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2007-08 OUTLOOK

A new era has begun at the University of Cincinnati as J. Kelley Hall was named head women's basketball coach on April 4, 2007. From day one Hall has hit the road hard recruiting and has brought his energy and winning desire to campus, beginning the building process of taking the Bearcats to the top of the BIG EAST.

Hall comes to Cincinnati fresh off a trip to the NCAA Tournament, guiding Louisiana-Lafayette to its historic first trip to the Big Dance in 2007 after only five seasons with the Ragin' Cagins. He has been part of teams that have advanced to the NCAA Tournament six times, has made one WNIT appearance, has coached six all-Americans and one NCAA scoring champion. With such quality coaching experience on the sidelines, Hall and his staff are excited to be a part of the BIG EAST Conference, which had 10 different teams represented last year in both the *USA Today-ESPN* and *Associate Press* national polls.

"To be able to coach in the BIG EAST and to have the chance to compete against the best in the nation, night in, night out, is all you want as a coach," said Hall. "We have added a new staff here at Cincinnati and we all have the same expectation: to build a winning women's basketball program."

Cincinnati's key component to a successful campaign in 2007-08 is team chemistry. With the new staff and a squad of young players who have limited playing time together, the earlier that chemistry kicks in, the more likely the Bearcats' chance of success.

The Bearcats ended the 2006-07 season with a 15-14 overall record and recorded a 6-10 mark in BIG EAST play. Hall will implement his defensive-minded coaching style with the Bearcats, hoping to maintain their rebounding margin advantage and keep the opponents' field-goal percentage low.

One challenge for the Bearcats this season is depth, specifically in the frontcourt. Junior forward Jill Stephens will be relied on heavily to produce in the paint. Stephens played in every game last season, averaging 4.2 points and 3.3 rebounds a game. With a 46.2 field goal percentage last season, Stephens has proven her potential to produce offensively. "Jill is an intelligent player in the post. We expect a lot from her this season and hope to bring her along defensively," said Hall.

Sophomore center Natasha Graboski is a physical player with good size (6-3) who will attempt to earn more time on the court this season. Incoming freshman Caitlin Pauley will use her athleticism, size (6-3) and skills on the glass to battle for playing time at the forward position.

"Natasha is a tough player with good size while Caitlin should add depth in the forward for us," said Hall. "We are excited to have the

opportunity to add Renee Hein to our lineup. She has incredible jumping ability and was an excellent high school basketball player, so we hope she will make a smooth transition to BIG EAST play."

Hein comes to the women's basketball team after four years as a high jumper for the Bearcats track and field team.

At the point guard for the Bearcats is sophomore Carla Jacobs who was named to the 2007 all-BIG EAST freshman team. Jacobs was the team's floor leader last year, averaging 8.4 points a game and dishing out 122 assists for the season. She finished 2006-07 with a 2.03 assist/turnover ratio, which ranked second in the BIG EAST. She has been challenged by the coaching staff to add to her ability to distribute the ball and become more of a scoring threat. Backing up Jacobs at the point is sophomore Stephanie Stevens. Stevens, who saw action in 19 games last year, is an intense competitor who will work hard on getting stronger to improve her overall game.

"Carla Jacobs was named to the BIG EAST all-freshman team last year, which represents her talent at the point guard. She knows the game offensively and we have challenged her to increase her scoring potential. Stephanie is a hard worker who, once she gets stronger, could see more playing time," noted Hall.

Also in the backcourt is junior Shelly Bellman, the team's top returning scorer and rebounder from last season, averaging 10.4 points and 6.6 rebounds per game. Bellman has the tools to be a complete player: the ability to shoot, the toughness to drive to the hoop, and a high defensive IQ. Her skills, combined with her strong work ethic, give her the potential to contend for all-BIG EAST honors this season.

"Shelly Bellman is a tough, hard-nosed player. She is a great weapon with true versatility. She is a valuable asset to us on both ends of the floor," Hall said.

Rounding out the backcourt is senior Kristi Brogan, junior Angel Morgan, redshirt sophomore Kahla Roudebush, and freshmen Tenishia Benson and Asia Jenkins. Brogan has answered the challenges presented by the coaching staff and will be expected to contribute more this season, while Morgan, who has the ability to shoot and attack the basket, will try to improve on her 5.6 points and 5.1 rebounds per game in 2006-07. Roudebush, an excellent shooter, saw limited action last season due to injuries, but is expected to diversify the team's offensive scheme once she is in shape and healthy. Both Benson and Jenkins are versatile guards with the potential to earn playing time in their freshman years.

"I expect our players to be competitive and have the mental capacity to not quit. If we can do that in every game, we put ourselves in a much better position to win and that is our goal," Hall said.

This season's schedule features nine games against teams that advanced to the 2007 NCAA Women's Basketball Championship and competition from eight different conferences.

In addition to the familiar trials against BIG EAST Conference powerhouses, UC will also clash with a number of old and new foes, including area rivals Xavier and Dayton along with regional opponents Michigan, Indiana, Valparaiso, Youngstown State, and Tennessee Tech.

"Our schedule for the coming season is competitive and challenging," said Hall. "I am happy that we will play 19 home games (including the exhibition games). Our fans will be treated to an exciting schedule," said Hall.

Michigan makes its return to Fifth Third Arena for the first time since 1998 as the Wolverines will serve as the Bearcats' first regular season opponent on Nov. 13. UC plays its next four games at home before trekking up I-75 to battle Dayton.

In December, UC will once again tangle with Xavier in the annual Skyline Chili Women's Crosstown Shootout at the Cintas Center and



Shelly Bellman and Carla Jacobs

will then try to snap a two-game losing streak against Big Ten foe Indiana. After returning from the holiday break, the Bearcats will have a final tune-up before conference play begins when they play at Tennessee Tech on Dec. 29.

In January, Cincinnati opens the 2008 portion of the schedule with BIG EAST play, starting with a road game at Seton Hall on Jan. 5. A home game against Georgetown (Jan. 8) leads in to perhaps the toughest portion of the 2007-08 schedule when UC plays eight consecutive games against teams that participated in the 2007 NCAA Women's Basketball Championship. On Jan. 12 the Bearcats host Pittsburgh, then travel to Louisville (Jan. 15) and Connecticut (Jan. 19) before returning home to take on 2007 NCAA National Runner-up Rutgers on Jan. 22. A game at DePaul (Jan. 26) and a home game against Louisville (Jan. 30) wraps up the first month of

the year for the Bearcats.

February begins with the same strength as January ends when UC plays Notre Dame at home on the Feb. 2 and then travels to Marquette three days later. The Bearcats play USF at home on Feb. 9 and then take a six-day breather before playing at Villanova on Feb. 16. UC swaps home and away game for the rest of the season, playing West Virginia (Feb. 19), at Syracuse (Feb. 23), St. John's (March 1) and ending the regular season at Providence on March 3.

"I'm happy that our fans will have so many opportunities to see us play at Fifth Third Area," said Hall. "The BIG EAST is full of powerful, successful teams. I expect several of our opponents will be ranked in the nation's Top 25, making our 2007-08 schedule extremely challenging."

2007-08 Cincinnati Women's Basketball Rosters

NUMERICAL

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Cl.	Exp.	Hometown (Previous School)
2	Tenishia Benson	G	5-9	Fr.	HS	Akron, Ohio (Archbishop Hoban)
10	Kristi Brogan	G	5-9	Sr.	3L	Hilliard, Ohio (Hilliard)
11	Asia Jenkins	G	5-11	Fr.	HS	Piscataway, N.J. (Piscataway)
14	Emy Ogide	F	6-2	Sr.	3L	Rockmart, Ga. (Paulding County HS)
15	Renee Hein	F	6-2	RS Sr.	HS	Cincinnati, Ohio (Mother of Mercy)
20	Kahla Roudeshush	G	5-8	RS So.	1L	Noblesville, Ind. (Hamilton Southeastern)
22	Shelly Bellman	G/F	5-10	Jr.	2L	Ottawa, Ohio (Ottawa-Glandorf)
23	Carla Jacobs	G	5-7	So.	1L	Cleveland, Ohio (Regina)
25	Angel Morgan	G	5-8	Jr.	2L	Springfield, Ohio (Springfield North)
31	Caitlin Pauley	F	6-3	Fr.	HS	Chicago Heights, Ill. (Marian Catholic)
34	Stephanie Stevens	G	5-7	So.	1L	Pickerington, Ohio (Pickerington Central)
40	Jill Stephens	F	6-3	Jr.	2L	Mineral Wells, W.Va. (Parkersburg South)
41	Natasha Graboski	C	6-3	So.	1L	Upper Sandusky, Ohio (Upper Sandusky)

ALPHABETICAL

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Cl.	Exp.	Hometown (Previous School)
22	Shelly Bellman	G/F	5-10	Jr.	2L	Ottawa, Ohio (Ottawa-Glandorf)
2	Tenishia Benson	G	5-9	Fr.	HS	Akron, Ohio (Archbishop Hoban)
10	Kristi Brogan	G	5-9	Sr.	3L	Hilliard, Ohio (Hilliard)
41	Natasha Graboski	C	6-3	So.	1L	Upper Sandusky, Ohio (Upper Sandusky)
15	Renee Hein	F	6-2	RS Sr.	HS	Cincinnati, Ohio (Mother of Mercy)
23	Carla Jacobs	G	5-7	So.	1L	Cleveland, Ohio (Regina)
11	Asia Jenkins	G	5-11	Fr.	HS	Piscataway, N.J. (Piscataway)
25	Angel Morgan	G	5-8	Jr.	2L	Springfield, Ohio (Springfield North)
14	Emy Ogide	F	6-2	Sr.	3L	Rockmart, Ga. (Paulding County HS)
31	Caitlin Pauley	F	6-3	Fr.	HS	Chicago Heights, Ill. (Marian Catholic)
20	Kahla Roudeshush	G	5-8	RS So.	1L	Noblesville, Ind. (Hamilton Southeastern)
40	Jill Stephens	F	6-3	Jr.	2L	Mineral Wells, W.Va. (Parkersburg South)
34	Stephanie Stevens	G	5-7	So.	1L	Pickerington, Ohio (Pickerington Central)

BEARCATS BY CLASS

Freshmen (3)

Tenishia Benson (G)
Asia Jenkins (G)
Caitlin Pauley (F)

Sophomores (4)

Kahla Roudeshush (G)
Carla Jacobs (G)
Stephanie Stevens (G)
Natasha Graboski (C)

Juniors (3)

Shelly Bellman (G)
Angel Morgan (G)
Jill Stephens (F)

Seniors (3)

Kristi Brogan (G)
Renee Hein (F)
Emy Ogide (F)

BEARCATS BY STATE

New Jersey (1)

Jenkins (Piscataway)

Ohio (8)

Brogan (Hilliard)
Bellman (Ottawa)
Benson (Akron)
Graboski (Upper Sandusky)
Hein (Cincinnati)
Jacobs (Cleveland)
Morgan (Springfield)
Stevens (Pickerington)

Indiana (1)

Roudeshush (Noblesville)

Illinois (1)

Pauley (Chicago Heights)

West Virginia (1)

Stephens (Mineral Wells)

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Brogan _____ BRO-gan
Emy _____ AY-mee
Ogide _____ OG-gid-ay
Hein _____ Hine
Kahla _____ KAY-la
Roudeshush _____ RAU-di-bush
Tenishia _____ Tuh-nee-sha
Caitlin _____ Kate-lin
Graboski _____ Grah-BOW-ski

Head Coach: J. Kelley Hall (Troy, '82)

Associate Head Coach: Todd Schaefer (Thomas More College, '95)

Assistant Coaches: E.J. Jackson (Slippery Rock, '93), Tari Cummings (Oklahoma State, '03)

Director of Basketball Operations: Tomeka Brown (Ohio State, '03)



RADIO/TV CHART



Tenishia Benson
G: 5-9: Fr.
Akron, Ohio



Kristi Brogan
G: 5-9: Sr.
Hilliard, Ohio



Asia Jenkins
G: 5-11: Fr.
Piscataway, N.J.



Emy Ogide
F: 6-2: Sr.
Rockmart, Ga.



Renee Hein
F: 6-2: RS-Sr.
Cincinnati, Ohio



Kahla Roudebush
G: 5-8: RS-So.
Noblesville, Ind.



Shelly Bellman
G/F: 5-10: Jr.
Ottawa, Ohio



Carla Jacobs
G: 5-7: So.
Cleveland, Ohio



Angel Morgan
G: 5-8: Jr.
Springfield, Ohio



Caitlin Pauley
F: 6-3: Fr.
Chicago Heights, Ill.



Stephanie Stevens
G: 5-7: So.
Pickerington, Ohio



Jill Stephens
F: 6-3: Jr.
Mineral Wells, W.Va.



Natasha Graboski
C: 6-3: So.
Upper Sandusky, Ohio



J. Kelley Hall
Head Coach



Todd Schaefer
Associate Head Coach



Tari Cummings
Assistant Coach



E.J. Jackson
Assistant Coach



Tomeka Brown
Dir. of Basketball Operations