



Women's Basketball

Game Notes

Athletic Communications | 800 University Way | Contact: Kendra Toman (KT24@uscupstate.edu)

USC Upstate Spartans (0-0; 0-0 Big South) vs. No. 22 Kentucky Wildcats (0-0; 0-0 SEC)



Date: November 4, 2024 | 5:00 p.m. ET
Location: Memorial Coliseum | Lexington, Ky.
Broadcast: SECN+
Stats: UpstateSpartans.com
Social Media: @UpstateSpartans; @UpstateWBB
Hashtags: #SpartanArmy

USC Upstate Spartans

Last Game ▶ L, 78-60 vs. Col. of Charleston (March 21)
Head Coach ▶ Jason Williams (198-127; 12th season)
Williams vs. Kentucky ▶ 0-1

Kentucky Wildcats

Last Game ▶ L, 76-62 vs. Tennessee (March 7)
Head Coach ▶ Kenny Brooks (517-204; 23rd season)
Brooks vs. USC Upstate ▶ 3-0

2024-25 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME (ET)
Nov. 4	at No. 22 Kentucky	5:00 p.m.
Nov. 9	at UNC Greensboro	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 13	at South Carolina State	6:30 p.m.
Nov. 16	Western Carolina	2:00 p.m.
Nov. 19	at Furman	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 22	Queens	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 25	Clinton College	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 29	Morehead State [1]	3:00 p.m.
Nov. 30	Bellarmino [1]	3:00 p.m.
Dec. 3	at Iowa State	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 5	at Kansas State	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 16	at Drake	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 19	Lees-McRae	11:00 a.m.
Jan. 2	Winthrop [!]	7:00 p.m.
Jan. 8	at Presbyterian [!]	6:30 p.m.
Jan. 11	at Radford [!]	2:00 p.m.
Jan. 15	UNC Asheville [!]	6:00 p.m.
Jan. 18	at Gardner-Webb [!]	1:00 p.m.
Jan. 22	at High Point [!]	7:00 p.m.
Jan. 25	Longwood [!]	2:00 p.m.
Jan. 29	at Charleston Southern [!]	6:00 p.m.
Feb. 1	Radford [!]	2:00 p.m.
Feb. 5	Presbyterian [!]	7:00 p.m.
Feb. 8	at Winthrop [!]	2:00 p.m.
Feb. 12	at UNC Asheville [!]	6:30 p.m.
Feb. 15	Gardner-Webb [!]	TBA
Feb. 22	Charleston Southern [!]	2:00 p.m.
Feb. 26	High Point [!]	7:00 p.m.
Mar. 1	at Longwood [!]	2:00 p.m.

Bold indicates home game

[1] = Spartan Shootout Thanksgiving MTE | Spartanburg, S.C.

[!] = Big South Conference Game

OPENING TIP

- ◇ Meeting in consecutive seasons for the first time in series history, USC Upstate and Kentucky meet for the fifth time Monday afternoon. The Wildcats lead the series 4-0 with each meeting in the series being played in Lexington, Ky.—Monday's game is the fourth appearance for the Spartans inside Historic Memorial Coliseum and the first since 2021. Last season, Upstate fell 82-54 inside Rupp Arena.
- ◇ Kentucky holds a special place in the history of the USC Upstate women's basketball program as the Wildcats were the first Division I opponent for the Spartans on Nov. 11, 2007. Upstate made the transition to NCAA Division I on July 1, 2007.
- ◇ USC Upstate enters the 2024-25 season coming off one of the most successful seasons in program history. Last year, the Spartans finished 16-16 and 10-6 in conference play, finishing the regular season with a second-place Big South finish and the No. 2 seed in the 2024 Big South Women's Basketball Championship. Upstate ended the season with a bid to the WNIT, the highest level of postseason basketball for the program in the Division I era.
- ◇ Preseason Big South Conference prognosticators selected Upstate fifth in the league's annual Preseason Poll as selected by the conference's coaches. The spot marks the highest selection in the preseason predicted order of finish for the Spartans since joining the Big South ahead of the 2018-19 season, besting its sixth-place prediction from a season ago.

POTENTIAL STARTERS

Name	MPG	FG%	3PT%	FT%	RPG	PPG	AST	BLK	STL
Jeni Levine	28.8	.419	.293	.721	2.3	7.9	42	4	46
Rebekah Gordon	24.3	.364	.214	.676	4.8	8.5	17	7	26
Gracie Barnes	13.1	.328	.294	.800	0.7	3.2	11	1	4
Cassie Gallagher	Did Not Play - Redshirt								
AC Markham	26.0	.415	.457	.642	5.2	5.8	49	14	16

OFF THE BENCH

[illegible]



QUICK FACTS

LocationSpartanburg, S.C.
 Founded 1967
 Enrollment 6,300
 Nickname Spartans
 Colors Green (PMS 348), Black
 Affiliation NCAA Division I
 Conference Big South Conference
 Homecourt Eddie & Ann Payne Arena/G.B Hodge Center
 Chancellor Dr. Bennie Harris
 Director of Athletics Matthew Martin
 Senior Woman Administrator Sarah Gildersleeve
 Faculty Athletics Representative Scott Tanner

HISTORY

First Season of Basketball 1974-75
 Seasons 51st in 2024-25
 All-Time Record 639-717
 NCAA Division I Record 223-286
 Big South Conference Record 42-63
 NCAA Tournament Appearances (Last) 4 (2006 [DII])
 Last NCAA Tournament Opponent Wingate (L, 67-59)

TEAM INFORMATION

2023-24 Record 16-16
 Home 9-4
 Away 5-10
 Neutral 2-2
 Big South Conference Record 10-6
 Home 6-2
 Away 4-4
 Finish Second
 Tournament Semifinals
 Starters Returning/Lost 3/2
 Letterwinners Returning/Lost 10/3
 Newcomers 6

COACHING/SUPPORT STAFF

Head Coach Jason Williams (Third Season)
 Alma Mater Greensboro College, 2004
 USC Upstate Record 27-36
 Career Record 198-127
 Associate Head Coach Steven Rhodes (Third Season)
 Alma Mater UNC Wilmington, 2014
 Assistant Coach Jennifer DeGraaf (third Season)
 Alma Mater UNC Wilmington, 2018
 Sports Communications Ryan Frye
 Email rf25@uscupstate.edu
 Office Phone (864) 503-5129

- ◇ The Spartans return three starters, seven players who saw action, and 10 total players from last season's WNIT team. Senior forward Rebekah Gordon, junior guard Jeni Levine, and senior forward AC Markham represent Upstate's returning starters while sophomore guard Gracie Barnes, redshirt junior guard Zora Fray-Chinn, redshirt sophomore guard Cali Levine, and sophomore guard Macy Wike all saw action last year. Redshirt freshman forward Emma Blair, redshirt freshman guard Cassie Gallagher, and redshirt sophomore forward Vera Soderblom each return after redshirting last season.
- ◇ Upstate supplements its group of 10 returners with six newcomers, comprised of four freshmen and two transfers. Freshmen, guard Olivia Forster, guard Gwen Jenkins, forward Ava Miller, and forward Madison Miller, make up the quartet of first-year Spartans with redshirt sophomore guard Aubrie Kierscht (Presbyterian) and redshirt freshman guard Lele Tanuvasa (Colorado) representing the transfer class.

2022-23 ROSTER

No.	Name	Yr.	Pos.	Ht.	Hometown (Previous School)
0	Zora Fray-Chinn	R-Jr.	G	5-11	Orlando, Fla. (Wright State)
1	Jeni Levine	Jr.	G	5-6	Vinton, Va. (Staunton River HS)
2	Macy Wike	So.	G	5-9	Cullowhee, N.C. (Asheville Christian Acad.)
3	Gwen Jenkins	Fr.	G	5-9	Columbus, Ohio (Dublin Coffman HS)
6	Olivia Forster	Fr.	G	5-6	Oldham, Greater Manchester (Copleston HS)
12	Cali Levine	R-So.	G	5-6	Vinton, Va. (Staunton River HS)
13	Lele Tanuvasa	R-Fr.	G	6-0	Eureka, Calif. (Colorado)
15	Ava Miller	Fr.	F	6-2	Rochester, Minn. (Mayo HS)
21	Rebekah Gordon	Sr.	F	6-1	New Boston, Ind. (Central Michigan)
22	Gracie Barnes	So.	G	5-9	Cincinnati, Ohio (Cincinnati Country Day School)
25	Cassie Gallagher	R-Fr.	G	5-11	Cookeville, Tenn. (Cookeville HS)
32	Madison Miller	Fr.	F	6-4	Hamburg, N.J. (Morris Catholic School)
33	AC Markham	Sr.	F	5-10	Murfreesboro, Tenn. (Providence Christian Acad.)
34	Vera Soderblom	R-So.	F	6-0	Gothenburg, Sweden (Lulea Gymnasieskola)
35	Aubrie Kierscht	R-So.	G	5-6	Salina, Kan. (Presbyterian)
42	Emma Blair	R-Fr.	F	6-2	Latrobe, Pa. (Greater Latrobe HS)

Head Coach: Jason Williams (Greensboro College, 2004), third season
Associate Head Coach: Steven Rhodes (UNC Wilmington, 2014), third season
Assistant Coach: Jennifer DeGraaf (UNC Wilmington, 2018), third season
Director of Basketball Operations: Chris Seymore, second season

PRONUNCIATIONS

0 Zor-uh Fray-Chinn | 1 Jen-ee Luh-veen | 2 Macy Why-ke (rhymes with Mike) | 6 Olivia Four-stir | 12 Cal-ee Luh-veen | 21 Rebecca Gordon | 33 Ay-see Markham | 34 Vera Soo-der-blom (say fast) | 35 Aubrey Keersht | AC Jennifer Duh-graph



BASKETBALL



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THE MATCHUP

Overall (D1 Era).....	0-4
Williams vs. Kentucky.....	0-1
First Meeting.....	Nov. 10, 2007
Last Meeting.....	Nov. 11, 2023
Last Upstate Win.....	
Last Kentucky Win.....	Nov. 11, 2023
Series Record at Upstate.....	0-0
Series Record at Kentucky.....	0-4
Series Record at Neutral Sites.....	0-0
Series Streak.....	Kentucky W4
Most Upstate Points.....	Nov. 10, 2007 (59)
Most Kentucky Points.....	Nov. 25, 2012 (100)
Fewest Upstate Points.....	Nov. 25, 2012 (34)
Fewest Kentucky Points.....	Dec. 19, 2021 (67)

ALL-TIME MEETINGS

Nov. 19, 2015 (Spartanburg, S.C.).....	UPST 84; SWU 51
Nov. 10, 2007 (Lexington, Ky.).....	UK 74; UPST 59
Nov. 25, 2012 (Lexington, Ky.).....	UK 100; UPST 34
Dec. 19, 2021 (Lexington, Ky.).....	UK 67; UPST 44
Nov. 11, 2023 (Lexington, Ky.).....	UK 82; UPST 54

STAT COMPARISONS

UPST	UK
..... Scoring Offense.....	
..... Scoring Defense.....	
..... Scoring Margin.....	
..... Field Goal Pct.....	
..... Field Goal Pct. Defense.....	
..... 3-PT Field Goal Pct.....	
..... 3-PT Field Goal Pct. Defense.....	
..... Free Throw Pct.....	
..... Rebounds/Game.....	
..... Rebounds Against/Game.....	
..... Rebounding Margin.....	
..... Assists/Game.....	
..... Turnovers/Game.....	
..... Turnovers Forced/Game.....	
..... Turnover Margin.....	
..... Steals/Game.....	
..... Blocks/Game.....	

GAME-BY-GAME STARTERS

Opponent	1	2	3	4	5
Kentucky					
UNC Greensboro					
South Carolina State					
Western Carolina					
Furman					
Queens					
Clinton College					
Morehead State					
Bellarmine					
Iowa State					
Kansas State					
Drake					
Lees-McRae					
Winthrop-1					
Presbyterian-1					
Radford-1					
UNC Asheville-1					
Gardner-Webb-1					
High Point-1					
Longwood-1					
Charleston Southern-1					
Radford-2					
Presbyterian-2					
Winthrop-2					
UNC Asheville-2					
Gardner-Webb-2					
Charleston Southern-2					
High Point-2					
Longwood-2					

LINEUP COMBINATIONS

Games	Record	Lineup
Game 1	0-0	

SHOOTING PERCENTAGE QUICK GLANCE

20% FG:
30% FG:
40% FG:
50% FG:
60% FG:

SHOOTING PERCENTAGE DEFENSE QUICK GLANCE

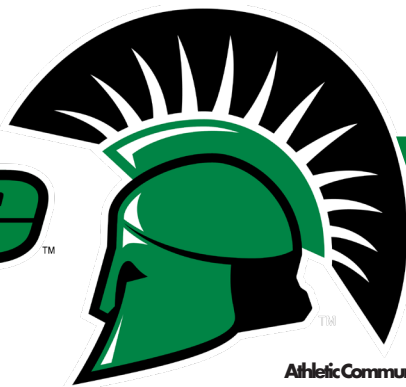
10% FG:
20% FG:
30% FG:
40% FG:
50% FG:
60% FG:

AT THE BREAK

LEADING (0):
TIED (0):
TRAILING (0):



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UPSTATE'S RECORD WHEN...

Category	OVR
Scoring First	0-0
Opp. Scores First	0-0
Leading After 1Q	0-0
Trailing After 1Q	0-0
Tied After 1Q	0-0
Leading at Half	0-0
Trailing at Half	0-0
Tied at Half	0-0
Leading After 3Q	0-0
Trailing After 3Q	0-0
Tied After 3Q	0-0
In Overtime	0-0
Decided by 1-4 Points	0-0
Decided by 5-9 Points	0-0
Decided by 10+ Points	0-0
Scoring 100+	0-0
Scoring 90-99	0-0
Scoring 80-89	0-0
Scoring 70-79	0-0
Scoring 60-69	0-0
Scoring 50-59	0-0
Scoring 49 or less	0-0
Opp. Scoring 100+	0-0
Opp. Scoring 90-99	0-0
Opp. Scoring 80-89	0-0
Opp. Scoring 70-79	0-0
Opp. Scoring 60-69	0-0
Opp. Scoring 50-59	0-0
Opp. Scoring 49 or less	0-0
50%-plus FG Pct.	0-0
40-49.9% FG Pct.	0-0
30-39.9% FG Pct.	0-0
20-29.9% FG Pct.	0-0
Opp. 50%-plus FG Pct.	0-0
Opp. 40-49.9% FG Pct.	0-0
Opp. 30-39.9% FG Pct.	0-0
Opp. 20-29.9% FG Pct.	0-0
Better FT% than Opp.	0-0
FT% is Equal	0-0
Opp. Better FT%	0-0
Outrebounding Opp.	0-0
Rebounds are Equal	0-0
Outrebounded by Opp.	0-0
Fewer TO than Opp.	0-0
TO are Equal	0-0
More TO than Opp.	0-0
5 in Double Figures	0-0
4 in Double Figures	0-0
3 in Double Figures	0-0
2 in Double Figures	0-0
1 in Double Figures	0-0
Bench Scores More	0-0
Bench Scoring Equal	0-0
Bench Scores Less	0-0
Wins Opening Tip	0-0
Loses Opening Tip	0-0

THE LAST TIME..

A Spartan...

Scored 20+ Points	February 14, 2024 vs. High Point; Trinity Johnson (22)
Scored 25+ Points	December 5, 2023 vs. Western Carolina; Isabel West (29)
Scored 30+ Points	February 26, 2022 vs. North Carolina A&T; Chellia Watson (32)
Scored 35+ Points	November 28, 2018 vs. South Carolina State; Brianna Lewis (35)
Had 10+ Rebounds	March 7, 2024 vs. Longwood; Rebekah Gordon & Isabel West (10)
Had 15+ Rebounds	February 23, 2022 vs. Longwood; Jada Logan (17)
Had 20+ Rebounds	February 15, 2016 vs. Florida Gulf Coast; Brittany Starling (24)
Had 7+ Assists	March 7, 2024 vs. Longwood; Trinity Johnson (10)
Had 10+ Assists	March 7, 2024 vs. Longwood; Trinity Johnson (10)
Had 12+ Assists	February 1, 2018 vs. Lipscomb; DeNisha Swain (12)
Had 5+ Blocks	November 16, 2019 vs. Mars Hill; Quadijah Moore (6)
Had 7+ Blocks	January 21, 1989 vs. USC Aiken; Carla Gambrell (7)
Had 5+ Steals	February 10, 2024 vs. UNC Asheville; Trinity Johnson (5)
Had 7+ Steals	November 16, 2021 vs. South Carolina State; Rachael Rose (7)
Had 10+ Steals	January 22, 2001 vs. Converse; Kia Manuel (10)
Made 5+ Three-Pointers	March 21, 2024 vs. College of Charleston; Dakota Reeves (5)
Made 7+ Three-Pointers	January 19, 2019 vs. Charleston Southern; Michaela Gibbons (7)
No Spartan Scored in Double-Figures	November 7, 2023 vs. Davidson
Three Spartans Scored in Double-Figures	March 7, 2024 vs. Longwood
Four Spartans Scored in Double-Figures	February 17, 2024 vs. Gardner-Webb
Five Spartans Scored in Double-Figures	December 5, 2022 vs. St. Andrews
Two Spartans with 10+ Rebounds	March 7, 2024 vs. Longwood
Two Spartans Scoring 20+ Points	March 6, 2021 vs. Charleston Southern
Recorded a Double-Double	March 7, 2024 vs. Longwood; Rebekah Gordon & Trinity Johnson
Multiple Spartans Recorded a Double-Double	March 7, 2024 vs. Longwood; Rebekah Gordon & Trinity Johnson
Recorded a Triple-Double	Unknown

USC Upstate...

Scored 100+ Points	November 28, 2021 vs. Mars Hill (102)
Scored 90+ Points	November 28, 2021 vs. Mars Hill (102)
Scored 80+ Points	February 16, 2022 vs. Presbyterian (80)
Scored 60 Points or Less	March 21, 2024 vs. College of Charleston (60)
Scored 50 Points or Less	March 9, 2024 vs. Radford (45)
Scored 40 Points or Less	November 9, 2023 vs. East Carolina (35)
Shot 60%+ from the Field	January 29, 2022 vs. Campbell (.625; 30-48)
Shot 55%+ from the Field	February 26, 2022 vs. North Carolina A&T (.554; 31-56)
Shot 50%+ from the Field	February 10, 2024 vs. UNC Asheville (.511; 24-47)
Shot 40% or Less from the Field	March 21, 2024 vs. College of Charleston (.351; 20-57)
Shot 35% or Less from the Field	March 9, 2024 vs. Radford (.294; 15-51)
Shot 30% or Less from the Field	March 9, 2024 vs. Radford (.294; 15-51)
Shot 55%+ from Three	January 29, 2022 vs. Campbell (.563; 9-16)
Shot 50%+ from Three	November 7, 2023 vs. Davidson (.545; 6-11)
Shot 45%+ from Three	February 10, 2024 vs. UNC Asheville (.450; 9-20)
Shot 30% or Less from Three	March 9, 2024 vs. Radford (.235; 4-17)
Played a Ranked Team	December 16, 2022 vs. No. 7 North Carolina (L, 89-47)
Played a Top-5 Team	November 21, 2019 vs. No. 5 South Carolina (L, 112-32)
Played an Overtime Game	February 3, 2024 vs. Radford (L, 67-61 [OT])
Won an Overtime Game	December 1, 2021 vs. Western Carolina (W, 58-51 [OT])



BASKETBALL



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AWARDS TRACKER

STAT RANKINGS (NCAA TOP-50)

USC Upstate

*Rankings through games...

SPECIALTY STATS

Paint Points

Upstate 0
Opponents 0

Points Off Turnover

Upstate 0
Opponents 0

Second-Chance Points

Upstate 0
Opponents 0

Fastbreak Points

Upstate 0
Opponent 0

Bench Points

Upstate 0
Opponent 0

Offensive Rebounds

Upstate 0
Opponent 0

Free Throws in Final 4 Mins.

Upstate 0-0
Opponents 0-0

MARGIN OF VICTORY/DEFEAT

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11-15	16-19	20-24	25+
Wins	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Losses	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

TEAM/OPPONENT SUPERLATIVES

Most First Quarter Points

USC Upstate --
Opponents --

Fewest First Quarter Points

USC Upstate --
Opponents --

Largest First Quarter Lead

USC Upstate --
Opponents --

Most Second Quarter Points

USC Upstate --
Opponents --

Fewest Second Quarter Points

USC Upstate --
Opponents --

Most First Half Points

USC Upstate --
Opponents --

Fewest First Half Points

USC Upstate --
Opponents --

Largest Halftime Lead

USC Upstate --
Opponents --

Most Third Quarter Points

USC Upstate --
Opponents --

Fewest Third Quarter Points

USC Upstate --
Opponents --

Largest Third Quarter Lead

USC Upstate --
Opponents --

Most Fourth Quarter Points

USC Upstate --
Opponents --

Fewest Fourth Quarter Points

USC Upstate --
Opponents --

Most Second Half Points

USC Upstate --
Opponents --

Fewest Second Half Points

USC Upstate --
Opponents --

Largest Margin of Victory

USC Upstate --
Opponents --

MISC. STATS/GAME STAT LEADERS

Jump Balls Controlled

USC Upstate 0
Opponents 0

Scored UPST's First Points

--

How Scored First Points

Jumper 0
Layup 0
Free Throw 0
Three-Pointer 0

First Off UPST Bench*

--

Points Leader*

--

3-Points Leader*

--

Rebounds Leader*

--

Assists Leader*

--

Blocks Leader*

--

10+ Point Games

--

15+ Point Games

--

20+ Point Games

--

10+ Rebound Games

--

15+ Rebound Games

--

Double-Doubles

--

Free Throws in Final 4 Mins.^

--

*Includes Ties

^Includes Overtime Periods



WILLIAMS' RECORD VERSUS...

Barton	11-11
Benedict	1-0
Bluefield State	2-0
Campbell	0-2
Catawba	0-2
Central Missouri	0-1
Charleston (W.Va.)	1-1
Charleston Southern	4-1
Chowan	8-0
Clayton State	1-0
Coker	4-3
College of Charleston	0-1
Converse	15-3
Davidson	0-1
Detroit Mercy	0-1
East Carolina	0-1
Elizabeth City State	1-0
Emmanuel	11-6
Erskine	12-6
Francis Marion	3-1
Furman	1-0
Gardner-Webb	2-2
Georgia College	0-1
Georgia Southwestern	0-1
Georgia Tech	0-1
High Point	2-3
Johnson & Wales	1-0
Johnson C. Smith	0-1
Kentucky	0-1
King	12-9
Lander	0-2
Lees-McRae	18-2
Lenoir-Rhyne	3-1
Limestone	6-11
Lincoln Memorial	1-0
Livingstone	2-1
Longwood	3-2
Mars Hill	4-0
Montreat	1-0
Morehead State	1-0
Mount Olive	12-6
Newberry	0-4
North Carolina	0-1
North Florida	1-0
North Georgia	1-0
North Greenville	14-4
Old Dominion	0-1
Pfeiffer	7-1
Presbyterian	2-2
Queens	0-2
Radford	2-3
Samford	0-1
Shaw	1-1
South Carolina State	1-0
Southern Wesleyan	14-2
Tusculum	2-3
UNC Asheville	3-1
UNC Greensboro	1-2
UNC Pembroke	0-4
Vanderbilt	0-1
Virginia State	0-1
Virginia Tech	0-1
Virginia Union	0-1
Warren Wilson	1-0
West Virginia	0-1
Western Carolina	1-1
Wingate	2-1
Winston-Salem	1-0
Winthrop	1-3

HEAD COACH JASON WILLIAMS



Jason Williams enters his third season as the head women's basketball coach at USC Upstate during the 2024-25 season after being introduced as the program's 16th head coach on April 22, 2022.

Williams' second season at the helm of the Spartan program saw Upstate qualify for its highest level of postseason basketball in the Division I era (2007-pres.), earning a bid to the 2024 WNIT. The bid followed the program's best regular season finish in the D1 era, finishing second

in the Big South standings and earning the No. 2 seed in the Big South Women's Basketball Championship. The Spartans advanced to the semifinal round of the Championship for the first time in program history.

Following the regular season, guard Trinity Johnson earned Big South Defensive Player of the Year honors, becoming the program's first conference Defensive Player of the Year. Under Williams' guidance, the Spartans led the Big South in three-point percentage and free-throw percentage in 2023-24.

During his first season coaching the Spartans, Williams' team went 11-20 overall and had a 7-11 conference record. Upstate began the year playing top teams such as West Virginia, Virginia Tech, Vanderbilt University, and UNC. When conference play started, the Spartans began with the best start in program history with three wins right off the bat over Charleston Southern, Radford and the program's first ever win over High Point. Upstate was able to secure a spot in the Big South Basketball Championship where they made it to the quarterfinals.

Prior to joining the Spartan program, Williams spent the last nine seasons as the head coach at Belmont Abbey College (Belmont, N.C.), leading the program to an aforementioned 171 wins, three NCAA Division II Tournament appearances, including the program's first-ever Elite Eight appearance in 2021-22, two Conference Carolinas regular season championships, and one Conference Carolinas tournament championship.

During his tenure at Belmont Abbey, Williams led the Crusaders to five 20-win seasons and has won 19 or more games in seven of his nine seasons, including a streak of five straight seasons. For his efforts, he's been named Conference Carolinas Coach of the Year on four occasions, taking home the honor in 2013-14, 2017-18, 2019-20, and 2020-21.

Leading the Crusader program, Williams' teams claimed consecutive Conference Carolinas championships, taking the regular season championship in 2019-20 and 2020-21 while winning the conference tournament championship in 2020-21. Under his leadership, the program appeared in three NCAA Division II Tournaments, earning the program's first tournament victory in 15 years during his first season in 2013-14 and advancing to the Elite Eight for the first time in program history in 2020-21 after earning the No. 1 seed in the NCAA Southeast Regional.

With 171 wins over the past nine seasons—making him the second-winningest NCAA women's basketball head coach in the state of North Carolina behind only NC State's Wes Moore—three combined conference titles, three NCAA appearances, and four conference Coach of the Year selections, Williams was selected as the next head coach in 2022.

Under his guidance, McKenzie Owens earned Conference Carolinas Player of the Year honors and an Honorable Mention All-American nod during the 2014-15 season, making her one of four Crusaders to earn the honor in program history. She also garnered back-to-back First Team All-Conference Carolinas selections in 2013-14 and 2014-15, becoming the first player in nearly 10 years to be named First Team in back-to-back seasons.

Under Williams' tutelage, Maria Kuhlman became Belmont Abbey's second Conference Carolinas Freshman of the Year winner in program history in 2017-18 before wrapping her career with three consecutive First Team All-Conference selections, becoming the first player in program history to earn First Team honors in three straight seasons.

In addition to the program's major award winners and 21 All-Conference Carolinas selections, Williams' Crusader program has seen 29 Academic All-Conference Carolinas selections with his teams holding a 100 percent graduation rate. His program has also claimed three Messick Sportsmanship Awards—an award given to the institution that demonstrates the best overall sportsmanship as voted on by conference coaches—from Conference Carolinas, most recently in 2021-22.

Prior to rejoining the Belmont Abbey athletic department as its women's basketball head coach, Williams spent a season on staff at Jacksonville State University in 2012-13 following eight seasons on the Crusaders' men's basketball staff from 2004-2012.

CAREER NOTES

Coaching Experience

2004-12
2012-13
2013-22
2022-pres.

Belmont Abbey
Jacksonville State
Belmont Abbey
USC Upstate

MBB Assistant Coach
Assistant Coach
Head Coach
Head Coach

YEAR-BY-YEAR COACHING RECORD

Year	School	Position	Overall	Conf.	Postseason
2013-14	Belmont Abbey	Head Coach	22-9	15-3	NCAA 2nd Round
2014-15	Belmont Abbey	Head Coach	20-10	15-7	
2015-16	Belmont Abbey	Head Coach	8-21	7-16	
2016-17	Belmont Abbey	Head Coach	11-17	9-13	
2017-18	Belmont Abbey	Head Coach	19-9	16-4	
2018-19	Belmont Abbey	Head Coach	21-10	15-5	
2019-20	Belmont Abbey	Head Coach	27-3	21-1	NCAA SE Regional
2020-21	Belmont Abbey	Head Coach	24-3	15-1	NCAA Elite Eight
2021-22	Belmont Abbey	Head Coach	19-9	17-6	
Belmont Abbey Totals		9 Seasons	171-91	130-56	

Year	School	Position	Overall	Conf.	Postseason
2022-23	USC Upstate	Head Coach	11-20	7-11	
2023-24	USC Upstate	Head Coach	16-16	10-6	WNIT
2024-25	USC Upstate	Head Coach	0-0	0-0	
USC Upstate Totals		3rd Season	27-36	17-17	

Head Coach Totals

Belmont Abbey	9 Seasons	171-91	130-56
USC Upstate	3rd Season	27-36	17-17
Career Totals	12th Season	198-127	147-73



TV / Radio Chart



0 ▶ Zora Fray-Chinn
G ▶ 5-11 ▶ R-Jr.
Orlando, Fla.



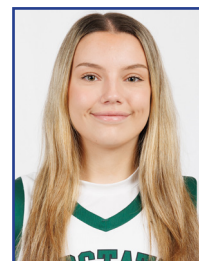
1 ▶ Jeni Levine
G ▶ 5-6 ▶ Jr.
Vinton, Va.



2 ▶ Macy Wike
G ▶ 5-9 ▶ So.
Cullowhee, N.C.



3 ▶ Gwen Jenkins
G ▶ 5-9 ▶ Fr.
Columbus, Ohio



6 ▶ Olivia Forster
G ▶ 5-6 ▶ Fr.
Oldham, Greater Manchester



12 ▶ Cali Levine
G ▶ 5-6 ▶ R-So.
Vinton, Va.



13 ▶ Lele Tanuvasa
G ▶ 6-0 ▶ R-Fr.
Eureka, Calif.



15 ▶ Ava Miller
F ▶ 6-2 ▶ Fr.
Rochester, Minn.



21 ▶ Rebekah Gordon
F ▶ 6-1 ▶ Sr.
New Boston, Ind.



22 ▶ Gracie Barnes
G ▶ 5-9 ▶ So.
Cincinnati, Ohio



25 ▶ Cassie Gallagher
G ▶ 5-11 ▶ R-Fr.
Cookeville, Tenn.



32 ▶ Madison Miller
F ▶ 6-4 ▶ Fr.
Hamburg, N.J.



33 ▶ AC Markham
F ▶ 5-10 ▶ Sr.
Murfreesboro, Tenn.



34 ▶ Vera Soderblom
F ▶ 6-0 ▶ R-So.
Gothenburg, Sweden



35 ▶ Aubrie Kierscht
G ▶ 5-6 ▶ R-So.
Salina, Kan.



42 ▶ Emma Blair
F ▶ 6-2 ▶ R-Fr.
Latrobe, Pa.



Head Coach
Jason Williams
Third Season



Associate Head Coach
Steven Rhodes
Third Season



Assistant Coach
Jennifer DeGraaf
Third Season



BASKETBALL



Women's Basketball Game Notes

Athletic Communications | 800 University Way | Contact: Kendra Toman (KT24@uscupstate.edu)

CAREER AND SEASON HIGHS

#0 Zora Fray-Chinn

*Includes 2021-22 Season at Wright State

STAT	SEASON HIGHS	CAREER HIGHS
Points	--	14, 2x, last vs. Radford (2/3/24)
Rebounds	--	7, 4x, last vs. Radford (2/3/24)
Assists	--	4 vs. High Point (2/14/24)
Steals	--	3 vs. Longwood (2/15/23)
Blocks	--	3 vs. UNC Asheville (1/3/24)
FG Made	--	7 vs. UNC Greensboro (11/23/22)
3-Pt FG	--	3, 3x, last vs. UNC Greensboro (2/17/24)
FT Made	--	4 vs. UNC Greensboro (12/18/23)
Minutes	--	33 vs. High Point (2/18/23)

#1 Jeni Levine

STAT	SEASON HIGHS	CAREER HIGHS
Points	--	18 vs. UNC Asheville (1/3/24)
Rebounds	--	7 vs. Radford (3/9/24)
Assists	--	6 vs. Morehead State (12/12/22)
Steals	--	5 vs. Western Carolina (12/5/23)
Blocks	--	1, 9x, last vs. Longwood (3/7/24)
FG Made	--	5, 8x, last vs. Presbyterian (2/28/24)
3-Pt FG	--	2, 5x, last vs. High Point (1/24/24)
FT Made	--	8 vs. UNC Asheville (1/3/24)
Minutes	--	38 vs. Longwood (2/15/23)

#2 Macy Wike

STAT	SEASON HIGHS	CAREER HIGHS
Points	--	5 vs. Winthrop (1/6/24)
Rebounds	--	2 vs. Charleston Southern (1/13/24)
Assists	--	1 vs. Longwood (1/17/24)
Steals	--	2 vs. Winthrop (1/6/24)
Blocks	--	1 vs. Charleston Southern (1/13/24)
FG Made	--	2 vs. Winthrop (1/6/24)
3-Pt FG	--	1, 3x, last vs. Winthrop (1/6/24)
FT Made	--	3 vs. Davidson (11/7/23)
Minutes	--	20 vs. Winthrop (1/6/24)

#3 Gwen Jenkins

STAT	SEASON HIGHS
Points	--
Rebounds	--
Assists	--
Steals	--
Blocks	--
FG Made	--
3-Pt FG	--
FT Made	--
Minutes	--

#6 Olivia Forster

STAT	SEASON HIGHS
Points	--
Rebounds	--
Assists	--
Steals	--
Blocks	--
FG Made	--
3-Pt FG	--
FT Made	--
Minutes	--

#12 Cali Levine

STAT	SEASON HIGHS	CAREER HIGHS
Points	--	14 vs. Southern Wesleyan (11/7/22)
Rebounds	--	5 vs. Lees-McRae (11/14/23)
Assists	--	3 vs. High Point (1/7/23)
Steals	--	2, 2x, last vs. Charleston Southern (3/1/23)
Blocks	--	--
FG Made	--	5 vs. Southern Wesleyan (11/7/22)
3-Pt FG	--	3 vs. Southern Wesleyan (11/7/22)
FT Made	--	5 vs. Charleston Southern (2/8/23)
Minutes	--	30 vs. Virginia Tech (11/14/22)

#13 Lele Tanuvasa

*Includes 2023-24 season at Colorado

STAT	SEASON HIGHS	CAREER HIGHS
Points	--	--
Rebounds	--	--
Assists	--	--
Steals	--	--
Blocks	--	--
FG Made	--	--
3-Pt FG	--	--
FT Made	--	--
Minutes	--	--

#15 Ava Miller

STAT	SEASON HIGHS
Points	--
Rebounds	--
Assists	--
Steals	--
Blocks	--
FG Made	--
3-Pt FG	--
FT Made	--
Minutes	--

#21 Rebekah Gordon

*Includes 2021-22 Season at Central Michigan

STAT	SEASON HIGHS	CAREER HIGHS
Points	--	21 vs. Queens (12/20/22)
Rebounds	--	11 vs. High Point (3/2/23)
Assists	--	3 vs. College of Charleston (3/21/24)
Steals	--	4 vs. Charleston Southern (1/13/24)
Blocks	--	2 vs. Campbell (2/1/23)
FG Made	--	8 vs. Kentucky (11/11/23)
3-Pt FG	--	2, 3x, last vs. Gardner-Webb (2/17/24)
FT Made	--	10 vs. Queens (12/20/22)
Minutes	--	38 vs. High Point (3/2/23)

#22 Gracie Barnes

STAT	SEASON HIGHS	CAREER HIGHS
Points	--	10 vs. Longwood (1/17/24)
Rebounds	--	4 vs. Lees-McRae (11/14/23)
Assists	--	2, 2x, last vs. Gardner-Webb (2/17/24)
Steals	--	1, 4x, last vs. Radford (3/9/24)
Blocks	--	1 vs. Queens (11/17/24)
FG Made	--	4 vs. Longwood (1/17/24)
3-Pt FG	--	2, 2x, last vs. Presbyterian (1/31/24)
FT Made	--	2, 4x, last vs. College of Charleston (3/21/24)
Minutes	--	24 vs. Longwood (1/17/24)

#25 Cassie Gallagher

STAT	SEASON HIGHS	CAREER HIGHS
Points	--	--
Rebounds	--	--
Assists	--	--
Steals	--	--
Blocks	--	--
FG Made	--	--
3-Pt FG	--	--
FT Made	--	--
Minutes	--	--

#32 Madison Miller

STAT	SEASON HIGHS
Points	--
Rebounds	--
Assists	--
Steals	--
Blocks	--
FG Made	--
3-Pt FG	--
FT Made	--
Minutes	--



Women's Basketball Game Notes

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CAREER AND SEASON HIGHS

#33 AC Markham

STAT	SEASON HIGHS	CAREER HIGHS
Points	--	17 vs. Charleston Southern (2/8/23)
Rebounds	--	11 vs. Gardner-Webb (1/27/24)
Assists	--	6 vs. Winthrop (2/12/23)
Steals	--	3 vs. Bob Jones (12/16/21)
Blocks	--	3 vs. High Point (2/14/24)
FG Made	--	6 vs. Charleston Southern (2/8/23)
3-Pt FG	--	2, 4x, last vs. Charleston Southern (2/21/24)
FT Made	--	5 vs. Charleston Southern (2/8/23)
Minutes	--	34 vs. Charleston Southern (2/21/24)

#34 Vera Soderblom

STAT	SEASON HIGHS	CAREER HIGHS
Points	--	8 vs. Montreat (12/14/22)
Rebounds	--	8, 2x, last vs. Gardner-Webb (1/25/23)
Assists	--	1, 4x, last vs. Gardner-Webb (1/25/23)
Steals	--	2 vs. North Carolina (12/16/22)
Blocks	--	2 vs. Gardner-Webb (1/25/23)
FG Made	--	4 vs. Montreat (12/14/22)
3-Pt FG	--	--
FT Made	--	2 vs. UNC Asheville (1/21/23)
Minutes	--	20, 2x, last vs. North Carolina (12/16/22)

#35 Aubrie Kierscht

*Includes 2022-23 and 2023-24 season at Presbyterian

STAT	SEASON HIGHS	CAREER HIGHS
Points	--	18, 2x, last vs. USC Upstate (1/18/23)
Rebounds	--	7 vs. UNC Asheville (1/25/23)
Assists	--	5 vs. Longwood (1/21/23)
Steals	--	4 vs. Winthrop (1/28/23)
Blocks	--	--
FG Made	--	7 vs. USC Upstate (1/18/23)
3-Pt FG	--	6 vs. Winthrop (1/4/23)
FT Made	--	10 vs. Gardner-Webb (2/4/23)
Minutes	--	36, 2x, last vs. Longwood (2/8/23)

#42 Emma Blair

STAT	SEASON HIGHS	CAREER HIGHS
Points	--	--
Rebounds	--	--
Assists	--	--
Steals	--	--
Blocks	--	--
FG Made	--	--
3-Pt FG	--	--
FT Made	--	--
Minutes	--	--