

## Women's Seniors: Most Likely to Succeed

CONNECT

By [Beno Picciano](#)

Hoya Staff Writer

**Published:** Wednesday, November 2, 2011**Updated:** Friday, November 4, 2011 02:11

In the fall of 2008, seven freshmen arrived on the Hilltop to join a program whose name instilled little fear in the hearts of opponents. Georgetown was fresh off a campaign in which it had struggled to stay above .500, finishing 15-14 overall and stumbling to a 5-11 conference record with no postseason. The Blue and Gray had not won a Big East tournament game in seven years, and over 15 seasons had passed since their one and only trip to the NCAA tournament.

Fortunately for the future of Hoyas basketball, none of those freshmen cared.

With a disciplined work ethic and naive fearlessness, the seven recruits redefined the character of a program that desperately needed direction. Three years later, they enter their senior season on the heels of two consecutive NCAA appearances, a trip to the Sweet 16 and a campaign in which the Hoyas stayed in the top 25 all season.

"I think the seven seniors came in with a different type of attitude and mindset," Head Coach Terri Williams-Flournoy said. "It wasn't so much, 'OK, we're not supposed to be that good, we're not supposed to win this game,' but they just came in with a different type of attitude: 'Why not? Who said so?' ... They are definitely the seven that came in and helped us turn this program



Seniors highlighted at this year's Midnight Madness from left to right: Adria Crawford, Alexa Roche, Rubylee Wright, Tia Magee, Amanda Reese, Tommacina McBride, Morgan Williams.



around."

"We just wanted to win. That's all we knew. ... We weren't really worried about the past, the records and who we were supposed to lose to. We were basketball players just like every other team," senior forward Tia Magee said.

"We just went into every game fearless. We just wanted to play ball like everybody else, and our mentality reflected onto all our teammates. Winning and not accepting less than that is just kind of our mentality as a team now."

The start to this diverse but cohesive group's final year is symbolic of the end of a transitional stage for the Georgetown program — one from mediocrity to national prominence. Even as the ephemeral nature of their collegiate careers has become apparent, "the seven" are determined to continue their progress.

"It's a lot more exciting. ... I have a sense of urgency," senior guard Alexa Roche said. "We don't have time to mess up. We need to get to where we were at the end of last year before [our] first game."

Given the departure of guard Monica McNutt, the heart and soul of last year's team, the eldest Hoyas will need to assume greater responsibility and leadership on and off the court. For Magee and senior point guard Rubylee Wright, two close friends who return to the Blue and Gray's starting lineup, it's clear that the veterans' time is now.

"I have to be prepared for my teammates, and I started to realize I'm the oldest now. There's nobody to baby me. I'm supposed to be there to answer all the questions, show them how to work, show them what they're supposed to do. I have to set the example," Magee said.

Leading last year's team in rebounding — a traditionally difficult statistical category for past Blue and Gray squads — with 5.2 boards per game, Magee's big presence down low reflects the major contributions she is anticipated to make this season, both statistically and intangibly.

"I think the team listens to her well, and I feel that through her hard work she's able to make everybody else [reach] her level and work just as hard," Wright said. "She will yell at you on defense if you aren't getting that stop or that steal, and I think that her energy that she brings



COURTESY GEORGETOWN SPORTS ORGANIZATION



A championship appears to be within the seniors' grasp this year. Most early national rankings place the Hoyas in the top 10.

to the team will help everybody play better."

Magee can convert opportunities from her customary position at the post but is also capable of knocking down mid-range and longer jump-shots. While junior All-American guard Sugar Rodgers led last year's team with 18.7 points per game, Magee is also expected to fill the slot of the primary supporting scorer. Magee was third on the team last year with 8.2 points per game.

"This year I'll need to be more of a leader, more outspoken, more of a point scorer and do the little things, but it's stuff that I'm very capable of doing," Magee said.

Wright, Georgetown's assists leader with 5.0 helpers per game last season, is by far one of the smallest players on the floor at 5-foot-3, but the playmaker's on-court presence and demeanor make up for it.

"Even though Monica was not the point guard, she was still the leader on the floor. Now it's Ruby's turn to be the general on the floor," Williams-Flournoy said.

Wright is largely charged with the responsibility of facilitating an up-tempo style of play which has characterized itself as one of quick transitions. Not only will she look to continue her on-court contributions in distribution, scoring and defense, but Wright will need to help guide the newer guards on the team.

"She's been doing a really good job of running the team and fixing the little things and making good suggestions. She keeps the team going," Magee said of her teammate. "She has already been a great, great leader for the guards and point guards that are just coming in. She's done a good job of instructing them and teaching them."

In addition, Roche has made strides to establish herself as a leader, and senior forward Adria Crawford — the Hoyas' spark plug and hustle player in the paint — will continue her vital contributions.

The senior class is rounded out by forward Tommacina McBride, guard Morgan Williams and redshirt junior forward Amanda Reese.

"I think we have a lot of pressure on us to grow up, and I think we're reaching that point. We have this chip on our shoulder because everybody's saying, 'Oh, the seven freshmen, seven sophomores, seven juniors, seven seniors.' There's so much pressure relying on that," Crawford said. "I think we know it's time to step up, so it's a really exciting moment to [start] the season."




"Our class, we're loud, we're outgoing, we're the most excited. We can be obnoxious, but we're also the most eager."  
-Senior forward Tia Magee

Results notwithstanding, one thing is for certain: This year's senior unit will lead, and they will lead with the same enthusiasm that they have brought to the program in their first three years as Hoyas.

"Our class, we're loud, we're outgoing, we're the most excited. We can be obnoxious, but we're also the most eager," Magee said.

While they may not always top the scorecard or make the headlines, the Class of 2011 has its eye on besting last year's Sweet 16 performance. Regardless of the team's ability to successfully navigate through a rigorous schedule, "the seven" have already made their lasting impact on a program — one that won't be soon forgotten.



## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | Don Set High for No. 10 Georgetown

CONNECT



By [Preston Barclay](#) and [Pat Curran](#)

Hoya Staff Writers

**Published:** Thursday, November 10, 2011

**Updated:** Thursday, November 10, 2011 21:11

The No. 10 Georgetown women's basketball team is set to tip off the 2011-2012 season against Longwood tonight at McDonough Arena.

The Blue and Gray return 12 players after graduating only one senior, guard Monica McNutt, from last year's squad and hope to build on last season's run to the Sweet 16.

The 2011-12 Hoyas were recently ranked No. 10 in the country in the Associated Press Preseason Poll and No. 11 in the USA Today/ESPN Preseason Coaches' Poll — their highest preseason rankings ever. These high ratings have generated lofty expectations, but Head Coach Terri Williams-Flournoy has her players focused on the task at hand.

"I told our players not to look at this as a stress. ... It's nothing but another challenge. It's another season beginning with another challenge for us," Williams-Flournoy said. "Are we excited to go into this season? Absolutely. At this point, you're tired of playing against each other, you're ready to go out and play a game now."

Expected to lead the way for Georgetown in the season opener are junior guard Sugar Rodgers, who led the Hoyas in scoring last year with 18.7 points per game, and seniors Rubylee Wright, Tia Magee, and Adria Crawford, who join her in the starting lineup. Either senior guard Alexa Roche or senior forward Tommacina McBride will likely round out the starting five, and junior



FILE PHOTO: CHRIS BIEN/THE HOYA

Junior guard Sugar Rodgers was the Big East's second-leading scorer last season and was named to the Wooden Award top-30 watch list.

center Sydney Wilson is expected to play a bigger role than she has in the past.

"The players that we are expecting to step up this year need to begin stepping up with this game," Williams-Flournoy said. "It's [Wilson's] junior year, she's healthy and I think that helps Sydney as far as her mindset."

Georgetown's Friday night opponent, Longwood, is a Division I Independent from Farmville, Va. The Lancers return four starters from a team that finished the 2010-2011 campaign with a 7-23 record.

Longwood is led by senior forward Brittanni Billups, who led the team in both scoring and rebounding last year with 9.4 points and 6.7 boards per game. She is joined in the lineup by three fellow returning starters: Senior guard Mina Jovanovic, junior forward Chelsea Coward and junior guard Erin Neal. Longwood also returns three other players and welcomes three freshmen to the roster.

"Their four and their five are their two leading scorers," Williams-Flournoy said. "They're very long, lanky athletic post players that we have to be ready to sit down and defend."

Despite their struggles, the Lancers are likely to give the Hoyas several different looks under first-year Head Coach Bill Reinson. During Reinson's reign as interim head coach last season, 10 different players appeared in the starting lineup for Longwood and 12 players averaged more than 10 minutes of playing time per contest.

Virtually every player who touches the floor is a scoring option for the Lancers, but without a go-to player that can take over a game like the Hoyas' Rodgers, Longwood lacks the scoring punch to penetrate the Georgetown defense, which terrorized opponents last year.

The Blue and Gray will look to get out early against the likely overmatched Lancers, so it is possible that some of the younger players could make an appearance in the second half as Georgetown tries to shake off the rust of a long offseason. But talented as they are, the freshmen — Taylor Brown, Brittany Horne and Jasmine Jackson — likely will not see major floor time this season on a veteran-heavy squad.

"The freshmen won't look like freshmen," Williams-Flournoy said. "In all honesty, with such a veteran team, it's almost time that they will have to sit back and wait their turn a little bit. But I think they still will get playing time."

## Magee starts to step up

Written by [Melissa Sullivan](#) on [November 10, 2011](#) in [Sports](#).  
[No Comments](#).

Tia Magee has had unquestionable success through her first three seasons. The 6-foot-2 senior forward has started almost every game since her sophomore year, averaging 8.7 points and 4.5 boards per game last season. Her junior season was all the more impressive, considering she was battling back from an ACL tear.

But all of these achievements are not enough for Magee. She wants to continue to improve this season and make a memorable impact on the Georgetown women's basketball program, specifically with regard to her offensive game.

"I'm a pretty hard worker," Magee said. "I'm the defensive player on the team, but I think offensively ... I'm going to be a lot more aggressive, putting up a lot more points and shots in the game."

Head coach Terri Williams-Flournoy agrees with her, especially after Monica McNutt, last season's lone senior, graduated this past spring.

"Tia's got to score more," Williams-Flournoy said. "Tia Magee has to score the points this year."

McNutt's departure marks a significant loss for the Hoyas. She ranked second on the team in scoring with an average of 11.2 points per game, not to mention first in both total steals (73) and her 85.9 shooting percent from the line. Still, with seven seniors leading the team this year, Magee has high expectations.

"One of the big things that we really want is to win the Big East," Magee said.

"We're always a contender, [and] we're always beating some of the big teams."

But a Big East title is just one of the objectives set for this season. The Hoyas will look to surpass their Sweet 16 run in the NCAA Tournament from a year ago, where they fell to UConn despite Magee contributing a team-high 13 rebounds.

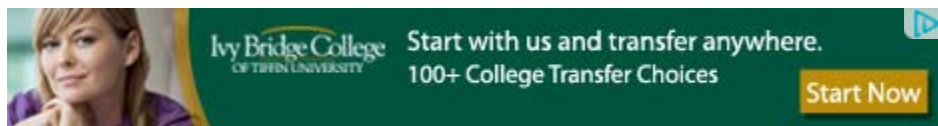
"We've managed to [get further in the NCAA Tournament] every year," Magee said. "Now, we're hoping to get past the Sweet 16."

Magee doesn't just want to lead the team on the court. She hopes to bring the players together off the court as well with her experience.

"I'm hoping to ... just be there to uplift my teammates," Magee said. "I'm a senior, I'm a veteran. I've been through this and been at the bottom and been at the top. I want to be there as an example to the young ones to show that you can do it and not hold your head down low."

Whatever the season holds for the Hoyas, Magee's priority is enjoying it with her teammates as they grow together.

"Women's basketball is like a journey," Magee said. "It's more about the bonding with girls, maturing and growing with people ... as a team, I hope we grow and mature, and we use basketball as that tool."



## No Comments [»](#)

[RSS feed for comments on this post.](#) [TrackBack URL](#)

---

### Leave a Reply

Name (required)

Mail (will not be published) (required)

Website

## Coming back for more: Women's Preview

Written by [Abby Sherburne](#) on [November 10, 2011](#) in [Sports](#).

[No Comments](#).

While most teams would be happy with advancing to the Sweet Sixteen in their third-ever trip to the NCAA Tournament, that wasn't satisfying for the Georgetown women's basketball team. The Hoyas fell in a heartbreaking loss to the perennially dominant Connecticut Huskies last March, a game that head coach Terri Williams-Flournoy called a "giveaway."

"I don't think about it," junior guard Sugar Rodgers said. "I won't even go back and watch the tape."

Thankfully, the No. 10 Hoyas don't have to wait too long for some good competition. After the season opener against Longwood, the women will head to College Park to take on No. 11 Maryland. Last year the Hoyas posted two wins against the Terrapins, winning bragging rights in the D.C. area. The early road test figures to be a gauge of the team's toughness.

"It's going to be an all out brawl," senior forward Tia Magee said. "I think the crowd is going to be crazy. It's just going to be crazy."

Leadership will be crucial if the Hoyas are to win in hostile environments. Living up to their preseason top ten ranking means overcoming the loss of last year's lone senior, Monica McNutt, who Williams-Flournoy saw as crucial to the team's success.

"We need someone to step up and be the leader that [McNutt] was for this team," Williams-Flournoy said. "We're waiting to see who's going to step up to that role."

Magee is taking that challenge personally. Already a vocal leader for the team, she improved drastically throughout the course of last season after recovering from an injury.

"A lot of us have to step up, especially me," Magee said. "I'm a captain this year ... everybody's looking at me."

But Magee's senior leadership alone won't be enough for the Hoyas. Magee may be the loudest voice in the locker room, but Williams-Flournoy said senior point guard Rubylee Wright has "got to run this team" and be the leader on the floor.

From the rest of the senior class, Williams-Flournoy is expecting strong presence as well. Forward Adria Crawford is a physical force in the paint, while guard Alexa Roche is a scoring spark whose perimeter play will help fill the void McNutt left behind.

This year's senior class first brought the Hoyas the scrappy and quick play that has thrust the program forward in recent years. Known for their trapping press and relentless defense, Williams-Flournoy's recent teams have relied on quickness to compensate for weaknesses like rebounding. This up-tempo style of play helped the Hoyas have the best turnover margin in the Big East last season.

The incoming freshmen are still adjusting to this style, but luckily they have plenty of experienced players who can lead by example. Particularly important in this regard is Rodgers, who finished second in the Big East in scoring last year with 18.7 points per game. She said she thinks this is Georgetown's year to "win it all." Williams-Flournoy isn't yet convinced, and thinks Rodgers still needs to step up her game, despite her All-Big East performance last season.

"I think there's a lot out there for Sugar Rodgers to do," Williams-Flournoy said. "There are a lot of things that she has not done that she needs to get serious about and buckle down. She has not made anything. The only thing she's won is Big East Freshman of the Year and Big East First Team ... she needs to start making national recognition."

Tough non-conference matchups such as Maryland and Miami will force Rodgers and the Hoyas to play to their potential early in the season. The team must be careful, however, not to wear down before a trying Big East schedule. The conference is a juggernaut again this year, with six teams in the preseason top 25. Nevertheless, the Hoyas remain confident in their ability to rise above a stacked Big East field.

"Of course we have high expectations, as does the nation," Magee said. "We're top ten in the nation, highest that we've been ever."

It's where you finish that counts though, and with an early target on their back, the Hoyas can expect everyone's best game.

It's a welcome challenge for the Hoyas, as they prepare to take on Longview on Friday. "This is where we worked to get to," Williams-Flournoy said. "This is what we deserve. This is what we've always wanted."

#### [UMUC Cybersecurity Degree](#)

Earn a BS/MS in Cybersecurity from a leader in online education.

[www.umuc.edu/cybersecurity](http://www.umuc.edu/cybersecurity)

AdChoices 

## No Comments [»](#)

[RSS feed for comments on this post.](#) [TrackBack URL](#)

---

### Leave a Reply

Name (required)

Mail (will not be published) (required)

Website

## Quick Learners

By [Maggie Law](#)

Hoya Staff Writer

**Published:** Wednesday, November 2, 2011

**Updated:** Friday, November 4, 2011 02:11

CONNECT



With seven seniors and three juniors leading the women's basketball team this season, it may be tough for underclassmen to make an impact on the court. But if any players are up to the job, freshmen Taylor Brown, Brittany Horne and Jasmine Jackson are.

"The freshmen will be good this season," junior guard Sugar Rodgers said. "Taylor, she's going to get to the basket and she's going to score. Brittany's going to hit threes and play defense, and Jasmine's just going to do what the other two don't."

Brown and Jackson will play next to Rodgers at guard this season while Horne will fill in at forward. All three rookies are known for their fearless mentality and the intense level of play they bring to the hardwood.

"They play hard all the time," senior forward Tia Magee said. "Defensively, it doesn't matter if the person's bigger than them or if they don't know what they're doing, they still play hard."

All three freshmen bring strong offensive skills and much-needed scoring power to the Hoyas this season. Brown tallied over 1,500 points in her high school career, averaging 20 points and five assists per game during her senior season. Horne also hit the 1,000-point mark her senior year, ending her high school career with over 1,200 points and an average of 18 points per game. Jackson averaged 30.2 points per game as a senior and graduated as the all-time leading scorer from Old Bridge High School with 1,845 career points.

"Taylor brings in the scoring capability that every team needs, and we definitely needed



Taylor Brown, named 2011 player of the year by the Washington Post, averaged 20 points per game as a high school senior and won multiple player of the year awards last season. she's the headliner of this class, so look for her to be the first freshman to step on the court at McDonough Arena.

another scorer," Head Coach Terri Williams-Flournoy said. "She's practicing and training well, and she went through preseason like it was nothing. I think she's probably going to make the biggest impact right away."

Brown didn't travel far from home when she chose to play on the Hilltop. The 5-foot-7 point guard was a four-year letter winner and two-year captain at Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, Md. Last spring she was named the 2011 player of the year by The Washington Post and the 2011 Gatorade player of the year for the state of Maryland.

The rookie guard may be small, but she doesn't let her height fool anyone.

"Taylor — she's so little, but she's so quick and she's so fearless," Magee said. "She's not afraid of anything. If she gets to play, she's going to go score."

Jackson, on the other hand, does bring some size to the court this season. The 5-foot-9 freshman was named the No. 26 point guard prospect in the class of 2011 and No. 8 in MSG Varsity's top players from New Jersey.

"When Jasmine plays, I know she'll be really, really good," Magee said. "She's a point guard, but she's also a shooter. She's really strong, but more importantly, she's mentally strong for a freshman."

The Hoyas will look to Jackson's impressive ballhandling skills as well as her high energy level and uncanny feel for the game.

"Jasmine brings in a good point guard quality," Williams-Flournoy said. "She's a big, strong guard, and she knows how to run a team."

Horne stands out in the freshman class as the only forward but will likely prove to be a key post player for the Blue and Gray this season. The rookie was named first team all-state as a senior at Carmel High School in New York after averaging 15 rebounds and 2.2 blocks per game. She was also nominated for the McDonald's High School All-American game alongside classmates Brown and Jackson.

Combining these diverse talents, Georgetown's freshmen can certainly make a big impact on



---

Brittany Horne. Tia Magee now has a protege. The only frontcourt freshman, Horne was an all-state first team member in New York and averaged 18 points, 15 rebounds, and 2.2 blocks per game as a high school senior.

the team this season.

"I feel like this season they won't just be the freshmen that sit on the bench and wait their turn. They'll give us good minutes, and they'll give us good plays," Magee said. "They'll come in and they'll know their role, and they'll do it to the best of their ability."

However, given the toughness of the Big East and the experience the Blue and Gray already has, the amount of playing time for the three newcomers may be limited.

"I really don't know how much of an impact the freshmen will have on the team this year, just because we are junior- and senior-heavy," Williams-Flournoy said. "The biggest impact will probably be Taylor. For Jasmine and Brittany, I think as we get closer to the Big East they will get over being freshmen and become the players that they are capable of being."

"They all bring in different qualities that are helpful," she said. "Now all they have to do is learn how to turn it up a notch and go from high school to college. But the fact that they come to Georgetown says that they want to compete."

While the freshmen may not see major minutes this season, they will bring their hard work to the court and help the Hoyas as they pursue their ultimate goal: an NCAA championship.

"They're babies, but they're learning and they're eager to learn," Magee said. "They just go, go, go."



---

Jasmine Jackson. Jackson was an all-state first team member on the other side of the Hudson River. She was ranked the No. 8 player in New Jersey by MSG Varsity and averaged a staggering 30.2 points per game for Old Bridge High School last year.

## The Next Step

By [Beno Picciano](#)

Hoya Staff Writer

**Published:** Wednesday, November 2, 2011

**Updated:** Friday, November 4, 2011 02:11

CONNECT



Advancing to the Sweet 16 and narrowly falling to the most storied program in women's basketball might have been satisfactory for any other program that had qualified for the NCAA tournament just twice in its history.

But for a Georgetown squad that returns 12 Hoyas to the hardwood this winter, including two-time All-American junior guard Sugar Rodgers, this year's end goal is something slightly sweeter.

"I'm just hungry to win. ... This year we want to go past the Sweet 16. We've been there twice, and I'm sick of that," Rodgers said. "I think this is our year, and I'm going to keep saying that, too."

If the Blue and Gray's high hopes are to become reality, however, the experienced squad must find a way to fill the gaping void left by the graduation of floor general Monica McNutt. With seven seniors and three juniors filling out a roster ripe with upperclassmen, Georgetown is far from lacking in veterans who are ready to assume vital leadership positions.

"Although our expectations are high, and everyone out there thinks that we are supposed to do extremely well this year, if we don't have [players] step up and become the leaders that we need them to be — on and off the court — that is something that could affect us in a negative way," Head Coach Terri Williams-Flournoy said. "I think they've really understood that, and we've had a lot of



Rubylee Wright.



Preseason all-Big East selection Sugar Rodgers.

seniors step up."

The Hoyas are renowned for their up-tempo, pressure-oriented style of play, forcing opponents into turnovers and capitalizing for quick points. In contrast, the Blue and Gray have been relatively less effective in other areas, such as rebounding. With many key pieces returning to a group which is expected to earn its third consecutive NCAA tournament berth, not a great deal of change is expected with respect to team strengths and weaknesses.



Tia Magee.

"We put in a different press, just something to add a little more aggravation to teams, but we just want to continue to do the things we do well — running in transition, pressure defense," Williams-Flournoy said. "Of course, we probably need to rebound better, but that's really nothing to practice upon, we just keep emphasizing it and hope that one day it will happen."

Rodgers led last year's team in scoring with 18.7 points per game, which was second-best in the talent-rich Big East. The junior has received national acclaim for her offensive explosiveness and particularly for her sharpshooting. Rodgers shot 34.8 percent from beyond the arc but also showed her versatility by leading the team with 2.6 steals per game.

Supporting Rodgers' point production will be Magee, who will assume a greater offensive workload in her final season. Traditionally a forward, Magee's role will potentially be more flexible this season, as the emergence of paint presences such as 6-foot-6 junior center Sydney Wilson and 6-foot-2 junior center Vanessa Moore could allow her to log minutes at guard. Senior forward Adria Crawford, the team's hard-working hustle player in the post, returns as another key piece of the puzzle.

Senior point guard Rubylee Wright, last season's team assists leader, is expected to control the flow of the offense and contribute more scoring, while senior guard Alexa Roche is also expected to find herself in a greater supporting role in her senior season.

Three freshmen, including dangerous guard Taylor Brown, join the Georgetown ranks this year and will be expected to discover and develop their roles on the team throughout the course of the season as they adjust to the college game.

"[We've emphasized] technique, a lot of technique. ... We're a very disciplined team," Roche said. "On defense there are very specific positions, no gray areas, making sure that for freshmen [schemes] are fresh in everybody's mind, so when we come to the game we don't have any errors. And if we do have any errors, we know exactly how to fix them."

As usual, the Hoyas have a rigorous nonconference schedule before entering the gauntlet of Big East play. The second game of the season pits the Blue and Gray against local rival

Maryland, whom Georgetown defeated in the second round of the NCAA tournament last spring. The Hoyas' nonconference slate includes a healthy array of matchups with foes from the 2011 NCAA tournament field, including a visit to LSU, a home date with Miami (Fla.) and a meeting with Georgia in Las Vegas.

"Our nonconference schedule is unbelievable. It's extremely tough. I should fire the person who put it together," Williams-Flournoy joked. "But I hope it's a schedule that gets us ready to compete in the Big East."

The Hoyas will debut Nov. 11 when they take on Longwood at McDonough Arena. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m.



## Georgetown's Sugar Rodgers has overcome numerous obstacles to become one of the nation's best players

By [Gene Wang](#), Published: November 10

A dollar bill was all Sugar Rodgers needed. As a teenager in the Williamsport neighborhood of Suffolk, Va., where drug dealers didn't think twice about conducting business steps from her front door, Rodgers would take the handout from her mother, head to a nearby basketball goal and begin the hustle.

Matching jumpers with pushers, cons and delinquents, Rodgers wagered a buck a shot, and by day's end she'd return home with a healthy profit, all in singles. Going out at night was a risky proposition back then, especially with cash in your pocket, so Rodgers would stay put in her single-family home, where mother Barbara Mae, one brother, two nephews and a niece also lived.

But even behind locked doors and windows, Rodgers recalled feeling vulnerable because of all the nefarious activity on her street. Take when she had to dive for cover while bullets riddled her home on Second Avenue during a drive-by shooting. Remarkably, Rodgers survived that and other chilling episodes. Childhood friends, most of them young men, often weren't as fortunate.

"I don't know anybody who you can say, like, made it," Rodgers said.

Rodgers has made it, though, in part because basketball was her salvation. With a support group that includes coaches, mentors and teammates, the Georgetown junior not only escaped her childhood circumstances but has blossomed into one of the program's most accomplished student-athletes.

The 5-foot-11 shooting guard is on track to become the Hoyas' career scoring leader this season, was named preseason first-team all-Big East and has 10th-ranked Georgetown positioned to advance beyond the NCAA tournament's round of 16 for the first time. So respected is Rodgers among her teammates that they elected her captain even though she isn't a senior.

Rodgers, whose given name is Ta'Shauna, owns the single-season school record for points, is the top returning scorer (18.7 points per game) in the Big East and has been at her best when the stakes are at their highest. In last season's NCAA tournament, Rodgers scored 60 points combined over the first two games, [including 34 with seven three-pointers in a 79-57 second-round victory over Maryland](#).

"She had to learn how to fight for herself, fend for herself, take care of herself," said Georgetown Coach Terri

Williams-Flournoy, whose first contact with Rodgers came when she played on an AAU team coached by Boo Williams, Williams-Flournoy's brother. "The bad part about is it makes you grow up too quick. She had to become an adult before she could continue to become a child."

The process was that much more complicated when Rodgers's mother passed away from lupus. Rodgers was 14 at the time, and shortly thereafter the family lost the house. Her father, who is battling cancer and Alzheimer's, had occasional contact with Rodgers, and at first Rodgers figured she would live with him. But when he didn't take her in, Rodgers bounced around from house to house, staying with other relatives for months at a time.

All the while, Rodgers remained active in athletics, which she pursued from an early age at the encouragement of her brother. Rodgers played football on a youth boys' team and even developed into a low-handicap golfer by frequently accompanying a neighbor and his son to the driving range. That hand-eye coordination also made her a natural on the basketball court, where she began paying special attention upon learning the sport could be her ticket to college and, after that, a steady paycheck in the professional ranks.

Academics were another matter entirely. Rodgers, by her own admission, did all she could to avoid class at King's Fork High. She would often skip school for days at a time, hanging out at the local recreation center or in some cases simply relaxing on the couch.

Rodgers did show up for basketball games, and with each winning shot or extravagant scoring performance her stature grew around the region. Soon she began receiving national recognition, including being named most outstanding player at Nike Nationals and the 2007 AAU under-16 MVP.

"When she became famous here, all of a sudden people came out of the woodwork, and that scared me," said Chris Quattlebaum, a King's Fork assistant principal who's a father figure to Rodgers. "Where were you people when she was struggling? Where were you people when we were trying to help her with academics? I was so afraid she's now going to be famous and be getting a lot of accolades, and I didn't want anybody to become a parasite."

That's about when Williams-Flournoy came into Rodgers's life, and the two developed a bond that's as close to mother-daughter as possible between non-relatives. There's been plenty of tough love administered in the two-plus years Rodgers has been at Georgetown, including last week when Williams-Flournoy reprimanded her star player at the conclusion of practice in front of other coaches, teammates and reporters.

Part of that also meant having an academic adviser ensure that Rodgers went to class when she'd rather be anywhere else. These days, Rodgers has a 3.0 grade-point average and is on schedule to graduate with a degree in English.

Rodgers has aspirations of becoming first-round WNBA draft pick after her senior season, but before she ever slips on a professional basketball uniform, she'll wear her cap and gown, walk to the stage across Healy Lawn and collect her diploma. That, according to those closest to Rodgers, will mean more than any basketball commendation.

"It says a whole lot," Rodgers said. "I didn't let the family's name die, so that's a good thing."

## Women's Basketball Gives Back with So Others Might Eat Hoyas volunteer before the holidays

Nov. 22, 2011

**WASHINGTON** - After a big 64-44 victory over the Monmouth University Hawks Monday evening, most would expect members of the Georgetown women's basketball squad to be catching up on sleep or studying early Tuesday morning. Instead, eight players and managers took time out of their morning to volunteer at So Others Might Eat (SOME) prior to the Thanksgiving holiday.

"Being able to volunteer hours at SOME was such a humbling experience," said senior captain Tia Magee (Tulsa, Okla./Jenks). "It felt great to be able to help others, but I also benefitted from the satisfaction of knowing I helped start someone's day off right."



Tia Magee and  
Rubylee Wright



SOME is an interfaith, community-based organization that exists to help the poor and homeless of the nation's capital. The organization meets the immediate daily needs of the people it serves with food, clothing and health care. It aims to help break the cycle of homelessness by offering services, such as affordable housing, job training, addiction treatment and counseling, to the poor, the elderly and individuals with mental illness. The goal is that each day, SOME is restoring hope and dignity one person at a time.

The student-athletes rose long before the sun to arrive at the SOME headquarters on O Street NW. Breakfast is served every morning from 7-9 a.m., and the volunteers had to be ready to go as the hungry guests arrived.

They were given tasks such as serving coffee, setting tables, cleaning the plates and even serving the food. On an average day the organization serves 350-400 meals to the area's homeless and poor.

"It was a very humbling experience," said senior forward Adria Crawford. "You never realize how blessed you are until you encounter underprivileged situations."

In the District, poverty knows no bounds as the guests came in all ages, races, shapes and sizes. Second-year manager Ramonita Jimenez, one of the organizers of the event along with Director of Basketball Operations Tasha Harris, commented on how many of the guests looked to be the same age as they are.

"The interactions and small conversations that I was able to have with them brought smiles to their faces and made the 6 a.m., wakeup call that much more worth it. I loved it," said Magee.

The Hoyas will be out of town in Las Vegas, Nev., at the Lady Rebel Roundup over Thanksgiving so this was an opportunity to take time out of their schedules and give back to the D.C. community prior to the holiday.

It was not the first time that the players had worked with SOME and will certainly not be the last as the organization is always looking for volunteers to serve breakfast or lunch or for people to work with the provide a meal program and so many other opportunities.

"It was something good to do, but in return I felt terrible for those people," said senior point guard Rubylee Wright (Latta, S.C./Latta). "I appreciated the experience because many people wouldn't want to, or get the chance to, experience something like that. So it gave me an appreciation more than anything else."

No. 21/21 Georgetown will be back in action on Saturday as the squad faces the No. 10/10 University of Georgia Bulldogs in the semifinals of the Lady Rebel Roundup.

For more information or to get involved with So Others Might Eat, visit [www.SOME.org](http://www.SOME.org).



Tuesday, December 13, 2011

## Junior class making waves in college

By Michelle Smith

They're a year away from graduation, but the junior class is already going to make some WNBA general managers downright giddy come draft time. Continuing from last week's countdown theme of the best players to watch in the country, here's a look at the top five juniors in the nation and some players you need to know about to stay informed.

**5. A'dia Mathies, Kentucky.** Mathies' play has been a large part of the Wildcats unbeaten start to the season. She is averaging 16.8 points per game and can play at both ends of the floor in Kentucky's demanding defense. She ranks seventh in the nation in steals at 3.7 per game.

**4. Sugar Rodgers, Georgetown.** Since the moment she showed up at her first practice, Rodgers has been the heartbeat of the Hoyas program, directing its ascent to the national elite. This is a team with seven seniors. But Rodgers is the leader, not just on the stat sheet.

### Five games of the week

- **Tennessee at Rutgers, Tuesday.** Two of the greatest coaches in the game's history -- Pat Summitt and C. Vivian Stringer -- doing battle. Summitt has owned the lifetime series against Stringer, with a 14-2 record overall and 12-1 against her at Rutgers.
- **Ohio State at Cal, Saturday.** A tough road test for the hot Buckeyes against a Bears team showing itself to be a strong in the Pac-12 race.
- **Kentucky at Notre Dame, Sunday.** The Wildcats' unbeaten season on the line in a big way against the No. 3 Irish.
- **Connecticut at Baylor, Sunday.** Yeah, this is the big one, likely the biggest non-NCAA Tournament game of the season. A must-watch to see how Geno Auriemma plans to stop Brittney Griner.
- **Gonzaga vs. Georgia, Las Vegas, Monday.** Two good teams doing battle in Sin City as a holiday warmup.

**3. Skylar Diggins, Notre Dame.** The Irish point guard can score, she can dish, she can run one of the best teams in the country. She's a winner. She is still hoping to prove that she can win the biggest game of the season.

**2. Elena Delle Donne, Delaware.** Delle Donne has one year of eligibility left in basketball after this one, so we will consider her a junior, though there remains a chance at the country's best all-around player (and NCAA scoring leader) could decide to start her professional career after the end of this season.

1. Well, this one is a little obvious, isn't it? **Baylor's Brittney Griner** wins hands down. There have been precious few players in the women's game with her physical attributes -- the height, the length and the athleticism. But her game is maturing as well, becoming more well-rounded and more dangerous. This may be the year she's rewarded with a title.

### Five for this week's marquee

**Whitney Hand, Oklahoma.** The Sooners hadn't lost three straight games since March 2008. Hand made sure it wasn't four in a row. The junior scored 17 points and pulled down 10 rebounds in Oklahoma's 72-50 win over Wisconsin-Milwaukee. It has been a tough start to the season for Sherri Coale's team. The Sooners have lost two experienced

players, Lyndsey Cloman and Jasmine Hartman, to season-ending injuries and have just one senior and two juniors active. Then came three straight losses to Vanderbilt, Ohio State and Fresno State.

**Glory Johnson, Tennessee.** The senior forward put up 16 points in the Lady Vols' win over DePaul in the Maggie Dixon Classic in New York and then paid tribute to the people who are supporting her coach and her team this season.

"When you see that it gives us energy and motivates our team. We're playing for coach and everyone with this disease," Johnson said.

Johnson's effort made up for the absence of freshman point guard Ariel Massengale, who will miss several weeks with an injured finger.

**Elizabeth Williams, Duke.** She's another highly touted freshman coming up big for a highly ranked team. Williams, the Blue Devils center, put up a season-high 22 points and pulled down five rebounds in a 93-35 rout of South Carolina-Upstate. Let's just say, it was the kind of matchup that builds a young players' confidence.

**Georgetown.** The 17th-ranked Hoyas have reeled off eight straight victories since a 1-2 start to the season and Rodgers is leading the way. Rodgers averaged 23 points a game last week in wins over Pitt and George Washington.

**Kentucky.** The Wildcats forced a school-record 49 turnovers on Sunday in a 101-43 win over Arkansas Pine Bluff. That game was a nice break for Kentucky, playing a difficult stretch that has included wins over Louisville and Duke and continues on Sunday against Notre Dame.

## Five names you should know (but probably don't)

**Christine Flores, Missouri.** The senior forward recorded the first triple-double of her career with 25 points, 14 rebounds and 10 blocks in a win over Eastern Illinois. It was the first triple-double in the Big 12 this season and the first at Missouri since 1995. She closed the week with a career-high 29 points against North Dakota. Flores ranks eighth nationally in scoring this week.

**Eugeneia McPherson, St. John's.** The junior guard was at her best against the best last week. She finished with a game-high 23 points against top-ranked Baylor and then posted 18 points against DePaul.

**Patricia Bright, Oregon State.** The junior forward barely missed her own triple-double against Pepperdine, a 63-52 victory that pushed the Beavers record to 7-1. The team that went 9-21 last season under first-year head coach Scott Rueck has found a bright spot.

**Bria Goss, Kentucky.** The freshman guard from Indianapolis scored 19 points in the upset win over Duke and another 19 points against Arkansas-Pine Bluff.

**Jordan Hooper, Nebraska.** Hooper might be the Huskers' next big star. The sophomore forward scored 32 points -- a high in the Big Ten this season -- in a double-overtime win over Northern Arizona. She also had eight rebounds and four steals in that game.

Valley News  
December 30, 2011

# A Long Road to a Sweet Career for 'Sugar'

By TRIS WYKES  
Valley News Staff Writer

**H**ANOVER — Some prominent athletic names have played at Dartmouth over the years. Not just for the Big Green, but against it. Hockey Hall of Famer Joe Nieuwendyk (Cornell), NFL quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick (Harvard) and WNBA guard Lindsey Harding (Duke) have each invaded Hanover before going on to professional stardom in their various sports (*see sidebar*).

Georgetown women's basketball player Ta'Shauna "Sugar" Rodgers, whose team meets home-standing Dartmouth tonight at 7, could be next. Whether Rodgers, who tied her career high with 34 points during a 65-53 defeat of Vermont last night at Leede Arena, can continue to improve remains to be seen. The challenges the 5-foot-11 guard has already surmounted, however, make her career to this point truly remarkable.

"She's overcome so much to become a good player, but also a good student," said eighth-year Georgetown coach Terri Williams-Flournoy, whose No. 15 Hoyas pummeled No. 7 Miami, 71-46, on Dec. 21. "She's not just barely (eligible) every semester, she's doing well. I think that's one thing people aren't paying attention to."

Rodgers was raised in Suffolk, Va., a sprawling city of roughly 85,000 about a 45-minute drive from the Virginia Beach oceanfront. Once a peanut-farming hub, Suffolk has an economically-challenged urban core, surrounded by a



**Sugar Rodgers is a force for Georgetown, the 15th-ranked team in the nation. But it hasn't been easy.**  
GEORGETOWN SPORTS INFORMATION

mixture of suburban developments, open fields and woods. Rodgers' mother, Barbara Mae, didn't marry the girl's father, Oscar Allen Saunders, Jr., instead raising Sugar alongside one of her two brothers, two nephews and a niece in a downtown Suffolk neighborhood riddled with crime.

Rodgers recalls diving to the floor when her

family's home was struck by stray bullets from a drive-by shooting, and the drug dealers who did a brisk business in front of the house. By junior high school, she'd hustle some of those same pushers, along with anyone else foolish enough to wager a dollar against her in a basketball

**See SUGAR —B6**

# A Long Road to a Sweet Career for 'Sugar'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3

shooting contest. She excelled at golf and youth league football, but basketball had moved to the fore by the time she prepared to enter King's Fork High.

It was that summer that Barbara Mae, herself once a high school basketball player, suddenly fell ill with what her daughter said was lupus, an incurable disease that causes the immune system to attack the body's cells and tissue. Fatalities are increasingly rare thanks to improved treatment, but Rodgers' mother died at 56, three months after she became incapacitated and a day after Sugar visited her before leaving for an AAU tournament in Florida.

Told by her coach that Barbara Mae had passed away, Rodgers chose to play a game and scored 35 points before the 12-hour ride back to Virginia. The loss, however, was devastating.

"I couldn't go to school or talk," she told the *Virginian-Pilot* newspaper in 2008. "We were real close. She was like the only person I could talk to."

Said Williams-Flournoy: "When her mom passed away, she no longer had anyone to provide for her. She had to hope somebody else could do it, and when they couldn't, she had to fend for herself. So many kids are allowed to be kids because they have someone to take care of them and the responsibilities, but she was never allowed to do that."

Rodgers' 82-year old father was married and living in neighboring Portsmouth at the time of Barbara Mae's death. Her family lost its house and Rodgers bounced among relatives before her AAU coach took her in. That fall, she scored 23 points during her debut as a freshman guard for King's Fork. Two years later, she helped an elite summer team coached by Williams-Flournoy's brother, Boo, win a national championship, collecting the tournament's Most Outstanding Player trophy despite coming off the bench.

Numerous universities courted the teenager with street-ball moves and rock-solid fundamentals. Opponent always double- and sometimes triple-teamed Rodgers, but it did no good. She scored 2,274 points in her prep career and led South Hampton Roads, a metropolitan area of 1.7 million people, with an average of 28.1 points per game as

a senior.

All was not sweetness and light, however. Behind the scenes, King's Fork teachers, coaches, administrators and parents worked mightily to keep Rodgers on track. She would skip basketball practices and occasionally school, yet was still a star, causing her mentors substantial anxiety.

"When she became famous here, all of a sudden, people came out of the woodwork and that scared me," King's Fork Assistant Principal Chris Quatlebaum told the *Washington Post* earlier this year. "I didn't want anybody to become a parasite."

Rodgers was sometimes difficult to coach, playing her own style and with varying intensity. She was benched several times during her senior year, contributing to the Bulldogs' stumbles in the state tournament. And although she thought she was physically prepared for Georgetown's first practice, she instead found herself sitting on the gym floor, asthmatic and ready to quit partway through.

"I was thinking it was going to be like high school but it was a huge step," said Rodgers after yesterday's game. She initially couldn't meet Georgetown's standard of a 6-minute, 30-second mile for guards and had to endure seven days of early-morning conditioning sessions before she could try again. "Every time I think about that day, it's motivation to do better."

Although Rodgers said she expected to come off the bench for the Hoyas, she became their leading scorer and the Big East Conference's Rookie of the Year while helping Georgetown reach the NCAA Tournament for just the second time.

Last winter, she scored a combined 60 points during the Hoyas' two NCAA playoff victories, including 34 points with seven 3-point buckets during a second-round blowout of Maryland. She averaged 18.7 points per game as a sophomore, averages 18.6 as a junior and is on track to become Georgetown's career scoring leader later this season.

"She's an extended-range, 3-point shooter who's hard to defend off the bounce," Williams-Flournoy said. "When she's on, you're not going to stop her. But she's an all-around player and the toughest defender to the ball."

Rodgers' collegiate path wasn't initially as smooth in the classroom as on the court. George-

town, located in Washington, D.C., is one of America's best universities and counts former U.S. President Bill Clinton, a former and a current U.S. Supreme Court justice, and assorted foreign royalty among its graduates. That Rodgers is on pace to graduate with an English degree is astonishing to some of those who knew her as an indifferent high school student.

"Reading wasn't my thing," Rodgers admitted. "I'd skim books, but not read them cover to cover. I really struggled when I first came (to Georgetown), but learning to reach out for help was the biggest thing for me. I asked academic advisors, tutors, my teammates, even my coaches for help with my homework. Spitting out papers every week isn't easy, but I do it."

What Rodgers doesn't do much of, however, is spend time back in Suffolk. With her mother gone and finding that she has less in common with old neighborhood friends, her hometown doesn't hold the attraction it once did. Her father, who has never seen Rodgers play, suffers from cancer and Alzheimer's disease, sometimes recognizing her and sometimes mistaking her for Barbara Mae.

"You can feel this bad turn coming and you just don't know when that's going to be," Rodgers said. "I haven't talked to him very much recently, because it's hard. There are times I think about him and there isn't a day that goes by that I don't think about my mom, especially when you see your teammates going out with their parents. But I'm doing my own thing."

While Rodgers seems to be a lock for a professional career in the WNBA or overseas, that's not what she looks forward to the most. It's not a paycheck, but a proverbial piece of parchment that causes her eyes to glint and her world-weary posture to straighten. None of her relatives have earned a college degree.

"Regardless of if I do anything else, when I put that cap and gown on, it will be the biggest thing I've ever accomplished in my life," she said. "That will be for my city, my friends and my family. And for me."

Tris Wykes can be reached at [twykes@news.com](mailto:twykes@news.com) or 603-727-3227.



Monday, January 2, 2012

## Huskers make big debut in Big Ten

---

**Monday morning headline:** Nebraska makes itself at home in Big Ten. Coaches love to caution after early wins that conference play is a long road, but the Big Ten's newest team isn't likely to need the reminder.

Nebraska's first three nonconference road trips of the season took it to Flagstaff, Ariz., Tallahassee, Fla., and Atlanta, all of which are roughly the same distance from Lincoln as State College, Pa., where the Cornhuskers opened their first season of Big Ten competition Friday night with a 71-63 win against No. 17 Penn State.

Welcome to the Big Ten. Don't forget to pack an extra magazine or two for those flights.

The curious geography of conference realignment aside, the win lends credence to the notion that the arrival of the Cornhuskers could further shake up a race that has more often than not come down to some combination of Iowa, Michigan State, Ohio State and Purdue in recent seasons. And in an entirely non-coincidental development, it's possible that the Big Ten's best player by the end of the season will turn out to have been absent from the preseason all-conference teams selected by coaches and media.



Hooper

Jordan Hooper still has plenty of competition for Big Ten individual bragging rights from the likes of Ohio State's Tayler Hill and Samantha Prahalis, Penn State's Alex Bentley and Iowa's Jaime Printy, if not also from teammate Lindsey Moore. But Hooper made an opening statement that ought to resonate for some time. The Nebraska sophomore totaled 31 points and 12 rebounds against the Lady Lions. The only other player to collect at least 30 points and 10 rebounds against Penn State this season was Elena Delle Donne, good company to keep.

With an emerging star in Hooper (21.2 points, 9.2 rebounds per game on the season) and one of the nation's best point guards in Moore (16.2 points per game, 5.8 assists per game, 1.6 assist-to-turnover ratio and 41.5 percent shooting from the 3-point line, compared to 34 percent last season and 29 percent as a freshman), the Cornhuskers have the top-line talent to go to places like State College, Columbus, Iowa City and East Lansing and win.

But it doesn't stop there for a team that, as someone pointed out to me earlier this season, is getting one last push from former All-American Kelsey Griffin. One of two freshmen to start the game against the Lady Lions, Emily Cady totaled 10 rebounds and two blocks. And at various times, Cady, Hailie Sample and Brandi Jeffery have all shown the ability to contribute in big ways. The connection to Griffin? This is the class that signed after watching her lead Nebraska to a 32-2 record and a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament.

**Best individual weekend performance:** Sugar Rodgers, Georgetown. Granted, the stakes weren't as high as when Rodgers scored 24 points to help Georgetown rout Miami a week earlier, but she didn't show any holiday rust against Vermont and Dartmouth in the latter's Blue Sky Classic. Rodgers scored 34 points in 32 minutes in an opening victory against Vermont, and then went out the next day and made that look workmanlike by comparison, scoring a career-high 39 points in 26 minutes against host Dartmouth. That's 97 points in the final 10 days of 2011, and she didn't even play the University of Washington football team.



Rodgers



**Best team weekend performance:** Middle Tennessee. This is playing fast and loose with the notion of the weekend, since Middle Tennessee's victory Saturday against South Alabama wasn't the stuff of legend, but stretching it to an extended holiday timeline hauls in a big upset win against Kentucky last Wednesday. Despite playing heavy minutes against a Wildcats defense with no shortage of fresh bodies, Icelyn Elie and Ebony Rowe combined to hit 16-of-21 shots from the floor and 12-of-14 shots from the free-throw line. Kortni Jones finished with 10 turnovers but committed just three in 20 minutes in the second half, as the Blue Raiders withstood Kentucky's inevitable charge. When you play the kind of schedule Rick Insell does, you're going to take some lumps (a 6-5 record to start the season) if you don't have an Alysha Clark or Chrissy Givens, former MTSU superstars. You're also going to be prepared for games like the one against Kentucky.



**Mid-major watch:** West Coast Conference surprise. So perhaps BYU, sixth in last week's mid-major rankings, isn't the team No. 24 Gonzaga needs to worry about in the West Coast Conference. Or at the very least, perhaps it isn't the only team to worry about. BYU's WCC debut ended with a thud in a 54-48 loss at Saint Mary's. The Gaels shot 29 percent and turned over the ball 20 times, but they bludgeoned the Cougars 43-31 on the glass, including 17 offensive rebounds, and got to the free-throw line 28 times. Saint Mary's used 30 points and 12 rebounds from Maryland transfer Jackie Nared and Jasmine Smith, the key components of a résumé that includes victories against Virginia Tech, Oregon and Oregon State (Smith scored 35 at Oregon on Dec. 21, two days after Nared scored 26 at Oregon State).

## **The week ahead (Monday-Friday)**

**Miami at North Carolina (Monday):** If both teams enter with something to prove, does it negate the possibility of either proving anything? Final Four teams don't lose the way Miami lost at Georgetown before Christmas, failing to break 50 points in a 71-46 drubbing, leaving a team with two road wins, one of which was against Alaska-Anchorage, with questions to answer as it hits the road in ACC play. The Hurricanes scored their biggest road victory last season in Chapel Hill, but they might not want to duplicate a formula that saw Riquna Williams take 31 shots while Shenise Johnson took just nine (admittedly in 27 foul-plagued minutes).

**DePaul at Georgetown (Tuesday):** It's a matchup of two of the Big East's top three scorers, and Keisha Hampton isn't even in that mix (at least she's back on the court). As mentioned above, Rodgers enters the second conference game for both teams on a tear, but she isn't the only one. DePaul's Anna Martin scored 30 points against Northern Illinois on Dec. 31 to ensure Doug Bruno earned career win No. 500 before the calendar turned to 2012. Martin has scored at least 20 points in three consecutive games and is third in the conference at 19 points per game.

**West Virginia at Connecticut (Wednesday):** Connecticut doesn't fall for trap games, but there isn't anything appealing about facing West Virginia three days before a big game against Notre Dame in South Bend. The Huskies are 23-1 in the all-time series against the Mountaineers, but Mike Carey's teams have given them some fights in recent seasons, including last season's 57-51 Connecticut win in Morgantown. West Virginia turns over the ball too much for its own good in this kind of game, but the Mountaineers also play Carey's typically suffocating, physical defense.

**Michigan at Michigan State (Wednesday):** Speaking of series domination, Michigan State has treated its supposed in-state rival like one of the state's MAC directional schools in recent seasons. And by recent, I mean since the turn of the century. The Wolverines haven't won in East Lansing since 2001 and are 1-17 overall in the past 18 meetings. But Kevin Borseth's team enters this game with a 12-2 record after crushing Illinois 70-50 in its Big Ten opener. Michigan's Jenny Ryan has 18 assists and one turnover in her last 107 minutes on the court.

**Iowa State at Oklahoma (Wednesday):** Another midweek game that is far more intriguing than the lack of rankings might suggest. The Sooners have won five in a row since falling to .500 with three consecutive losses against Vanderbilt, Ohio State and Fresno State, with a different leading scorer in each of the past four victories. Iowa State's opponents in the Cyclone Challenge last week, Buffalo and New Hampshire, aren't Big 12 quality, but it's still worth noting that Chelsea Poppens piled up 33 points and 29 rebounds in the team's two easy wins.

**Georgia at Tennessee (Thursday):** Without being dismissive of a 12-2 team, there isn't anything Georgia does demonstrably better than Tennessee. The Bulldogs force more turnovers, but they also did much of that damage against the kind of teams they should turn over 25-plus times per game. The Lady Vols have the rebounding and shooting (although they are 3-of-21 on 3-pointers in the past three halves of basketball) to win even if they get a little sloppy with the ball. But if the Bulldogs can't force those miscues, it's tough to envision any path to victory.

---

## Women's Basketball Volunteers at Children's Medical Center National Hoyas use a bye week to do community service

**Feb. 2, 2012**

**WASHINGTON** - With the absence of a midweek game, members of the Georgetown University women's basketball squad used the free time to give back on Monday afternoon. Seven members of the team along with Director of Basketball Operations Tasha Harris went to Children's National Medical Center in Northwest D.C., to spend time with patients at the facility.

The trip was especially meaningful to freshman guard Taylor Brown (Bowie, Md./Bishop McNamara) whose family went through a childhood illness. Brown's sister, Shawna, who is now 21, developed a tumor on her knee ten years ago at age 11. Shawna went through chemotherapy and her cancer went into remission, but it was a trying time for the Brown family.

"Being there just reminded me of everything we went through," said Brown. "It just means so much to those families for people to come in and visit."

"The nurses went to different rooms and announced we were there so a lot of kids came out of their rooms to hang with us," said sophomore Andrea White (Lancaster, Va./Lancaster).

Volunteering comes in many forms and with the patients at the medical center, most were just looking for someone fun to play with. The girls obliged by doing arts and crafts and playing games.

"We made bookmarks and bracelets with the kids," said White. "We also played games like Pictionary and Chutes and Ladders."

Just talking with the patients and making bookmarks were the little things that the student-athletes could do to brighten the day for a child dealing with a tough situation.

"I'd never done anything like that, so it was a new experience," said freshman Jasmine Jackson (Old Bridge, N.J./Old Bridge).

With flu season in full swing, there were areas of the building off limits to visitors to prevent the spread of illness. Despite the regulations, it was an outstanding opportunity for the student-athletes to spend some time with the patients.

One of the patients wore the Blue & Gray to show some love for the Hoyas.

"There was one little boy with a Georgetown sweatshirt and a Hoyas hat on, I think he was most excited to see us," said White.

Children's National Medical Center is the only exclusive provider of pediatric care in the metropolitan Washington area and is the only freestanding children's hospital between Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Norfolk and Atlanta. Serving the nation's children for 140 years, Children's National is a proven leader in the development and application of innovative new treatments for childhood illness and injury.

Children's team of pediatric healthcare professionals care for more than 360,000 patients each year who come from throughout the region, nation and world. It is the largest non-governmental provider of pediatric care in the District of Columbia, providing more than \$50 million in uncompensated care.

Even with a busy schedule including class, practice, games and travel, the Georgetown women's basketball squad has found time to give back and gain perspective on the bigger picture off the Hilltop.



Members of the team at the Children's National Medical Center.

You are currently viewing the printable version of this article, to return to the normal page, please [click here](#).

# The Washington Times

- [Football](#)
- [Baseball](#)
- [Basketball](#)
- [NCAA](#)
- [Tennis](#)
- [Golf](#)
- [Hockey](#)
- [Soccer](#)
- [Other](#)
- [Outdoors](#)
- [Video](#)

## Hoyas' Rubylee Wright has a love for hoops and art

By Olivia Phelps

-

The Washington Times

Sunday, February 5, 2012

Georgetown senior point guard Rubylee Wright walked into the athletic office wearing a handmade sweatshirt with "GBMS" scrolled across the chest.

"It means 'God Bless My Success,' " said a smiling Wright, who explained that her brother, Jermichael, coined the phrase and made the sweatshirt as a gift.

As the youngest of two girls and four boys, Wright beamed as she talked about her family and their pick-up games in the backyard growing up in South Carolina.

"I would sit and watch and couldn't wait to play. ... I wanted to be just like my brothers."

In addition to her favorite sport, Wright inherited another interest from Jermichael, who works as a tattoo artist at Elite Ink. This hobby does not involve a net or a court, but rather a blank page and a pen.

"[My brother] draws all of the time. I used to draw, and he'd be like, 'That looks so good!' When really it was the worst picture in the world."

Having enrolled in an art class at Georgetown, Wright shared her latest pieces with her brother.

Upon seeing the work, Wright's brother jokingly said, "I used to tell you that you were good, but you were terrible. You actually can draw now, I don't know what happened!"

Wright's creativity gave the former shooting guard an edge when coach Terri Williams-Flournoy

transitioned the scorer, who averaged 20.4 points her senior year at Latta High School, to point guard for the Hoyas, for whom she averages 7.1 points.

"When [Wright] came here, we had to teach her how to be point guard and take away from her scoring," Williams-Flournoy said. "She bought into that, she learned how to run a team, and she did it extremely well."

Wright recalls the transition as being difficult, saying it felt like she "couldn't play anymore."

"I had to get everybody set up, and being a freshman was one of the hardest things because I had to take care of a senior ... It was harder than I thought it was going to be."

With a natural ability to see situations develop on the court, Wright began to love the new position. Now in her fourth year at point guard, she recently broke the Georgetown record for career assists with 472.

"Normally, I hear coach call the plays, but if I feel like something will work, she's given me the OK to let me work. The head coach and the point guard are the two leaders on the team, so we have to trust each other and trust each other's decisions at that moment," Wright said.

As the keeper of the 30-plus plays that make up the Georgetown playbook, Wright acts as a resource for her teammates when they need reminding about which route to run.

"[My teammates will] come to me and be like, 'Rub, what's this play right here, what am I doing,' and I draw it up before we go out."

Much like her ability to call plays according what's transpiring on the court, Wright draws when overcome with inspiration.

"If I have a moment, and I feel like I want to draw, I draw," said Wright. "I draw on the plane, on the bus. ... I just pull my notepad out."

The only two people with the privilege to see Wright's drawings are her brother and teammate Tia Magee.

Wright's love for her family and her teammates have given her the perfect ingredients to play at the point: creativity, whether it be with a pen or a playbook, skill, after countless hours spent in the backyard, and a love for the game, a game that she describes as "something crazy."

"Basketball gives you a feeling that not too many things do. When something happens and you hear the crowd, you get this feeling inside. I can't even describe it, but it's something crazy."

With "God Bless My Success" blanketing her chest, Wright pondered her future after graduation and said, "[Besides basketball,] I honestly can't even see anything else."

"Me and Tia talk about that all of the time. We both decided we're still going to play for a little while longer."

As a testament to Wright's passion for the sport, Williams-Flournoy said, "Rubylee's just amazing. [She] plays with her heart."

You are currently viewing the printable version of this article, to return to the normal page, please [click here](#).

# The Washington Times

## Georgetown women's seniors reflect on past ahead of Big East tourney

By Olivia Phelps

-

The Washington Times

Thursday, March 1, 2012

The Georgetown Hoyas are looking forward to the Big East women's tournament with determination despite a tough 54-45 loss to St. John's on Monday in their regular-season finale.

"If you live in the past," senior Rubylee Wright said, "you can't see the future. We're just going to keep moving forward and think about what's next."

With the Big East tournament coming this weekend, seven seniors look to postseason play as a chance to wear the blue-and-grey uniform a bit longer. A win no longer simply improves the team's record. It promises more playing time.

As a freshman in 2009, Tia Magee — now a senior — was part of a young squad that saw its conference tournament run end in the first round with a 70-45 loss to Seton Hall.

The following season, not a fan was left sitting as third-seeded Georgetown headed into double overtime with sixth-seeded Rutgers in the tournament quarterfinals. The Scarlet Knights, however, sent them home in 63-56 finish.

The Hoyas last season played in the quarterfinals against top-ranked Connecticut. But they fell to the Huskies 59-43. Connecticut went on to eliminate Georgetown from the NCAA tournament as well, escaping with a 68-63 win in the Sweet 16.

This year, the Hoyas are out for redemption as tournament play opens Friday in Hartford, Conn. Having secured a double bye as the fourth seed with an 11-5 league record (22-7 overall), the Hoyas play their first game Sunday at noon.

As the excitement mounts and the tournament draws near, Georgetown's seniors remembered what it's like to play in the postseason for the first time. Now returning as veterans, they shared Big East experiences with younger teammates.

"This is my last go-around," Magee said. "I'm having a lot of self-talk about the things that I have to do. But [I have also been] talking to the younger girls and trying to get them prepared for the type of games we're about to play, the type of environment we're about to be in, the type of things that they're going to see."

With advice from their upperclassmen, the freshmen look forward, undaunted.

"I know it's going to be very competitive and I'm excited because it's my first one," freshman Taylor Brown

said. "I'm really confident in my team and I hope we go far."

Added Magee: "You know [the freshmen] will be fine."

As the confident Wright spoke to her team's abilities, the guard recalled her favorite moment of the season thus far as an example of the level of play that will set the Hoyas apart in the tournament.

It came when Georgetown secured a tight win in the final minutes of its 65-62 triumph at Syracuse on Saturday.

"It just showed how good of a team we can be," Wright said. "We were down the whole game and it just showed us sticking together and being one. That game opened my eyes [to] how good we really are and how we all have each other's backs."

For Brown, the memorable win over Syracuse was a moment the freshman will never forget.

"I think that was the best game that we played," Brown said. "It felt like we played like a team, and I was just like, 'Wow, I'm a part of a good Division I basketball team in the Big East.' I was real proud of them, I was proud of my team."

Underclassman or upperclassman, the team has one goal in mind: taking the Big East tournament for the first time in school history.

"Going far in the Big East tournament is something that we haven't been able to accomplish as a team," Magee said. "That's something that's very, very important to me. We're going to try and take it one win at a time."



## Women's Hoops Star Had Rough Start in Life



Sugar Rodgers (C'13), who earned All Big East Honors last week, started in all 30 games this season and led Georgetown in scoring.

**March 5, 2012** – Star women's basketball player Ta'Shauna "Sugar" Rodgers (C'13) was only 14 when she lost her mother to Lupus.

Rodgers spent the remainder of high school shuffling between the homes of relatives, friends and coaches.

"Just going and playing basketball was something I would do not to think about [her mom's death]," she says.

### *A winner*

The 5'11" junior shooting guard, who earned All Big East Honors last week for the third year in a row, has come a long way from shooting hoops in her hometown of Suffolk, Va.



Rodgers, named team captain for the second year in a row, started in all 30 games and led Georgetown in scoring this season. This past Sunday, the Hoyas lost to West Virginia in the Big East tournament and will head to the NCAA tournament with a 22-8 record.

The English major is also a two-time All-American and three-time First Team All-Big East honoree.

“I would like to [one day] play here with the [Washington] Mystics if possible,” she says. “I would play anywhere, but I prefer the Mystics because it’s close to home and it won’t be a big transition going from Georgetown to across the street.”

### *All-Around Athlete*

Even before she started to play basketball at age 9 or 10, Rodgers was proving herself among the boys in her neighborhood as the only girl on her neighborhood football team.

“We used to play with no equipment,” she says. “People broke bones, noses. It was fun. It was – now that I look back on it – it was crazy.”

She also liked playing golf – a sport she says she still prefers over basketball.

“Only because in golf you don’t have to do all the running,” she jokes. “And it’s based on what you can do [as opposed to being part of a team]. So that’s less pressure.”

### *Path to Georgetown*

But basketball is what stuck with Rodgers, and once her skills on the court became known in high school, she began playing for Marcellus Spencer “Boo” Williams Jr., the brother of Georgetown women’s basketball coach Terri Williams-Flournoy.

Williams runs a well-known Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) basketball team in Hampton, Va.

While playing for Williams, Rodgers, a 2007 AAU under-16 MVP, began thinking about playing college basketball.

### *Unbelievable Transformation*

“Where I came from, school wasn’t a big deal,” Rodgers says. “Basketball was first in my high school, and time management was the

worst for me. I usually wanted to sleep all day and play basketball and do no school work. But now it's different."

The transition to becoming a good student was hard fought, but Williams-Flournoy helped her and encouraged her to apply to Georgetown.

"It was a lot of work to get Sugar to understand everything that she needed to do and not just to get into to [college], but to be a good student ... it's just unbelievable the transformation she has made," the coach says.

### *Giving Back*

Balancing school and basketball has gotten easier, Rodgers says.

And one day, after basketball, she would like to become an English and art teacher.

"It would be nice to just give back to the community," she says. "You can help other kids."

---

### *Related Information*

- [Georgetown Women's Basketball](#)
- 

Georgetown University 37th and O Streets, N.W., Washington D.C. 20057 (202) 687.0100

#### **Connect with us via:**

- **Facebook** <<http://www.facebook.com/georgetownuniv>>
- **Flickr** <<http://www.flickr.com/photos/georgetownuniversity>>
- **iTunes U** <<http://deimos3.apple.com/WebObjects/Core.woa/Browse/georgetown.edu>>
- **Twitter** <<http://twitter.com/georgetown>>
- **LinkedIn** <<http://www.linkedin.com/groups?mostPopular=&gid=42218>>

You are currently viewing the printable version of this article, to return to the normal page, please [click here](#).

# The Washington Times

## No. 5 seed Georgetown brimming with confidence

By Olivia Phelps

-

The Washington Times

Monday, March 12, 2012

With dinner, cupcakes, and confetti, the Georgetown Hoyas gathered to watch the NCAA selection show. With them were friends, family, coaches, the pep band, cheerleaders, and even Jack the mascot.

As balloons adorned the tables at the Faculty Club, smiles in the crowd reflected the festive mood Monday night.

"Everyone's healthy, we've got fresh legs, let's go," coach Terri Williams-Flournoy said.

The selection show revealed a No. 5 seed for Georgetown, matching its highest in program history. The Hoyas (22-8) will meet Fresno State (28-5) on Sunday in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Should they advance, they'll play either No. 4 seed Georgia Tech or No. 13 Sacred Heart on Tuesday.

"I told them from day one and as soon as we started practice today, we didn't really care where we were going, who we were playing," Williams-Flournoy said. "At this point, we've been off for almost a week-and-a-half, and we just want to play."

As "Georgetown" flashed across the big screen, cameras flashed and people stood to cheer. It was a celebration.

Unlike her first selection show and trip to the NCAA tournament, senior Tia Magee was able to enjoy the celebrating this time around and called it a night of excitement.

"My sophomore year, it was my first time, so it was a really, really nervous feeling," Magee said. "You didn't really know what to expect. Now I'm a senior, and this will be our third time going, I'm a little more experienced. There's still a little nervous feeling because it's my last time. It's kind of an anxious excitement."

This feeling however, is fuel for the senior.

"I love it. You know, this is what you work for. All of the games, and the practices ... this is your time to shine. It's really exciting. I love this feeling," Magee said.

The Hoyas are veterans to postseason play and confident that they can perform on college basketball's most prestigious stage.

"Everybody knows what it's like to be in a tournament," senior point guard Rubylee Wright said. "Everybody knows what its going to take, and the different type of level to get into the Sweet 16, the energy and everything. Everybody just knows what it's like, so I think everybody's prepared."

The Hoyas will be making their third NCAA trip in four years; it will be the fifth straight appearance for Fresno State.

"[Our seniors] brought us," Williams-Flournoy said. "They started it, taking us to the NCAA tournament. So, what better way for them to go out, taking us all back to the NCAA tournament. I think they're excited. I think they're extremely pumped, and I think they're ready to go."

Make us your start page

Washington, DC
65° Partly Cloudy
Personalize

Search The Washington Post

GET UP TO \$400 IN GIFT CARDS
with a qualifying new checking relationship and banking activities.
citibank
Find Out How

E-mail Dan with comments, ideas and questions | What the heck is this?

- Post Sports Live
The Insider
The Early Lead

On Twitter: dcsportsbog and PostSports | Facebook | E-mail alerts: Redskins and Sports | RSS

LATEST BOG POSTS

- The Onion skewers the Redskins
Brandon Lloyd says he was disrespectful to Joe Gibbs
Robert Griffin III shirts for sale
Virginia's orange NCAA tournament shoes
Alex Ovechkin's bracket is amazing
American University draws non-crowd for CIT opener
Philly Web site offers 'Occupy Nationals Park' t-shirt
Redskins already marketing the No. 2 draft pick
Bryce Harper in GQ
JaVale McGee misses alley-oop, runs into Brendan Haywood falls over

Posted at 01:17 PM ET, 03/13/2012

Georgetown mascot Jack the Bulldog injured; surgery possible

By Dan Steinberg



BOG ON TWITTER

Even more Steinberg -- in short bites.
Follow it here

NEWS ALERTS

For breaking Redskins news, text "REDSKINS" to 98999

For breaking sports news alerts, text "SPORTS" to 98999

Here's some college basketball news for you: Georgetown's lovable mascot Jack, the actual bulldog that runs out onto the court during home games and earns ovations from the crowd, is injured.

Yup, the keeper of the mascot, Father Christopher Steck, sent out a series of Tweets on Monday about Jack's status.

"Dang... Jack has torn his dog 'ACL!'" he wrote. "Surgery probably; 2 mo. recovery. Happened Sunday; likely from jumping on couch. He's limping badly."

Jack, 8, typically only attends NCAA tournament games if they're a short drive from D.C., so he wouldn't have gone to Columbus regardless. A Georgetown athletics department spokesman told me that Jack went to the Selection Sunday festivities this week, but that he had to be carried and cannot navigate stairs on his own. Jack will visit a vet soon to find out whether surgery is needed.

"The little fella just needs to get some rest," that spokesman, Mex Carey,

LIPITOR
Get the LIPITOR \$4 Co-Pay Card\* from the Lipitor For You program.
Roll over to sign up
\*For eligible patients. Terms and conditions apply. Scroll below.
Please see below for LIPITOR Indications
Patient Information Physician Prescribing Information
IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION
LIPITOR (atorvastatin calcium) is not for everyone. It is not for those with liver problems. And it is not for women who are nursing, pregnant or may become pregnant.

WP Social Reader

Hide this

Friends' Activity Most Popular In Sports

Your Friends' Most Recent Activity

Sign Up

Create an account or log in to see what your friends are doing.

View More Activity

Powered by TROVE

TV and radio listings
Your complete guide to what's on the air
twp

Stats, scores and schedules

Table with 4 columns: NFL, NBA, NHL, NCAA BK. Rows include Scores, Standings, Statistics, Leaders.

Bracket Challenge
Play the contest live, round-by-round
Play the game
twp

The Post Most: Sports

Most Popular

- 1. Peyton Manning works out for Titans and now it's decision time
2. Rex Grossman agrees to one-year deal with Redskins, says, 'I wanted to be part of this'

You've selected the International Edition. Would you like to make this your default edition? Yes | No

Close

EDITION: INTERNATIONAL | U.S. | MÉXICO | ARABIC  
TV: CNNi | CNN en Español  
Set edition preference

Sign up | Log in

SEARCH



Home | Video | World | U.S. | Africa | Asia | Europe | Latin America | Middle East | Business | World Sport | Entertainment | Tech | Travel | iReport

World Sport Home | Football | Golf | Tennis | Motorsport | Sailing | Olympics | Analysis



# As March Madness nears, new study confirms old trend

By **David Ariosto**, CNN  
March 14, 2012 -- Updated 22:14 GMT (06:14 HKT)

Recommend

Sign Up to see what your friends recommend.

### STORY HIGHLIGHTS

Among basketball players, women graduate at a rate of about 89%, men at 67%

The graduation disparity between white and black women is about 8 percentage points

That gap leaps to 28 percentage points among male athletes, the report found

**(CNN)** -- As schools gear up for March Madness, a new study released Wednesday shows that race and gender gaps in higher education continue to plague college basketball players on the NCAA tournament teams.

The study found that the female players in the tournament continue to out-graduate their male counterparts, and that graduation disparities between blacks and whites persist but are considerably less pronounced among women.

"The women's teams always give us good news to report each year," said Richard Lapchick, the lead author of the report, which was produced by The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport at the University of Central Florida.

The study found that women student basketball players on the tournament teams graduate at a rate of 89%, compared with 67% for men.

In addition, a disparity of 8 percentage points exists between white and African-American women. That disparity jumps to 28 percentage points among male athletes, the report found.

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said Wednesday's report shows that "too many racial gaps in graduation rates remain, especially among the men's teams."

Duncan told reporters that graduation benchmarks should increase, and warned underperforming schools that they "simply won't be allowed into the tournament" if they don't meet academic standards.

"Raising the bar is always the way to go," said Duncan, adding that his goal is to let "students be students first, and not (be) used by universities to make a bunch of money."

Bad behavior has "been tolerated for so long," he said.

But the report also revealed that 22 NCAA women's programs playing in this year's tournament have a 100% graduation rate of their players.

Those schools were Dayton, DePaul, Oklahoma, Duke, Kansas State, Tennessee, Vanderbilt, Creighton, Ohio State, Iowa State, Nebraska, Penn State, Georgetown, Florida, Kentucky, Notre Dame, Louisiana State, St. John's, South Carolina, Iowa, Connecticut and



ADVERTISEMENT

### Most Popular

Today's five most popular stories

[Arizona wades into contraception controversy](#)

[Karzai urges American pullback after massacre](#)

Princeton.

Percentages were determined by the number of athletes that graduated within six years of entering school. The report focused only on this year's NCAA tournament teams.

"Historically, women's basketball student-athletes place great importance on academics," Lapchick said. "They are truly representative of the balance that is needed to be a student-athlete in today's collegiate environment."

But there was also a sliver of good news for the men: Graduation rates among college basketball players bumped up 1% from last year, and longstanding gaps between blacks and whites narrowed by 4%, according to a separate report released by the institute earlier this week.

Still, "the issue of race remains the most prominent issue," Lapchick said.

Overall college graduation rates for African-American women stand at 48%. It is 38% for African-American men, roughly 29 percentage points lower than African-American male basketball players. For white women, the rate is 67% and for white men it's 63%.

College campuses "are often not welcoming places" for some students, said Lapchick, urging reforms in higher education and within urban high schools.

Recommend

Sign Up to see what your friends recommend.

[Virginia Tech to review negligence verdict in 2007 shooting rampage](#)

[CDC unveils graphic ads to combat smoking](#)

[#Pirate? Tracking modern buccaneers through Twitter](#)



Sponsored links

Earn Advertising Degree

The Art Institutes - Get Info on the Advertising Program.

[www.ArtInstitutes.edu](http://www.ArtInstitutes.edu)

ITT Tech - Official Site

Associate, Bachelor Degree Programs Browse Programs Now & Learn More.

[www.ITT-Tech.edu](http://www.ITT-Tech.edu)

Ncaa Basketball Bracket

Search multiple engines for ncaa basketball bracket

[www.webcrawler.com](http://www.webcrawler.com)

## We recommend

[Nadal doubles up in quest for fitness](#)

[Ronaldo double as Real Madrid win five-goal thriller at Betis](#)

[Schumacher impressed by Mercedes' 'special' new F1 car](#)

['Holy fuel economy, Batman!' Radical race car unveiled for Le Mans test](#)

[Ecclestone tells F1 teams to cut spending](#)

[NCAA, Auburn notify FBI about point-shaving allegations](#)

## From around the web

[Swedish man found alive after snow buries him in car for two months](#) (Autoblog)

[4 emotional mistakes made by home sellers](#) (Bankrate.com)

[Woman Burns Down 3,500 Year Old Tree to See Drugs](#) (Bangstyle)

[4-Year-Old's Drawing Leads to Dad's Arrest](#) (The Stir By CafeMom)

[Travel Horror Stories](#) (Away.com)

[10 of the world's biggest unsolved mysteries](#) (Mother Nature Network)

[what's this]

### Sponsored links

**Prudential Can Help**  
Together, let's tackle our biggest financial challenges. Learn more.  
[Prudential.com/bringyourchallenges](http://Prudential.com/bringyourchallenges)

**University of Phoenix®**  
Online and Campus Degree Programs. Official Site - Classes Start Soon.  
[Phoenix.edu](http://Phoenix.edu)

**DeVry University**  
Earn A Relevant & Marketable Degree At DeVry University. Apply Today!  
[www.Devry.edu](http://www.Devry.edu)

Add New Comment

You are currently viewing the printable version of this article, to return to the normal page, please [click here](#).

# The Washington Times

## Fresh start for Georgetown women in NCAA tournament

*Hoyas turn page on recent loss, play Fresno State on Sunday*

By Olivia Phelps

-

The Washington Times

Thursday, March 15, 2012

Georgetown's sights are set on the dawning new season as it prepares to open NCAA women's basketball tournament play on Sunday afternoon. While a group of reporters huddled around the Hoyas on Monday evening after the selection show, the players faced the cameras grinning from ear to ear.

Neither coaches nor players spoke regretfully about the recent loss to West Virginia at the Big East tournament, where the Hoyas scored a season-low 32 points. Everyone focused on the upcoming tournament and spoke fervently about the chance to begin anew.

"It's a new season," said junior Sugar Rodgers, who leads the Hoyas in points per game with 18.9. "We're preparing for the NCAA tournament. We're not even looking in the past anymore."

This determined attitude was a common theme as coach Terri Williams-Flournoy said, "That's what we do, we break our season down in parts. We have our conference, we have our non-conference, you have the Big East tournament, and now we have the NCAA tournament. Anything that we do now, we have to do it better."

Georgetown, 22-8, is the Des Moines region's fifth-seed. The Hoyas will face No. 12 Fresno State Sunday at 12:20 p.m. in Chapel Hill, N.C. The winner will play again Tuesday against the winner of a game between No. 4 Georgia Tech and No. 13 Sacred Heart.

Fresno State (28-5) will make its fifth straight NCAA tournament appearance led by Western Athletic Conference Player of the Year Ki-Ki Moore, who averages 16 points and 7.2 rebounds per game.

Last year, the Bulldogs played North Carolina in the first round and lost 82-68. They are looking for their first tournament win in program history.

"[Georgetown is] a good program," said Fresno State coach Adrian Wiggins in a release on the Bulldogs' athletic website. "We are very familiar with their style. It's a fast-paced style. So it's fun for our players to experience that because we try to play fast."

On its third trip to the tournament in four years, Georgetown is looking to once again claim a spot in the Sweet 16 and make its debut in the Elite Eight.

"There's a lot of motivation there to go out and show people what we can do," said senior Tia Magee. "We've gotten better each year in the NCAA tournament, so we all plan on keeping that going."

Magee and the Hoyas are set on proving what Georgetown basketball is all about and the tournament is the perfect opportunity.

"We had practice today, and it was a really, really good, intense practice," said Magee on Monday. "Everybody's just really excited and pumped. You can tell that everybody has that passion."

"We're just ready to play," said senior point guard Rubylee Wright. "And we're just going to take it and see as far as we can go."

# The Washington Post

[Back to previous page](#)

---



## NCAA women's tournament 2012: Georgetown seniors trying to reach ultimate goal

By [Gene Wang](#), Published: March 17

The [Georgetown women's basketball team](#) doesn't want for pluck, that's for sure. How else to explain grand proclamations from the Hoyas and a surplus of confidence heading into the NCAA tournament following [consecutive losses](#) in which they combined to score 77 points?

Never mind Georgetown shot 26 for 127 in those beatings, the first by a score of 54-45 against St. John's on senior day at McDonough Gym and most recently 39-32 to West Virginia in the quarterfinals of the Big East tournament.

But there was Rubylee Wright, all 5 feet 3 of her, addressing the Hoyas' offensive travails without the slightest hint of doubt that fifth-seeded Georgetown (22-8) would recapture its game by Sunday, when it plays No. 12 seed Fresno State (28-5) in the first round in Chapel Hill, N.C.

"I feel like we're better than any team in the country," said Wright, who this season became the school's career leader in assists. "We're good enough to be there, so I don't dwell on anything."

"There" means the Final Four in Denver, and as soon as the senior point guard said the Hoyas belong, teammate Tia Magee offered an emphatic "Ooooh," clearly enticed by the prospect of reaching college basketball's pinnacle during the final few weeks of her career.

Magee and Wright have been fixtures in the lineup since they began playing for Georgetown, and their

moxie in large part comes from Coach Terri Williams-Flournoy and former player Monica McNutt, both of whom last season trumpeted Georgetown as the class of women's basketball in the Washington metropolitan area.

That got the attention of [Maryland](#), which has been the gold standard locally since winning the national championship in 2005-06 and advancing to the region finals two other times. [The teams played in the second round of last season's NCAA tournament, and the Hoyas romped, 79-57, at Comcast Center](#) to advance to the region semifinals for the second time in program history.

Having moved one step closer to the Final Four in each of the past two seasons, the Hoyas' senior class has admitted this time to peeking ahead for a possible run at some of the prohibitive favorites, including undefeated Baylor, which is the No. 1 seed in Georgetown's Des Moines Region.

Considering how far Georgetown's program has ascended in a short time, such aspirations don't seem as extravagant anymore. The Hoyas had reached just one NCAA tournament in the program's 38 seasons before 2008-09, when this group of seven seniors arrived.

"My other friends went to Baylor and other big schools, and they were like, 'Tia, why Georgetown?' " said Magee, a native of Tulsa. "It was so hard to explain why. I always wanted to go to a program and make my own legend and build a program and make it something. We've actually accomplished that here."

Among the other seniors who have contributed significantly include forward Adria Crawford (Edison High School), second behind Magee in rebounding, and guard Alexa Roche, second on the team in blocks and third in three-pointers.

Of the eight players who average double-figure minutes, five are seniors. Reserves Tommacina McBride and Amanda Reese, both seniors, have played in 29 and 27 games, respectively, this season.

"Geez, I wasn't even thinking about them leaving," junior guard Sugar Rodgers, Georgetown's leading scorer who recently was voted unanimous first-team all-Big East, said of the seniors. "I'm thinking they're still going to be here next year, so the tournament's going to be great. We're going to play every game like it's their last game."

Then Rodgers cleared her throat with an authoritative "Ahem!" before smiling and glaring in the direction of Magee and Wright.

"I'm not going to lie. I get emotional about it and just really, really anxious in a way that I usually don't," Magee said. "Just because I know I have to give it all I've got, or that's it for me. Still at the same time it's very, very exciting."

You are currently viewing the printable version of this article, to return to the normal page, please [click here](#).

# The Washington Times

## Georgetown women hang on for 61-56 win against Fresno State

*Magee scores 17 as Hoyas advance to Round 2*

By Mike Potter - Special to The Washington Times

Sunday, March 18, 2012

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Tia Magee apparently woke up Sunday and decided her college basketball career wasn't going to end that day.

Georgetown's 6-2 senior forward led the way with 17 points, including 7-of-8 from the free throw line, and grabbed six rebounds in a 61-56 victory over scrappy Fresno State in the first round of the NCAA women's tournament at Carmichael Arena.

The fifth-seeded Hoyas (23-8), who never trailed, will take on No. 4 seed Georgia Tech (25-8) in a second-round game Tuesday night at 7 with that survivor advancing to the Des Moines regional next weekend.

The Hoyas will be playing for a chance at their second straight appearance in the Sweet 16.

"The fact that we were able to hold our composure and hold them off is great," Georgetown coach Terri Williams-Flournoy said. "At this time, you'll just take the win. Had it been one point, 30 points, regardless, it's a win, and you just move on to the second round."

Sugar Rodgers and Adria Crawford added 11 points each for Georgetown, which snapped a two-game losing streak.

"This is my last go 'round, and it's really hitting me right now," Magee said. "Today I was so full of energy I had no idea what to do with it. I just wanted to do well for my team. My teammates have all taken the time to talk to me and just tell me what I need to do, so I just went out and played hard."

Rodgers was held to six points under her season average, but said she was glad to see her teammates pick up the scoring slack.

"Fresno played great defense, and my teammates stepped it up," the All-Big East junior guard said. "I didn't take too many shots [she hit 4 of 7] because coach said to get the ball inside. We got the ball inside, and that made it easier on everybody."

Ki-Ki Moore had 22 points and Rosie Moulton 12 with 10 rebounds for the No. 12 seed Bulldogs (28-6), champions of the Western Athletic Conference. Madison Parrish added 10 points on 10-of-10 free throw shooting for Fresno State, which was in its fifth NCAA tournament in the past five years and still is looking for its first victory in the event.

"Georgetown made the plays in the end, and I wish them luck in the tournament," FSU coach Adrian Wiggins said. "That said, I'm very proud of our team. They made plays, they responded to adversity, they shared the ball, and they rebounded hard. We just couldn't find that weakness that could get us over the

top."

Georgetown shot 37.3 percent to FSU's 34.0, but the most important statistic was the Hoyas' 5-of-10 3-point shooting compared to the Bulldogs' 7-for 29. Fresno outrebounded the Hoyas 41-35 but committed 19 turnovers to Georgetown's 14.

Magee scored the Hoyas' first five points, putting them ahead for good on a layup that made it 5-3 with 18:18 left in the first half.

Georgetown led by as many as 17 points, 46-29 on a Rubylee Wright 3-pointer with 15:45 to go, before the Bulldogs started a long comeback that almost got the job done.

They had the ball down by just three points three times over the final three minutes. But following a Taylor Thompson turnover with the Hoyas up 59-56 and 17 seconds left, Morgan Williams hit the second of two free throws with 16 seconds to go to make it a two-possession game. Rodgers hit the second of two with 2 seconds left to complete the scoring.

"I'm really proud of [my team]," Moulton said. "We had a really good effort today. I think we've got the confidence that we can play 'up' with teams like Georgetown, and this gives us confidence for next year."

Fresno State had won the teams' only previous meeting, a 57-56 decision at Minnesota's Regal Classic in 1999.