9.6
1977-78	Katrina Anderson	Jr.	34	436	12.8
1978-79	Katrina Anderson	Sr.	37	371	10.0
1979-80	Sheila Foster	So.	36	379	10.5
1980-81	Sheila Foster	Jr.	30	381	12.7
1981-82	Sheila Foster	Sr.	31	338	10.9
1982-83	Sharon Gilmore	Fr.	28	232	8.3
1983-84	Brantley Southers	So.	30	240	8.0
1984-85	Sharon Gilmore	Jr.	22	169	7.7
1985-86	Sharon Gilmore	Sr.	30	266	8.9
1986-87	Schonna Banner	Fr.	29	182	6.3
1987-88	Schonna Banner	So.	33	240	7.3
1988-89	Beth Hunt	So.	30	276	9.2
1989-90	Beth Hunt	Jr.	33	337	10.2
1990-91	Marsha Williams	So.	31	303	9.8
1991-92	Marsha Williams	Jr.	28	315	11.3
1992-93	Marsha Williams	Sr.	24	256	10.7
1993-94	Malinda McDaniel	Sr.	27	220	8.1
1994-95	Shannon Johnson	Jr.	27	172	6.4
1995-96	Trese Hickey	Jr.	27	177	6.6
1996-97	Annie Lester	Fr.	27	180	6.7
1997-98	Annie Lester	So.	28	247	8.8
1998-99	Annie Lester	Jr.	27	213	7.9
1999-00	Petra Ujhelyi	Fr.	28	180	6.4
2000-01	Teresa Geter	Jr.	27	176	6.5
2001-02	Jocelyn Penn	Jr.	32	214	6.7
2002-03	Petra Ujhelyi	Sr.	31	288	9.3
2003-04	Iva Sliskovic	Fr.	28	200	7.1
2004-05	Melanie Johnson	So.	28	189	6.8
2005-06	Melanie Johnson	Jr.	29	192	6.6
2006-07	Melanie Johnson	Sr.	32	176	5.5
2007-08	Demetress Adams	Jr.	32	286	8.9
2008-09	Demetress Adams	Sr.	18	130	7.2
2009-10	Kelsey Bone	Fr.	29	268	9.2
2010-11	Ashley Bruner	So.	33	175	5.3
2011-12	Aleighsa Welch	Fr.	33	200	6.1
2012-13	Ashley Bruner	Sr.	33	267	8.1
2013-14	Alaina Coates	Fr.	34	285	8.4
2014-15	Alaina Coates	So.	36	285	7.9
2015-16	Alaina Coates	Jr.	35	253	10.3
2016-17	Alaina Coates	Sr.	28	300	10.7
2017-18	A'ja Wilson	Sr.	33	391	11.8
2018-19	Alexis Jennings	Sr.	32	199	6.2
2019-20	Aliyah Boston	Fr.	33	310	9.4
2020-21	Aliyah Boston	So.	31	357	11.5
2021-22	Aliyah Boston	Jr.	37	462	12.5
2022-23	Aliyah Boston	Sr.	37	364	9.8

DOUBLE-DOUBLE RECORDS

Team Records
Double-Doubles
Season:	42 in 1977-78
SEC Season:	16 in 2021-22

Individual Records
Double-Doubles
Season:	30 by Aliyah Boston in 2021-22 (37 games)
Career:	82 by Aliyah Boston, 2020-23 (138 games)
SEC Season:	16 by Aliyah Boston in 2021-22 (16 games)
SEC Career:	42 by Aliyah Boston, 2020-23 (64 games)

Double-Doubles By Class
Freshman:	13 by Aliyah Boston in 2019-20 (33 games)
Sophomore:	22 by Denise Nanney in 1974-75 (30 games)
Junior:	30 by Aliyah Boston in 2021-22 (37 games)
Senior:	24 by A'ja Wilson in 2017-18 (33 games)

Career Leaders
Double-Doubles
	Player	Gms	Dbl-Dbls
1.	Aliyah Boston (2020-23)	138	82
2.	Sheila Foster (1979-82)	134	72
3.	Alaina Coates (2014-17)	133	57
4.	A'ja Wilson (2015-18)	138	54
5.	Marsha Williams (1990-93)	116	44
6.	Denise Nanney (1975-77)	78	42
7.	Katrina Anderson (1978-79)	71	41
8.	Sharon Gilmore (1983-86)	110	32
9.	Brantley Southers (1982-86)	120	29
10.	Beth Hunt (1989-90)	63	27

SEC Games Only – Career Leaders
Double-Doubles
	Player	Gms	Dbl-Dbls
1.	Aliyah Boston (2020-23)	64	42
2.	Alaina Coates (2014-17)	62	27
3.	A'ja Wilson (2015-18)	46	21
4.	Kamilla Cardoso (2022-present)	40	11
5.	Marsha Williams (1992-93)	22	10
	Annie Lester (1997-2000)	54	10

Season Leaders
Double-Doubles
	Player	Gms	Dbl-Dbls
1.	Aliyah Boston (2021-22)	37	30
2.	Katrina Anderson (1977-78)	34	25
3.	A'ja Wilson (2017-18)	33	24
4.	Sheila Foster (1980-81)	34	23
5.	Aliyah Boston (2022-23)	37	22
	Denise Nanney (1974-75)	30	22
7.	Alaina Coates (2015-16)	33	20
	Sheila Foster (1981-82)	31	20
	Sheila Foster (1979-80)	36	20
10.	Aliyah Boston (2020-21)	31	17
	Marsha Williams (1991-92)	28	17

Consecutive Double-Doubles
	Player	Start Date	End Date	Games
1.	Aliyah Boston	11/29/21	3/25/22	27
2.	Katrina Anderson	1/14/78	2/6/78	9
	Denise Nanney	2/1/75	2/28/75	9
4.	Aliyah Boston	1/8/23	2/5/23	8
5.	Sheila Foster	1/30/82	2/17/82	7
	Katrina Anderson	1/14/78	2/6/78	7
	Denise Nanney	2/1/75	2/28/75	7

SEC Games Only – Season Leaders
Double-Doubles
	Player	Gms	Dbl-Dbls
1.	Aliyah Boston (2021-22)	16	16
2.	Aliyah Boston (2022-23)	16	10
	Alaina Coates (2015-16)	16	10
3.	Aliyah Boston (2020-21)	16	9
	A'ja Wilson (2017-18)	13	9

All-Time Triple-Doubles
Aliyah Boston (16 pts/11 rebs/10 blks) vs. #22/23 Georgia, 1/21/21
Aliyah Boston (12 pts/12 rebs/10 blks) vs. Alabama State, 11/5/19
Alaina Coates (29 pts /16 rebs /10 blks) vs. Winthrop, 12/13/15
Iva Sliskovic (18 pts / 15 rebs / 10 assts) vs. High Point, 12/20/06
Cristina Ciocan (22 pts / 10 rebs /13 assts) at Clemson, 11/21/03
Shaun Gortman (21 pts / 12 rebs / 10 assts) vs. Georgia Southern, 12/18/99
Martha Parker (25 pts /11 rebs / 10 assts) vs. DePaul, 3/1/89
Brantley Southers (18 pts / 17 rebs / 11 assts) vs. UNC Asheville, 2/24/86

ASSIST RECORDS

Team Records (Since 1976-77)

Assists
Game: 35 vs. UNC Asheville, 2/24/86
Season: 633 in 1979-80 (36 games)
SEC Game: 30 at Kentucky, 2/25/24

Assist Average
Season: 20.6 in 1988-89 (618 in 30 games)
SEC Season: 18.1 in 2023024 (290 in 16 games)

Individual Records (Since 1976-77)

Assists
Game: 18 by Cristina Ciocan vs. Florida A&M, 11/29/03
Season: 220 by Tyasha Harris in 2017-18 (36 games)
Career: 702 by Tyasha Harris, 2017-20 (139 games)
SEC Game: 14 by Cristina Ciocan vs. Vanderbilt, 1/3/02
SEC Season: 104 by Tyasha Harris in 2017-18 (16 games)
SEC Career: 357 by Tyasha Harris, 2017-20 (64 games)

Assist Average
Season: 7.3 by Mindy Ballou in 1983-84 (219 in 30 games)
Career: 5.3 by Cristina Ciocan, 2001-04 (615 in 116 games)
SEC Season: 6.5 by Tyasha Harris in 2017-18 (104 in 16 games)
SEC Career: 4.5 by Cristina Ciocan, 2001-04 (250 in 56 games)

Assist-to-Turnover Ratio
Season: 3.20 (176-55) by Tyasha Harris in 2018-19
(Min. 100 Assists)
Career: 2.55 (702-275) by Tyasha Harris, 2017-20
(Min. 250 Assists)
SEC Season: 3.30 (99-30) by Tyasha Harris in 2018-19
(Min. 50 Assists)
SEC Career: 2.98 (357-120) by Tyasha Harris, 2017-20
(Min. 125 Assists)

Assists By Class
Freshman: 162 by Martha Parker in 1985-86 (30 games)
  Game: 14 by Martha Parker vs. Charlotte, 1/18/86
Sophomore: 220 by Tyasha Harris in 2017-18 (36 games)
Junior: 207 by Cristina Ciocan in 2002-03 (31 games)
Senior: 174 by Mindy Ballou in 1985-86 (30 games)

Career Leaders

Assists
	Player	Gms	Asst
1.	Tyasha Harris (2017-20)	139	702
2.	Cristina Ciocan (2001-04)	116	615
3.	Mindy Ballou (1983-86)	115	595
4.	Martha Parker (1986-89)	124	543
5.	Sharon Rivers (1980-83)	122	512
6.	Lisa Diaz (1987-90)	126	498
7.	Shannon Johnson (1993-96)	109	467
8.	Sherry David (1988-91)	106	424
9.	Destanni Henderson (2019-22)	129	423
10.	Karen Middleton (1988-91)	128	409

Assist Average (Min. 50 GP)
	Player	Gms	Asst	Avg
1.	Cristina Ciocan (2001-04)	116	615	5.3
2.	Mindy Ballou (1983-86)	115	595	5.2
3.	Tyasha Harris (2017-20)	139	702	5.1
4.	Martha Parker (1986-89)	124	543	4.4
5.	Shannon Johnson (1993-96)	109	467	4.3
6.	Sharon Rivers (1980-83)	122	512	4.2
7.	Sherry David (1988-91)	106	424	4.0
8.	Lisa Diaz (1987-90)	126	498	4.0
9.	Natalie Funderburk (1993-96)	101	377	3.7
10.	Nikki Miars (1996-99)	108	386	3.6

Assist-to-Turnover Ratio (Min. 250 Assists)
	Player	Asst	TO	A:TO
1.	Tyasha Harris (2017-20)	702	275	2.55
2.	Sharon Rivers (1980-83)	512	287	1.78
3.	Destanni Henderson (2019-22)	423	263	1.61
4.	Karen Middleton (1988-91)	409	257	1.59
5.	Khadijah Sessions (2013-16)	298	196	1.52
6.	Lisa Diaz (1987-90)	498	334	1.49
7.	Mindy Ballou (1983-86)	595	404	1.47
8.	Natalie Funderburk (1993-96)	377	260	1.45
9.	Cristina Ciocan (2001-04)	615	451	1.36
10.	Sherry David (1988-91)	424	312	1.36

SEC Games Only — Career Leaders

Assists
	Player	Gms	Asst
1.	Tyasha Harris (2017-20)	64	357
2.	Cristina Ciocan (2001-04)	56	250
3.	Destanni Henderson (2019-22)	62	224
4.	La'Keisha Sutton (2009-12)	62	193
5.	Shannon Johnson (1993-96)	44	161

Assist Average (Min. 20 GP)
	Player	Gms	Asst	Avg
1.	Tyasha Harris (2017-20)	64	357	5.6
2.	Cristina Ciocan (2001-04)	56	250	4.5
3.	Shannon Johnson (1993-96)	44	161	3.7
4.	Destanni Henderson (2019-22)	62	224	3.6
5.	Nikki Miars (1996-99)	50	159	3.2

Assist-to-Turnover Ratio (Min. 125 Assists)
	Player	Asst	TO	A:TO
1.	Tyasha Harris (2017-20)	357	120	2.98
2.	Destanni Henderson (2019-22)	224	121	1.85
3.	Cristina Ciocan (2001-04)	250	213	1.17
4.	Khadijah Sessions (2013-16)	126	110	1.15
5.	Ieasia Walker (2010-13)	159	153	1.04

Season Leaders

Assists
	Player	Gms	Asst
1.	Tyasha Harris (2017-18)	36	220
2.	Mindy Ballou (1983-84)	30	219
3.	Cristina Ciocan (2002-03)	31	207
4.	Sharon Rivers (1981-82)	31	190
5.	Tyasha Harris (2019-20)	33	189
6.	Cristina Ciocan (2001-02)	30	185
7.	Tyasha Harris (2018-19)	33	176
8.	Lisa Diaz (1988-89)	30	174
	Mindy Ballou (1985-86)	30	174
10.	Martha Parker (1985-86)	30	162
	Mindy Ballou (1984-85)	27	162

ASSIST RECORDS

Assist Average (Min. 20 GP)

	Player	Gms	Asst	Avg
1.	Mindy Ballou (1983-84)	30	219	7.3
2.	Cristina Ciocan (2002-03)	31	207	6.7
3.	Cristina Ciocan (2001-02)	30	185	6.2
4.	Sharon Rivers (1981-82)	31	190	6.1
5.	Tyasha Harris (2017-18)	36	220	6.1
6.	Mindy Ballou (1984-85)	27	162	6.0
7.	Lisa Diaz (1988-89)	30	174	5.8
8.	Mindy Ballou (1985-86)	30	174	5.8
9.	Tyasha Harris (2019-20)	33	189	5.7
10.	Martha Parker (1985-86)	30	162	5.4

Assist-to-Turnover Ratio (Min. 100 Assists)

	Player	Asst	TO	A:TO
1.	Tyasha Harris (2018-19)	176	55	3.20
2.	Brea Beal (2022-23)	100	38	2.90
3.	Tyasha Harris (2019-20)	189	68	2.78
4.	Tyasha Harris (2017-18)	220	93	2.37
5.	Raven Johnson (2022-23)	123	52	2.37
6.	Khadijah Sessions (2014-15)	105	49	2.14
7.	Lisa Diaz (1988-89)	174	85	2.05
8.	Tyasha Harris (2016-17)	117	59	1.98
9.	Destanni Henderson (2021-22)	133	72	1.85
10.	Cristina Ciocan (2001-02)	185	102	1.81

SEC Games Only – Season Leaders

Assists

	Player	Gms	Asst
1.	Tyasha Harris (2017-18)	16	104
2.	Tyasha Harris (2018-19)	16	99
3.	Tyasha Harris (2019-20)	16	94
4.	Destanni Henderson (2020-21)	16	89
5.	Cristina Ciocan (2001-02)	14	87

Assist Average (Min. 10 GP)

	Player	Gms	Asst	Avg
1.	Tyasha Harris (2017-18)	16	104	6.5
2.	Cristina Ciocan (2001-02)	14	87	6.2
3.	Tyasha Harris (2018-19)	16	99	6.2
4.	Cristina Ciocan (2002-03)	14	86	6.1
5.	Tyasha Harris (2019-20)	16	94	5.9

Assist-to-Turnover Ratio (Min. 50 Assists)

	Player	Asst	TO	A:TO
1.	Tyasha Harris (2018-19)	99	30	3.30
2.	Tyasha Harris (2017-18)	104	34	3.06
3.	Tyasha Harris (2019-20)	94	31	3.03
4.	*Te-Hina Paopao (2023-24)*	*62*	*23*	*2.70*
5.	*Raven Johnson (2023-24)*	*69*	*26*	*2.65*

Single-Game Leaders

Assists

	Player	Asst
1.	Cristina Ciocan vs. Florida A&M, 11/29/03	18
2.	*Raven Johnson vs. Clemson, 11/16/23*	*17*
3.	Tyasha Harris at Tennessee, 2/24/19	14
	Cristina Ciocan vs Vanderbilt, 1/3/02	14
	Mindy Ballou vs. Clemson, 2/3/86	14
	Martha Parker vs. Charlotte, 1/18/86	14
	Mindy Ballou vs. Cincinnati, 2/12/84	14
	Cheryl Autry vs. Clemson, 3/7/79	14
9.	6 times, most recently,	13
	Tyasha Harris at Kentucky, 1/21/18	

SEC Games Only – Single-Game Leaders

Assists

	Player	Asst
1.	Tyasha Harris at Tennessee, 2/24/19	14
	Cristina Ciocan vs. Vanderbilt, 1/3/02	14
3.	Tyasha Harris at Kentucky, 1/21/18	13
4.	Cristina Ciocan at Florida, 2/3/02	11
	Natalie Funderburk at Mississippi State, 1/3/96	11

Year-by-Year Assist Average Leaders

Season	Player	Class	Gms	Asst	Avg
1976-77	Joyce Gilbert	Fr.	26	65	2.5
1977-78	Sue Shue	Fr.	34	83	2.4
1978-79	Cheryl Autry	Fr.	37	151	4.1
1979-80	Rita Johnson	Jr.	36	119	3.3
1980-81	Sharon Rivers	So.	30	120	4.0
1981-82	Sharon Rivers	Jr.	31	190	6.1
1982-83	Sharon Rivers	Sr.	27	143	5.3
1983-84	Mindy Ballou	So.	30	219	7.3
1984-85	Mindy Ballou	Jr.	27	162	6.0
1985-86	Mindy Ballou	Sr.	30	174	5.8
1986-87	Monica Williams	Jr.	30	116	3.9
1987-88	Martha Parker	Jr.	34	131	3.9
1988-89	Lisa Diaz	Jr.	30	174	5.8
1989-90	Sherry David	Jr.	32	161	5.0
1990-91	Sherry David	Sr.	30	160	5.3
1991-92	Christi Timmons	Fr.	28	102	3.6
1992-93	Shannon Johnson	Fr.	27	83	3.1
1993-94	Shannon Johnson	So.	27	133	4.9
1994-95	Shannon Johnson	Jr.	27	138	5.1
1995-96	Natalie Funderburk	Sr.	28	127	4.5
1996-97	Nikki Miars	So.	27	86	3.2
1997-98	Nikki Miars	Jr.	28	139	5.0
1998-99	Nikki Miars	Sr.	27	116	4.3
1999-00	Kelly Morrone	Fr.	27	78	2.9
2000-01	Cristina Ciocan	Fr.	28	81	2.9
2001-02	Cristina Ciocan	So.	30	185	6.2
2002-03	Cristina Ciocan	Jr.	31	207	6.7
2003-04	Cristina Ciocan	Sr.	27	133	4.9
2004-05	Lea Fabbri	So.	24	72	3.0
2005-06	Lea Fabbri	Jr.	29	82	2.8
2006-07	Lauren Simms	Sr.	33	94	2.8
2007-08	Samone Kennedy	Fr.	31	106	3.4
2008-09	Samone Kennedy	So.	28	68	2.4
	La'Keisha Sutton	Fr.	28	68	2.4
2009-10	Valerie Nainima	Jr.	29	81	2.8
2010-11	La'Keisha Sutton	Jr.	33	118	3.6
2011-12	Ieasia Walker	Jr.	35	113	3.2
2012-13	Ieasia Walker	Sr.	33	108	3.3
2013-14	Tiffany Mitchell	So.	34	118	3.5
2014-15	Tiffany Mitchell	Jr.	37	106	2.9
2015-16	Tiffany Mitchell	Sr.	35	90	2.6
2016-17	Tyasha Harris	Fr.	37	117	3.2
2017-18	Tyasha Harris	So.	36	220	6.1
2018-19	Tyasha Harris	Jr.	33	176	5.3
2019-20	Tyasha Harris	Sr.	33	189	5.7
2020-21	Destanni Henderson	Jr.	31	157	5.1
2021-22	Destanni Henderson	Sr.	34	133	3.9
2022-23	Raven Johnson	Fr.	37	123	3.4

Team Records (Since 1976-77)

Blocks
Game:	17 vs. Appalachian State, 11/17/19
Season:	326* in 2022-23 (37 games)
SEC Game:	15 vs. Alabama, 2/3/22

Block Average
Season:	8.8* in 2022-23 (326 in 37 games)
SEC Season:	8.4 in 2019-20 (134 in 16 games)

Individual Records (Since 1976-77)

Blocks
Game:	10 by Aliyah Boston vs. Georgia, 1/21/21
	10 by Aliyah Boston vs. Alabama State, 11/5/19
	10 by Alaina Coates vs. Winthrop, 12/13/15
Season:	105 by A'ja Wilson in 2017-18 (33 games)
Career:	363 by A'ja Wilson, 2015-18, (138 games)
SEC Game:	10 by Aliyah Boston vs. Georgia, 1/21/21
SEC Season:	57 by Aliyah Boston in 2020-21 (16 games)
SEC Career:	165 by Aliyah Boston, 2020-23 (64 games)

Block Average
Season:	3.2 by A'ja Wilson in 2017-18 (33 games)
Career:	2.6 by A'ja Wilson, 2015-18 (363 in 138 games)
SEC Season:	3.6 by Aliyah Boston, 2020-21 (57 in 16 games)
SEC Career:	2.7 by A'ja Wilson, 2015-18 (158 in 59 games)

Blocks By Class
Freshman:	86 by Aliyah Boston in 2019-20 (33 games)
Game:	10 by Aliyah Boston vs. Alabama State, 11/5/19
Sophomore:	103 by A'ja Wilson in 2015-16 (33 games)
Junior:	90 by Aliyah Boston, 2021-22 (37 games)
	90 by A'ja Wilson in 2016-17 (35 games)
Senior:	105 by A'ja Wilson in 2017-18 (33 games)

* indicates NCAA Record

Career Leaders

Blocks
	Player	Gms	Blk
1.	A'ja Wilson (2015-18)	138	363
2.	Aliyah Boston (2020-23)	138	330
3.	Mikiah Herbert Harrigan (2017-20)	136	210
	Alaina Coates (2014-17)	133	210
5.	Victaria Saxton (2019-23)	166	192
6.	*Kamilla Cardoso (2022-present)*	*97*	*190*
7.	Lakesha Tolliver (2004-07)	112	177
8.	Elem Ibiam (2012-15)	126	164
9.	Michelle Murray (1990-93)	96	148
10.	Petra Ujhelyi (2000-03)	119	143

Block Average (Min. 50 GP)
	Player	Gms	Blk	Avg
1.	A'ja Wilson (2015-18)	138	363	2.6
2.	Aliyah Boston (2020-23)	138	330	2.4
2.	Teresa Geter (2001-02)	55	99	1.8
3.	Lakesha Tolliver (2004-08)	112	177	1.6
4.	Alaina Coates (2014-17)	133	210	1.6
5.	Mikiah Herbert Harrigan (2017-20)	136	210	1.5
6.	Michelle Murray (1990-93)	96	148	1.5
7.	Elem Ibiam (2012-15)	126	164	1.3
8.	Demetress Adams (2006-09)	112	140	1.3
9.	Petra Ujhelyi (2000-03)	119	143	1.2
10.	Victaria Saxton (2019-23)	166	192	1.2

Block Average (Min. 20 GP)
	Player	Gms	Blk	Avg
1.	A'ja Wilson (2015-18)	59	158	2.7
2.	Aliyah Boston (2020-23)	64	165	2.6
2.	Teresa Geter (2001-02)	24	45	1.9
3.	Mlkiah Herbert Harrigan (2017-20)	61	91	1.5
4.	Alaina Coates (2014-17)	62	92	1.5
5.	Lakesha Tolliver (2005-08)	46	65	1.4

Season Leaders

Blocks
	Player	Gms	Blk
1.	A'ja Wilson (2017-18)	33	105
2.	A'ja Wilson (2015-16)	33	103
3.	Aliyah Boston (2021-22)	37	90
	A'ja Wilson (2016-17)	35	90
5.	Aliyah Boston (2019-20)	33	86
6.	*Ashlyn Watkins (2023-24)*	*34*	*83*
	Elem Ibiam (2013-14)	34	83
8.	Aliyah Boston (2020-21)	31	81
9.	*Kamilla Cardoso (2023-24)*	*29*	*74*
10.	Aliyah Boston (2022-23)	37	73
	Alaina Coates (2013-14)	34	73

Block Average (Min. 20 GP)
	Player	Gms	Blk	Avg
1.	A'ja Wilson (2017-18)	33	105	3.2
2.	A'ja Wilson (2015-16)	33	103	3.1
3.	Aliyah Boston (2020-21)	31	81	2.6
4.	Aliyah Boston (2019-20)	33	86	2.6
5.	A'ja Wilson (2016-17)	35	90	2.6
6.	Elem Ibiam (2013-14)	34	83	2.4
7.	Aliyah Boston (2021-22)	37	90	2.4
8.	Mikiah Herbert Harrigan (2018-19)	33	71	2.2
9.	Teresa Geter (2000-01)	27	58	2.1
10.	Alaina Coates (2013-14)	34	73	2.1

SEC Games Only – Career Leaders

Blocks
	Player	Gms	Blk
1.	Aliyah Boston (2020-23)	64	165
2.	A'ja Wilson (2015-18)	59	158
3.	Victaria Saxton (2019-23)	78	96
4.	Alaina Coates (2014-17)	62	92
5.	Mikiah Herbert Harrigan (2017-20)	61	91

BLOCK RECORDS

SEC Games Only – Season Leaders
Blocks

	Player	Gms	Blk
1.	Aliyah Boston (2020-21)	16	57
2.	A'ja Wilson (2015-16)	16	53
3.	Elem Ibiam (2013-14)	16	44
4.	A'ja Wilson (2017-18)	13	42
5.	Aliyah Boston (2022-23)	16	36
	Aliyah Boston (2021-22)	16	36
	Aliyah Boston (2019-20)	16	36

Block Average (Min. 10 GP)

	Player	Gms	Blk	Avg
1.	Aliyah Boston (2020-21)	16	57	3.6
2.	A'ja Wilson (2015-16)	16	53	3.3
3.	A'ja Wilson (2017-18)	13	42	3.2
4.	Elem Ibiam (2013-14)	16	44	2.8
5.	Aliyah Boston (2021-22)	16	36	2.3
	Aliyah Boston (2021-22)	16	36	2.3
	Aliyah Boston (2019-20)	16	36	2.3

Single-Game Leaders
Blocks

	Player	Blk
1.	Aliyah Boston vs. Georgia, 1/21/21	10
	Aliyah Boston vs. Alabama State, 11/5/19	10
	Alaina Coates vs. Winthrop, 12/13/15	10
4.	Laeticia Amihere vs. Texas, 3/30/21	9
	A'ja Wilson at Temple, 12/21/17	8
	A'ja Wilson vs. Texas A&M, 1/17/16	8
	A'ja Wilson at Kentucky, 1/14/16	8
	Jean Walling vs. South Carolina State, 12/7/77	8
8.	*Kamilla Cardoso vs. Presbyterian, 12/16/23*	*7*
	Aliyah Boston vs. Maryland, 12/12/21	7
	Aliyah Boston at Kentucky, 1/10/21	7
	Aliyah Boston vs. Arkansas, 2/6/20	7
	A'ja Wilson vs. Arkansas, 1/25/18	7
	A'ja Wilson vs. Georgia, 3/3/17	7
	Elem Ibiam at Mississippi State, 2/6/14	7
	Lakesha Tolliver vs. UNC Wilmington, 12/1/07	7

SEC Games Only – Single-Game Leaders
Blocks

	Player	Blk
1.	Aliyah Boston vs. Georgia, 1/21/21	10
2.	A'ja Wilson vs. Texas A&M, 1/17/16	8
	A'ja Wilson at Kentucky, 1/14/16	8
4.	Aliyah Boston at Kentucky, 1/10/21	7
	Aliyah Boston vs. Arkansas, 2/6/20	7
	A'ja Wilson vs. Arkansas, 1/25/18	7
	Elem Ibiam at Mississippi State, 2/6/14	7

Year-by-Year Block Average Leaders

Season	Player	Class	Gms	Blks	Avg
1976-77	Janice Wolfe	Sr.	26	23	0.9
1977-78	Katrina Anderson	Jr.	34	23	0.7
	Jean Walling	Fr.	34	23	0.7
1978-79	Katrina Anderson	Sr.	37	29	0.8
1979-80	Cynthia Jacobs	Sr.	36	18	0.5
1980-81	Philicia Allen	Fr.	29	32	1.1
1981-82	Sheila Foster	Sr.	31	23	0.7
	Brantley Southers	Fr.	31	23	0.7
1982-83	Sharon Gilmore	Fr.	28	29	1.0
1983-84	Sharon Gilmore	So.	30	34	1.1
1984-85	Sharon Gilmore	Jr.	22	18	0.8
1985-86	Sharon Gilmore	Sr.	30	20	0.7
1986-87	Schonna Banner	Fr.	29	17	0.6
1987-88	Schonna Banner	So.	33	32	1.0
1988-89	Schonna Banner	Jr.	30	29	0.9
1989-90	Schonna Banner	Sr.	33	25	0.8
1990-91	Michelle Murray	So.	31	53	1.7
1991-92	Michelle Murray	Jr.	28	49	1.8
1992-93	Michelle Murray	Sr.	23	43	1.9
1993-94	Cindy Kelly	So.	26	20	0.7
1994-95	Shannon Johnson	Jr.	27	18	0.6
1995-96	Shannon Johnson	Sr.	28	20	0.7
1996-97	Rachell Lee	Jr.	24	23	1.0
1997-98	Donna Carr	Jr.	27	10	0.4
1998-99	Annie Lester	Jr.	27	5	0.2
1999-00	Petra Ujhelyi	Fr.	28	27	0.9
2000-01	Teresa Geter	Jr.	27	54	2.1
2001-02	Petra Ujhelyi	Jr.	32	45	1.4
2002-03	Petra Ujhelyi	Sr.	31	48	1.5
2003-04	Iva Sliskovic	Fr.	28	26	0.9
2004-05	Melanie Johnson	So.	28	54	1.9
2005-06	Iva Sliskovic	Jr.	29	37	1.3
2006-07	Lakesha Tolliver	Jr.	33	60	1.8
2007-08	Lakesha Tolliver	Sr.	26	47	1.8
2008-09	Demetress Adams	Sr.	18	21	1.2
2009-10	Kelsey Bone	Fr.	29	19	0.7
2010-11	Jewel May	Sr.	33	22	0.7
2011-12	Ashley Bruner	Jr.	35	25	0.7
2012-13	Elem Ibiam	So.	30	30	1.0
2013-14	Elem Ibiam	Jr.	34	83	2.4
2014-15	A'ja Wilson	Fr.	37	65	1.8
2015-16	A'ja Wilson	So.	33	103	3.1
2016-17	A'ja Wilson	Jr.	35	90	2.6
2017-18	A'ja Wilson	Sr.	33	105	3.2
2018-19	Mikiah Herbert Harrigan	Jr.	33	71	2.2
2019-20	Aliyah Boston	Fr.	33	86	2.6
2020-21	Aliyah Boston	So.	31	81	2.6
2021-22	Aliyah Boston	Jr.	37	90	2.4
2022-23	Aliyah Boston	Sr.	37	73	2.0

Team Records (Since 1976-77)

Steals

Game:	35 vs. Georgia Southern, 12/9/78
Season:	496 in 1979-80 (36 games)
SEC Game:	24 vs. Arkansas, 1/30/93

Steal Average

Season:	14.2 in 1998-99 (384 in 27 games)
SEC Season:	13.5 in 1998-99 (189 in 14 games)

Individual Records (Since 1976-77)

Steals

Game:	11 by Jocelyn Penn vs. South Carolina State, 12/22/98
Season:	126 by Katrina Anderson in 1978-79 (37 games)
Career:	359 by Jocelyn Penn, 1999-2003 (117 games)
SEC Game:	9 by Jocelyn Penn vs. Georgia, 2/7/02
SEC Season:	49 by Ieasia Walker in 2012-13 (16 games)
SEC Career:	162 by Jocelyn Penn, 1999-2003 (55 games)

Steal Average

Season:	3.7 by Jocelyn Penn in 2002-03 (112 in 30 games)
Career:	3.1 by Jocelyn Penn, 1999-2003 (359 in 117 games)
SEC Season:	3.5 by Jocelyn Penn, in 2002-03 (45 in 13 games)
SEC Career:	2.9 by Jocelyn Penn, 1999-2003 (162 in 55 games)

Steals By Class

Freshman:	80 by Cheryl Autry in 1978-79 (37 games)
Game:	11 by Jocelyn Penn vs. South Carolina State, 12/22/98
Sophomore:	88 by Sheila Foster in 1979-80 (36 games)
Junior:	94 by Jocelyn Penn in 2000-01 (32 games)
Senior:	126 by Katrina Anderson in 1978-79 (37 games)

Career Leaders

Steals

	Player	Gms	Stl
1.	Jocelyn Penn (1999-2003)	117	359
2.	Rita Johnson (1978-81)	130	298
3.	Martha Parker (1986-89)	124	284
4.	Shannon Johnson (1993-96)	109	260
5.	Ieasia Walker (2010-13)	130	258
6.	Sheila Foster (1979-82)	134	250
7.	Tiffany Mitchell (2013-16)	139	234
8.	Cristina Ciocan (2001-04)	116	227
9.	Tyasha Harris (2017-20)	139	224
10.	Annie Lester (1997-2000)	110	215

Steal Average (Min. 50 GP)

	Player	Gms	Stl	Avg
1.	Jocelyn Penn (1999-2003)	117	359	3.1
2.	Katrina Anderson (1978-79)	71	184	2.6
3.	Shannon Johnson (1993-96)	109	260	2.4
4.	Rita Johnson (1978-81)	130	298	2.3
5.	Martha Parker (1986-89)	124	284	2.3
6.	Melanie Johnson (2005-07)	89	192	2.2
7.	Shaunzinski Gortman (1999-2002)	105	212	2.0
8.	Ieasia Walker (2010-13)	130	258	2.0
9.	Cristina Ciocan (2001-04)	116	227	2.0
10.	Annie Lester (1997-2000)	110	215	2.0

SEC Games Only – Career Leaders

Steals

	Player	Gms	Stl
1.	Jocelyn Penn (1999-2003)	55	162
2.	Ieasia Walker (2010-13)	64	128
3.	Tiffany Mitchell (2013-16)	64	110
4.	Lisa Williams (1996-99)	51	107
5.	Annie Lester (1997-2000)	54	104

Steal Average (Min. 20 GP)

	Player	Gms	Stl	Avg
1.	Jocelyn Penn (1999-2003)	55	162	2.9
2.	Lisa Williams (1996-99)	51	107	2.1
3.	Ieasia Walker (2010-13)	64	128	2.0
4.	Annie Lester (1997-2000)	54	104	1.9
5.	Teresa Geter (2001-02)	24	46	1.9

Season Leaders

Steals

	Player	Gms	Stl
1.	Katrina Anderson (1978-79)	37	126
2.	Jocelyn Penn (2002-03)	30	112
3.	Jocelyn Penn (2001-02)	32	94
4.	Ieasia Walker (2012-13)	33	90
5.	Rita Johnson (1979-80)	36	89
6.	Rita Johnson (1980-81)	30	88
	Sheila Foster (1979-80)	36	88
8.	Cheryl Autry (1978-79)	37	80
9.	Tyasha Harris (2017-18)	36	79
	Jocelyn Penn (1998-99)	27	79
	Ieasia Walker (2010-11)	33	79

Steal Average (Min. 20 GP)

	Player	Gms	Stl	Avg
1.	Jocelyn Penn (2002-03)	30	112	3.7
2.	Katrina Anderson (1978-79)	37	126	3.4
3.	Jocelyn Penn (2001-02)	32	94	2.9
4.	Rita Johnson (1980-81)	30	88	2.9
5.	Jocelyn Penn (1998-99)	27	79	2.9
6.	Ieasia Walker (2012-13)	33	90	2.7
7.	Annie Lester (1997-98)	28	76	2.7
8.	Jocelyn Penn (1999-2000)	28	74	2.6
9.	Shannon Johnson (1995-96)	28	74	2.6
10.	Martha Parker (1985-86)	30	77	2.6

STEAL RECORDS

SEC Games Only – Season Leaders
Steals

	Player	Gms	Stl
1.	Ieasia Walker (2012-13)	16	49
2.	Jocelyn Penn (2002-03)	13	45
	Jocelyn Penn (2001-02)	14	45
4.	Ieasia Walker (2010-11)	16	44
5.	Lisa Williams (1997-98)	14	38

Steal Average (Min. 10 GP)

	Player	Gms	Stl	Avg
1.	Jocelyn Penn (2002-03)	13	45	3.5
2.	Jocelyn Penn (2001-02)	14	45	3.2
3.	Ieasia Walker (2012-13)	16	49	3.1
4.	Ieasia Walker (2010-11)	16	44	2.8
5.	Lisa Williams (1997-98)	14	38	2.7

Single-Game Leaders
Steals

	Player	Stl
1.	Jocelyn Penn vs. South Carolina State, 12/22/98	11
2.	Cristina Ciocan vs. Middle Tennessee, 12/16/02	9
	Jocelyn Penn vs. Georgia, 2/7/02	9
	Jocelyn Penn vs. Coastal Carolina, 12/19/99	9
	Christi Timmons vs. Michigan, 12/1/94	9
	Pam Adams at Georgia Southern, 12/3/77	9
7.	Lauren Simms vs. Tennessee, 1/15/04	8
	Jocelyn Penn vs. Kentucky, 2/27/03	8
	Cristina Ciocan at Mississippi State, 1/06/02	8
	Shannon Johnson vs. Georgia Southern, 12/06/93	8
	Rita Johnson vs. SMU, 12/8/80	8
	Rita Johnson at Kentucky, 1/10/79	8
	Sharon Rivers vs. George State, 2/17/82	8

SEC Games Only – Single-Game Leaders
Steals

	Player	Stl
1.	Jocelyn Penn vs. Georgia, 2/7/02	9
2.	Lauren Simms vs. Tennessee, 1/15/04	8
	Jocelyn Penn vs. Kentucky, 2/27/03	8
	Cristina Ciocan at Mississippi State, 1/6/02	8
5.	Petra Ujhelyi vs. Tennessee, 1/28/02	7
	Nikki Miars vs. Mississippi State, 1/10/99	7
	Lisa Williams vs. LSU, 2/14/98	7

Year-by-Year Steal Average Leaders

Season	Player	Class	Gms	Steals	Avg
1976-77	Edith Cook	Jr.	26	70	3.7
1977-78	Katrina Anderson	Jr.	34	58	1.7
1978-79	Katrina Anderson	Sr.	37	126	3.4
1979-80	Rita Johnson	Jr.	36	89	2.5
1980-81	Rita Johnson	Sr.	30	88	2.9
1981-82	Sharon Rivers	Jr.	31	73	2.4
1982-83	Sharon Rivers	Sr.	27	61	2.3
1983-84	Marsi McAlister	Jr.	29	49	1.7
1984-85	Marsi McAlister	Sr.	28	59	2.1
1985-86	Martha Parker	Fr.	30	77	2.6
1986-87	Martha Parker	So.	30	76	2.5
1987-88	Monica Williams	Sr.	32	58	1.8
1988-89	Martha Parker	Sr.	30	73	2.4
1989-90	Sherry David	Jr.	32	59	1.9
1990-91	Sherry David	Sr.	30	55	1.8
1991-92	Christi Timmons	Fr.	28	60	2.1
1992-93	Shannon Johnson	Fr.	27	83	3.1
1993-94	Shannon Johnson	So.	27	64	2.4
1994-95	Shannon Johnson	Jr.	27	57	2.1
1995-96	Shannon Johnson	Sr.	28	74	2.6
1996-97	Nikki Miars	So.	27	54	2.0
1997-98	Annie Lester	So.	28	76	2.7
1998-99	Jocelyn Penn	Fr.	27	79	2.9
1999-00	Jocelyn Penn	So.	28	74	2.7
2000-01	Teresa Geter	Jr.	27	54	2.7
2001-02	Jocelyn Penn	Jr.	32	94	2.9
2002-03	Jocelyn Penn	Sr.	30	112	3.7
2003-04	Kelly Morrone	Sr.	28	51	1.8
2004-05	Melanie Johnson	So.	28	62	2.2
2005-06	Melanie Johnson	Jr.	29	67	2.3
2006-07	Melanie Johnson	Sr.	32	63	2.0
2007-08	Demetress Adams	Jr.	32	65	2.0
2008-09	La'Keisha Sutton	Fr.	28	36	1.3
2009-10	Samone Kennedy	Jr.	29	34	1.2
2010-11	Ieasia Walker	So.	33	79	2.4
2011-12	Ieasia Walker	Jr.	35	63	1.8
2012-13	Ieasia Walker	Sr.	33	90	2.7
2013-14	Tiffany Mitchell	So.	34	62	1.8
2014-15	Khadijah Sessions	Jr.	37	68	1.8
2015-16	Khadijah Sessions	Sr.	35	70	2.0
2016-17	Bianca Cuevas-Moore	Jr.	37	56	1.6
2017-18	Tyasha Harris	So.	36	79	2.2
2018-19	Tyasha Harris	Jr.	33	55	1.7
2019-20	Tyasha Harris	Sr.	33	53	1.6
2020-21	Destanni Henderson	Jr.	31	39	1.3
2021-22	Destanni Henderson	Sr.	34	46	1.4
2022-23	Raven Johnson	Fr.	36	40	1.1

Individual Records (Since 1980-81)

Minutes Played

Season:	1,208 by Tyasha Harris in 2017-18 (36 games)
Career:	4,456 by Martha Parker, 1986-89 (124 games)
SEC Season:	553 by Ieasia Walker in 2012-13 (16 games)
	553 by La'Keisha Sutton in 2010-11 (16 games)
SEC Career:	2,010 by La'Keisha Sutton, 2009-12 (62 games)

Minutes Played Average

Season:	38.3 by Nikki Miars in 1997-98 (1072 in 28 games)
Career:	35.9 by Martha Parker, 1986-89 (4456 in 124 games)
SEC Season:	38.7 by Nikki Miars in 1997-98 (542 in 14 games)
SEC Career:	35.4 by Nikki Miars, 1996-99 (1772 in 50 games)

Minutes Played Average By Class

Freshman:	37.3 by Martha Parker in 1985-86 (1119 in 30 games)
Sophomore:	37.4 by Martha Parker in 1986-87 (1122 in 30 games)
Junior:	38.3 by Nikki Miars in 1997-98 (1072 in 28 games)
Senior:	37.9 by Sheila Foster in 1981-82 (1175 in 31 games)

Career Leaders

Minutes Played

	Player	Gms	Min
1.	Martha Parker (1986-89)	124	4456
2.	Tyasha Harris (2017-20)	139	4168
3.	Tiffany Mitchell (2015-16)	139	4167
4.	Karen Middleton (1988-91)	128	4013
5.	Brantley Southers (1982-86)	120	3886
6.	Zia Cooke (2020-23)	137	3831
7.	Schonna Banner (1987-90)	125	3802
8.	La'Keisha Sutton (2009-12)	125	3755
9.	Aliyah Boston (2020-23)	138	3752
10.	Nikki Miars (1996-99)	108	3711

Minutes Played Average (Min. 50 GP)

	Player	Gms	Min	Avg
1.	Martha Parker (1986-89)	124	4456	35.9
2.	Nikki Miars (1996-99)	108	3711	34.4
3.	Brantley Southers (1982-86)	120	3886	32.4
4.	Shannon Johnson (1993-96)	109	3495	32.1
5.	Karen Middleton (1988-91)	128	4013	31.4
6.	Beth Hunt (1989-90)	63	1969	31.3
7.	Renee Najarian (1984-85)	55	1684	30.6
8.	Schonna Banner (1987-90)	125	3802	30.4
9.	La'Keisha Sutton (2009-12)	125	3755	30.0
10.	Tyasha Harris (2017-20)	139	4168	30.0

Season Leaders

Minutes Played

	Player	Gms	Min
1.	Tyasha Harris (2017-18)	36	1208
2.	Sheila Foster (1981-82)	31	1175
3.	Martha Parker (1987-88)	34	1172
4.	Karen Middleton (1989-90)	33	1139
5.	Karen Middleton (1990-91)	31	1134
6.	Sheila Foster (1980-81)	30	1124
7.	Martha Parker (1986-87)	30	1122
8.	Doniyah Cliney (2017-18)	36	1120
9.	Martha Parker (1985-86)	30	1119
10.	Mindy Ballou (1985-86)	30	1116

Minutes Played Average (Min. 20 GP)

	Player	Gms	Min	Avg
1.	Nikki Miars (1997-98)	28	1072	38.3
2.	Sheila Foster (1981-82)	31	1175	37.9
3.	Sheila Foster (1980-81)	30	1124	37.5
4.	Martha Parker (1986-87)	30	1122	37.4
5.	Martha Parker (1985-86)	30	1119	37.3
6.	Mindy Ballou (1985-86)	30	1116	37.2
7.	Karen Middleton (1990-91)	31	1134	36.6
8.	Jocelyn Penn (2002-03)	30	1088	36.3
9.	Shannon Johnson (1994-95)	27	973	36.0
10.	Nikki Miars (1998-99)	27	969	35.9

SEC Games Only – Career Leaders

Minutes Played

	Player	Gms	Min
1.	La'Keisha Sutton (2009-12)	62	2010
2.	Tyasha Harris (2017-20)	64	1979
3.	Tiffany Mitchell (2013-16)	64	1952
4.	Ieasia Walker (2010-13)	64	1929
5.	Aleighsa Welch (2012-15)	62	1812

Minutes Played Average (Min. 20 GP)

	Player	Gms	Min	Avg
1.	Nikki Miars (1996-99)	50	1772	35.4
2.	Marsha Williams (1992-93)	22	738	33.5
3.	Shannon Johnson (1993-96)	44	1440	32.7
4.	La'Keisha Sutton (2009-12)	62	2010	32.4
5.	Shaunzinski Gortman (1999-2002)	49	1534	31.3

SEC Games Only – Season Leaders

Minutes Played

	Player	Gms	Min
1.	Ieasia Walker (2012-13)	16	553
	La'Keisha Sutton (2010-11)	16	553
3.	Destanni Henderson (2020-21)	16	549
4.	Nikki Miars (1997-98)	14	542
5.	Doniyah Cliney (2017-18)	16	541

Minutes Played Average (Min. 10 GP)

	Player	Gms	Min	Avg
1.	Nikki Miars (1997-98)	14	542	38.7
2.	Jordan Jones (2007-08)	14	522	37.3
3.	Shannon Johnson (1995-96)	11	408	37.1
4.	Shannon Johnson (1994-95)	11	407	37.0
5.	Nikki Miars (1998-99)	14	513	36.6

PARTICIPATION RECORDS

Individual Records
Games Played
Season:	37 by 20 players
Career:	166 by Victaria Saxton, 2019-23
SEC Career:	78 by Victaria Saxton, 2019-23

Games Started (Since 1980-81)
Season:	37, 9 times
Career:	138 by Aliyah Boston, 2020-23
SEC Career:	64 by Aliyah Boston, 2020-23

Games Played By Class
Freshman:	37 by six players
Sophomore:	37 by Doniyah Cliney in 2016-17
	37 by Jean Walling in 1978-79
Junior:	37 by eight players
Senior:	37 by eight players

Games Started By Class (Since 1980-81)
Freshman:	33 by three players
Sophomore:	35 by Tyasha Harris in 2017-18
Junior:	37 by three players
Senior:	37 by seven players

Career Leaders
Games Played
	Player	GP
1.	Victaria Saxton (2019-23)	166
2.	LeLe Grissett (2018-22)	150
3.	Tyasha Harris (2017-20)	139
	Tiffany Mitchell (2013-16)	139
	Tina Roy (2012-16)	139
6.	Brea Beal (2020-23)	138
	Aliyah Boston (2020-23)	138
	A'ja Wilson (2015-18)	138
9.	Zia Cooke (2020-23)	137
	Bianca Cuevas-Moore (2015-19)	137
	Aleighsa Welch (2012-15)	137

Games Started (Since 1980-81)
	Player	GS
1.	Aliyah Boston (2020-23)	138
2.	Brea Beal (2020-23)	137
	Zia Cooke (2020-23)	137
4.	Tiffany Mitchell (2013-16)	135
5.	Tyasha Harris (2017-20)	127
6.	Martha Parker (1986-89)	122
7.	Schonna Banner (1987-90)	113
8.	Petra Ujhelyi (2000-03)	109
9.	Shannon Johnson (1993-96)	108
10.	Aleighsa Welch (2012-15)	105
	La'Keisha Sutton (2009-12)	105
	Sharon Gilmore (1983-86)	105

Consecutive Games Started (Since 1980-81)
	Player	Start Date	End Date	GS
1.	Aliyah Boston	11/5/19	3/31/23	138
2.	Tiffany Mitchell	3/3/13	2/22/16	103
3.	Zia Cooke	11/5/19	1/16/22	82
4.	Shannon Johnson	12/1/92	3/3/95	81
5.	Nikki Miars	11/23/96	1/31/99	75
6.	Schonna Banner	2/26/88	3/20/90	72
7.	Brantley Southers	11/29/83	1/15/86	71
8.	Aleighsa Welch	11/14/13	4/5/15	69
9.	Martha Parker	11/28/86	2/18/88	54
10.	Tyasha Harris	12/21/17	2/14/19	49

SEC Games Only – Career Leaders
Games Played
	Player	GP
1.	Victaria Saxton (2019-23)	78
2.	LeLe Grissett (2018-22)	77
3.	Brea Beal (2020-23)	64
	Aliyah Boston (2020-23)	64
	Tyasha Harris (2017-20)	64
	Tiffany Mitchell (2013-16)	64
	Ieasia Walker (2010-13)	64

Games Started
	Player	GS
1.	Aliyah Boston (2020-23)	64
2.	Brea Beal (2020-23)	63
	Zia Cooke (2020-23)	63
	Tyasha Harris (2017-20)	63
5.	Tiffany Mitchell (2013-16)	60

Season Leaders
Games Played
	Player	GP
1.	Brea Beal (2021-22 and 2022-23)	37
	Aliyah Boston (2021-22 and 2022-23)	37
	Zia Cooke (2022-23)	37
	Victaria Saxton (2021-22 and 2022-23)	37
	Doniyah Cliney (2016-17)	37
	Bianca Cuevas-Moore (2016-17)	37
	Kaela Davis (2016-17)	37
	Allisha Gray (2016-17)	37
	Tyasha Harris (2016-17)	37
	Mikiah Herbert Harrigan (2016-17)	37
	Seven players (2014-15)	37
	Four players (1978-79)	37

Games Started (Since 1980-81)
	Player	GS
1.	Brea Beal (2022-23)	37
	Aliyah Boston (2021-22 and 2022-23)	37
	Zia Cooke (2022-23)	37
	Victaria Saxton (2021-22 and 2022-23)	37
	Elem Ibiam (2014-15)	37
	Tiffany Mitchell (2014-15)	37
	Aleighsa Welch (2014-15)	37
10.	Doniyah Cliney (2017-18)	36
	Alexis Jennings (2017-18)	36
	Kaela Davis (2016-17)	36
	Allisha Gray (2016-17)	36
	Khadijah Sessions (2014-15)	36

Most Games Played

Season	Record	GP
1. 2022-23	36-1	37
2021-22	35-2	37
2016-17	33-4	37
2014-15	34-3	37
1978-79	27-10	37

Most Games Won

Season	Record	Wins
1. 2022-23	36-1	36
2. 2021-22	35-2	35
3. 2023-24	*34-0*	*34*
2014-15	34-3	34
5. 2016-17	33-4	33
2015-16	33-2	33

Highest Win Percentage

Season	Record	Pct
1. 2022-23	36-1	.973
2. 2019-20	32-1	.970
3. 2021-22	35-2	.946
4. 2015-16	33-2	.943
5. 2014-15	34-3	.919

Longest Winning Streak

Season	Streak
1. 2022-23	36
2. 2023-24 (present)	*34*
3. 2019-20	26
4. 2015-16	22
2014-15	22

Most Consecutive Losses

Season	Streak
1. 2004-05	9
2. 2003-04 thru 2004-05	8
2003-04	8
4. 1975-76	7
1998-99	7

Most Points Scored

Season	Gms	Points
1. 2022-23	37	2,972
2. 1978-79	37	2,953
3. 2023-24	*34*	*2,933*
4. 2016-17	37	2,824
5. 2014-15	37	2,807
1979-80	36	2,754

Most Points Allowed

Season	Gms	Points
1. 1978-79	37	2,288
2. 1987-88	34	2,283
3. 1979-80	36	2,210
4. 2018-19	33	2,204
5. 2017-18	36	2,203

Highest Scoring Average

Season	Gms	PPG
1. 2019-20	33	82.0
2. 2022-23	37	80.3
3. 1988-89	30	80.2
4. 1978-79	37	79.8
5. 1993-94	27	79.4

Scoring Margin

Season	Gms	+/-
1. 2022-23	37	+28.6
2. 2019-20	33	+25.9
3. 2014-15	37	+21.7
4. 2021-22	37	+20.2
5. 1978-79	37	+18.0

Highest Opp. Scoring Avg.

Season	Gms	PPG
1. 1994-95	27	76.0
2. 1993-94	27	74.9
3. 2015-16	33	73.6
4. 1998-99	27	72.9
5. 1997-98	28	72.4

Lowest Opp. Scoring Avg.

Season	Gms	PPG
1. 2021-22	27	50.7
2. 2011-12	35	51.4
3. 2022-23	37	51.8
4. 2014-15	37	54.1
5. 2013-14	34	55.8

Field Goals Made

Season	Gms	FGM
1. 1978-79	37	1,234
2. 1979-80	36	1,141
3. 2023-24	*34*	*1,131*
4. 2022-23	37	1,120
5. 2014-15	37	1,048

Field Goal Attempts

Season	Gms	FGA
1. 1978-79	37	2,524
2. 1979-80	36	2,458
3. 2022-23	37	2,425
4. 2021-22	37	2,289
5. 2023-24	*34*	*2,273*

Field Goal Percentage

Season	FGM-A	Pct
1. 1988-89	976-1852	.527
2. 1989-90	1014-2036	.498
3. 1981-82	974-1986	.490
4. 1978-79	1234-2524	.489
5. 2014-15	1048-2167	.484

3-Point Field Goals Made

Season	Gms	3FGM
1. 1993-94	27	248
2. 2023-24	*34*	*225*
3. 1994-95	28	218
4. 1995-96	28	206
5. 2003-04	28	202

3-Point Field Goal Attempts

Season	Gms	3FGA
1. 1993-94	27	744
2. 1994-95	27	725
3. 1995-96	28	601
4. 2002-03	31	595
2010-11	33	595

3-Point FG Percentage

Season	3FGM-A	Pct
1. 1988-89	54-121	.446
2. 1989-90	86-195	.441
3. 1988-89	90-228	.395
4. 1990-91	189-481	.393
5. 2019-20	167-477	.350

Consecutive Gms w/ 3-Pt FG

Dates	Games
1. 11/24/01 - 1/29/06	136
2. 1/30/14 - 3/31/17	122
3. 11/25/20 - 11/16/23	108
4. 2/3/08 - 2/10/11	91
5. 2/27/93 - 11/23/96	85

Free Throws Made

Season	Gms	FTM
1. 2013-14	34	627
2. 2016-17	37	593
3. 2022-23	37	569
4. 2015-16	33	555
5. 2017-18	36	549

Free Throw Attempts

Season	Gms	FTA
1. 2013-14	34	930
2. 2015-16	33	834
3. 2016-17	37	827
4. 2022-23	37	826
5. 2014-15	37	792

Free Throw Percentage

Season	FTM-A	Pct
1. 2018-19	495-678	.730
2. 1988-89	401-555	.723
3. 2016-17	593-827	.717
4. 2017-18	549-776	.707
5. 1983-84	393-558	.704

Rebounds

Season	Gms	Rebs
1. 2022-23	37	1,830
2. 2021-22	37	1,771
3. 1977-78	34	1,740
4. 2023-24	*34*	*1,581*
5. 1979-80	36	1,551

Offensive Rebounds

Season	Gms	ORebs
1. 2022-23	37	679
2. 2021-22	37	635
3. 2006-07	33	592
4. 2012-13	33	571
5. 2011-12	35	564

Defensive Rebounds

Season	Gms	DRebs
1. 2022-23	37	1,151
2. 2021-22	37	1,136
3. 2023-24	*34*	*1,089*
4. 2014-15	37	1,009
5. 2017-18	36	1,007

Rebounding Average

Season	Gms	RPG
1. 2022-23	37	49.5
2. 2021-22	37	47.9
3. 2020-21	31	47.0
4. 2019-20	33	46.5
5. 1977-78	34	44.4

Highest Rebounding Margin

Season	Gms	+/-
1. 2022-23	37	+20.4
2. 2021-22	37	+17.7
3. 2020-21	31	+14.4
4. 2019-20	33	+12.4
5. 2014-15	37	+9.6

Assists

Season	Gms	Assts
1. 2023-24	*34*	*639*
2. 1979-80	36	633
3. 1988-89	30	618
4. 2014-15	37	616

Steals

Season	Gms	Stls
1. 1979-80	36	496
2. 2001-02	32	406
3. 2006-07	33	392
4. 1998-99	27	384
5. 2002-03	31	366

Blocked Shots

Season	Gms	Blks
1. 2022-23	37	326
2. 2019-20	33	284
3. 2021-22	37	273
4. 2023-24	*34*	*270*
5. 2013-14	34	240

Personal Fouls

Season	Gms	PFs
1. 1979-80	36	744
2. 1977-78	34	644
3. 2006-07	33	612
4. 1987-88	34	609
5. 1998-99	27	600

Turnovers

Season	Gms	TOs
1. 1977-78	34	777
2. 2007-08	32	666
3. 1979-80	36	653
4. 1999-00	28	630
5. 1981-82	31	628

TEAM GAME RECORDS

Most Points

Game	Pts
1. vs. Wheeling College, 1/13/79	137
2. vs. Notre Dame, 1/31/81	124
3. vs. College of Charleston, 11/25/20	119
vs. Columbia College, 1978-79	119
5. vs. North Carolina A&T, 11/17/06	117
vs. East Tennessee State, 12/19/00	117

Most Points, First Half

Game	Pts
1. vs. Wheeling, 1/13/79	75
2. vs. East Tennessee State, 12/19/00	65
3. vs. USC Upstate, 11/21/19	64
vs. Saint Peter's, 11/22/16	64
vs. Longwood, 2/21/06	64

Most Points, Second Half

Game	Pts
1. at Notre Dame 1/31/81	78
2. vs. Wofford, 11/17/98	68
3. vs. Maryland, 11/12/23	*66*
4. vs. Arkansas, 1/18/21	62
vs. Wheeling 1/13/79	62
vs. Claflin, 1/24/78	62

Most Points, Single Quarter (Since 2015-16)

Game	Qtr	Pts
1. vs. Maryland, 11/12/23	*4th*	*37*
vs. Saint Peter's, 11/22/16	1st	37
3. vs. Presbyterian, 12/16/23	*1st*	*36*
at Kentucky, 1/12/23	4th	36
vs. Alabama, 2/3/22	1st	36
at Vanderbilt, 1/12/20	3rd	36
vs. Alabama State, 11/5/19	3rd	36

Fewest Points

Game	Pts
1. at Stanford, 11/26/10	32
2. at Vanderbilt, 1/5/97	33
3. vs. Georgia, 3/4/11	34
4. vs. Georgia, 2/1/97	35
5. at Tennessee, 2/1/07	36
vs. LSU, 2/13/05	36

Fewest Points, First Half

Game	Pts
1. vs. Georgia, 2/1/97	9
2. at Tennessee, 2/1/07	11
3. at Stanford, 11/26/10	11
4. at Auburn, 2/5/83	12
5. at Vanderbilt, 1/9/05	13

Fewest Points, Second Half

Game	Pts
1. vs. Mississippi State, 3/5/09	13
2. at Arkansas, 1/27/13	15
at Georgia, 1/13/13	15
at Maine, 11/30/91	15
at Kentucky, 1/13/11	15
vs. Georgia, 3/4/11	15

Fewest Points, Single Quarter (Since 2015-16)

Game	Qtr	Pts
1. vs. Appalachian State, 12/5/18	4th	5
2. vs. Oregon State, 3/23/21	4th	6
vs. Indiana, 11/28/19	4th	6
vs. St. John's, 11/25/17	2nd	6
vs. Stanford, 3/31/17	2nd	6
vs. UCLA, 12/18/16	1st	6

Largest Combined Score

Game	SC	Opp	Tot
1. vs. Cincinnati, 2/12/84	112	102	214
2. vs. College of Charleston, 1/26/76	93	116	209
3. vs. Clemson, 11/21/03	103	99	202
4. vs. Fairleigh Dickinson, 12/31/94	109	86	195
vs. UNLV, 2/28/88	98	97	195

Largest South Carolina Victory

Game	SC	Opp	Diff
1. vs. Wheeling, 1/13/79	137	34	103
2. vs. Mississippi Valley State, 11/24/23	*101*	*19*	*82*
3. vs. College of Charleston, 11/25/20	119	38	81
4. vs. USC Upstate, 11/21/19	112	32	80
5. vs. Notre Dame, 1/31/80	124	48	76

Largest South Carolina Defeat

Game	SC	Opp	Diff
1. at Connecticut, 12/17/07	39	97	58
2. at Tennessee, 1/11/01	45	99	54
3. at Alabama, 2/9/97	38	87	49
4. at Vanderbilt, 1/9/05	43	88	45
5. vs. Tennessee, 2/8/93	57	100	43

Field Goals Made

Game	FGM
1. vs. Wheeling, 1/13/79	60
2. at Notre Dame 1/31/81	55
3. vs. Georgia Southern, 12/9/78	53
4. vs. UNC Asheville 2/24/86	47
vs. College of Charleston, 2/11/78	47

Field Goal Attempts

Game	FGA
1. vs. Georgia Southern, 12/9/78	105
2. vs. Lander, 1/20/75	102
3. vs. Claflin, 1/18/77	99
vs. Davidson, 2/6/75	99
5. vs. East Carolina, 2/18/77	98
vs. Furman, 1/29/77	98

Field Goal Percentage (Min. 40 FGA)

Game	FGM-A	Pct
1. vs. Georgia Southern, 12/19/87	33-46	.717
2. vs. Morgan State, 12/6/23	*41-60*	*.683*
3. at Texas A&M, 1/21/24	*39-58*	*.672*
4. vs. Notre Dame, 1/31/81	55-82	.671
5. at Vanderbilt, 1/18/18	63-54	.667

3-Point Field Goals Made (since 1987-88)

Game	3FGM
1. vs. Western Carolina, 1/13/94	17
2. vs. Minnesota, 12/11/16	16
3. vs. Temple, 12/21/18	15
4. Five times, most recent, vs. Appalachian State, 12/5/18	14

3-Point Field Goal Attempts (since 1987-88)

Game	3FGA
1. vs. Florida, 2/20/94	46
2. vs. Alabama, 1/22/94	43
3. vs. Mississippi State,. 2/5/04	39
4. vs. Howard, 3/18/22	38
5. vs. Minnesota, 12/11/16	33
vs. Wofford, 2/19/96	33

3-Point Field Goal Percentage (Min. 5 3FGA)

Game	3FGM-A	Pct
1. at Georgia Southern, 12/19/87	5-5	1.000
at Northwestern, 3/17/90	5-5	1.000
3. vs. VCU, 1/10/91	6-8	.750
4. vs. Jackson State, 12/07/07	7-10	.700
vs. Tennessee, 1/14/00	7-10	.700

Free Throws Made

Game	FTM
1. vs. Cincinnati, 2/12/84	42
2. vs. Savannah State, 12/14/14	34
vs. Oregon State, 3/25/14	34
4. vs. Wofford, 11/17/98	33
vs. Georgia 1/16/93	33

Free Throw Attempts

Game	FTA
1. vs. Cincinnati, 2/12/84	54
2. vs. Georgia, 2/16/93	51
3. at Mississippi State, 1/6/13	50
4. vs. Arkansas 1/30/93	49
5. vs. Savannah State, 12/28/13	48

Free Throw Percentage (Min. 10 FTA)

Game	FTM-A	Pct
1. vs. Marshall, 3/7/88	12-12	1.000
2. at Auburn, 2/21/02	8-12	.971
3. vs. Georgia State, 2/28/87	22-23	.957
4. vs. Alabama, 1/31/21	19-20	.950
5. vs. Quinnipiac, 3/25/17	18-19	.947
vs. Southern Miss, 1/28/91	18-19	.947

Rebounds

Game	Rebs
1. vs. Claflin, 1/24/78	82
2. vs. Arkansas, 1/22/23	74
3. vs. Clemson, 11/16/23	*73*
vs. College of Charleston, 11/25/20	73
5. vs. UNC Asheville 2/24/86	70

Rebound Margin

Game	SC	Opp	Diff
1. vs. Arkansas, 1/22/23	74	17	+57
2. vs. UNC Asheville. 2/24/86	70	19	+51
3. vs. Clemson, 11/16/23	*73*	*27*	*+46*
4. vs. Hampton, 11/27/22	62	15	+47
5. vs. College of Charleston, 11/25/20	73	28	+45

Offensive Rebounds (since 1987-88)

Game	ORebs
1. vs. Louisiana-Lafayette, 11/18/01	35
2. vs. Arkansas, 1/22/23	32
at Charleston Southern, 12/6/91	32
vs. Furman, 11/23/97	32
5. vs. Tennessee, 2/20/22	31
vs. Winthrop, 2/15/97	31

Defensive Rebounds (since 1987-88)

Game	DRebs
1. vs. College of Charleston, 11/25/20	50
2. vs. Mississippi Valley State, 11/24/23	*49*
3. vs. Clemson, 11/16/23	*48*
4. vs. Arkansas, 1/22/23	42
vs. North Carolina, 12/20/01	42
vs. Memphis, 2/17/90	42

Assists (since 1976-77)

Game	Assts
1. vs. UNC Asheville, 2/24/86	35
2. vs. Florida Atlantic, 12/15/99	34
vs. South Carolina State, 12/14/88	34
vs. Florida Atlantic, 12/15/99	34
5. vs. Wofford, 12/4/02	33
vs. Georgia Southern, 12/12/88	33
at Western Carolina, 1/13/94	33

Blocked Shots (since 1976-77)

Game	Blks
1. vs. Presbyterian, 12/16/23	*17*
vs. Appalachian State, 11/17/19	17
3. vs. South Dakota State, 11/20/23	*16*
vs. Coastal Carolina, 12/21/22	16
vs. Kansas State, 12/3/21	16
vs. Alabama State, 11/5/19	16
vs. Clemson, 11/15/18	16
vs. Winthrop, 12/13/15	16

Steals (since 1976-77)

Game	Stls
1. vs. Georgia Southern, 12/9/78	35
2. vs. South Carolina State, 12/22/98	30
3. vs. Coastal Carolina, 12/19/99	28
4. vs. Fordham, 12/3/06	25
vs. Georgia Southern, 12/12/88	25
at Winthrop, 2/11/78	25

Personal Fouls

Game	PFs
1. vs. Florida State, 1/25/88	34
2. vs. Alabama, 2/25/99	33
3. at Florida, 1/30/00	30
at Marshall, 1/15/84	30
at New Orleans, 1/8/86	30

Turnovers

Game	TOs
1. vs. Georgia State, 2/28/87	35
2. at Tennessee, 2/1/07	34
at LSU, 2/27/00	34
4. at Wake Forest, 12/3/08	32
5. 4 times, last vs. Mississippi State, 1/10/99	31

OPPONENT RECORDS

Individual (since 1977-78)

Points

	Player	Pts
1.	Cornelia Gayden, LSU, 1/14/95	46
2.	Karen Pelphrey, Marshall, 1/15/84	44
3.	Caitlin Clark, vs. Iowa, 3/31/23	41
4.	Nnemkadi Ogwumike, Stanford, 3/24/12	39
5.	*Alissa Pili, vs. Utah, 12/10/23*	*37*
	Carmen Jones, Tulane, 3/8/90	37
	Janet Harris, Georgia, 1/30/82	37

Field Goals Made

	Player	FGM
1.	Barbara Kennedy, Clemson, 2/6/82	19
2.	Karen Pelphrey, Marshall, 1/15/84	17
	Rachelle Bostic, Indiana, 12/29/83	17
4.	Pearl Moore, Francis Marion, 2/13/77	16
5.	*Alissa Pili, vs. Utah, 12/10/23*	*15*
	Caitlin Clark, vs. Iowa, 3/31/23	15
	Napheesa Collier, at Connecticut, 2/11/19	15
	Chennedy Carter, Texas A&M, 12/31/17	15
	Cornelia Gayden, LSU, 1/14/95	15

Field Goal Attempts

	Player	FGA
1.	Pearl Moore, Francis Marion, 2/13/77	41
2.	Chennedy Carter, Texas A&M, 12/31/17	37
3.	Carmen Jones, Tulane, 3/8/90	36
4.	Sam Jones, East Carolina, 2/27/82	33
5.	Pearl Moore, Francis Marion, 2/24/78	32

3-Point Field Goals Made

	Player	3FGM
1.	Jeni Garber, Virginia Tech, 2/16/91	8
2.	*Morgan Sharps, at Bowling Green, 12/19/23*	*7*
3.	Brandi McCain, Florida, 1/21/01	7
4.	Amber Ramirez, vs. Arkansas, 3/7/20	6
	Meredith Marsh, Vanderbilt, 2/28/10	6
	Eight other times	6

3-Point Field Goal Attempts

	Player	3FGA
1.	Caitlin Clark, vs. Iowa, 3/31/23	17
	Shaundra Roberts, Kentucky, 1/24/96	17
3.	Tasha Phillips, Clemson, 12/3/04	15
	Brandi McCain, Florida, 1/21/01	15
	Jeni Garber, Virginia Tech, 2/16/91	15

Free Throws Made

	Player	FTM
1.	Kaila Charles, at Maryland, 11/13/17	14
	Lakeia Stokes, Clemson, 11/21/03	14
	Danielle Featherstone, Arkansas State, 12/29/94	14
4.	*Aicha Coulibaly, vs. Texas A&M, 3/8/24*	*13*
	Robyn Benton, Kentucky, 2/2/23	13
	Chelsea Dungee, vs. Arkansas, 3/8/19	13
	Tombi Bell, Florida, 1/30/00	13
	Ann Helms Jemmye, Mississippi State, 1/2/97	13
	Amy Tucker, Ohio State, 1/8/81	13

Free Throw Attempts

	Player	FTA
1.	Murriel Page, Florida, 1/17/98	22
2.	Lakeia Stokes, Clemson, 11/21/03	20
3.	Armintie Price, Mississippi, 3/3/05	19
4.	Cheryl Cook, Cincinnati, 1/24/85	18
5.	Joyce Harrell, Georgia State, 12/17/77	17

Rebounds

	Player	Rebs
1.	Teaira McCowan, at Mississippi State, 1/17/19	24
	Courtney Paris, Oklahoma, 12/30/07	24
3.	Janet Harris, Georgia, 1/30/82	23
4.	Monique Billings, UCLA, 12/18/16	22
5.	Teaira McCowan, at Mississippi State, 2/5/18	20
	Sylvia Fowles, LSU, 2/4/07	20

Offensive Rebounds

	Player	ORebs
1.	Teaira McCowan, at Mississippi State, 1/17/19	12
2.	Pam Seymore, Memphis, 1/30/85	10
3.	Teaira McCowan, Mississippi State, 3/3/19	9
	Unique Thompson, at Auburn, 2/28/19	9
	Shakira Austin, Maryland, 11/18/18	9
	Seven other times	9

Defensive Rebounds

	Player	DRebs
1.	Monique Billings, UCLA, 12/18/16	17
	Jennifer Brzezinski, Michigan, 12/1/94	17
3.	Courtney Paris, Oklahoma, 12/30/07	15
	Katrina McClain, Georgia, 1/2/87	15
5.	Teaira McCowan, at Mississippi State, 2/5/18	14
	Dee Merriweather, Alabama, 1/20/05	14
	Yolanda Watkins, Alabama, 1/22/95	14
	Charlotte Robinson, Mississippi State, 1/7/93	14

Assists

	Player	Assts
1.	Karla May, Marshall, 1/15/84	16
2.	Renee Magee, Southern Miss, 2/6/89	14
	Julie Cardinale, Central Florida, 2/17/86	14
4.	Channise Lewis, Maryland, 11/18/18	12
	Dana Smith, Florida, 1/17/09	12
	Cheron Wells, Clemson, 2/12/92	12
	Dorothy Jones, Louisville, 1/27/86	12
	Nancy Lieberman, Old Dominion, 2/10/77	12

Blocked Shots

	Player	Blks
1.	Tamari Key, Tennessee, 2/20/22	10
2.	Tamari Key, Tennessee, 2/2/20	9
	A'Rianna Harris, Purdue, 12/15/19	9
4.	Regina Street, Memphis State, 2/14/84	8
5.	Five times, most recent, Faustine Aifuwa, LSU, 2/14/21	7

Steals

	Player	Stls
1.	Cherelle George, Purdue, 11/26/05	10
	Tiffany Lanier, Georgia Southern, 12/3/02	10
3.	Drema Greer, Clemson, 12/6/78	9
4.	Carena Easley, Jackson State, 12/7/07	8
	Armintie Price, Mississippi, 3/3/05	8

Turnovers

	Player	TOs
1.	Roberta Williams, South Carolina State, 12/3/79	14
2.	Alexis Williams, Texas Pan-American, 12/29/98	13
3.	Laquita Ball, South Carolina State, 12/17/05	12
	Lushanna Burgess, South Carolina State, 12/22/98	12
	Brenda Williams, South Carolina State, 12/22/85	12
	Corinne Gulas, Penn State, 2/9/80	12

Team (since 1977-78)

Most Points

	Game	Pts
1.	College of Charleston, 1/26/76	116
2.	at Clemson, 11/21/03	103
3.	Cincinnati, 2/12/84	102
4.	at Furman, 1/25/95	101
5.	at Tennessee, 2/18/93	100

Most Points, First Half

	Game	Pts
1.	Baylor, 12/2/19	57
2.	Georgia, 2/08/01	56
3.	vs. Connecticut, 3/26/18	54
	at Tennessee, 1/11/01	54
5.	Connecticut, 2/1/18	53
	Fairleigh Dickinson, 12/31/94	53
	at Clemson, 11/21/03	53

Most Points, Second Half

	Game	Pts
1.	Cincinnati, 2/12/84	68
2.	at Vanderbilt. 3/2/95	59
3.	at Tennessee, 1/23/03	58
4.	UCLA, 1/5/81	57
5.	at Kentucky, 2/2/83	56

Most Points, Single Quarter (Since 2015-16)

	Game	Qtr	Pts
1.	Baylor, 12/2/19	1st	32
	at Maryland, 11/13/17	4th	32
	Kentucky, 2/26/17	4th	32
4.	vs. Arkansas, 3/8/19	3rd	30
	vs. Connecticut, 3/26/18	1st	30
	vs. Syracuse, 3/25/16	4th	30

Fewest Points

	Game	Pts
1.	*Mississippi Valley State, 11/24/23*	*19*
2.	Howard, 3/18/22	21
	South Carolina State, 12/14/11	21
4.	Charleston Southern, 12/18/22	23
5.	Presbyterian, 11/27/11	24
	Georgia Southern, 2/3/92	24

Fewest Points, First Half

	Game	Pts
1.	Howard, 3/18/22	4
2.	Charleston Southern, 12/18/22	6
3.	Bethune-Cookman, 12/21/05	7
4.	East Tennessee State, 12/18/22	8
	South Carolina State, 12/14/11	8
	Ohio, 11/28/08	8
	Florida A&M, 12/30/01	8

Fewest Points, Second Half

	Game	Pts
1.	Mississippi Valley State, 11/24/23	7
2.	Presbyterian, 12/16/23	9
3.	North Carolina Central, 12/1/14	10
4.	Presbyterian, 11/27/11	11
3.	vs. Texas, 3/30/21	12
	Hampton, 11/20/16	12
	North Carolina Central, 12/2/13	12

Fewest Points, Single Quarter (Since 2015-16)

	Game	Qtr	Pts
1.	vs. Texas, 3/30/21	4th	0
	at Vanderbilt, 1/14/22	2nd	0
	at Ole Miss, 1/30/20	1st	0
4.	at Cal Poly, 11/22/22	1st	2
	East Tennessee State, 11/7/22	2nd	2
	Howard, 3/18/22	2nd	2
	Howard, 3/18/22	1st	2
	UConn, 2/10/20	1st	2
	at Ole Miss, 1/30/20	2nd	2

Field Goals Made

	Game	FGM
1.	College of Charleston, 1/26/76	47
2.	at Tennessee, 1/11/01	42
3.	at Tennessee, 2/18/93	41
4.	Baylor, 12/2/18	39
	Vanderbilt, 2/26/95	39
	at College of Charleston, 1/11/77	39

Field Goal Attempts

	Game	FGA
1.	South Carolina State, 1/20/77	104
	Federal City, 1/17/76	104
3.	Voorhees, 2/28/77	102
4.	Francis Marion, 1/28/76	101
5.	at South Carolina State, 1/26/77	100

Highest FG Percentage

	Game	FGM-A	Pct
1.	New Hampshire, 12/30/97	28-44	.636
2.	College of Charleston, 2/25/78	37-60	.617
3.	at Vanderbilt, 2/18/07	28-46	.609
4.	at Vanderbilt, 1/18/01	29-48	.604
5.	at Old Dominion, 2/13/80	37-62	.597
	at Valdosta State, 2/12/79	37-62	.597

Lowest FG Percentage

	Game	FGM-A	Pct
1.	*Mississippi Valley State, 11/24/23*	*8-67*	*.119*
2.	South Carolina State, 12/14/11	6-48	.125
3.	Bethune-Cookman, 12/21/05	8-57	.140
4.	Georgia Southern, 2/3/92	9-64	.141
5.	Howard, 3/18/22	8-54	.148

3-Point Field Goals Made

	Game	3FGM
1.	Alabama, 2/27/98	13
2.	Arkansas, 1/9/20	12
	vs. Connecticut, 3/26/18	12
4.	*Nine time, last, at Bowling Green, 12/19/23*	*11*

OPPONENT RECORDS

3-Point Field Goal Attempts

Game	3FGA
1. *at Arkansas, 2/29/24*	*41*
2. vs. Arkansas. 3/3/23	34
3. Minnesota, 12/11/16	32
Wake Forest, 12/17/09	32
5. vs. Arkansas, 3/4/22	31
at Florida, 2/17/19	31

Highest 3-Point FG Percentage

Game	3 FGM-A	Pct
1. LSU, 2/17/96	5-5	1.000
2. at Auburn, 2/16/06	4-5	.800
3. Vanderbilt, 3/3/00	7-9	.778
4. at Connecticut, 2/9/15	8-11	.727
5. at Mississippi, 1/18/07	5-7	.714

Free Throws Made

Game	FTM
1. Arkansas State, 12/29/94	33
2. Alabama, 2/25/99	32
3. at Vanderbilt, 2/26/06	31
at Tennessee, 2/11/97	31
5. at LSU, 2/17/02	29
Arkansas, 3/3/95	29
at Virginia, 12/21/85	29

Free Throw Attempts

Game	FTA
1. Alabama, 2/25/99	48
2. Arkansas State, 12/29/94	42
3. at Florida International, 11/25/07	39
at LSU, 2/17/02	39
at Florida, 1/30/00	39
at UNLV, 11/25/85	39

Free Throw Percentage (Min. 10 FTA)

Game	FT-A	Pct
1. vs. Iowa, 3/31/23	14-14	1.000
at UConn, 2/13/17	10-10	1.000
Furman, 12/9/12	10-10	1.000
at Auburn, 11/28/89	17-17	1.000
5. Georgia State, 2/28/87	22-23	.957

Rebounds

Game	Rebs
1. at Alabama, 1/22/95	68
2. at Georgia, 1/29/94	61
at UNLV, 11/25/85	61
4. Auburn, 11/28/87	60
South Carolina State, 1/20/77	60

Offensive Rebounds

Game	ORebs
1. Auburn, 1/07/01	37
2. Furman, 11/23/97	32
3. Tennessee, 1/15/92	28
4. Florida State, 3/24/19	27
vs. Tennessee, 3/2/18	27
at Memphis State, 1/24/87	27

Defensive Rebounds

Game	DRebs
1. at Alabama, 1/22/95	42
2. LSU, 2/14/98	41
Marist, 12/18/95	41
4. at Stanford, 1/8/07	39
Alabama, 1/22/94	39

Assists

Game	Assts
1. at Old Dominion, 2/13/80	33
at Clemson, 1/24/83	33
3. at Tennessee, 1/11/01	30
4. at Kentucky, 2/2/83	28
5. at Connecticut, 12/17/07	27
at Tennessee, 2/18/93	27
at Louisiana Tech, 1/15/83	27

Blocked Shots

Game	Blks
1. Stanford, 12/21/21	13
Clemson, 11/25/97	13
3. vs. Stanford, 4/2/21	12
4. vs. Arkansas, 3/4/22	11
Tennessee, 2/20/22	11
Purdue, 12/15/19	11
Tennessee, 1/3/13	11
Stanford, 12/19/12	11
at Clemson, 11/17/11	11
at Tennessee, 1/7/10	11
Arkansas, 2/8/07	11
LSU, 2/13/05	11
Vanderbilt, 1/8/96	11

Steals

Game	Stls
1. Memphis, 2/26/92	23
2. at LSU, 1/12/06	19
at LSU, 2/27/00	19
NC State, 2/17/79	19
Georgia Southern, 12/9/78	19

Personal Fouls

Game	PFs
1. Tulane, 12/19/95	47
2. Arkansas, 1/30/93	37
3. Georgia, 1/16/93	36
4. Missouri, 1/10/16	34
Clemson, 3/1/80	34

Turnovers

Game	TOs
1. Georgia Southern, 12/9/78	49
2. South Carolina State, 12/22/98	44
3. SMU, 12/8/80	42
4. Virginia Tech, 1/30/89	39
5. Coastal Carolina, 12/19/99	38

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How dunking on Dawn Staley might win South Carolina a national championship even if she blocked it

Evan Gerike, Greenville News
March 23, 2024

COLUMBIA – Ashlyn Watkins probably isn't used to having her dunks blocked.

The sophomore forward went viral for a dunk earlier this season against Kentucky, but her attempt Saturday to dunk a balloon on South Carolina women's basketball coach Dawn Staley didn't quite go down before popping against a light.

Ahead of the No. 1 seed Gamecocks' second round NCAA Tournament matchup with No. 8 seed North Carolina (20-12) on Sunday (1 p.m., ABC) in Colonial Life Arena, South Carolina's locker room was loose, loud and full of balloons.

"It's who they are," Staley said. "A team will take on its own personality, and as much as coaches want to change that, that's who they're going to be. I didn't spend a whole lot of time trying to change that."

That's the type of environment the Gamecocks (33-0) have upheld all season, which led to Staley calling the locker room "day care" after they capped off a 29-0 regular season by beating Tennessee on March 3.

The Gamecocks messed around with balloons for most of the open locker room period in South Carolina's practice day between games on Saturday. Junior guard Bree Hall accidentally bought happy birthday balloons for South Carolina's senior day, so the Gamecocks didn't use them to decorate lockers. They blew them up Saturday instead to mess around.

The players tried to dunk on Staley, who said she blocked the shot.

"They try to get me to be the brunt of the joke, but not I," Staley said.

Staley said coaching a team as loose as this one is both refreshing and frustrating. The coaching staff tried to focus the players earlier in the season but stopped when they recognized it was the team's personality.

"They don't know when they're coming or going," Staley said. "For us, as a staff, we want them to just go, to be focused on the task at hand. The way they get to that point is hilarious to them and frustrating to us. Eventually they get to where we need them to be, they just take a longer route."

Staley said South Carolina doesn't lock in until the ball is tipped to start the game.

Despite any mounting outside pressure as a perfect season gets closer and closer, the loose environment shows the pressure inside the locker room hasn't built up.

"We just go out there and play our game knowing who we are and that we're going to get the dub at the end of the day," guard Te-Hina Paopao said after beating Tennessee to end the regular season. "It's no pressure at all. We just love to play with each other."

The Gamecocks will get senior center Kamilla Cardoso back for Sunday's game after she served a one-game suspension and are expected to return Hall, who missed Friday's game for precautionary reasons.

Cardoso said she watched South Carolina's win Friday against Presbyterian alone in the locker room, which was tough. The Gamecocks played two games this season while Cardoso was with Team Brazil in an Olympic qualifying event and two more while she rested in February.

"It was a little weird because I'm used to being out there with them," Cardoso said. "I was happy watching them because I think some players did some great things. … We worked hard in case one player is missing, somebody else can step up, and that's what they did."

###

Women's March Madness favorite South Carolina eyes third title

Michael Voepel, ESPN.com
March 18, 2024

Now this feels familiar.

Dawn Staley and the South Carolina Gamecocks are the No. 1 overall seed heading into the women's NCAA tournament for the second consecutive season. They enter March Madness undefeated -- for the second year in a row -- and at 32-0 are the only remaining unbeaten Division I team in men's or women's college hoops. They are once again the betting favorite to win the championship.

How they got here is a different story entirely, and it just might help the Gamecocks win their third title in seven NCAA tournaments.

Several women's teams have been championship contenders in successive seasons, with star players leading the way. Think Chamique Holdsclaw (Tennessee Lady Vols, 1996-1998), Diana Taurasi (UConn Huskies 2002-2004), Candace Parker (Tennessee 2007-08), Maya Moore and Tina Charles (UConn 2009-10) and Breanna Stewart (UConn 2013-2016).

South Carolina is back on top this season after losing five starters, including 2023 WNBA No. 1 draft pick Aliyah Boston, and a top reserve from last year's team. How did the Gamecocks reload? Call it strategic planning by Staley, along with her ability to convince players to buy into future roles. That's harder to do in today's transfer portal world, where many players seek immediate individual success.

But Staley did it, and several players who accepted taking a back seat last season, are now driving the Gamecocks.

"This whole season has been learning lessons through winning," Staley said at the SEC tournament, where South Carolina won its eighth title. "We won a lot of basketball games, but there were a lot of things that we need to work on. This team has responded time in and time out."

The roadmap to getting a No. 1 seed for the fourth season in a row started well before South Carolina fell to Iowa in last season's national semifinals. That was an emotionally difficult loss for a program that had seemed so likely to repeat its 2022 national championship. With players such as Boston, Zia Cooke, Brea Beal, Victaria Saxton, Kierra Fletcher and Laeticia Amihere moving on, the Gamecocks lost the majority of their of experience and leadership.

Staley recruited in preparation for this. She knew there were talented younger players in place for 2023-24. She also got the perfect fit that South Carolina needed from the transfer portal: Guard Te-Hina Paopao added more 3-point shooting consistency, which had been an Achilles' heel in the loss to Iowa.

Yet even with so many of the correct pieces, South Carolina still had to live up to the challenge of being the powerhouse everyone expects. Over the summer, Staley had moments of doubt.

"Considering what it looked like in June ... like, early retirement," Staley said during College GameDay's visit to South Carolina on Feb. 18. "I was considering it. Seriously. Our team, where they were ... they really weren't in a good place. We lacked leadership. We lacked conditioning. We lacked discipline. But once you start forming your habits, they picked up on them fairly quickly.

"For the returners, they understood, but they were in a new situation themselves because they were the ones that were the examples for others. Now, they're the leaders."

Among South Carolina's top eight scorers this season, only three were in that position last year. The 2022-23 roles were much smaller for center Kamilla Cardoso, forward Ashlyn Watkins and guard Bree Hall: None of them started or averaged more than 19 minutes a game last season.

Now, Cardoso (14.0 PPG) and Hall (9.7 PPG) are starters, and Watkins (9.7 PPG) plays the most minutes among the reserves. Guard Raven Johnson (8.1 PPG, 4.9 APG) and forward Chloe Kitts (9.2 PPG, 6.0 RPG), both sophomores, have moved into starting roles. Paopao, who spent the previous three years at Oregon, came in as a starter.

Led by Paopao's 73 3-pointers as part of her 11.1 PPG average, the Gamecocks have made 207 shots from behind the arc thus far, vs. 163 last year.

The Gamecocks -- who were sixth in the AP preseason Top 25 but took over No. 1 by the season's second poll -- also have a strong freshmen class led by guards Milaysia Fulwiley (11.8 PPG) and Tessa Johnson (5.9 PPG).

"I'm super proud of our youngsters," Staley said after the SEC tournament final victory over LSU. "Their experience is a little bit different than when some of our experienced players were youngsters. They have to play for us.

"If you asked them if they saw themselves playing how they're playing today like three or four months ago, before the season, I'm sure they would say no. Their heads were spinning about the pace of play, about how we implement offenses and defenses, just the pace of what we need to learn. It took them a while to actually acclimate to that. They put in a lot of work to get to where they are."

The Gamecocks haven't lost a home game at Colonial Life Arena, where they will play the NCAA tournament early rounds, since December 2020. They haven't lost before the Sweet 16 of the NCAA tournament since 2013.

The closest they've come to losing this season came in the SEC tournament semifinals, when Cardoso's last-second, banked-in 3-pointer beat Tennessee 74-73. But even in that pressure-cooker, Staley was calm. The Gamecocks have proven themselves to their toughest critic.

"I felt it took a little longer than we wanted," Staley said about the concern she had during the off-season. "But if I knew it was going to turn out like this, I probably wouldn't have been as mad."

Does the 2023 Final Four loss to Iowa still haunt the Gamecocks? Not as much as it seems to motivate those who experienced it.

For the Gamecocks who didn't play in that game, they are totally in the moment in 2024. For the Gamecocks who did experience that heartbreak, this season has been about seeking a kind of redemption.

"I think all of us have flashbacks of last year," Johnson said. "We definitely don't want to lose. We want to keep winning."

MiLaysia Fulwiley and Tessa Johnson raised the bar for the Gamecocks

Chris Wellbaum, GamecockCentral.com
March 14, 2024

This season of women's basketball has been dubbed the "Year of the Freshman." For South Carolina, the SEC Tournament was the "Weekend of the Freshman."

MiLaysia Fulwiley has been grabbing headlines since her breathtaking debut in Paris and is usually included in discussions of this season's elite freshmen, but in Greenville, she proved she is more than just viral moments.

Tessa Johnson isn't a household name like Fulwiley and she is far less likely to go viral, but she proved last weekend that she can be the perfect glue player.

Together, the two freshmen were arguably the Gamecocks' best players during the SEC Tournament.

Let's rewind to late October.

Fulwiley was already making breathtaking plays and showing glimpses of Dawn Staley's hype that she is a generational talent. But she was also wildly inconsistent and a disinterested defender.

Johnson was struggling with the adjustment to college. She could shoot, though, and that was enough to get her playing time, even if Staley said Johnson's best defense was her offense (meaning she would have to outscore her opponent).

They went through growing pains. Johnson suffered a sprained ankle that set her back, and both had games in which they barely played. But they learned, and the most important lesson was about defense.

"If you would have saw (Fulwiley) two months ago, she really didn't get back in transition. She really got lost in half-court defense. She didn't put pressure on the ball," Staley said. "She can be an elite defender. At times she's an elite defender."

Fulwiley got a crucial steal and layup against Tennessee, and then successfully harassed LSU's Haily Van Lith in the championship game.

"Tessa is a big guard. I would say she probably lacked confidence in defense before she got here, especially when we started practicing. The emphasis that we put on it, she lacked confidence in it," Staley said. "The more and more she plays, the more and more she sees herself doing some great things out there on that side of the basketball, the more confidence she's gaining and the more times she's putting herself into position."

As a defender, Fulwiley is spectacularly quick and physical. Johnson relies on her size, wingspan, and footwork to be disruptive. But they both get steals – Fulwiley finished second on the team with 56 steals and Johnson was fifth with 21.

They also block shots. Fulwiley had 22, third on the team. Johnson got her first block against Tennessee. The block got lots of attention, but Staley wanted to talk about the rest of Johnson's game.

"Not only get a block, but she gets deflections, she's in great defensive position," Staley said. "I'd rather take all the other stuff in and around the blocked shot because that's going to be probably 95% of who she'll be on the defensive side of the ball."

"All the other stuff" included Johnson guarding Tennessee's Rickea Jackson, a likely top-five pick in the WNBA Draft. Johnson didn't just hold her own, she shut down Jackson in the first half. It was a huge confidence boost for Johnson.

"It means everything because I like to be challenged and the fact that I have her trust behind me, that's all I need," Johnson said. "I need her trust."

What Johnson and Fulwiley did on defense rounded out their performances. When South Carolina, including Fulwiley, had a poor first quarter against Texas A&M, Johnson steadied the ship. And when the Aggies made a third-quarter run, again it was Johnson who ended the threat.

Johnson scored 13 points against Texas A&M and averaged 8.3 points for the tournament. She showed she is more than a shooter, scoring on all three levels.

"I was just playing the game. My teammates did what they had to do," Johnson said. "The ball found me. I just shot it."

After a shaky quarterfinal performance where Fulwiley admitted she was nervous, she adopted the same mindset. She went from six points on 1-6 shooting on Friday to 13 points on 5-11 shooting on Saturday.

"I feel like I was just giving what the defense gave me, staying poised throughout the whole game," Fulwiley said. "I usually get speed up, so I just told myself that I was going to stay calm and stay poised today, and it worked out in my favor."

With her confidence back, Fulwiley exploded on Sunday. She had a career-high 24 points on 8-12 shooting, two assists, and two steals. It was the entire package, and it won her Tournament MVP honors.

"I feel like basketball is a confidence, that's the key to basketball," Fulwiley said. "I feel like my confidence is out the roof when I step on the court. Nobody can guard me, check me. It's really a mind thing. I just told myself that I have to lock in and play better."

The continued improvement from Fulwiley and Johnson makes South Carolina even more dangerous going into the NCAA Tournament.

"Our youngsters are doing a really great job," Staley said. "They give us a totally different look. They can attack the basket. They're floor spacers. Not a whole lot of people are probably putting them on their scouting report, so it gives us an opportunity to utilize them in a way which frees them up to do some things."

###

New-look, new-approach Gamecocks just keep winning

David Cloninger, Post & Courier
March 8, 2024

COLUMBIA — She tried to fight it. That's how she's built this program into one of the nation's elite, by doing things her way and never backing down.

But when it came to this edition of her South Carolina basketball team, she had to compromise. Dawn Staley couldn't ominously intone for her players to "learn a lesson from this". Where can a lesson be found when the Gamecocks are 29-0?

"A doctorate program … " she began in describing the differences from last year's workmanlike locker room to this one, "and daycare. Our locker room sounds like daycare. It's so much talking, about nothing."

The laughs that erupted could have been silenced with one steely glare from the head woman in charge, but she let it go, much as she has with her team this season. They aren't bad kids; don't get the idea that the 10 ladies who play are malcontents or rebellious or anything other than a tremendously talented basketball team that likes to do things its way.

That's all fine, until the moment arrives when that way doesn't win, and that's when Staley can really implement her I-told-you-so routine. That's the way it's worked through 23 previous years as a head coach; sometimes it's early in the year, sometimes late, but it's always been there.

As win after win mounted this year, it became apparent that no matter how lousy the previous practice, no matter how many times the staff told the players that weren't on the floor to quit chattering on the sideline, that moment was getting further away.

"In the beginning of the season, we would just say, 'Be quiet!' Now it's just who they are," Staley said. "It's their identity. We really don't fight that battle. We just put our earplugs in."

Summertime blues

They came together for workouts in June knowing just how spoiled they were the last four years. Another tremendously talented group that never had to be told twice to do anything had piloted the Gamecocks to an immensely successful four-year period and they expected the same from the holdovers.

Yeah, no.

"We had some days, some practices, oh my God," recollected assistant coach Jolette Law. "As a staff, we'd come back upstairs and watch film to see what we can do better. Dawn was so frustrated, but as she said, 'We still got to coach them up. They do not know what they don't know.'"

The staff knew the team would be young and inexperienced, but talented. They recruited them. And the kids did listen and try to do what they were told.

But … ugh.

"There were a lot of times we thought we could do some things, like add a different zone or a press, and … no. We figured out that we just needed to simplify some things, to find out what we're good at," Law said. "This season has taught all of us: The word is, 'Simplify.'"

November got closer and Law was shaking her head. "I had to say, 'Coach, whose idea was it to start the season playing Notre Dame? And then we got Maryland?,'" Law said. "Where we were, we had to pull each kid to the side and coach them individually."

Then came the epic trip to Paris to start the season against the Fighting Irish, Staley with a subtle warning to the public that this team was not last year's team. It wasn't going to show up and win on the strength of its name.

The Gamecocks won by 29.

Maryland and onward

USC trounced the Terrapins by 38. The blowouts kept coming, and between them, back-to-back road wins against North Carolina and Duke. The coaches were as pleased as they were befuddled.

How? How, with such inconsistency in practice?

"We've had a couple of those," guard Te-Hina Paopao said through a mischievous grin. "Those practices actually help us, because we know we didn't perform up to par. We know that we're gamers. We may not know how to practice or have a good practice, but we all know that we're going to lock in the game and know that we're going to help each other win."

It's the kind of thing that drives a coach crazy. You're trying to teach the kids something and they just can't quite get it … and it doesn't matter.

"It was every day, we were concentrating on our defense. Dawn was all about, 'We got to stand on something.' Our defense has been a staple for years," Law said. "It was, 'We might need to continue to add ball-screen D. Add more help-zone. We tried a 2-3 zone for about a week and a half and then Dawn said, 'I don't like it. Let's scrap it.'"

(For the record, the Gamecocks broke out the 2-3 zone at Auburn on Feb. 1, dropping USC followers' jaws from coast to coast)

That's been the season's story. Lots of trial, lots of error, but on the most important platform there is — the games — the Gamecocks are undefeated.

"I'm going to go with the flow. I'll fight it for a while, but when it's who they are, it's who they are," Staley said. "You have to figure out what we can actually integrate, what they're going to give us."

On mute

The national reaction to the Gamecocks' unbeaten regular season, for the second straight year despite a completely new starting five, has mostly been crickets. Staley has drawn recognition for at least one national coach of the year award, but major stories from national outlets have mostly gone unwritten.

"We're sort of used to it. I guess they'd say it's expected," said Law, who broke out one of Staley's favorite phrases — "South Carolina fatigue."

"If we do what we're continuing to do, they'll have to talk about us one day," she said.

Staley doesn't let the team run amok in practice, but it's been a daily process of finding out what she can do. She praised her team for always finding a way.

"We force them to play the way we need to play. It's just a constant talking. And I don't really think they can control themselves," Staley said. "But then they go out and perform. It's the craziest thing."

Raven Johnson has said that this year is "revenge season," to get back to the Final Four and take the two steps USC didn't last season. MiLaysia Fulwiley kept it as simple as the coaches' directions every day — "We just want to win," she said.

They have, playing 29 games and winning all. This weekend's SEC Tournament provides the chance to keep winning, and the last chance, if there should be one, to stub their toe and be able to make it up.

They're young. They talk about nothing so much, it's like a reboot of "Seinfeld." They win.

Can it last?

"They don't like to look bad. We don't let our foot off the gas when it comes to good habits," Staley said. "They find a way to win."

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South Carolina setting a new bar with unbeatable revved up offense

Sabreena Merchant, The Athletic
March 1, 2024

At the start of the season, South Carolina's coaching staff had some questions about the potential of their roster.

The preseason had been "a mess," in the words of coach Dawn Staley, and there was an internal feeling, at least according to newcomer Te-Hina Paopao, that being ranked sixth in the country was generous. It wasn't that the Gamecocks weren't talented enough, but rather that the roster was so new. No one knew what to expect, especially in the short term.

The defense wasn't the main concern. Players don't usually make it to South Carolina unless they can defend, and they certainly don't get minutes unless they're guarding. As associate coach Lisa Boyer says, "You've got to be able to make stops out there, you've got to be able to rebound, you've got to be able to put pressure on the ball for us." The high expectations are warranted: Per Her Hoop Stats, the Gamecocks have had a top-three defense each of the last five seasons.

It was the other end of the floor that prompted some doubt. South Carolina had four returners from the 2022-23 rotation, all of whom came off the bench. There were few certainties they could rely on, and that meant the coaching staff had to be open-minded about the direction of their new-look squad.

Four months later, with another SEC regular-season title in the books and an undefeated record still intact, those questions have been definitively answered. Through internal development, some changes in mentality and the arrival of one perfect transfer, the Gamecocks' offense has become a significant advantage for the best team in the country.

From the start of the season, when South Carolina dropped 100 points on Notre Dame, it's been apparent that these Gamecocks have firepower unlike that of previous iterations. They scored 100-plus in back-to-back games to start for the first time in program history and have reached triple digits six times. They've improved their overall offensive efficiency from a year ago while simultaneously improving the defense — again, when the baseline was already a team that finished the regular season undefeated.

One of the foundations of South Carolina's offense is speed. The coaches knew they'd have pace this season; that's a given at this program, where quickness often goes hand-in-hand with the defensive toolkit they look for in recruits. It was especially true with the returning trio of Kamilla Cardoso, Bree Hall and Raven Johnson and newcomer MiLaysia Fulwiley. All have the lateral mobility to cover ground on defense but are also fast end-to-end relative to their positions, enabling South Carolina to turn that defense into offense. The Gamecocks play about a quarter of their possessions in transition and unsurprisingly lead the country with 19.9 fast-break points per game.

South Carolina's pace doesn't just manifest itself in the open floor but also in half-court situations. Players are quick coming off ball screens and handoffs and cutting off the ball, which makes the defense have to work harder.

Another key ball mover is Cardoso, who is singularly another foundational offensive presence. South Carolina's cutting and screening wouldn't be nearly as impactful if the only players capable of delivering passes out of those actions were on the perimeter. Cardoso is a hub inside who can find her teammates from the paint. At 6-foot-7, she naturally draws defenses and creates openings all around her.

The threat of Cardoso's passing is amplified by her scoring ability. In her first two seasons in Columbia, she hadn't consistently demonstrated that scoring instinct, but flipping the switch was a point of emphasis during the offseason. "The first year came, we were screaming at her to stop passing because she was getting to the rim and she was just automatically passing it out," Boyer says. "That's been the transition with her with us because we want her to be more assertive scoring, and she's coming around with that."

Cardoso is now taking the most field-goal attempts per 40 minutes of her career — which has led to her highest scoring total — while also averaging her most assists. Opponents have to double her in the post, which leads to kick-outs for 3-pointers and dishes to cutters. They also stay attached to her in the high post, so she can find her teammates underneath the basket for high-low passes. Boyer credits Cardoso's time with the Brazilian national team for encouraging her to look for her shot, but whatever the cause, Cardoso's increased aggressiveness as a scorer has worked in concert with her intrinsic passing ability to produce a more complete offensive player.

The combination of speed and a dominant post isn't new to South Carolina, though; those elements have marked their rosters for years. To take the offense to another level, to make a team that already led the country in offensive rating (117.4 points per 100 possessions) become unguardable, the Gamecocks needed a knockdown shooter, ideally a movement shooter, one who could mimic Cardoso's gravitational pull on the perimeter.

South Carolina already was bringing in Tessa Johnson, a four-star freshman guard who has shot 43.8 percent on 3-pointers this season, albeit on two attempts per game. The Gamecocks also expected Raven Johnson, the new starting point guard, to take a step forward. After infamously being left open in the 2023 NCAA Tournament — the memory of Caitlin Clark waving her off on defense is hard to shake — Johnson was determined to enact "Raven's Revenge" this season. The redshirt sophomore worked on her shot tirelessly during the offseason, both with the Gamecocks and USA Basketball as a member of the 2023 AmeriCup team, and has elevated her 3-point percentage from 24.1 last season to 34.6 this season.

In time, one or both of the Johnsons could become that knockdown shooter. But neither was ready for the role this season. To fill that slot, the Gamecocks turned to Paopao. The senior guard was ready to join former Oregon assistant Mark Campbell at TCU out of the transfer portal when Staley interrupted those plans. Instead, her path took her farther east, where she has been the missing piece for the presumptive national title favorites.

"To be able to get Paopao was huge," Boyer says. "We really haven't had a shooter like that ever, really. We've had good shooters, but she's exceptional."

Not only did Paopao bring elite shooting ability to South Carolina but also experience. A three-year starter for the Ducks, Paopao had more starts in her career than the rest of the Gamecocks' starting lineup combined. In 2022, she had a game-tying 3-pointer at the end of regulation in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, a moment that was emblematic of everything South Carolina needed — on a big stage, one most of her teammates hadn't experienced personally, she made a critical 3-pointer, off of movement no less.

It's hard to imagine last season's Gamecocks ever losing if they had Paopao to pair with Aliyah Boston, and she's a critical part of this season's undefeated streak. When she's on the court, South Carolina's effective field-goal percentage improves by 3.3 percent. She can put up points in a flurry, like the consecutive 3s she hit (off screens) against North Carolina to take the lead in the SEC-ACC Challenge matchup, or scoring 10 in the third quarter to break open the game at Duke later that week. Against Kentucky on Sunday, she had a personal 9-0 run in less than a minute coming out of halftime.

Paopao leads all Power 5 conferences in 3-point shooting percentage (among players shooting at least three per game), demanding a defender at all times, just like Cardoso. With how well South Carolina moves the rock, there are too many holes to plug, and it's more often that the defense is actually springing leaks.

"It just opens up the floor really well for our posts, especially when we have a post player like Kamilla," Paopao says about her shooting. "It just also gives the other guards an ability to shoot the ball with confidence, knowing that anyone can shoot the ball."

Paopao's influence on the other guards has been an unexpected benefit of her arrival. Boyer says her guard teammates have attempted to replicate Paopao's work ethic and form, in the same way Chloe Kitts and Ashlyn Watkins have mimicked Cardoso's passing inside. Having multiple threats encourages the Gamecocks to make the extra pass. They have posted their highest assist percentage since the 2014-15 season and their best assist-turnover ratio of the last 15 years.

"When you have a shooter like that, you have to put a defender on her, and when you put a defender on her, it pulls defenders off of other people," Boyer says. "They're really good at seeing each other on the perimeter. … They're keenly aware of where they are on the floor and they make the extra pass, and hopefully the extra pass gives them the extra time they need to get an efficient shot off. But (Paopao)'s work ethic is what I think she's brought to the team. I think that she's been a great role model that way."

No matter South Carolina coaches' questions about their roster when the team first assembled, the main characteristic shining through is its competitiveness when the ball is tipped. The new Gamecocks had big shoes to fill from the Freshies, and even if they fell short of that standard early in the process, they've met it consistently on game days. With the way they're playing on both ends of the floor, they might be setting a new bar for future generations at South Carolina.

###

South Carolina Women's Basketball "Made It Clear" In Latest SEC Title Win

Alan Cole, GamecockScoop.com
February 22, 2024

Call it a way to save space or a coincidence, but there is one distinct pattern in the banners hanging from the rafters above the side of Colonial Life Arena opposite the benches.

You see eight lined up in a row. Seven commemorating SEC regular season championships — one for each — and then one banner tacked on the end with all the SEC Tournament titles crammed into one piece of cloth.

Make some more room.

No. 1 South Carolina women's basketball wrapped up its eighth regular season conference championship in 11 years with a 72-44 victory over Alabama. It is a staggering stat, even with how normal the celebrations have become in Columbia.

A program with zero conference titles prior to the 2013-14 season now has more than every other team in the league except Tennessee.

National Championships are the goal, and one South Carolina (26-0, 13-0 SEC) is more than within its rights to expect this year. Final Fours are program markers, status symbols of excellence and consistency to reach the ending destination of any given season. Conference tournament titles are unique. You cut a net, you get another ring, you get a taste of postseason action before the real thing.

But lost in the shuffle of everything a college basketball team can accomplish, there is the regular season title. The one which takes the longest to win, and requires the steadiest hand to attain. Even an NCAA Tournament run is only six games. A regular season title means coming out on top over 16 contests, finishing at the front of a 14-team pack.

There is a reason South Carolina chooses to mark each one individually, unlike its conference tournament triumphs.

"If there's a championship out there, we want to win," Staley said. "It's great, it really is great that this team has put us in this position this early. And I say early into the regular season, because it usually takes probably the last game. You're jockeying for position; you're looking over your shoulder. And they made it clear."

These Gamecocks — actually picked to finish second place pre-season, strange as it is to remember now — accepted a trophy from league commissioner Greg Sankey with three games to spare.

It is easy to feel like this is old news, played out or a "bigger fish to fry" type of night. Staley herself, even through the excitement, did not wear her championship hat into the post-game press conference like her players.

When winning becomes habitual, winning feelings do as well.

But for the "old" guard, this was new. Te-Hina Paopao is the most experienced player on the roster as a senior transfer from Oregon, but got her first taste of what a championship celebration can feel like as a senior. Sakima Walker had to play increased minutes with Kamilla Cardoso taking the night off, and she also won her first team accolade as a Gamecock.

Bree Hall has been a part of three regular season titles, but never one where she started every single game on the way. She scored the first two buckets of a sloppy first quarter and finished her night 6-of-9 shooting with 13 points.

"It's honestly a little different this time just knowing that I am more of a factor to it," Hall said. "I feel like previous years I wasn't really that main factor, so I didn't really feel like, 'Oh, I'm really getting this.' But now to go out there, and starting and really being a factor to the team, it just helps a lot."

She has done this before, but she also has not. Same for Cardoso, Ashlyn Watkins, Raven Johnson and Chloe Kitts, all bench players on last season's team who have soaked up starting minutes for the latest championship team. Taking what they learned from the most successful recruiting class in program history and adapting it into their own futures, something even they will admit took some soul-searching over the summer.

It is easy to become desensitized to it.

Until you remember five SEC programs have never won a regular season title, and two more have only done it once, and it opens a new perspective.

Half of the league has spent the better part of 40 years chasing or only winning one of what South Carolina now has eight of. The Gamecocks have long since graduated from any kind of underdog or surprise status, but the scale of this feat stands up.

A team of five new starters, five new players overall and two new assistant coaches did it again. Did it with almost a quarter of the conference schedule in their back pockets. Did it two games faster than even last year's team.

Did it with conviction.

"It was a new team," Watkins said. "Of course you expect the unexpected. We lost seven people, that's a lot of people to lose especially off a good team that we had. We didn't expect to be this good, but once we saw we were this good, we never looked back."

It will be number eight in the rafters, but the first one quite like this.

###

The driving force behind No. 1 Gamecocks' surprise success? 'Freedom,' Dawn Staley says

Payton Titus, The State
January 6, 2024

This South Carolina team is unlike any other in the Dawn Staley era.

High-powered offense, speed and perimeter shooting have propelled the Gamecocks to a perfect record through non-conference play (plus their SEC debut against Florida Thursday) and quelled concerns about their lack of experience.

The key to such success: freedom.

"They're creating something that we really haven't had because they've got the freedom to do what they want," Staley told The State. "They still have the knowledge of discipline and how we want to play, but they've got the creativeness to play how it makes them feel good in a certain style."

That certain style seems to be dominating. Through its first 13 games, the 2023-24 Gamecocks squad has assembled a net rating of 51.2 (which HerHoopStats defines as margin of victory per 100 possessions) — the best of any USC team under Staley's tutelage since HHS began tracking in 2009.

Losing "The Freshies" — two-time National Player of the Year Aliyah Boston, Zia Cooke, Brea Beal, Laeticia Amihere and Olivia Thompson (plus the graduation of 2022-23 starters Victaria Saxton and Kierra Fletcher) created a level of roster turnover unlike any Staley had experienced before.

She takes some of the blame for putting the program in that situation. Her staff brought in such a large, highly touted class with three Day 1 starters (Boston, Beal and Cooke) that managed to stay together for four years. It's an unheard of feat in the age of the transfer portal and one the sport won't likely witness again — at least any time soon.

SUCCESS WITH A NEW-LOOK ROSTER

When the 2023-24 team first came together in the summer, Staley felt transported back to 2008 — her first season as head coach of South Carolina women's basketball (which posted a 10-18 record). There was just so much newness, especially with the addition of three freshmen and two transfers. She didn't know where to start.

"You started with a blank canvas and allowed the players to shape it," Staley said. "(But) it was an odd shape. Then, same thing as Year 1 here, you had to start seeing what people are bringing to the table. And then you start molding and forming the shape of what you want.

"I do think we're still shaping it."

Staley is putting on a sculpting masterclass this season. While she has remained adamant that this is not a "rebuild year," the Gamecocks returned just 33.8% of minutes played and 33.5% of scoring from their 2022-23 roster. Contrary to most outsiders', and even Staley's expectations, USC is posting all-time scoring totals and margins of victory.

Through 13 games, the 2023-24 team ranks first among the last 15 South Carolina squads in points per game (90.8), margin of victory per game (39.8), offensive rating (117.6; defined as points scored per 100 possessions), net rating (51.2), pace (77; defined as possessions for each team per 40 minutes), rebounds per game (50.7), assists per game (20.3), steals per game (9.5), blocks per game (9.5), 3-point shooting percentage (41.4%) and made 3s per game (7.1).

Notre Dame coach Niele Ivey didn't hesitate to call South Carolina a Final Four team after their season opener in Paris. Maryland coach Brenda Frese went as far as to say this USC team is better than last year's, which played an undefeated regular season and fell 77-73 to Iowa in one of the NCAA Tournament national semifinals.

South Carolina maintained a perfect record through the non-conference schedule, including four victories against ranked opponents (then-No. 10 Notre Dame, then-No. 14 Maryland, No. 24 North Carolina and then-No. 11 Utah), which leads the country alongside No. 2 UCLA and No. 12 UConn. The Gamecocks have two more ranked teams on their schedule, as of the Week 9 AP Top 25 Poll: No. 7 LSU (Jan. 25 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana) and UConn (Feb. 11).

USC's 2018-19 team, the first after South Carolina legend A'ja Wilson graduated, went 24-10 and ended its season in the Sweet 16. The 2023-24 team has greater aspirations.

"My team goal is to win a national championship," junior guard Bree Hall said at SEC Media Day. "Get that getback."

SEC play begins Thursday night at Florida. After USC won its non-conference finale at East Carolina 73-36 Saturday, Staley said she believes her team's novelty has worn off.

Everyone knows the Gamecocks can play. Now it's about how they'll respond to their immediate success.

"Just keep living up to the challenge of who we're facing," Staley said post game. "Because we're facing people who are ready to play against us. They get amped up."

THESE GAMECOCKS ARE LEARNING BY DOING

The "Freshies" era USC teams knew exactly what Staley wanted them to do, how to do it and when to do it. Whatever she asked of them, she knew they could and would deliver. This year's team: "They're trying," Staley said, "but they're different."

Sophomore point guard Raven Johnson started three games last season — more than any other player on the current roster. Some athletes — like freshmen MiLaysia Fulwiley, Tessa Johnson and Sahnya Jah — are adjusting to college basketball in general. Others — like Oregon transfer Te-Hina Paopao, junior college transfer Sakima Walker and returners Johnson, Hall, Kamilla Cardoso, Ashlyn Watkins, Chloe Kitts and Sania Feagin — are adjusting to new roles with loftier expectations.

But they're all learning by doing. And Staley is giving them the space to do so — to a point.

"I like new mistakes," she said. "Old mistakes, they bother me. They eat at me."

Fulwiley embodies that mindset. The freshman played just three minutes (compared to her then-23.5 average) in USC's gritty 65-58 win Nov. 30 over No. 24 UNC because she kept losing her player on defense. But a few days later against Duke, Fulwiley finished the game for South Carolina, punctuating her impressive performance with a kickout pass to guard Hall for a 3-pointer to secure the 77-61 win.

"She really understands the process," Staley said. "But when she's complete, like, you think she's pretty good right now. I think she's pretty good right now. But when she's able to play in between those magical moments that she makes in the game, that's the meat and potatoes of basketball. It ain't you wow us here, you wow us there. It's in between those moments. When she's able to play between those things, she's gonna be a heck of a player."

Kitts, too, has grown a lot since she enrolled early at South Carolina in December 2022. Staley hoped Kitts would be more game-ready when she got to Columbia, but two factors have contributed to her success over the last 12 months: being immersed in college basketball and her gold-medal performance with USA Basketball at the 2023 FIBA U19 Women's World Cup over the summer. In December, Kitts led the team with 9.3 rebounds per game and averaged 11.8 points on 52.9% shooting.

Watkins is another example. She played 32 games last season averaging 10.7 minutes, 4.9 points, 3.1 rebounds, 0.8 blocks and 0.7 steals per game. This season she's averaging 17.5 minutes, 9.1 points, 6.8 rebounds, three blocks and one steal per game.

"Complete 180," Staley said, "but she hasn't really scratched the surface in how good she's going to be."

"Greatness happens gradually," Staley added. "Sometimes we don't have the patience for it. You can't see it as you're going through it. But once you get there, you look back and you're thinking, 'I shouldn't have complained so much through the process.'"

Staley's players came to campus over the summer so out of shape that the staff couldn't delve into refining their skillsets until trainers Molly Binetti and Craig Oates helped strengthen them. Staley also found she had a group of "gamers" on her hands, meaning these Gamecocks don't practice like they play — a less-than-glowing review from a coach who takes pride in preparation and multi-page scouting reports for every opponent.

But, "they've conditioned us to say, 'Tomorrow will be better,'" Staley said.

As one phase of the 2023-24 season fades into the next, Staley has finally reached her "happy place." This team is not without flaws, but it has managed to cover them up well and proven itself capable of greatness.

###

What's it like to be recruited by Dawn Staley? Brazilian steaks, samba dancing and stardom

Grace Raynor and Ben Pickman, The Athletic
March 22, 2024

Te-Hina Paopao's heart was set on transferring to TCU.

After Oregon missed the 2023 NCAA Tournament, she entered the transfer portal as a junior seeking change. Mark Campbell, a former Ducks assistant and the new Horned Frogs coach, had recruited Paopao to Oregon years earlier, and they thrived together before he left for another job after her freshman season. She thought she had a plan. A reunion was forthcoming.

But as Paopao was driving to an early morning class last spring, she received a call from her high school coach, Terri Bamford. "Hey, South Carolina wants to talk to you," Bamford told Paopao. "Dawn Staley wants to call you — like right now."

Paopao pulled over immediately to focus. "South Carolina? South Carolina? Dawn Staley? The best program in the nation wants to hit me up?" she replied. "Absolutely give them my number. You can tell them to call me right now."

For hundreds of recruits around the country, that's what happens when Staley reaches out. You stop what you're doing. You hit your car brakes and veer to the roadside. "I couldn't believe that I was on the phone with Dawn," Paopao said. "Dawn Staley of all people."

There is Dawn Staley, the South Carolina women's basketball head coach and winner of two national championships. The Naismith Hall of Fame player. The teacher, the leading advocate for Black women, the dancer (play Mary J. Blige and see what happens), the trash-talker. The fashionista whose sideline outfits — Louis Vuitton, Gucci, Balenciaga — are headlines in blog posts. The star in commercials for major brands.

But before her players experience the many facets of Staley, they first commit to learning from her (and her staff's) tutelage.

Her blueprint looks foolproof as top-rated high school recruits such A'ja Wilson (No. 1, 2014) and Aliyah Boston (No. 3, 2019) come to South Carolina, win national championships and graduate to become WNBA stars. Unsurprisingly, many of the most sought-after recruits (four of the top 11 in the 2019 class, three of the top four in the 2021 class) make their way to Columbia, where Staley has signed every top-35 rated in-state recruit since 2014. That includes incoming No. 2 recruit Joyce Edwards.

Ty Harris became an All-American and won a national championship at South Carolina (2016-2020). She committed to the Gamecocks largely because she was drawn to Staley's authenticity. Allisha Gray transferred to South Carolina before the 2015 season believing — knowing, really —that playing for Staley was her best chance to win a title. (She won one.) "I committed right away. I didn't even have to think about it," Gray said. Others join the Gamecocks for pro preparation, to learn from a former player and a Black female coach, or to build a culture. "She's a truth-teller," longtime Staley assistant coach Lisa Boyer said. "We are who we are, and you either like it or you don't."

Staley's approach is often central to players committing to her. The Staley recruiting experience, however, can be more involved than the mere phone call that sent Paopao and her family into ecstasy. Players for this season's top-seeded Gamecocks, who begin their NCAA Tournament quest to complete an undefeated season on Friday at 2 p.m. ET, know that. So do her former players at South Carolina and Temple, where Staley coached from 2000-2008.

"It's like winning the lottery," said Keisha Hunt, who coached Gamecocks center Kamilla Cardoso in high school and on the grassroots circuit. "It's a dream."

Consider the following tales from Staley's recruiting trail to explore how and why so many join Staley.

Steakhouses, jollof rice and samba dancing

So much has changed in the landscape of college recruiting since Staley arrived at South Carolina in 2008, but the official visit remains a crucial part of the experience for most top prospects. In addition to X's and O's, all successful coaches must know how to entertain in some capacity.

"You know when a school is really interested in you," Gray said. "If a school will go … out of their way to do things for you, that just shows, they really want you."

Staley has that down.

She knew Zia Cooke's family was tight-knit and Cooke might be homesick if she chose to play so far from Toledo, Ohio. So on her official visit, Staley hosted an intimate cookout at her house for Cooke, who would return there many times as a player for Staley's signature burgers and salmon.

On Harris' visit, Staley took her and her family to Ruth's Chris Steak House. When Ashlyn Watkins, a McDonald's All-American and Columbia native, visited the Gamecocks on her official visit as the nation's No. 12 prospect in the Class of 2022, it didn't matter that she grew up as a local and had been familiar with the program since attending camps as a girl. Staley still pulled out all the stops — complete with laser tag and any type of food Watkins wanted. She picked Chinese.

Laeticia Amihere, a '23 South Carolina graduate and current forward with the Atlanta Dream, grew up in Canada but remembers Staley and her staff bringing in catering from a local African restaurant for her official visit as a nod to her father's Ghanaian and mother's Ivorian roots. They dined on jollof rice — a popular West African dish — as well as chicken, fish and plantains. "When you go away from home, it's kind of hard to get that homey feeling, whether it's food or even the people," Amihere said. "(It was) just a lot of stuff that my mom cooks, so I was definitely very happy."

And when Cardoso, who grew up in Brazil, visited South Carolina after transferring from Syracuse, Staley went even further.

In addition to serving Brazilian steaks, rice, beans and french fries, the Gamecocks had one more surprise for their future 6-foot-7 center. "We had a line-dancing day," Cardoso said, explaining that Staley brought in a samba teacher to dance the traditional Brazilian number with her. "It was really fun."

'Yeah, Mom. She's a pretty big deal'

Dee Alexander, ESPN's top recruit in the Class of 2025 and a two-time Ohio Ms. Basketball winner, is naturally reserved. Purcell Marian (Ohio) High School coach Jamar Mosley said she doesn't tell him every time she receives a call from a college coach.

"But when Dawn called her phone," Mosley said, "she was pretty ecstatic about that phone call."

Cooke, now a guard with the Los Angeles Sparks, remembers meeting Staley. She was playing in a grassroots tournament and had performed well, but didn't know that Staley would be sitting courtside. After the game, Cooke was telling her dad how much it would mean to her if South Carolina recruited her. That's when Staley tracked her down.

"When we were walking out, (Staley) was like, 'You will be getting a call from me,'" Cooke said. "That was by far one of the best moments. … A lot of people look up to her in so many different ways."

When Amihere arrived on campus for her official visit, Staley took her and her family to Soda City Market — a staple in Columbia with food trucks and local goods. It didn't take long for fans to swarm Staley.

"I don't even know how she steps outside. … It was hard to walk through (the market),"Amihere said, recalling that her parents were struck by how famous Staley was. "And I'm like, … 'Yeah, Mom. She's a pretty big deal.'"

It's a similar scene when Staley walks into a high school gym to watch a recruit play.

Will Eudy is the athletic director at Cardinal Newman School in Columbia, where Watkins played. He remembers coaches from nearly every major program walking through the doors to see her games — Notre Dame, Duke, Baylor, Texas, North Carolina and more. But when Staley and her assistants came through?

"Everybody understood when she was in the gym. It was another level," he said. "It's a vibe when they walk in. It's totally different."

"People were cheering, trying to take pictures," Watkins said, "trying to come up to her."

Staley sat in the front row to watch Watkins and was happy to sign every poster and smile for every photo asked of her, Eudy said.

Her star power helps others at South Carolina, too. In spring 2022, the Gamecocks football team needed help at wide receiver. When one of their targets, Corey Rucker, visited campus, coach Shane Beamer's recruiting department asked if it could do anything to make his visit more memorable. The one thing Rucker mentioned was meeting Staley. She invited him to her home and introduced her to her almost-as-famous pup, Champ.

"Whether it was Dawn Staley or Champ, people turned heads," Amihere said. "Just to see her stardom and how much she means to South Carolina is insane."

But even as her fame has grown, those who know Staley insist her humility hasn't changed. Eudy watched Staley sit through more than one Cardinal Newman blowout victory, just to show face with Watkins.

"How do you tell her no when she's sitting front row at a SCISA (South Carolina Independent School Association) high school basketball game and they're winning by 60?" he said. "This is what she's doing on Tuesday night.

"It's kind of like getting an offer from (Steve) Spurrier or getting an offer from Dabo (Swinney) or getting an offer from (Nick) Saban. That's gonna be something cool when they come into your school."

The 'awe factor'
Staley was 29 years old in April 2000, when Temple hired the Philadelphia native as its head coach. Squarely in the prime of her playing career, that summer the Charlotte Sting's point guard was preparing for her second of three Olympics. Prior to her coaching debut that fall, Staley told the Philadelphia Daily News that the toughest part of coaching was "having to talk so much." "I'm better at accomplishing things on my own instead of telling others how to do it," she said. "But I'm getting better."

Staley's accomplishments — two national Player of the Year honors at Virginia, three trips to the Final Four, an Olympic appearance and a budding WNBA career — were appealing to recruits, even if she was still finding her voice on the sideline. "I was very aware of who Coach was as a player," said Cynthia Jordan, a member of Staley's first recruiting class. Jordan wanted to play in a city and help build a budding program, but learning from a pro like Staley was a draw, too. "This is the best point guard in the country," she said. "There was an awe factor."

As both a head coach and active WNBA player, Staley was different from most other coaches recruiting players. "There was a connectivity there, because the player is seeing their coach play," said Boyer, who joined Staley's staff in 2002. "I think on the floor, when she was with Temple, she was a player's coach." Or sometimes more literally a playing coach. Jordan recalls Staley competing against Temple players in a series of one-on-one games. "I'm not going on record to say how it all went down," Jordan said when asked who won those contests.

Even after Staley's professional playing days ended in 2006, her credibility remained. When Staley arrived at South Carolina, she again needed to convince recruits to buy in to the change she sought to create. The Gamecocks had missed the NCAA Tournament five consecutive years (and made the field just twice since 1991). Tiffany Mitchell, a Charlotte native, grew up idolizing Staley from her time with the Sting. She later committed to South Carolina, helping lay the groundwork from 2012-2016.

Staley's on-court success still matters, even though fewer current players are as aware of her resumé specifics. When Amihere received her scholarship offer, she immediately researched more about Staley, diving into her playing career. "She's just an icon in women's sports, and in sports in general, because of her advocacy," Amihere said.

'She challenged me'
Paopao knew she would fit into South Carolina's offense. The Gamecocks needed a 3-point threat after shooting just 31 percent from beyond the arc last season, and Paopao, a 42.4-percent shooter from deep at Oregon in 2022-23, could certainly help.

Still, at the end of Paopao's visit to Columbia, Staley made no promises.

"She said, 'You're gonna come in and compete. I'm not gonna give you any favors or none of that. You've just gotta come in here and compete for what you want to work for and become the player that you want. And if you're not on the court — that's your fault,'" Paopao recalled. "I thought that was so real. That resonated with me so much."

She is a go-to deep threat, knocking down a career-high 47.1 percent of her 3-pointers this season, as South Carolina's overall long-range accuracy has risen nearly 9 percentage points.

It stands to reason that, of course, Staley knew Paopao could come in and make a significant impact. But playing at South Carolina is different than playing elsewhere, said Hunt, who coached Cardoso. Staley's recruits cannot fear competition.

"There's two types of athletes," Hunt said. "There's the ones that, they might be really, really great basketball players, but they don't want to go where there's seven, eight, nine really great basketball players."

And there's the ones who go to South Carolina.

"You're not gonna get the experience that those girls who choose to go to South Carolina are gonna get," Hunt said.

Like Paopao, Amihere remembers a blunt discussion with Staley during the recruiting process about expectations. During one phone conversation, Staley asked her "What can you do for us?" Amihere thought about her response for a second, then replied: "I want to attack the rim."

Staley went on to explain what they needed from Amihere and described what she thought Amihere could add to her game. "She challenged me," Amihere said. That appealed to the former five-star forward.

Staley doesn't hold back in practices when recruits are around, either. Harris remembers a session when Staley wasn't pleased with players. "She got so mad at us. She started yelling at us, saying stuff," Harris recalled. "(I was thinking), 'Hold on. We've got a recruit (here) now.' But they need to see that."

Her honesty is refreshing. Her standards remain high.

"When you hear South Carolina, it's like, 'Whoa. You play for the Gamecocks," Paopao said. "'You play for Dawn Staley.'"

###

Anonymous women's college basketball coaches dish on who's the best at in-game adjustments, game planning

The Athletic
March 19, 2024

NOTE: *Below is the portions of the piece that featured South Carolina head coach Dawn Staley, not the entire piece. Full piece can be found at: https://theathletic.com/5350753/2024/03/19/ womens-college-basketball-best-game-plan-anonymous-poll/*

Over the last month, The Athletic connected with more than 35 head coaches across women's basketball to get their candid opinions on an array of topics from the changing tides in the sport to the best coaches in the game to the greatest women's college basketball player of all time. These coaches, who hail from power conferences and high mid-majors, were granted anonymity so they could speak openly without fear of retribution from their own programs or the NCAA. Throughout the week, we're sharing coaches' thoughts on the most pressing issues in their sport.

Head coaches' jobs are all-encompassing in college basketball. They have to recruit, and in the age of the portal, re-recruit. They have to scour opposing rosters to find players who would be suitable transfers. They work with athletic departments for appropriate facilities and accommodations. There's an entire ecosystem under their purview.

Of course, the most important part of their role is putting together the product that shows up on the court. That job is multi-faceted in and of itself. Beyond spearheading player development, coaches design the offensive schemes, the defensive game plans and make adjustments when necessary. This is the part that's easiest for their peers to evaluate because the results speak for themselves in games. It's hard to know what goes on behind the scenes at any program; within those 94 feet, everything is visible. These coaches will be leading their teams into the NCAA Tournament this week, where these points will be illustrated.

In the first of our series of polls, we wanted to get a sense of what coaches think of their colleagues' game-planning.

Which coach would you pick to design an offensive game plan for you?
Geno Auriemma, UConn – 4 votes
Jennie Baranczyk Oklahoma – 4 votes
Lisa Bluder, Iowa – 3 votes
Karl Smesko FGCU – 3 votes
Tara VanDerveer, Stanford – 3 votes

Which coach would you pick to design a defensive game plan for you?
Dawn Staley, South Carolina – 14 votes
Vic Schaefer, Texas – 5 votes
Scott Rueck, Oregon State – 3 votes
Jeff Walz, Louisville – 3 votes

As opposed to the offense, where there was minimal consensus, Staley ran away with the vote for best defensive coach. South Carolina has had the nation's best defensive rating each of the last three years, per Her Hoop Stats, and Staley's ability to coax that performance out of an entirely new rotation in 2023-24 is the latest feather in her cap. No matter who takes the court for the Gamecocks, the standard is established on defense: Either you defend your matchup, or you don't play.

In their words
"The intensity they play with — that's the foundation of their program and it comes from her."

"It's a mentality. She maximizes those student-athletes. You don't always have offense to lean on, but you always have defense to lean on, and she does a good job of game-planning and making adjustments with her defense. She uses everything she has. And she has an incredible basketball mind."

"Year in and year out, they have a high performing defensive team. I just think they know how to prepare for a team."

"Dawn Staley did a heck of a job with her defensive group this year. Even the time when Cardoso went out and they had all those other girls step in, I thought their system and their discipline of who they were didn't change a lot."

Which coach makes the best in-game adjustments?
Dawn Staley, South Carolina – 7 votes
Tara VanDerveer, Stanford – 4 votes
Jeff Walz, Louisville – 4 votes
Scott Rueck, Oregon State – 3 votes

The Gamecocks had the nation's best net rating – plus 40.9 points per 100 possessions, per CBB Analytics – but they weren't at their best at the start of the games. Their two best quarters were the second (plus-47.6) and the third (plus-40.6) during the regular season, as they showed an ability to adjust as the game progressed before letting go of the gas in the fourth.

Contests against North Carolina, Georgia, and LSU, among others, stand out as examples of South Carolina taking an early punch but battling back. A common fix is Te-Hina Paopao getting more involved on offense, but Staley has a variety of other tools to slow down opposing offenses and help her Gamecocks regain control. Each of the four times South Carolina has trailed at halftime, it has won the second half by double digits.

In their words
"Even though she has a lot of talented kids, she's not afraid to change based on who she's playing or within a game offense, defense, style of play."

"(When) they're down, or it's close at half a lot of times, and they just come back and come back and come back consistently. And that has to be some type of locker room conversation, some type of, hey, we need to make this tweak or this adjustment, or you need to do this based on how they're guarding, or you need to be ready to hit this play or hit this shot."

"The South Carolina machine is a whole different level than everybody right now. But do you know how hard it is to get a bunch of All-Americans to be team players and play elite defense and compete? It's incredible what she's doing. Very few people have the gift to attract that level of talent, and then also get them to play hard and buy-in and be a machine."

Presbyterian coach shouts out USC's Dawn Staley for classy pregame gesture

Chapel Fowler, The State
March 23, 2024

Dawn Staley could have said no.

That's what Presbyterian coach Alaura Sharp kept reiterating to her team Tuesday night after Staley — the two-time national champion coach of the undefeated South Carolina women's basketball team — took time out of her schedule to help make Presbyterian's 2024 NCAA Tournament stay a little more unforgettable.

Three days before No. 1 overall seed USC cruised past No. 16 Presbyterian, 91-39, in a first-round NCAA Tournament game, Staley surprised the Blue Hose by meeting them at their team hotel and spending time with them ahead of their First Four game Wednesday in Columbia.

She did so at the request of Sharp, whose team was making its first NCAA Tournament appearance after winning the Big South championship.

And after the Gamecocks routed the Blue Hose by 52 points Friday, Sharp praised Staley for what she described as a classy — and certainly not required — pregame gesture for her squad, which entered the game as a 54.5-point betting underdog.

"I made sure to tell them she didn't have to come by," Sharp said. "She didn't have to do that. But she knows that she has a platform and how people feel about her. I just think that shows why she is who she is. She's a good person. And I appreciate her investing in our program."

Presbyterian College, a small private school in Clinton, South Carolina, roughly an hour west of Columbia, is one of the smallest Division I schools in the country, with an enrollment of just under 1,000 students. The Blue Hose lost a game to USC by 70 points earlier this year.

But PC made its way into the Big Dance by winning three straight games in the Big South conference tournament two weekends ago and scored a spot in the NCAA women's First Four against Sacred Heart, another No. 16 seed and automatic bid, at Colonial Life Arena.

Once the field was set, Sharp and her staff reached out to gauge Staley's willingness and availability to meet with the team ahead of their First Four game Wednesday.

Staley — who's often gone viral for her displays of sportsmanship and kindness toward opponents, including footing a $5,000 dinner tab for Norfolk State during last year's tournament and calling a timeout to assist an injured UCLA player — was happy to oblige.

"They requested it … and if they want to meet me, I'm gonna make it possible for them to meet me," Staley said postgame, acknowledging it could have felt like a big (or slightly awkward) ask for PC. "I think it's important for us, even if they just know some of the history of our game. I think that was really important. And I'm all for making sure our history is in a great place."

A 'REALLY COOL' MEETING

Once Staley's visit was confirmed, Sharp said she and her staff started teasing a surprise visitor to the team hotel Tuesday night. The coach got a kick out of her players' guesses: Someone said former President Barack Obama, since he'd picked the Blue Hose to win their First Four game in his annual women's bracket, and another guessed it was North Carolina rap legend J. Cole.

And when Staley ultimately popped up?

"I watched the video of their reaction when she walked in probably 12 times because I wanted to see each person and how they reacted," Sharp said, laughing. "I mean, their faces, it just shows what she means to everyone that's either coaching or involved in the women's game. Our players were excited."

Asked about Staley's surprise visit, Presbyterian center Bryanna Brady was honest. The team wasn't just excited. They were starstruck.

"She was like, 'Hi guys,' and we were like, 'Uhhhh,' " Brady said, imitating a deadpan, nervously excited face at the podium. "We were stuck. And she said hi again, and then we kind of broke that barrier that we were stuck in. But it was so cool."

Brady, a senior forward from Arizona, said Staley congratulated the Presbyterian team on its record-breaking season and let the team pick her brain on various topics.

"I appreciate her taking her time to come out there," Brady said. "It was really cool for me. I mean, you look up to people like her as you go through this process. … We're all in the basketball world and the women's basketball world, and it's really exciting to meet somebody who's doing such great things on that side." A

dded PC's Tilda Sjökvist, a sophomore guard from Sweden: "She's changing women's basketball. And like we've said before, women's basketball is growing. She's definitely one of (the people) who make women's basketball grow."

Staley — who told the Dan Patrick Show she had a similar meeting with the Sacred Heart team staying in Columbia ahead of the First Four — said it was a pleasant visit and a laid-back conversation.

"We talked more about me being on 'The Martin Show' than actually basketball," Staley said, laughing.

Presbyterian ended up winning its first NCAA Tournament game in program history the next night, beating Sacred Heart 49-42 in the First Four.

The Blue Hose didn't have nearly as much luck in Friday's 91-39 loss, which was more or less an expected result for USC, which moved to 33-0 and into a second-round matchup Sunday against No. 8 seed North Carolina.

But after Staley's classy gesture, the Gamecocks have a new group of fans in nearby Clinton as they continue a journey they hope ends with a 2024 national championship.

"I'm rooting for South Carolina this tournament," Sjökvist said.

###

For Her Players, Dawn Staley Is a Basketball Coach and Much More

Liz Robbins, New York Times
March 6, 2024

As coach of the University of South Carolina women's top-ranked basketball team, Dawn Staley is a dynamic leader at a time of surging global popularity in women's sports. At 53, she is a Hall of Fame point guard who guided the United States to three Olympic gold medals as a player and one as a coach. And in her 16th year at South Carolina, Coach Staley just led the team to its second straight undefeated regular season. Now she seeks her third national collegiate title. A proud Philadelphia native, Coach Staley is an outspoken advocate for gender and racial equity in sports and beyond.

Her secret to guiding young people today? Honesty and discipline, lessons she learned from her mother.

You make statements with your coaching wardrobe, and a hoodie you recently wore declared, "Everyone watches women's sports." What's different now?
I just feel like there's more access to our game. There's more demand. I think it's OK to tell the stories of our game and people in our game. I hope it's not a fad. I don't think it is. Because the fabric of our game is strong. It's bursting at the seams right now on all levels, not just collegiately, but the W.N.B.A., even high school. Younger girls have grown up on the W.N.B.A., and during my time in college, we didn't have that. We'll get a big bump when the Olympics roll around.

For the first time, there's going to be the same number of female athletes as male athletes at the Olympics. Are you amazed it took that long?
No. I'm not. I think we have been held back, intentionally, and the numbers and the demand today prove that.

Have you ever caught yourself saying "back in my day" to your players?
No! They had no idea what my day looked like.

Do they care?
No. This is all about them. It really is OK; I get it. I'm so used to it. So this is all about me meeting them where they are. It changes every day.

The best leaders are the best communicators. How have you adapted your communication style over the decades?
I think I'm very consistent with who I am. As a young person, I didn't really talk. I was the youngest of five kids, so I sat back and observed. Once I got older, I started figuring out the things that have to be said. I govern my life, being a leader, a coach, a colleague, on how something looks, feels and sounds. If something looks or sounds or feels wrong, I'm going to say something. I can't not say anything. And then the same, if something looks, sounds or feels great, like, I give it the same energy the other way.

Enforcing discipline is central to your leadership. Did you get that from your mother, Estelle?
Absolutely. I am more like my mother. As a youngster, I loved her, but I didn't like her because she was very strict. And it's hard for young people to see what your parents are trying to shield you from.

How do you approach your leadership beyond the basketball court?
If young people come to play for you, you have to give them your all, give them their wants and needs. One of my former players, when she was on her official visit here, her mother was a little skeptical about South Carolina. If you look at the history books, you get a not-so-pleasant picture. Until you come visit. And then at the end of her visit, the mother actually said something that no other parent has said to me. But it's the very thing that guides me, that allows me to have the stamina, that allows me to meet young people where they are and try to take them where they want to go. She said to me, "I give you my child."

Whether I have to love them or show them a little bit of tough love along the journey, ultimately I keep that line in perspective.

You are always generous in sharing credit. After your two national championships, you mailed snippets of the net to other young Black coaches. Why?
I feel like I've been put in the position where I owe basketball. So I'm really trying to repay my debt. I want people to feel what I feel about basketball. The people that I meet in men's and women's basketball, they tell me what I mean to them and what I mean to the game. I'm inspired by their aspirations.

Besides winning another championship, what aspirations do you have left?
I want to be the best dream merchant I can be. That's it, simply. I want all my players to check off all of their goals. I want our assistant coaches, if they want to be head coaches, to check off their goals. I don't have a want for anything. Well, actually, I've got one want. I want to go in the Hall of Fame as a coach.

Why is that so important to you?
Because you're amongst the best. And that means you've impacted lives.

The Phoenix Club of Philadelphia sponsors the annual Dawn Staley Award for the best female guard in Division I. Caitlin Clark, who just passed Pete Maravich to set the N.C.A.A. career scoring record, has won it three years in a row. How do you feel about that, especially after Clark's Iowa team eliminated yours last year?
Well, I get a vote! In her first year, nobody was giving her the credit. But Caitlin was throwing these numbers from year one. And you know, I like to do things differently. I almost like to go against the mainstream and find young people who are doing things quietly and aren't getting the publicity that they deserve.

So you knew. You had it first.
Absolutely. It's not hard to see. She's a generational talent.

###

How Dawn Staley built a pipeline from South Carolina women's basketball to WNBA success

Emily Adams, Greenville News
August 17, 2023

COLUMBIA — Zia Cooke will always think of the 2023 WNBA Draft as the best day of her life.

When the future All-American signed with South Carolina women's basketball in 2019, getting to the WNBA was her singular focus. Coach Dawn Staley knew it, and she immediately began to leverage that ultimate goal in Cooke's training.

"You utilize the fact that they want to be pros, and well, if you want to be a pro then these habits are the ones your need to develop really quickly," Staley said. "They don't get it the first or second year, but they usually get it ... and now it's just a matter of letting their habits do their thing."

Hardly a month after she was drafted by the Los Angeles Sparks, Cooke had a career performance in her first WNBA game against the Phoenix Mercury. She scored 14 points in 15 minutes off the bench, shooting 83% from the field and a perfect 2-of-2 from 3-point range. Staley sat courtside at that game to celebrate the return of Brittney Griner after her detainment in Russia, and getting to share in Cooke's shining pro debut was a pleasant bonus.

"It was amazing to have her there, and to able to put on a performance the way I did with her in the building felt even better," Cooke said. "Since then I've had my times where I've been down, and she was the person I call to lift me up ... She has a whole team that she can worry about, but anytime I call (she's) there for me and I appreciate it."

Dawn Staley players on WNBA rosters

There are 55 NCAA institutions represented across the 144 athletes on WNBA rosters, but only three schools have at least 10 active players in the league. Unsurprisingly, Geno Auriemma and UConn lead the way with 16, while South Carolina is tied with Notre Dame for second place with 10.

What stands out about Staley's group is its recent growth. Of Auriemma's 16 alumni, four entered the league in the last three seasons, and the group averages four years of experience. None of Notre Dame's players have less than four years of experience, and they average nearly six years in the league.

Four of South Carolina's 10 alumni are rookies, and three others have entered the league in the last four years. Only two, Tiffany Mitchell and Allisha Gray, have played more than five seasons — seven and six, respectively.

The Gamecocks are outpacing the rest of the SEC in producing WNBA players — though it's notable that LSU coach Kim Mulkey has seven from her 21 years at Baylor. The second highest-producing program is Tennessee with six active players, followed by Mississippi State with two and Auburn, Kentucky, Missouri, Ole Miss and Texas A&M at one apiece.

NCAA alumni in the WNBA
Includes programs with at least three active WNBA players
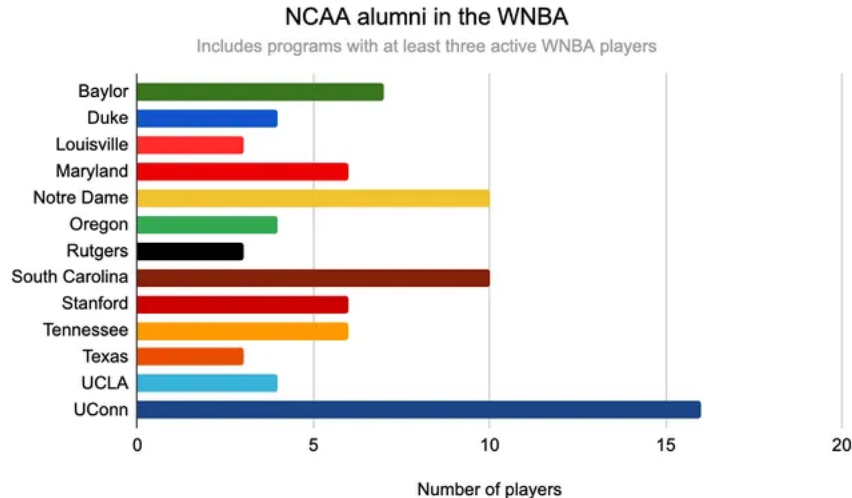
Dawn Staley got A'ja Wilson, Aliyah Boston ready for instant WNBA impact

Cooke vividly remembers a meeting with Staley and her father Stratman during her sophomore season at South Carolina. At the time, the topic surprised Cooke: Staley thought she was working too hard.

"When my shots weren't going in or I felt like I was having bad games, I would just go to the gym and pound it, and that ended up hurting me instead of helping me," Cooke said. "She sat me and my dad down and was telling us both ... she's in the gym when she should have been relaxing or watching film. At the pro level, listening to your body is one of the most important things you have to do, especially if you want to play for a long time."

Of the five South Carolina players selected in the 2023 WNBA Draft, four made rosters and two have already earned multiple starts. Aliyah Boston, the overwhelming favorite to win Rookie of the Year, is the only player in the league shooting above 60% from the field and is averaging a near double-double for the Indiana Fever at 14.8 points and 8.2 rebounds per game.

For Staley, WNBA readiness is all about preparing players for the challenges of the professional level beyond the actual competition.

"The things that most young people are worried about going into training camp, our players aren't worried about," Staley said. "They're not worried about conditioning. They're not worried about nutrition. They're only worried about, conceptually, what are they running? So they're just in the process of 'its basketball' at that point."

A smooth transition is nothing new for Staley-coached players. Las Vegas Aces star A'ja Wilson, the No. 1 overall pick in the 2018 draft, was Rookie of the Year and named an All-Star in her first season. Gray also won Rookie of the Year in 2017, and Mitchell was an All-Rookie selection in 2016.

"I remember when when I scored my first legit basket (in the WNBA), I was like ooh, OK I can still get to the basket. It was pretty cool to see that I could translate well ... and I think that preparation came from Coach Staley," Wilson said. "Maybe not necessarily what she walks us through with X's and O's, but more so about the mentality of how to approach the league and just how to just go out there and do exactly your job."

Fever coach Christie Sides, who drafted both Boston and South Carolina teammate Victaria Saxton in 2023, said she saw firsthand the way Staley prepared her athletes while scouting the draft class at Gamecocks practices.

"I've seen a couple of their practices over the last couple of years, and it looks like a pro practice at times the way they're moving," Sides said. "(Boston and Saxton) play at a level, if I'm asking them to go at a 10 they're giving me a 10 or right under because that's just something that's been instilled in them ... It's really incredible their competitiveness, how they can turn it on when they're supposed to and turn it off to be great teammates right after."

Dawn Staley has WNBA advantage as South Carolina coach

Across 69 Power Five programs, only eight coaches played in the WNBA, and Staley was by far the most successful of the group. She was a six-time WNBA All-Star over her 12 seasons in the league, tied with Duke coach Kara Lawson for the longest professional career. Lawson is the only other active coach who earned All-Star honors in the WNBA, once in 2007.

When Cooke went through the recruiting process as the No. 4 prospect in the class of 2019, Staley's own success as a professional was was a huge point in the Gamecocks' favor.

"When I got to South Carolina, a lot of people talked about how close Coach Staley was connected with the WNBA and knew a lot of people, but I didn't worry too much about that," Cooke said. "With her already playing in the W, being the USA coach and a USA player, all the accomplishments she had ... I just felt like it was only right to start my college career with her."

Though it's been nearly two decades since Staley's playing days, she still has a unique understanding of the demands that players face in the WNBA. She also spends plenty of time around the league: Staley is a season-ticket holder for the Atlanta Dream, and the WNBA annually presents the Dawn Staley Community Leadership Award in her honor.

"I texted her a few days into training camp and I was like thank you so much for preparing me," Cooke said. "Usually the rookie is the person holding up drills and making things go slower, but that wasn't the case because a lot of the things I was learning I already knew. They put their own spin on things, but the concept is the same, and I wouldn't be able to learn as fast if it wasn't for what I was taught in college."

###

Dawn Staley's impact at South Carolina goes beyond wins and SEC championships

Payton Titus, The State
February 22, 2024

As the game clock trickled down toward double zeroes Thursday night, coach Dawn Staley and her Gamecocks inched toward history.

South Carolina's 72-44 victory over Alabama marked Staley's 600th career win and clinched the Gamecocks' eighth regular-season SEC title under her tutelage. Only Tennessee (18) has more.

"People picked us second, and that was a generous second just from our past success," Staley said last Sunday about preseason SEC predictions while reflecting on what winning the league with her 2023-24 squad would mean. "But this team has done some great things. And they're young, they're still figuring it out. But they're finding a way to win.

"… I'm proud of them."

When Staley came to South Carolina 16 years ago, she too was "young" and "still figuring it out."

Naively, she thought she could find success by approaching her new Power Five job the same way as her mid-major coaching assignment at Temple: foster intensity with intensity. When met with resistance, Staley had to pivot.

With more power, a bigger budget and recruiting trail respect came more nuanced responsibility.

Staley won 10 regular-season (including two SEC) games her first season at USC. Her team went 14-15 in Year 2. The Gamecocks got over the .500 hump in Year 3, finishing with a 18-15 record. Year 4 marked the first NCAA Tournament appearance of her tenure, fighting all the way to the Sweet 16. The Gamecocks have made every NCAA Tournament since, including five Final Fours and two national championships.

Even in light of her latest milestone, Staley is far from nostalgic. So much so that she flubbed the year of her first SEC regular-season championship during the trophy presentation Thursday at Colonial Life Arena (mistakenly saying 2013 instead of 2014, prompting a few of her players to point to the corresponding banner in front of them for reference). She doesn't have time for nostalgia, not with this team.

"This team keeps me present," Staley said. "Like, how do we as coaches not get in the way but also continue to coach them up so they could play the right way? I think we're always in the way, honestly. I think we're always in the way because we really can't take our foot off the gas with them.

"They're so young, they're so free. They're free, and sometimes free is wrong. … Sometimes it looks great and other times it's just flat-out wrong. And the wrong part is what keeps us up. It keeps us always on edge to see if this is going to be the team that we started out being in June. We're still trying to look for that June team. And they find a way to the play above that time and time again."

When USC set a record for consecutive SEC regular-season wins (43) last Sunday with a 70-56 victory over Georgia, Bulldogs coach Katie Abrahamson-Henderson spoke kindly of the dynasty Staley has created in Columbia.

"She's built it the right way," Abrahamson-Henderson said, "kind of the old school way where you recruit, and you build players, and people stay for years. She has kids staying for four years. Nowadays it's the portal. Now us new coaches, we're gonna have to recruit like that to even catch up with her. …The atmosphere is wonderful, and she's doing wonders for women's basketball.

"So hopefully she'll stay in it for a long time because she'll break a lot more records than what she's done today."

South Carolina (26-0, 13-0 SEC) is the only remaining undefeated team in all of college basketball. In a season of unexpected but undeniable success (after losing all five 2022-23 starters), opposing coaches have taken the opportunity to give Staley kudos.

Mississippi State's Sam Purcell called South Carolina women's basketball "the bar." He said his aim is to build something of the like in Starkville.

Vanderbilt coach Shea Ralph said she wishes to do the same in Nashville, explaining how Staley has inspired her in her basketball pursuits for decades.

"I just, from a young age, really respected her approach to basketball," Ralph said, reminiscing on watching Staley since her college point guard days at Virginia. "She was representation for me. …She's a representation, as is her team and her program, of what you can accomplish if you work really hard, if you do the right things."

Ralph's 5-year-old daughter, Maysen, traveled with her parents to Colonial Life Arena for the game, which was sold out. The environment inspired her so much that she said, "Mommy, I want to play for the Cockadoodles!" Ralph chuckled as she remembered their conversation.

Staley has cultivated a world for little girls to see themselves in and strive toward greatness.

"Dawn has defined what is possible in our sport," Ralph added, "both as a player and a coach."

###

How Winston Gandy's love for basketball and authentic people led him to South Carolina

Payton Titus, The State
August 5, 2023

Shatori Walker-Kimbrough "would take a bullet" for Winston Gandy.

"I am nowhere near a professional or even the person I am today without him," she said. "I want to start with that."

Walker-Kimbrough plays for the Washington Mystics of the WNBA. Before winning a championship in D.C. or being named to the league's All-Rookie team in 2017, she was a 2013 summer enrollee at Maryland, and Gandy was the Terrapins' director of recruiting development.

By investing so much of his time, Gandy got to know Shatori the person and basketball player. He challenged her, pushing past her youthful hubris and hardheadedness. He taught Walker-Kimbrough how to break down film, guiding her along the path from talented young guard to an educated basketball mind.

Gandy has since served as coordinator of player development with the NBA's Washington Wizards (2014-17) followed by stints as an assistant coach at Rice (2017-20) and Duke (2020-23). South Carolina announced him as an addition to Dawn Staley's staff in April.

Gandy's entire coaching career has been guided by his love for basketball — and people. Surrounding himself with genuine people and helping to develop those around him has always been his motivation.

"I don't think I've ever looked at a job of, 'Oh, I can get here,' or, 'I can get there.' I don't look at it like that," Gandy told The State. "Just try to continue to grow and try to leave places better than when you got there."

LASTING FRIENDSHIPS FROM MARYLAND TO THE NBA
Walker-Kimbrough didn't think she was a highly touted recruit, though her four-star ESPN ranking says otherwise. But Maryland was the only "big-time school," she said, that showed interest. So the first thing Walker-Kimbrough sought out when she got to campus in 2013 was the gym.

She reached out to then-Maryland assistant coach David Adkins on her second day in College Park and asked if they could meet up to get some extra work in. Adkins directed Walker-Kimbrough to Gandy, as other coaches were off campus for the summer.

"From Day 1 I loved it," Walker-Kimbrough said. "I loved always being in the gym, but then he made me love the process."

Even after he left the Terrapins to work for Adkins in the NBA, Gandy met Walker-Kimbrough at Maryland for early-morning workouts before reporting to the Wizards' facility. Whether he'd just flown back from an away game in Portland or Miami the night before, Walker-Kimbrough can't remember a single morning he said, "no."

Gandy became one of her best friends in college. They don't speak as often now, but when they do it's like they never stopped.

Adkins shares this sentiment. He first met Gandy while he was a practice squad player for the women's basketball team at Maryland in 2009. Adkins said he was instantly taken aback by Gandy's strength of character and basketball skills, saying he thought Gandy could have been a Division II or lower-Division I player. Once Gandy graduated and joined the Maryland staff, Adkins taught him how to develop, coach and work out players.

NBA players like Kevin Durant, Michael Beasley and Victor Oladipo and WNBA players Kristi Toliver, Marissa Coleman and Crystal Langhorne would come to Maryland in the summer for early-morning workouts with Adkins. Gandy became part of that.

"I think that's where he caught the bug," said Adkins, who made Gandy his first hire upon joining the Wizards' staff.

Gandy's strength lies in his ability to earn people's trust. Walker-Kimbrough is living proof, as are many of Washington's alumni. Adkins described Bradley Beal as the most distraught member of the Wizards organization when Gandy took his first assistant coaching gig at Rice in 2017.

That impact reached beyond the players.

"He's made me a better coach," Adkins said. "He's made me a better man, a better father. Just being around him. I'm very, very thankful for that."

PASSION AND SELFLESSNESS
Maryland head coach Brenda Frese first met Gandy in 2009. After he spent all four years of college on the scout team, Frese viewed hiring him as a "no-brainer."

"He was always in the gym," she told The State. "He was always wanting to be involved. Whether that was rebounding extra shots for our players or watching an assistant coach putting a player through. … He's really passionate about basketball and wanting to learn from others and also was just a really ... selfless person."

The passion and selflessness shows in the way Gandy carries himself, the way he talks — always smiling and laughing. When asked about himself, Gandy is quick to deflect, instead musing over the greatness of those around him: Staley, his fellow assistant coaches, the players that make South Carolina basketball and other folks he's worked with previously. They are the driving force behind the career he's built.

Though he'd never met Staley before she called him about the USC job, Gandy said he was drawn to her authentic character.

"The coolest thing about her is, I think, when I first spoke on the phone with her till now, she's the exact same," Gandy said. "How she engages people, recruits, fans, donors, alumni, people she knows … A lot of people have different sides that you see depending on their environment, and she's been the exact same."

South Carolina hired Gandy away from Duke to replace Fred Chmiel, who is now head coach at Bowling Green State University. Gandy became Staley's first new assistant coach since Jolette Law in 2017.

Gandy's responsibilities include a little bit of everything: recruiting, player development and "just impacting young women that we have here," he said. Everyone on the coaching staff works with everyone on the team.

His main job, though, is to make Staley's life easier.

At Maryland, Gandy always made himself available to everyone, Frese said. Sometimes he would hop on a golf cart to drive a player to class. Whenever Frese's young twin boys Markus William and Tyler Joseph would visit the facilities, Gandy would be the first to throw a football or play basketball with them.

"He really had a phenomenal understanding of just making people feel really comfortable, really happy," Frese said.

Those skills translate to Gandy's ability to recruit and form lasting relationships with athletes.

FOSTERING GREATNESS

Recruiting is a never-ending, ever-evolving job. What appeals to folks one year may not the next. The talent hotbeds aren't always in quite the same place. Numbers next to names don't always indicate the best fit.

As for this year's freshman class and the transfers Gandy helped bring in, he hopes for continual growth — from July to November and November to March.

Premier Basketball ranked South Carolina's 2023 recruiting class second in the nation behind LSU. South Carolina had the No. 1-ranked recruiting class in 2021.

They'll all be needed in 2023.

South Carolina had five players selected in the 2023 WNBA Draft and only six players from last year's roster are back — most notably guard Raven Johnson, center Kamilla Cardoso and wing Bree Hall — along with five new faces. As a result, expectations are tempered — compared to recent years — for this Gamecocks squad seemingly everywhere other than Columbia.

Count Gandy among those expecting greatness.

"Everybody one through 11 were all highly touted," he said. "When you're as highly touted as all the individuals were coming out of high school, I don't think anybody will — you could say you'd be surprised, but they're all really good players."

Gandy has spent time as a step-in practice player this summer — a callback to his time as a student at Maryland. He's found that when players see an assistant coach subject themselves to parts of workouts, it humanizes them. It also motivates the athletes to push themselves further.

"Whether that makes them run a little bit harder or set screens with a little bit more force or — if nothing else — just have a little bit more fun," Gandy said. "I think I'm a big proponent of you gotta be able to laugh at yourself and understand that, 'Hey, they're really good at what they do, too.' ... I mean, all of us coaches, whether it's jump-roping with them or stretching with them, whatever it is, it does give you the ability to kind of relate with them."

Outside of basketball, Gandy enjoys playing golf. It's not an in-season activity, but during the off months it's something that gets him outside. He also uses it as a space to knock out the occasional recruiting call. Columbia Country Club is his favorite course in town, and he typically shoots around the mid-70s.

"It humbles me," Gandy said. "... I gotta remind myself it's not my day job."

Golf isn't Gandy's day job. Coaching basketball is. Luckily for him and USC, he found and ran toward that passion. Walker-Kimbrough said she felt like he could succeed in any basketball environment, but she projected the Staley-Gandy tandem as "a force to be reckoned with."

"As much as I love the University of Maryland, and I'm a Terp till I die, wherever he goes I'm always cheering him on," Walker-Kimbrough said. "What did you guys say? 'Go Cocks?' 'Go Gamecocks?' I guess I'll be saying that, under my breath of course."

###

How Khadijah Sessions is uplifting South Carolina WBB in her new role

Payton Titus, The State
March 20, 2024

Sania Feagin's favorite memory of Khadijah Sessions came before her first season on South Carolina's coaching staff started.

Just after USC announced Sessions' hiring in July, Feagin made her Atlanta Entertainment Basketball League debut for team B.A.N.S. Across the court was Sessions with team Lady Fire. While both were part of the Gamecocks women's basketball sorority, they were opponents that day.

That was until Feagin went down with a cramp. Sessions rushed over to check on the rising junior, refusing to leave her side until Feagin walked off the court of her own volition.

That is who Sessions is. Fiercely loyal. Sincerely invested in the success of those she loves. And that includes the women on South Carolina's current roster.

She is often the first person off USC's bench, sometimes to applaud the Gamecocks' hustle, sometimes to advocate for a more favorable whistle. But always with unbridled effervescence. Her passion for basketball and compassion for the players have helped make way for one of the most impressive seasons in program history.

Originally, though, Sessions had no interest in coaching women's basketball.

Sure, she played at South Carolina (2013-16), helping guide the Gamecocks to three SEC regular-season championships, two SEC tournament titles and their first-ever NCAA Final Four in 2015. But she saw herself involved in the men's game. She thought her in-your-face, self-described "aggressor" approach to training young hoopers would work better there. And infiltrating the men's ranks would put her in the trailblazing company of women such as Becky Hammon, Kristi Toliver and Candice Dupree.

But then Dawn Staley called.

Sessions' former college coach had reached out to her before last summer about joining South Carolina's coaching staff (since Sessions graduated in 2016, Staley has added Jolette Law in 2017, Mary Wooley in 2022 and Winston Gandy in 2023). But Sessions declined with a polite, "Thanks for thinking of me," and returned to training. When Staley called again (after the NCAA passed legislation in January to increase college basketball coaching staffs), Sessions took 2 and a half weeks to think about it.

It would have been an automatic "no" had the offer come from anyone else in the women's game. Only Staley was worth veering off the path Sessions had determined for herself, believing at that point that training was her true calling.

But there was the homecoming aspect. The otherwise hard-to-come-by learning opportunity. And the ability to say she was part of Staley's coaching tree — an entry in Sessions' resume that would jump off the page.

"I was just like, 'You know what, I think this right here may be the best opportunity for me if I want to get to the next step,' " Sessions told The State. "It's levels to it. Just being under her alone can get you to a lot of places. I'm just like, 'Why not?' "

When Sessions graduated with a bachelor's degree in hospitality, restaurant and tourism management in 2016, she was desperate to stay connected to the game she loved. She had a short professional hoops career, playing a partial season in Finland until a knee injury brought her back to the United States for rehab. She went on to call some games with the SEC Network and even thought about becoming a referee.

While she's now part of USC's program in a different capacity than she was eight years ago, her energy in practice and on the bench in games is the same. And that's how the players like it.

"When she's on, she's on," Feagin said, smiling so hard you could hear it in her voice. "She pushes us. When we're down, she brings our energy up. She's a lovable person. She's good to be around."

Sessions can't be low-key. Even if she wanted to. The team won't let her.

"Because we know she can bring the energy," Feagin said. "We know she has good energy. Like, 'All right, Khadijah! Let me hear your energy. You low. What's going on? You OK?' We bring her back up so she can be on us."

The very thing Sessions thought made her ill-equipped to coach women's basketball is exactly what's made her so good for USC. And so loved by women's basketball fans.

Sessions went viral during the SEC Tournament for her reaction to center Kamilla Cardoso's last-second game-winner (and first career 3-pointer) against Tennessee in the semifinals. While the rest of the team swarmed Cardoso in celebration, Sessions sprinted past everyone across the court, unable to contain her excitement.

A'ja Wilson — South Carolina legend and Sessions' former teammate — commented under a post about her viral moment on Instagram: "If you know her fr you know this is so Khadijah," with three laughing face emojis.

Sessions began training players as a college sophomore, helping with Gamecocks basketball summer camps. After leaving South Carolina, she began hosting her own clinics. She also coached AAU basketball and the boys team at Ridge View High School (serving as JV head coach and varsity assistant coach from 2020-22). Her proteges include USC star freshman Collin Murray-Boyles and Memphis Grizzlies rookie GG Jackson. She has also worked out A'ja Wilson when she was in Columbia.

Whenever they have big performances, Sessions is quick to repost their highlights and stat lines on X (formerly Twitter). Sometimes just a repost will do. Other times she adds her own commentary, usually in all caps, but a few standalone emojis will often suffice. She does the same for the South Carolina players she coaches now.

USC's other five coaches have a combined century's worth of experience. What Sessions lacks in this area, she makes up for in basketball knowledge and her ability to connect with athletes in a unique way. She describes herself as their Dawn Staley translator. (The key, Sessions said, is to listen to Staley's words, not the tone with which she says them.)

"She's awesome," Staley said of Sessions' impact. "She was a coach when she was here. Her energy, her intellect, IQ for the game has been unmatched. Her ability to reach young people, unmatched. And she's a lot different. She's got a younger, louder, more energized look to our staff. … And she's done a great job."

When Sessions played high school basketball, she made a conscious effort to get her teammates involved, her mom, Michelle Sessions, remembered. When Sessions' team created a comfortable lead, she would turn down open layup opportunities in favor of getting the ball to someone else who would otherwise have a hard time scoring. The leadership and compassion it took to be a basketball coach has always been in her.

"I think it came natural," Michelle said. "And I really think she loves it."

###

Khadijah Sessions' impact already being felt

Chris Wellbaum, GamecockCentral.com
October 2, 2023

The branches of Dawn Staley's coaching tree are starting to grow, with former players popping up on coaching staffs around the country. This season, for the first time, that includes bringing a former player, Khadijah Sessions, back into the fold as an assistant coach.

Sessions was a three-year starter for the Gamecocks and played from 2012-2016, the beginning of South Carolina's glory years. She led them to their first SEC titles and first Final Four.

Sessions is one of two new Gamecock assistants. The othr is Winston Gandy, a former Duke assistant who replaced Fred Chmiel. The NCAA passed legislation that allowed programs to add a fourth assistant coach. When the legislation took effect on July 1, Staley quickly brought back Sessions.

"Khadijah is a coach," Staley said. "She's a point guard. When you play the point guard position. That's what you do. You're a point guard for life. And it's been seamless with her. I was thinking about Khadijah well before we had an opening. And when we had an opening an opportunity, I'm like let's go."

Sessions has hit the ground running. Her playing experience means she already understands what Staley expects. Sessions also stayed around the program following her playing days, so she is familiar with the players she's now coaching.

"She's like boom. It's been great," Staley said. "You don't have to teach her anything. You don't have to guide her. Maybe we have to guide her with some other stuff, doing scouting reports the way we like to do them, but as far as basketball, top tier."

Sessions averaged a modest 5.9 points during her career, with a high of 7.2 as a sophomore. But she finished her career among the top ten in career starts (she has been bumped out of the top ten since then) because of her defense.

I once wrote that Sessions played point guard like a middle linebacker. She has carried that intensity into coaching, where she is the ideal tutor for South Carolina's likely starting backcourt of Raven Johnson and Te-Hina Paopao.

"Khadijah is like the energy source," Raven Johnson said. "She's a fireball. She just be running up and down the sideline, like just screaming, and we need that. She loves defense. So it gets us amped up. I'm glad she's on the staff."

Paopao was never known for her defense at Oregon, but she knows she needs to improve on that side of the ball if she wants to play in the WNBA. Being mentored by Sessions is the perfect situation.

"Oh, I love her," Paopao said. "She's a defensive specialist so I've been working on defense. She's been very helpful in that way and just getting me better as a defensive player."

After her South Carolina playing career ended, Sessions played in Finland and then was a scrimmage player with Staley's 2019 AmeriCup team. She can still hold her own against the current Gamecocks, whether she's going one-on-one in drills or in scrimmages with the Highlighters, South Carolina's male practice players.

"When they have class, she and Winston will step in and run the highlighter team," Staley said.

She didn't say if Sessions still plays like a linebacker.

###

Gamecocks' Paopao rediscovers joy of game at South Carolina

David Cloninger, Post & Courier
March 23, 2024

COLUMBIA — The game has always been her sanctuary, her rock.

The hours of repetitive practice, the relentless offseason workouts — Te-Hina Paopao cheerfully went through all of it, so in love with basketball that she came back from two ACL tears in high school and a severe ankle injury as a college freshman. Nobody was going to tell her that maybe it would be best to untie her sneakers for the last time.

When she found herself questioning that, when playing began to feel like a burden instead of a release, she had to ask herself if she really wanted to keep doing this. And that by itself rang an alarm bell she never thought existed.

Ever the steady point guard, the one who always knew what to do regardless of the circumstance, Paopao was at a crossroads.

Then the phone rang.

Ups and downs

It started out perfectly. Paopao rose past her prep injuries and became a top recruit, choosing the University of Oregon. It was far enough away from her California home so her parents wouldn't be underfoot, but close enough so they could come to her, or her to them, for a weekend. Brother Israel went with her, family the strongest tie that binds the Paopaos.

She played well as a freshman and better as a sophomore, but a first-round loss in the NCAA Tournament caused an upheaval. Teammates Sydney Parrish, Kylee Watson and Maddie Scherr all hit the transfer portal soon after, but Paopao never thought of that as an alternative.

"I knew that I wanted to stay another year," she said. "I wanted to see if it would get better."

It didn't. Oregon suffered through a 17-14 season (a fierce WNIT run pushed the Ducks' record to 20-15). And the malaise was widespread.

"I wasn't content with how I was performing. Didn't really help that as a team, a lot of people didn't feel like they were playing their best," she said. "The overall team wasn't really as fun, just because of how people were feeling."

Paopao owed Oregon a lot. Today, she still declares her undying gratitude for the institution and how it molded her into the player that she is now.

But losing wasn't fun. A personal shooting slump wasn't fun. The light-bulb moment came when she had to stop the one thing she knew could work — extra shooting before and after practice, remaining in the gym — because it wasn't working.

"One day, I had the realization, 'I got to step back, maybe just chill. Just let the game come to me,'" Paopao said. "I found my jumper again, that's when I was shooting my best percentages at Oregon. I had to pick myself up and get that balance back."

She played very well down the stretch, but the dissatisfaction lingered. Basketball had always equaled happiness. Now it seemed a chore.

"Knowing your kid and how they operate and knowing how their personality is, and seeing her love for the game all these years fall back a little bit … it was a little concerning. We held her up, supported her, but by the end of her last season, I kind of knew she was going to make a move," said her father, Paul Paopao. "In our discussions as a family, it was evident it was time for her to go. She'd lost the passion for the game."

Paul faced the same conundrum as Te-Hina. She'd rehabbed and worked so hard to get past her injuries, and never complained. She was healthy, but a slump and the team's performance was hurting her mind.

"Perseverance wasn't going to be an issue. But would she feel it was worth it?" Paul said. "Did she love it at this phase of her career?"

Then the phone rang.

New horizons

Paopao quietly placed her name in the NCAA transfer portal and didn't announce it on social media. She wanted to let the coaches come to her.

Mark Campbell, head man at TCU after serving as an Oregon assistant, made sense. She says now that her mind was set on the Horned Frogs and Paul confirms, if the phone didn't ring, she's wearing purple today.

A former coach let her know that Dawn Staley was looking for her. Paopao couldn't believe what she was hearing.

Paul had the same reaction. It had only been in April when, watching on TV as Iowa beat the Gamecocks in the 2023 Final Four, he turned to his daughter and said, "You could have helped that squad."

"My son texted me that Dawn called and I said, 'Dawn who? The break of Dawn?'" Paul remembered. "Once we got in touch, I told her, 'How do I know this is the real Dawn Staley? I don't need to be pranked right now.'"

It was Staley all right, seeking the outside shooter she didn't have in an amazing 36-1 season that felt like a disappointment, because the "1" came in the national semifinals. She could have had almost anybody, but she wanted Te-Hina.

For Paopao, it had nothing to do with leaving Oregon and everything to do with playing for the Gamecocks. She had yet to visit, meet her potential teammates, see Columbia, but the bell was ringing again.

This time in a good way.

"I think from that day I knew I was going to go to South Carolina," Paopao said. "There's no way you can not go to South Carolina. That's weird!"

She immediately found her smile again, of all places during the drudgery of offseason conditioning. Paopao stepped into a leadership role despite being a first-year player, making such an impression that Staley chose her as one of two player representatives for SEC Media Days.

Saying then she had never had two lead guards with this kind of experience, leadership and skill (Raven Johnson is the other), Staley cautioned that her team would be young. They promptly rolled to 33 straight wins this year without a loss.

Paopao has been right in the middle of it, ranking third in the country in 3-point percentage and seeing her name on all-conference and All-American lists. She went ahead and said it before the postseason, so as not to have any distractions — she'd known personally for a month, but announced to the world that she will return to the Gamecocks next year.

As her father said in the video, she found her love for the game again. And that phone call was to thank.

Most of her family is in Columbia to watch the Gamecocks this weekend, a surprise visit. Paopao lost control for just a bit when they popped in, but was quickly back to work.

She's back in point-guard mode, big-shot mode. The player Staley needed to complete this puzzle.

All because that phone rang.

###

How Te-Hina Paopao's Family-First Culture Helped in her Journey to South Carolina

Payton Titus, The State
November 20, 2023

Workouts as early as 4 and 5 a.m. have been part of Te-Hina Paopao's life since she was a kindergartner.

At first she watched her brother Israel as he trained to advance his football career. She joined in around middle school when she became fully immersed in basketball. In order to make the most of what people first saw in her around the age of 8, Te-Hina's father Paul told her, she'd have to make sacrifices.

Te-Hina never flinched.

"There was no fear," Paul Paopao told The State. "She actually embraced it. That was learned through her brothers."

That kind of commitment was part of being a Paopao. Te-Hina (21) grew up in a sports-oriented household with four siblings: older brothers Israel (28) and Isaia (25); older sister Tiare (27); and younger brother Iosefa Paopao Meinke-Aviu (19). The boys played football, while Tiare played softball.

And no one let Te-Hina have anything without a fight.

That fight and that drive are what brought her to South Carolina for her senior season. She braved early-morning workouts, two ACL tears in high school and the college transfer portal to be here for this very moment. To lead a legendary team through the dog days of March Madness and come out with all the wins.

FAMILY AND BASKETBALL
One of Te-Hina's earliest introductions to basketball came at age 6 or 7, Israel remembered. She passed the time during his football practices by shooting hoops under their father's supervision.

At 8 or 9, Te-Hina caught the eye of Dominique Conners — Oceanside High School (California) alum and San Diego Toreros (2008-12) all-time leading scorer — who shepherded Te-Hina into the game she now has great command over. By age 10, Te-Hina earned a spot on a 16U girls basketball team coached by Terri Bamford.

That's when Te-Hina crossed up Kelsey Plum, who was eight years older. This was before Plum became women's college basketball's all-time leading scorer, the No. 1 pick in the WNBA Draft and a two-time WNBA champion. But it was after Plum graduated from La Jolla Country Day School, where she cemented herself as the No. 26 overall recruit in the Class of 2013.

The two were participating in a drill together after Coach Bamford assigned Plum to be Te-Hina's partner. Plum hadn't even bothered to lace up her shoes. But Te-Hina, with the kind of pure self-confidence only a 10-year-old girl could have, blew past Plum using an in-and-out move and crossed over to her left hand as she made her way to the basket for the unlikeliest of scores.

The gym erupted. Te-Hina wasn't afraid of taking Plum on. After all, the 10-year-old had been taking on her older siblings all her life.

Over the years they've coached each other, trained each other and broken bread with each other. Maintaining a healthy balance between family and sports is just something they're able to do. Te-Hina says it's who they are.

"It's very big in our (Samoan) culture that we have to do everything together, and love doing it and genuine care for each other," Te-Hina said.

"We're a really close-knit family. I love them to death."

Te-Hina's sister named her daughter after her. Baby Te-Hina is about 7 months old. They FaceTime often, which 21-year-old Te-Hina says brings her home.

When Te-Hina moved to Eugune, Oregon for college, Israel moved too. When she moved to Columbia, Israel followed. So did Isaia, who's training here in hopes of making an XFL or NFL roster in the region. The three of them try to meet for dinner at least once a week, which usually serves as Isaia's "cheat" meal.

"We keep that family bond tight," Israel said. "We're so used to being together at home at nighttime that those little dinners, they keep us together."

FROM CALIFORNIA TO OREGON TO SOUTH CAROLINA
Part of what appealed to Te-Hina about Oregon was how close it was to home — Oceanside, California.

Her trajectory was a little unorthodox. She went from young basketball prodigy to sidelined for much of the beginning of her high school career after two ACL tears. The first came her freshman year of high school, and the second came as a sophomore.

"The first one happened, and it'll show how much you wanna get back," her father said. "The second tear was all about, 'OK, this is gonna show how much you love this game.' "

So she battled through four hours of physical therapy per day, six days a week, until she recovered. Finally able to get on the court her junior year, Te-Hina went from flying under the radar to flying high through the national recruiting rankings. She solidified herself as a five-star prospect — one of five in Oregon's 2020 class.

After starting three years for the Ducks, Te-Hina entered the transfer portal seeking a new, challenging environment to further her basketball career. She considered following longtime Oregon assistant Mark Campbell (who brought that No. 1 ranked 2020 class to Eugene) to TCU after he became the Horned Frogs' head coach in March.

But Staley called right before Easter. The Paopaos were surprised. They didn't think Te-Hina was on South Carolina's radar. She was.

Staley called Te-Hina while she was on her way to an 8:30 a.m. sociology class. She pulled over, chatted with Staley for a few minutes, and made it to class on time. Te-Hina shared the news with Israel and Paul via text — they recalled being practically in disbelief.

"We were like, 'No way,' " Israel remembered. "Then my dad got the call, and from then on, we were just like, 'Wow.' "

When Paul was on the phone with Staley, he had to confirm who he was talking to: "Coach, I just need to make sure this is really you. This the real Coach Dawn Staley?"

Staley liked what she saw in Paopao: a veteran guard who could shoot the basketball and fill a leadership void left by the Class of 2019's departure. Staley wanted her to work on her defense, which she embraced by sticking her nose in and taking charges during preseason practices.

"She's a willing participant in giving it up on the defensive side of the ball," Staley said.

"What we recruited her for and to be, she's been that. She's got a great voice. She's got a great command of our basketball team."

Paopao committed to Staley and the Gamecocks in April. The move has been good for her. She's lost about 15 or 16 pounds training with Molly Binetti and earned a host of accolades, earning spots on the Wooden Award (for the best player in college basketball) and Nancy Lieberman Award (for the best point guard in college basketball) watch lists.

And in the early going of a new season, she's a starter who's averaging 14 points per game and leading the Gamecocks in 3-pointers made.

'SHE BRINGS LIFE TO WHEREVER SHE GOES'
One can't help but smile watching Te-Hina play basketball. Look up and see her locked in, dribbling through traffic and shouting directions to her teammates. Look again and see that intensity melt away, exposing a shameless grin.

"I love this job," Te-Hina said with a smile.

It's contagious. And genuine. Which makes it even more contagious.

"There's no facade with Te-Hina," Paul said. "She brings life to wherever she goes."

Staley and the Gamecocks have raved about Te-Hina's leadership during her short time with the team. Developing that voice has been a process.

Israel said his experience playing quarterback helped him guide her along considering how a point guard is like a quarterback on the basketball court. Paul said he used to do mock interviews with her, which she giggled her way through most of the time.

Her penchant for leadership started at home. As silly as it sounds, Te-Hina was the only Paopao child Paul never had to get on to for not doing her chores. She took out the trash, did the dishes and laundry, kept her room clean — all without being asked.

"That's taking initiative," Paul said. "...You have a gift that's not on the basketball court. You're doing everything like I taught you to do so well."

But, alas, "somewhere along the line your siblings missed that speech," he said with a hearty laugh.

Te-Hina's family does their best to make it to her games. Her uncle Niel Otineru, aunt Chantel and her husband Tony along with siblings Tiare (who brought baby Te-Hina), Israel and Isaia attend the home opener against Maryland.

When they're gone, though, Te-Hina is not alone. She has family here, too, in the Gamecocks.

To show her coaches, teammates and trainers how much their embrace meant to her, Te-Hina brought them all garnet and black kukui nut necklaces when they returned from summer break. In Samoan culture they're often given out at graduations, weddings and other special celebrations to represent respect, unity and family.

"To be accepted by them is a great blessing to have and dear to my heart," Te-Hina said. "And it's just been really fun to have more sisters added to my family."

###

'Tears of joy' for Kamilla Cardoso in what could be final South Carolina home game

Payton Titus, The State
March 24, 2024

Kamilla Cardoso sat on the press row railing at Colonial Life Arena about 20 minutes before tip-off Sunday.

From there she watched her teammates warm up on their home court for the final time this season. She wore a stoic expression on her face, careful to conceal her emotions from the attentive eyes of media and fans surrounding her. But one could conclude she was deep in thought.

A few moments later she stood up and rejoined her team on the floor. If she had taken that time to soak in the sights, sounds and energy of a USC women's basketball home game one last time, she wasn't going to let herself be sentimental for too long — that is, until she was introduced as a starter over the arena's PA system.

The announced crowd of 14,266 gave her an impassioned ovation. She smiled, waved and wiped tears from her face in the pregame huddle. But by the time she jumped up for the opening tip, she had regained her composure, ready for the task ahead:

Take down No. 8 North Carolina for a trip to the Sweet 16.

Sunday's second-round NCAA Tournament game — an 88-41 USC win — could have been Cardoso's final time playing at Colonial Life Arena. The senior is projected as a top-four WNBA Draft pick but is also part of the final class of players able to use the NCAA's Covid-19 waiver for an extra year of eligibility.

She has yet to formally announce her decision.

"Even though I'm undecided, it was like, 'Wow, what if this is my last game?' " Cardoso said. "It was just emotional."

"I felt bad for her because I don't like to see her cry," Raven Johnson said after the game, "but it's tears of joy."

"I was just like, 'Aww,' " Chloe Kitts said. "It was so sad she was crying because we don't want her to leave. But at the end of the day, she has to do what's best for her. ... We have no idea what's gonna happen."

Cardoso started playing basketball because of her older sister Jessica Silva. Silva picked the sport up at age 7, dragging the younger Cardoso along to every practice while their mom, Janete Soares, worked. Cardoso wasn't a fan of basketball at first, but onlookers saw her potential and encouraged her to begin a playing career of her own.

"I fell in love with it," Cardoso said.

At the age of 15, she moved from Brazil to Chattanooga, Tennessee, to play at Hamilton Heights Christian Academy. The only English she knew was "yes," "no," "bye" and "hello."

During that first year of high school Cardoso met Johnson. They played exhibition games together in Atlanta, where Johnson is from — just under two hours from Cardoso's host family in Chattanooga. Johnson would type plays in English on Google Translate, then click the audio button to relay the information to Cardoso in Portuguese.

Cardoso had a year-long stint at Syracuse after a stellar high school career, where she was ranked the No. 1 center and No. 5 overall player in the class of 2020 and was named a McDonald's All-American her senior year. When she entered the transfer portal and committed to South Carolina, it helped Johnson decide on the Gamecocks for her collegiate career. She couldn't and wouldn't turn down the chance of a reunion. The two became teammates, roommates, classmates and best friends.

"We have so many memories together," Johnson said. "We do so much together. We eat together, we dang near sleep together. We have the same classes. I see her every second."

Since arriving in Columbia, Cardoso has won the SEC's Sixth Woman of the Year Award (2023), been named an All-American by the Associated Press and United States Basketball Writers Association (2024) and chosen as a finalist for the Naismith Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year Awards (2024).

If Sunday was Cardoso's last game at Colonial Life Arena, Johnson will relish the rest of the playing time she has with her friend, refusing to let the gravity of her (possibly) impending absence hit her until they suit up together for the final time.

Gamecocks coach Dawn Staley reflected on Cardoso's career and impact at South Carolina after the game. USC encountered a similar situation last year as the Freshies wrestled with whether to stay or go on to professional basketball careers. Regardless of what Cardoso decides to do, Staley knows the South Carolina basketball community will stand beside her.

"Kamilla could have gone anywhere in the country, but she chose to come here," Staley said. "... She trusted us enough to come here and to continue her career. It means the world, because if it was her last game in Colonial Life Arena, we're sending her off well, both on the court and the FAMS right before the game. That kind of ovation that they gave her meant that we love her deeply for choosing us.

"Whatever she decides, we're going to cheer as hard, whether it's here or whether it's in the WNBA."

###

Kamilla Cardoso's "Spontaneous" Personality And The Journey To Unlocking It

Alan Cole, Gamecock Scoop
January 24, 2024

It was almost over before it even started for Kamilla Cardoso.

She knew she had something. Everyone did. Cardoso was 6-foot-5 by age 12 and gifted well beyond anyone else on a basketball court in Montes Claros, Brazil.

Half a world away in Chattanooga, Tenn., Hamilton Heights Academy girls' basketball coach Kiki Hunt got a call from a college assistant.

There was a middle school prospect searching for her next move. A quick pop of the tape was enough.

"She had recommended that she [Cardoso] come to Chattanooga to play for me," Hunt told GamecockScoop. "So I looked at her video. She was running up and down the floor as fast as a guard. She was dribbling the ball, rebounding well —and I mean going and getting the ball, not just standing there."

No-brainer, right?

To Hunt, for sure. But she still had to clear it with the school's headmaster, a far trickier hurdle than anticipated. The question — unbelievably, as Hunt remembers — was about why she even wanted Cardoso.

"He was one of those admins who was only into boys' sports," Hunt said. "He said, 'Maybe I just don't know about women's basketball.' And I said, 'Maybe you don't!' I had to argue with him to get her, because he had to approve her scholarship and get her I-20 paperwork done and all that."

Hunt won the argument, and Cardoso won an opportunity to play abroad.

Ever since her career in America almost stalled on the launching pad, she has added enough tangible titles to her name to fill a scroll. McDonald's All-American. All-conference player in both the ACC and SEC. FIBA AmeriCup MVP and gold medalist with the Brazilian national team. National Champion at South Carolina. She will likely be a first-round pick in the 2024 WNBA Draft.

None of them scratch the surface of her achievements.

The Smile
The smile appears out of nowhere, like a basketball Jack In The Box.

It is common to see Cardoso draw a foul, then chuckle at the free throw line a few seconds later. Over what? Who knows. Show up early to a game and you will see her take a turn in a pre-game layup line, immediately followed by some laughter at something in the stands or from the player behind her.

There is no such thing as the wrong place to start dancing. The spirit sticks out everywhere and to everyone; even Dawn Staley had to take notice during the season-opening Paris trip.

"I see Kamilla taking a lot of selfies in the background," Staley said when asked who was having the most fun. "I think she's enjoying it."

Cardoso looks comfortable everywhere, a natural in any room. It is a testament to her work, and the people who surrounded her over the last eight years.

'We became a family'
This personality always existed, but the early Chattanooga days buried it. Fighting homesickness, a language barrier and desperation to prove her value on the court closed the lid on her eccentric side, at least temporarily.

"She was very shy and timid," Hunt said. "And she actually had been made fun of most of her life for her height. I think that was why she was shy and timid. And as she started to blossom over here, she got over that.

"Even in class to present something, she would rather take a bad grade than get up and present. And she had done the work, she just didn't want to get up there and talk."

Ironically, one of those obstacles turned her tide.

Back to the headmaster at Hamilton Heights with more litigation beyond the scope of a teenager in a foreign country. This time surrounding Cardoso's — among others — living situation. He allowed the boys' team to rent apartments with RAs, but not the girls.

Coaching a roster full of international talent with few other options, Hunt took matters into her own hands. Her home became a team space, regularly housing players throughout her tenure.

"Counting my daughters, I always had at least seven kids living there," Hunt remembered. "We became a family."

Family. The one thing Cardoso needed most of all.

Kamilla being Kamilla
There was no choice but to bond with her teammates. Every high school team shares practices, games and study halls. Few toss in weekends, offseasons and downtime.

It flipped the switch. The radiant personality she regularly displays for South Carolina fans took its American origins within those Chattanooga walls.

"Spontaneous," teammate Ruth Balogun told GameockScoop is her word to describe Cardoso. "Basically, you don't know what she's going to do next. She just does stuff out of impulse."

The hilarity of warm-ups at Colonial Life Arena with her teammates? Call them an extension of constant pranks on Balogun.

Unrelenting motivation and fire made her a spark plug every time she checked into a game, a natural winner for last season's SEC Sixth Woman of the Year award winner, given to the league's top bench player. It comes from a high school player who loved to "spread the energy" wherever possible.

If you think her hair looks slightly different every time you turn on the Gamecocks, your television pigment is fine. It was a regular occurrence in high school, and still is.

"I was laying in my room," Balogun remembered. "And she came to me and was like, 'I want to do something with my hair.' And she walked into my room with a bob and bangs, like the old woman in The Incredibles.

"I was like, 'Bro, these are the worst bangs ever.'"

That's just Kamilla being Kamilla.

'A one in a million player'
Basketball looks simple after you conquer the English language and life on another continent.

Everything else fell into place once she was comfortable enough in her skin to let the personality out. The size alone made her a nightmare for any opposing frontcourt, but her skill garnered national attention. She blocked shots for fun — including once on a PE teacher who thought he could score on her during an exhibition at an elementary school — and scored just as easily.

Hunt's vision of a 12-year-old on film who could grow into an elite high school and eventually college player materialized.

"At first I didn't know how good of a player she was," Balogun said. "She made basketball really easy for me. After leaving high school and stuff, I was literally playing with a one in a million player."

This was always how it was supposed to go when Cardoso bet on herself. She spent her freshman season at Syracuse before transferring to South Carolina, reuniting with her former AAU teammate Raven Johnson.

Yet another member of what is now an extensive American family to go with her Brazilian one.

"She's just very dominant," Johnson said. "She's the best big in the country. If she brings her A game every game, who's beating us?"

If nothing else, nobody was going to beat Cardoso. Internal stressors went by the boards, giving way to a clear-headed, confident star with a Hallmark smile and a cheerful personality.

"I'm just so proud of her because it was hard to get her here," Hunt said. "I had to go to bat for someone I didn't really know yet."

A cantankerous headmaster had his shot blocked, and she has been doing the same ever since.

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Gamecocks' Raven Johnson leading the charge during "revenge season"

David Cloninger, Post & Courier
February 4, 2024

COLUMBIA— Raven Johnson doesn't watch it. She saw it happen in real time and once more on replay, and that was enough.

There's more nuance to it than to merely say that Iowa superstar Caitlin Clark disrespected her during the Final Four, shooing away the chance to guard Johnson beyond the 3-point line.

The scouting report said that Johnson was not a good 3-point shooter (24 percent) and that Iowa needed to crowd around Aliyah Boston in the paint, so that's what Clark and the Hawkeyes did. Johnson knew that she wasn't there to shoot 3s; she was there to distribute, which is why she didn't shoot the 3 that was wide-open and instead passed the ball.

But of course with social media being what it is, and research is never a consideration when one can simply hit the "like" button, it became what it became. Clark waved, South Carolina lost in the Final Four to end an undefeated season, case closed.

Really, it is.

Johnson spoke about it in the preseason. Anybody wanting to bring it up — and if Iowa and the Gamecocks wind up again clashing in the NCAA Tournament, many will bring it up — gets met with the same reply.

"I think that put fuel to the fire and I said this was revenge season and I got something for everybody, every team that comes up," Johnson said.

Note: When Johnson said that, she later said in the same answer that it's "revenge season" for the team, not only for her. Nothing changes what happened in Dallas in April, but something can happen — and certainly seems to be in the process of happening, with the Gamecocks again undefeated after 20 games and ranked first in the country — this April in Cleveland.

But of course Johnson is the focus. Because of that video.

"After she made that comment, it blew up. If you notice, ESPN does a little snippet of something every two-to-three weeks. The first week was her averages, another was how she's shooting the ball, building the narrative going into March Madness. Just in case these two teams meet again," Johnson's mother, Shekia Johnson, said. "It stood out for Raven because of the Caitlin thing."

Her daughter doesn't, can't, let it bother her. Not now, when there's so much left to do.

"I do think she's letting her play speak for itself," coach Dawn Staley said. "She's a lot more aggressive offensively. I think she's coming into her own."

Overtime
"It's called poetry in motion. You find the person that's open, they hit the shot," Johnson explained after the team's demolition of archrival Clemson. "An assist is like a point, that's how I think of it."

Johnson had 17 assists that day, one off the school record and the most any SEC player has had in a game since 2005. She leads the SEC in assist-turnover ratio (101 to 31) and has also raised her 3-point shooting to 39 percent.

It's the product of the work. It started soon after the clip.

"It bothered her, because she didn't come home. Her goal was, 'I'm staying here the whole summer to work,'" Shekia said. "The best revenge is to get better."

Mother talks with daughter every day and the constant message is, "Gotta go, going to the gym." That's after the team has already practiced, where assistant coach Winston Gandy is waiting. Johnson chose him shortly after he was hired as her designated out-of-practice helper.

"Raven is her own harshest critic. I told her, 'It doesn't start when the season starts, it starts with your last game,'" Gandy said. "She's a volunteer, she's not a hostage. She puts in the time."

Whether that's shooting, working on her handles or conditioning, there's never a time where she's done.

"The whole season, I feel like everybody was riding our coattails just hyping us up, but as soon as we lost, we got all these hate comments," she said. "I got bashed from a video that went so viral and people don't know behind the scenes how I felt and what I went through. So I think that was the best thing that ever happened to me."

Gandy hasn't heard one mention of the video. Nobody has, after the mention in the preseason and then the Clemson game.

"She has not, but I think she obviously realizes how last season ended, and she doesn't want a repeat," Gandy said. "I think she shows it day-in and day-out and the way she plays, she wants to end it on a different note this year."

The new style
"If I'm on the floor with her, I'm running, because she's going to find you in stride. I think Raven's been trying to play this fast pace for a long time," Staley said. "She really just didn't have the personnel to do it, or we did not push for her to do that."

Staley reminds all that Johnson is still very young for college basketball, to not just look at her academic status as a redshirt sophomore. This is her third year at USC, but her first season was cut short after two games due to a torn ACL. In her second season, last year, she was still finding her way into the college game and splitting reps with Kierra Fletcher, a veteran point guard imported specifically because Staley didn't know how settled her point guard position would be.

This is Johnson's first year when she's established, healthy and knows what she can do and what Staley wants/allows her to do. Getting up and down the floor is something that drew in transfer Te-Hina Paopao, the outside shooter Staley coveted who can also run point.

"I love playing with Ray. She gives me the ball sometimes, I give her the ball," Paopao said. "We just play off each other really well. I thought it was a perfect match for us to play together."

That's part of what has made this team so surprising. There was going to have to be a different way to play when Boston and "The Freshies" departed. There is no star to gear everything around this season, as every player could be a star on any given night.

"This year, the team plays for 40 full minutes, not 37, 38 … the full 40," Shekia said. "They just keep coming."

Rematch?
She brings up a lot in practice. "Raven is very, very funny," Staley said. Just not that.

Daughter talks with mom about everything. Just not that.

"She tried to hide it," Shekia said. "Some of it was just criticism, not trashing her. A lot of people were on there defending her for following the game protocol."

It could happen again, a Hawkeyes-Gamecocks matchup with some kind of eventual crown riding on the outcome. "The country wants to see it, 100 percent," Shekia claims. "We're going to get back to where we should have got last year."

No use talking about it now. It could just as easily not happen, too, as the 2022 NCAA Tournament proved. Everybody salivated over that potential Iowa-USC matchup in Greensboro, but Iowa never got there.

"Revenge" would be defined by many as the Gamecocks beating Iowa and Johnson sticking a 3-pointer over Clark when Clark didn't guard her. It's unlikely that exact scenario would happen, and it isn't what Johnson defines anyway.

It's about her getting better and leading her team back to where it was, to take those final two steps it seemed assured of taking last year before stumbling. Of course, if it has to go through Iowa to happen, so be it.

And if she's asked to recall that moment this year, she'll have the same answer as she's had since that moment last year, the same answer she would tell herself if the in-game scene does repeat and she wonders if she's in line for the same result.

Quoth Raven: "Nevermore."

###

How Raven Johnson met the moment in South Carolina WBB's win over UConn

Payton Titus, The State
February 12, 2024

Raven Johnson is always on a mission.

The way she charges down court to take advantage of fast-break opportunities. The way she crowds opposing players on defense, crouched low with her eyes darting from theirs to the ball and back again. The way she changes the trajectory of a game with her contagious energy.

It's her superpower, South Carolina coach Dawn Staley said. The Gamecocks are playing with faster pace than any USC team in the Staley era since HerHoopStats started tracking in 2010. This works in Johnson's and South Carolina's favor, especially on defense (she leads the Gamecocks in steals by nearly double digits with 48 on the season).

But on offense, that fast pace can sometimes become the team's Kryptonite.

Those who watched No. 1 USC's 83-65 drubbing of No. 11 UConn saw a little bit of both. When asked after the game how her speed helped South Carolina maintain wire-to-wire control of the game, Johnson said Staley actually advised her to slow down a little bit.

"I didn't think she was aware of our shooters on the wing," Staley said. "She wasn't aware of Ashlyn (Watkins) streaking down behind her. It's those types of things that she needed to slow down and get herself options just in case the ball isn't going in."

After scoring two points in the first half, the third quarter went more Johnson's way, as she scored eight points and snagged two steals. By game's end, Johnson achieved her first career double-double against the Huskies with 10 points and a career- and team-high 12 rebounds. She also had five assists and two steals.

She proved why she deserves to be included on national award watch lists with the best guards in college basketball, as her coach has campaigned for.

"She's coming into her own," Staley said ahead of South Carolina's game against Auburn last week. "I think a lot of people don't realize Raven's really young. She's young in college basketball terms. ... For as young as she is, the impact that she's made. I will say this, I do think her name should be on some of these national lists."

To think this season of watching Johnson almost never happened is a travesty. After a video of Iowa guard Caitlin Clark waving Johnson off beyond the 3-point line at the Final Four went viral, she spent a lot of days crying. She admitted to Andscape last month that the ordeal made her want to quit basketball.

"I was like, 'Dang, is this game for me?' " Johnson said.

She has proven to herself and the world that this sport is for her and that she's for this sport. Watching Johnson play basketball is an exercise in joy.

Her mindset for 2023-24 has been all about making it a "revenge season." Back in September she said the mantra was like an apology to herself for falling short of expectations last year.

But there seems to be no remorse in her game this season. Only action. Fast and unflinching.

###

How Bree Hall got her groove back with South Carolina Women's Basketball

Payton Titus, The State
January 23, 2024

The gym lights dimmed. A single spotlight hit her like a semi truck. And everyone in the room started to whisper.

"Look at you," the voices would say.

"Oh my God, you're such a loser."

Welcome inside the mind of Bree Hall, into the scene her brain used to show her when she made a mistake on the basketball court. No amount of reassurance seemed to boost her self-confidence.

"I just lacked it so badly," Hall told The State.

"I didn't feel like I was a factor. .... For some reason, in my own self, I didn't feel like I was an asset to the team."

But ever since South Carolina's 65-58 victory Nov. 30 over North Carolina, where the junior starting guard sank a game-cementing bucket in the final two minutes, she's had a different air about her. Through the 12-game stretch, Hall has stood taller, smiled wider and led the Gamecocks as their most accurate shooter.

She found a way out of her head. Now she's helping No. 1 South Carolina find itself.

Transitioning to college from high school basketball, where she finished as the all-time leading scorer at Wayne High School in Huber Heights, Ohio, was a challenge. She went to USC because she wanted to be part of a team. Eager to make an impact, she also went with the goal of starting right away.

Then came her first on-court workout.

Brea Beal — a junior at the time — did a crossover and hit Hall in the chest. The contact knocked her on the ground. So much for snagging somebody's spot.

"That was the most eye-opening moment ever," Hall said.

"I realized, maybe we need to go a different direction, because it's just not that easy. And there was a lot of tears, and a lot of upset moments."

Fear found its way into Hall's mind. The packed-out crowds, the possibility of making a mistake — both overwhelmed her to the point of inaction. Perhaps it was better to do nothing than to do something wrong.

"She wouldn't say it," Hall's mother, LaShauna Hall, told The State, "but subconsciously what she's telling her body to do, nothing was happening. She's just passing the ball out there because she's like, 'What if I miss? What if I get blocked? What if this happens? What if that happens?'

"It consumed her."

Then, Bree Hall's sophomore season ended with a moment she'll never forget.

Previously undefeated South Carolina fell 77-73 to Iowa in the NCAA Final Four. It marked the end of the beloved "Freshies" careers. Beal, Aliyah Boston, Zia Cooke, Laeticia Amihere and Olivia Thompson would graduate from USC, leaving the team largely in Hall's hands.

Afterward, Hall and coach Dawn Staley shared an intense moment.

"She looked me dead in my face and said, 'Get us back here, Breezy,' " Bree said.

No pressure.

Hall was one of three returning upperclassmen for the Gamecocks in 2023-24. Her new veteran status thrust her into a leadership — and starting — role for the first time since her senior year of high school. Boston, Hall's best friend and former teammate, worked with her throughout the 2022-23 season to prepare for that moment.

"I remember constantly being in Breezy's ear like, 'You're gonna have to make sure you're talking. You're gonna have to make sure you're doing the little things.' I would drop those nuggets here," Boston told The State. "Sometimes she would get so annoyed at me like, 'Aliyah, I get it.' I'm like, 'I'm just gonna keep going.' Because being a leader, especially on a top team for Coach Staley, is something that takes a lot, because you know the standard of South Carolina."

But when her time came, Hall still struggled with self-doubt. She called her mom during the beginning of this season to unload the thoughts she was harboring deep down.

"I'm terrible at this," LaShauna Hall remembers Bree telling her. "I don't know what it is. I'm just terrible."

LaShauna and Bree's dad, Bryan Hall, encouraged their daughter to talk with Staley, but Bree had a hard time being vulnerable with her head coach.

"It's your mom, and then it's Coach," Bree said. "So I would tell my mom everything. Every thought that comes to my head. Coach, I just felt like I couldn't tell her the things that I was talking about with my mom."

Not long before South Carolina's UNC game, one of LaShauna's friends, whose daughter plays basketball at Princeton, encouraged LaShauna to connect with Staley. Staley does a good job of checking in every once in a while, reaching out around birthdays, holidays and various other occasions. But this phone call would allow LaShauna to facilitate a conversation that needed to happen between Staley and her daughter.

The two women talked, and Staley seemed surprised to hear the extent to which Bree was struggling. Staley told LaShauna her daughter was in good shape, always showing up

to practice prepared and never causing any problems.

LaShauna again encouraged Bree to talk to Staley, who now knew exactly what was going on: Bree had created a monster in her head. With Staley's help, they could slay it together.

"She is your boss, but she also is your confidant," LaShauna said to Bree. "She is your soft place to land."

Bree and Staley finally had their conversation. Staley told Bree she understood what she was going through, reassuring her that it was a normal and temporary feeling.

Bree might have had her doubts, but Staley had none.

"I think that definitely flipped the script in my head," Bree said.

When the Gamecocks arrived in Chapel Hill, Hall felt different. She played with ease, scoring 15 points in South Carolina's hardest-fought victory of the season. Her final three points came from the left wing at 2:08 left in the game, giving USC its largest lead, 60-52.

Usually, Hall overthought during games. She got caught up in stats and what everyone else on the court was doing. Against UNC, her mind was empty — and that was a good thing.

"I didn't feel like, 'Oh, my team doesn't need me. They can do it,' " Hall said. "I felt like they needed me. And I had this confidence and this just winning mentality going into that game."

She found her voice in the huddle that night.

"Who cares?" Hall told center Kamilla Cardoso after she missed a bucket.

"We're good," she assured sophomore guard Raven Johnson.

"Keep shooting," she urged senior guard Te-Hina Paopao.

From then on, Hall has averaged 11.9 points per game on a team-best 60.5% clip, including 60.9% from 3. She tied her career high of 18 points at Bowling Green and set a new personal record with 21 at Missouri.

"She's confident. She's level-headed, and she's playing her best basketball," Boston said.

And she's having fun. Her parents see it.

"I can look at her and just tell that she's happy out there, that she's comfortable," LaShauna Hall said. "She's found her space."

Bree's energy seems contagious. When she and Paopao are shooting, Bree said, it emboldens their teammates to shoot as well, turning what had been a weak point for the Gamecocks into one of their most deadly weapons.

The spotlight is on Hall, but not in the way she thought it was before. It doesn't emphasize her mistakes, but highlights her persistence, and she is making the most of her moment.

"She's finding herself," Staley said. "…I think her experience here at South Carolina, and all the things that created mental strength, is going to carry her throughout the rest of her life."

###

Local Heroes MiLaysia Fulwiley and Ashlyn Watkins are the present and future

Chris Wellbaum, Gamecock Central
February 6, 2024

If you want to slow down MiLaysia Fulwiley and Ashlyn Watkins, ask them how long they've known each other.

They played together on travel teams. Before high school. Maybe eighth grade? Middle school? Elementary school?

They finally agree that Watkins was in sixth grade and Fulwiley was in fifth grade when they first met. It doesn't sound like they are totally convinced that's accurate, but it's fair to say it's been a long time.

About seven miles separate Cardinal Newman, where Watkins played, and WJ Keenan, where Fulwiley played. They were highly sought-after recruits who chose to stay home and play about 11 miles away at Colonial Life Arena.

Now, Watkins, a sophomore, and Fulwiley, a freshman, are both the present and the future of South Carolina basketball.

"We worked really hard recruiting both of them," Dawn Staley said. "All of our local talent, we want them to stay here so we forge relationships with them. We envision the two of them playing together, playing a lot of minutes together, playing their entire careers here."

Keeping local talent home has long been the cornerstone of Staley's program, from Aleighsa Welch to Alaina Coates to A'ja Wilson, and many others. Next season the Gamecocks will add another local start in Camden's Joyce Edwards, currently the second-ranked prospect in her class.

Watkins (12) and Fulwiley (13) weren't as highly rated by recruiting services, but Staley saw the cornerstones of South Carolina's future. She described Fulwiley as a "generational talent" and Watkins might be the most athletic player in program history.

Each started her Gamecock career with a bang. Watkins won the McDonald's All-America slam dunk contest and then needed just three games to throw down her first collegiate dunk. Fulwiley became a viral sensation following her behind-the-back, no-look, reverse layup in her debut this season.

The highlights haven't gone away, but over the past couple of weeks, Watkins and Fulwiley have started to round out their play. For Watkins, that means being more assertive on offense. For Fulwiley, it's the defensive end.

"I feel like I'm actually looking to score now," Watkins said. "I used to get it and just pass it. I feel like now I'm looking to score."

"I feel like I just took a little bit more pride in my defense," Fulwiley said. "I just always wanted to get the ball and score and go straight to the rim and not defend. It's two sides to basketball. You can't score if you don't defend. Once I picked up my defense and started playing up to my expectations and defending well it worked out good for me."

The notion that they are just starting to figure things out is a scary prospect for opponents.

Watkins has notched consecutive double-doubles in the last two games as a fill-in starter for Chloe Kitts. Now that Kamilla Cardoso is out for the next two games to play for the Brazilian national team, Watkins could stay in the starting lineup as Cardoso's fill-in.

"Ashlyn's been coming," Staley said. "I think Ashlyn can provide that no matter where she is in the lineup. She makes it really hard. We see her contributions and we see her elevated play with more minutes. It's really encouraging."

Watkins doesn't care whether she starts or returns to her role off the bench. She said after the Ole Miss game that her approach stayed the same.

"I really wouldn't say that there was an adjustment," Watkins said. "I just played to my full potential and showed what I can do. I knew that my team needed me to get rebounds and stuff so I made an effort to play my best."

On or off the court, Watkins is soft-spoken and reserved by nature. Fulwiley and Staley both talk about pushing Watkins to reach her full potential. Staley said they try to force Watkins to be great.

"We want her to score," she said. "There's no question that she rebounds the basketball, she defends like no other. I think the one element that's missing in her game is consistently scoring. We are being very calculating in giving her the ball and seeing what she does with it. She's got to familiarize herself with spots on the floor where she can be effective offensively."

Fulwiley is fully aware of how good Watkins can be.

"I knew she was capable, so when Coach told her she was going to start I feel we all knew she was going to go out there and do what she does best," Fulwiley said. "She's brave. She's not afraid of anything."

Fulwiley and Watkins have strong chemistry on the court that comes from years of playing together. They always know where the other is, especially in transition, even if they aren't always on the same page.

It happened against Ole Miss. Fulwiley attacked the rim, and at the last moment tried to drop off a pass to Watkins. Except Watkins was already boxing out for the rebound. Fulwiley wasn't amused, but Staley was.

"They're doing a great job with feeling each other out," Staley said. "I know Lay catches Ashlyn off guard a lot, to the point where Ashlyn should stay ready. I think they had a little argument out there on the floor, but that's to be expected. Lay expects her to catch all of her passes and Ashlyn expects Lay to shoot them so she can get the rebound if she misses."

That pass aside, are they ever surprised by what the other can do? That's a matter of opinion

"Sometimes Lay surprises me because her bag is so deep," Watkins said. "I'm pretty sure it surprises everybody. Sometimes she does it in practice (where) she brings out different

things."

Fulwiley said it was unexpected when Watkins started scoring more and creating for others, "But it's not surprising."

"She never surprises me. When she dunked, I knew she was going to dunk. When you watch the video I'm all the way at the end of the court knowing that she's about to dunk," Fulwiley said. "She can get a bucket any time."

###

Ashlyn Watkins has found her superpower with South Carolina. What's next?

Payton Titus, The State
January 16, 2024

n Sunday, South Carolina coach Dawn Staley said Ashlyn Watkins had found her superpower.

On Monday, she flew.

Watkins recorded the second dunk of her career in the first quarter of USC's 62-point rout of Kentucky. Her — and the program's — first came last season at Clemson. But this one felt different.

"This one was better," Watkins said with a shy smile.

"It means a lot that I'm getting to actually show who I am."

Watkins stole the ball with wide open court in front of her. She stockpiled strength as she dribbled down the court, leaping up and dunking in the hoop in front of The Cockpit student section. The garnet-clad crowd at Colonial Life Arena roared and flew to its feet.

But the dunk, which Kentucky coach Kyra Elzy said contributed to the growth of women's basketball, was simply a public display of something larger Watkins has been cultivating behind the scenes. Her superpower, as Staley referenced Sunday, is Watkins' confidence and understanding of how she can best contribute to her team's success on both sides of the basketball.

She played 32 games last season and averaged 10.7 minutes, 4.9 points, 3.1 rebounds, 0.8 blocks and 0.7 steals each time out. This season she's averaging 19 minutes, 9.1 points, seven rebounds, 2.9 blocks and one steal per game.

"I think her defense is probably much more advanced than her offense at this point, but her offense is coming," Staley said Sunday. "And you can just see the progression to it. It's in practice. Now she's got to transition that to the game. And she will."

Defensively, Staley said Sunday, Watkins can be utilized all over the court. She can defend guards and switch. After USC's 81-57 victory Thursday over Missouri, Staley said she thought Tigers guard Hayley Frank could've easily scored 32 points rather than the 16 she actually netted had Watkins not guarded her with such effort.

Monday night, Watkins had 10 points (on 4 of 6 shooting), eight rebounds, three assists, two blocks and two steals. She attributed her growth this season to strides she's made on defense, while acknowledging she needs to work on looking to score more often.

Her dunk Monday night felt like a symbol of her growing confidence on the offensive end of the court. But ask Staley about the viral slam and she'll say Watkins dunks too often in practice for it to faze her. Staley jokingly challenged the 6-foot-3 forward to do it from halfcourt if she wanted to impress her coach.

Still, one wouldn't know Watkins' dunks were a regular occurrence by the way South Carolina's bench reacted to her emphatic slam. Watkins' teammates jumped from their seats, as did a majority of Gamecocks fans in attendance, and applauded her high-flying feat.

"It meant a lot to me, especially doing it here in Columbia," Watkins said. "I'm from Columbia, so just doing it for the FAMs and doing it for my family and my friends, everybody that came to support me at this game."

###

Fulwiley Says Getting Benched Helped Elevate Her Game

Kari Anderson, The Messenger
January 10, 2024

South Carolina freshman MiLaysia Fulwiley has quickly become one of the most exciting players on the No. 1 women's basketball team in the country. As a freshman, Fulwiley has started two games for the Gamecocks and is third on the team in total points, with 164, averaging 11.7 per game.

But the transition from high school to college basketball has been far from easy, especially when playing for Gamecocks head coach Dawn Staley and for a program that has exceptionally high expectations.

Fulwiley, who grew up in Columbia, South Carolina, told The Messenger that the first few days of Gamecocks practice were especially "tough" for her, noting that the biggest difference between high school and college basketball is the importance of small details.

"At the college level, you have to do all of these specific things. You have to pay attention and watch the details. It's just nothing like high school," the freshman guard said in a Q&A.

In one instance, she said, she went on the court without paying attention to instructions, and got confused about what she was supposed to do.

"And Coach Staley was like, 'This is not what we do here, I'm not tolerating this.' She didn't take nothing from none of us freshmen," Fulwiley said, adding that she and her teammates had to run as a result.

"I was like, 'I'm sorry guys.' So after that, I just had to lock in."

Fulwiley also shared her experience of getting benched earlier this season. When South Carolina played North Carolina on Nov. 30, Fulwiley played just three minutes before getting subbed off.

"My defense wasn't up to par so I sat out a game and I watched my team fight for a win and they won," Fulwiley said. "At first I was confused because I was actually doing good in practice, but then, when she (Coach Staley) broke it down for me, I came to the realization like, 'You're right, I don't do that as well on defense.'"

Fulwiley took Staley's feedback and feels like she's made some improvements since. (Her next step, she said, is to focus on turnovers and her help side defense.)

But sitting out a game also helped remind Fulwiley of South Carolina's collective goals. "If you have a big ego, you're just not gonna work here. You're just not going to fit in because everyone is just all in for each other," she said.

"We're trying to win a championship, at the end of the day. So whatever the coaches need us to do, that's what we're supposed to go out there and do. And it shows in practice: we go hard in practice, we compete."

South Carolina is one of only three remaining undefeated teams, along with No. 2 UCLA and No. 4 Baylor. The Gamecocks' next matchup is this Thursday, against Missouri, while the team's next ranked matchup is on January 25 against the defending national champions, No. 7 LSU.

###

Why South Carolina's freshman sensation is wowing Magic Johnson, the NBA and college basketball

Ben Pickman, The Athletics
January 25, 2024

Let's begin with the play, because what else initially comes to mind when thinking of South Carolina star freshman MiLaysia Fulwiley?

You know the one. Against No. 10 Notre Dame, in the season opener, in Paris. Fulwiley receives an inbounds pass with just over two minutes to go until halftime and begins galloping up the floor. By the time she reaches the 3-point line, three defenders are inside the arc, but nothing is stopping her. Fulwiley picks up her dribble, goes behind the back with the ball and elevates. For a brief second, it looks as if she will attempt a scoop layup on the basket's right side. But then, in an instant, she cradles the ball to the left and uses her right hand to flip it up with the perfect amount of spin so it falls through the hoop. "The Eiffel Tower is shaking," ESPN's Ryan Ruocco says on the broadcast.

The razzle-dazzle electrifies the 3,200 spectators in attendance and hundreds of thousands watching on TV. Kevin Durant, amazed by the string of moves, tweets about it. Magic Johnson tweets it's "the best move in all of basketball including the pros like LeBron, Steph, KD, Victor, and Jokic" and urges his 5 million followers to seek out the replay. It's undeniably eye-popping. But to those who know Fulwiley best, the sequence isn't surprising.

"That play is routine for her," South Carolina coach Dawn Staley says.

"That play, we've seen it 1,000 times," her high school coach, Reggie McLain, says.

"She's just special. I have not seen a kid play the game the way she plays it," adds Ashley Rivens, her grassroots coach at Team Curry.

Although she's only a freshman, Fulwiley has been making on-court magic in Columbia, S.C., for as long as she can remember. She grew up a 13-minute drive from the university's campus. Long before she made Colonial Life Arena her stage, she created, and re-created, highlights in the driveway of her family's three-bedroom home and at nearby Crane Forest Park. She'd watch YouTube videos — often of LeBron James, Columbia native Seventh Woods or other mixtape stars — grab a ball and experiment for herself. She'd tell her sisters, Zyana and Jayla, to sit on the porch and count down from five. "One day, the camera is gonna be on me and I'm gonna be like everybody else I see on YouTube," Fulwiley says she would think to herself.

In daylight and darkness, on a strip of concrete or surrounding grass, in front of the house or at the goal in the back, she imagined nailing buzzer-beaters. She played in the park until she could no longer see the hoop. She practiced crossover combinations and spin moves. Eventually, in high school, the 5-foot-10 guard worked on dunking. (Yes, she can throw it down.) "You are gonna be somebody special," her mother, Phea Mixon, told her.

Fulwiley's highlights are a reminder, however, that just because something is routine for one person doesn't mean it's replicable for others. By the end of her seventh-grade season, McLain invited Fulwiley to join W.J. Keenan High's varsity playoff run. South Carolina and Ole Miss offered her scholarships before the school year ended. As an eighth-grader, she played high school varsity full-time. Keenan won four state titles and played in five championship games with her on the roster.

Immense talent hasn't led to immense ego, say those who know her best. Mixon describes her daughter as humble. Staley calls Fulwiley low-key and sometimes shy. "We have to teach her that you're not an ordinary young person," Staley says. Fulwiley, 18, knows she has much to learn. And though she's comfortable skying above defenders, she reminds herself to stay steady. To remain grounded, even when her aerial acrobatics go viral. "I'm in control of how I want to feel," she says. "My mom did a great job telling me, 'Don't get the big head because you can lose everything just how you got it.'"

As Fulwiley surged up ranking lists — eventually making her way to No. 13 in ESPN's Class of 2023 — and past her defenders, Mixon often put her daughter's opportunities over her own career in customer service. She prioritized attending Fulwiley's tournaments and college visits. "I really wanted MiLaysia to secure her future, because once I saw how special she was, I knew that things can change," Mixon says. Through hard work, she told her daughter, Fulwiley could accomplish what she aspired to achieve.

Fulwiley noticed her mother's efforts. "It means a lot to me," she says, "just knowing that my mom cares about me enough to stop things that's going on in her life (and) sacrifice." Mixon can count on one hand the number of times she's missed Fulwiley's games in high school or college.

Though she's competitive off the court — McLain says Fulwiley didn't even like to lose in PE kickball — she has largely maintained a singular focus. "Basketball has been my one and only love," she says. In elementary school, her answer to "What do you want to be when you grow up?" questions was always a professional basketball player. She stood out in youth events. Fulwiley recalls attempting a 3-pointer in a boys' church league game when she was only 6 or 7 and wondering if she was dreaming because she had tried a shot that even she thought was audacious. In the sixth grade, she scored 60 points in a game, but her team lost 71-70. She now calls her 60-piece "a waste" because of the result. Nevertheless, it brought more attention to her.

When McLain first watched Fulwiley play, as a seventh-grader, he saw a player who stood out among her peers. He observed her elite athleticism, prodigious basketball IQ and competitiveness. A motor Fulwiley describes as "go-go-go."

That spring, McLain added her to the high school's playoff roster, and she immediately dominated practices, taking over in one-on-one drills. Still, McLain adds, she was "extremely quiet." She didn't get fazed by the teachers, trainers and other coaches poking their heads in the gym to see her play.

Staley says the success of her program is "based on the kids in our area." A'ja Wilson is from Columbia. Alaina Coates is from a nearby suburb. "No one leaves the state," Staley says, "without them making it really hard for us to say no." The Gamecocks made it hard for Fulwiley to say no.

As she flourished in high school and on her grassroots team, her family kept envisioning her wearing garnet and black. It was initially only a lofty aspiration, but one they hoped could be a key step to reaching the WNBA. Mixon says Staley promised to hold Fulwiley accountable and help her reach the next level. The idea of staying home in Columbia also brought added excitement because her friends and family could easily see her play. Fulwiley's now-deceased grandfather, Charles, was a longtime Gamecocks fan. He wore the school's apparel and had school stickers on his car. He told Fulwiley he could see her suiting up there one day. She wears No. 12 in his honor; it was his favorite number.

One morning during Fulwiley's second week of summer classes at South Carolina, she arrived late for a team breakfast. She says she was only two minutes behind schedule. She thought nothing would come of it. But tardiness in college, she quickly learned, was different from being late in high school. Staley told her she would sit out of a practice.

The discipline resonated. "Stuff like that made me lock in," Fulwiley says. She told her mother: "Dawn does not play."

In the weeks and months that followed, Staley has continued emphasizing the team rules. She stresses to Fulwiley the importance of being on time to class and weight training

and creating pro-ready habits. Even in moments of tension, Staley reminds Fulwiley of her potential.

"She'll ooh and ahh us," Staley says. "She'll make me turn away from her because of a move she'll make. I gotta walk away from it because it was so very good. And then she also has some things that she needs to work on that will make me scream at her. And I don't like screaming at her because she's got an angelic look to her. She doesn't like to be screamed at, but certain things will hit me differently."

In those instances, Staley will correct her, often prefacing the feedback by saying, "This doesn't mean that you're not a generational talent."

In high school, Fulwiley was Keenan's star. In college, she has starred at times, like in her 17-point, six-assist, six-steal outing against Notre Dame or in an 18-point, nine-rebound showing against Clemson. However, there have also been games when Fulwiley watched idly from the bench. She saw the floor for only three minutes in a 7-point win over North Carolina, with Staley saying Fulwiley lost her opponent a few times on defense. She played a mere 10 minutes in South Carolina's 24-point victory over Missouri and missed all five of her field goal attempts. Yet it is then when coaches see Fulwiley's trust in their decisions. "She really embraces the process, and I love that about her," Staley says.

Against Texas A&M on Sunday, Fulwiley put on perhaps her best showing. She scored 21 points in 20 minutes, exploding past defenders in the pick-and-roll on multiple occasions. Staley said Fulwiley's confidence translated to magic. The top-ranked Gamecocks matchup against No. 9 LSU on Thursday night provides another opportunity to unearth something amazing. But Staley also stresses that "the stuff in between the spectacular plays is where (her) greatness is really going to come." In other words, how she makes the ordinary extraordinary.

Fulwiley says she has plenty to learn — too many things to rattle off. Staley notes Fulwiley can sometimes be unselfish to a fault and that she has room to "be in the gym a little bit more." Fulwiley has nearly as many assists (40) as turnovers (34). Nevertheless, she takes feedback well. Coaches demonstrate something once, Staley says, and Fulwiley can execute it immediately. "She wants to be great," Staley says. "And wanting to be great takes listening. It takes doing. It takes vulnerability."

Fulwiley feels grateful to be at South Carolina, soaking up knowledge from the veterans. And although her stage has changed, she has stayed attached to her roots. She has returned to Keenan three times this season to watch the Raiders play. Once, she sat on the end of their bench, and she has spoken to the players at halftime. Sure, her sister Jayla is still playing there. However, Fulwiley goes back for more than that. "They played a big part as to why I'm here today," she says. "I owe them my support and my dedication."

Even with an arsenal of aerial attacks, she's stayed tied to the ground. To her past. To her family. To Columbia. Mixon says, "I can't tell you how many times I cried" seeing people scream her daughter's name in Colonial Life Arena. She thinks about the sacrifices and how her father would say, "Whatever you do, you need to make time so that your daughter can follow her dreams."

"I've prayed for times like this," Fulwiley says. And in her driveway, she prepared for times like this, too.

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