



# 08-09 ILLINOIS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

## PRESEASON QUICK FACTS

### UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Location ..... Urbana-Champaign, Ill.  
 Enrollment ..... 42,326  
 Nickname ..... Fighting Illini  
 Founded ..... 1867  
 Colors ..... Orange and Blue  
 Affiliation ..... NCAA Division I  
 Conference ..... Big Ten  
 Home Court (capacity) ..... Assembly Hall (16,618)  
 President ..... B. Joseph White  
 Chancellor ..... Richard Herman  
 Athletic Director ..... Ron Guenther  
 Senior Woman Administrator (SWA) ..... Susan Young  
 Senior Assoc. AD (Women's BB) ..... Terry Cole  
 Ticket Office ..... 217-333-3470

### TEAM HISTORY

First Year ..... 1974-75  
 Overall Record ..... 494-469 (34 years)  
 Big Ten Record ..... 195-247 (26 years)  
 Assembly Hall Record ..... 199-104 (22 years)  
 Years in NCAA (8) ..... '82, '86, '87, '97, '98, '99, '00, '03  
 Years in WNIT (5) ..... 2001, '02, '05, '06, '07, '08  
 Big Ten Titles (1) ..... 1997

### 2007-08 AT A GLANCE

2007-08 Overall Record ..... 20-15  
 2007-08 Big Ten Record/Place ..... 8-10/9th  
 2007-08 Postseason ..... BTT Title Game/WNIT Third Round  
 Starters Returning/Lost ..... 3/2  
 Letterwinners Returning/Lost ..... 4/5  
 Newcomers ..... 5

### COACHING STAFF

Head Coach ..... Jollette Law (Iowa '90)  
 Record at Illinois ..... 20-15 (one season)  
 Career Record ..... 20-15 (one season)  
 Assistant Coaches ..... Karen Middleton (South Carolina '91)  
 ..... Tamika Louis (Fresno State '97)  
 ..... Patrick Klein (Ohio State '05)  
 Asst. to the Head Coach ..... Diane Hobin (Hofstra '95)  
 Video Coordinator ..... Andre Johnson (Illinois '06)  
 Athletic Trainer ..... Paul Schmidt (3rd Season)  
 Strength & Conditioning ..... Jimmy Price (6th Season)  
 Basketball Office Phone ..... 217-333-8612

### SPORTS INFORMATION

Women's Basketball SID ..... Derek Neal  
 Office Phone ..... 217-244-3707  
 Home/Cell Phone ..... 309-241-0804  
 E-Mail ..... drmeal@uiuc.edu  
 Asst. Women's Basketball SID ..... Emily Wickstrom  
 Office Phone ..... 217-333-3592  
 Email ..... ewick@uiuc.edu  
 Office Fax ..... 217-333-5540  
 Press Row Phone ..... 217-333-1227  
 Mailing Address ..... Bielfeldt Athletic Building  
 ..... 1700 South Fourth Street  
 ..... Champaign, IL 61820  
 Web Site ..... www.fightingillini.com

### RADIO INFORMATION

Flagship Station ..... WDWS-AM 1400  
 Play-By-Play ..... Dave Loane  
 Analysis ..... Mike Koon

### STARTERS RETURNING

No	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	GP-S	PPG	RPG	APG	Notes
13	Jenna Smith	C	6-3	Jr.	35-35	18.3	9.4	2.0	Honorable Mention All-American; First Team All-Big Ten
22	Lacey Simpson	F	6-0	Jr.	35-24	7.2	5.0	3.1	Led Illini in season assists (110) and steals (83)
33	Chelsea Gordon	G	6-0	Sr.	35-34	7.3	4.1	1.2	Named team's Best Defensive Player last two years

### OTHER RETURNING PLAYERS

00	Erin McCarthy	C	6-5	Sr.	14-0	0.1	0.4	0.1	Academic All-Big Ten selection last two seasons
12	Lydia McCully	G	5-9	r-Fr.	-	-	-	-	No. 46 senior in class of 2007 sat out last season

### NEWCOMERS

No	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown (High School/Previous College)
1	Whitney Toone	F	6-0	Jr.	Brooklyn, NY (Oak Hill Academy/Okaloosa-Walton College)
3	Fabiola Josil	G	5-7	Fr.	Coral Springs, Fla. (Coral Glades)
11	Eboni Mitchell	G	5-7	Fr.	Decatur, Ga. (Southwest DeKalb)
21	Macie Blinn	G	6-1	Fr.	Greenville, Ohio (Greenville)
34	Lana Rukavina	F	6-3	Fr.	Wheeling, Ill. (Wheeling)

### LETTERWINNERS LOST

No	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	GP-S	PPG	RPG	APG	Notes
15	Audrey Tabon	F/C	6-2	Sr.	31-11	1.1	1.8	0.2	Set UI career Big Ten Tournament rebounding record
20	Lori Bjork	G	5-11	Jr.	35-35	10.0	2.4	2.5	Transferred to Maryland
25	Chelsea Buher	G	5-11	Fr.	28-0	1.5	0.3	0.3	Transferred to Indiana State
30	Rebecca Harris	G	5-8	Sr.	35-25	10.1	3.4	2.3	Named to Big Ten All-Tournament team
50	Stephanie Chelleen	F	6-2	Sr.	18-1	3.1	1.7	0.1	Hlt four threes for career-high 14 pts vs Purdue (3/2)

### NUMERICAL ROSTER

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr./Elig.	Hometown/High School/Prev. College
00	Erin McCarthy***	C	6-5	Sr./Sr.	Tulsa, Okla./Bishop Kelly H.S.
1	Whitney Toone	F	6-0	Jr./Jr.	Brooklyn, NY/Oak Hill Academy/Okaloosa-Walton College
3	Fabiola Josil	G	5-7	Fr./Fr.	Coral Springs, Fla./Coral Glades H.S.
11	Eboni Mitchell	G	5-7	Fr./Fr.	Decatur, Ga./Southwest DeKalb H.S.
12	Lydia McCully	G	5-9	So./Fr.	Bedford Heights, Ohio/Bedford H.S.
13	Jenna Smith**	F/C	6-3	Jr./Jr.	Bloomington, Minn./Kennedy H.S.
21	Macie Blinn	G	6-1	Fr./Fr.	Greenville, Ohio/Greenville H.S.
22	Lacey Simpson**	F	6-0	Sr./Jr.	Zion, Ill./Zion-Benton H.S.
33	Chelsea Gordon***	F	6-0	Sr./Sr.	Erie, Pa./Mercyhurst Prep H.S.
34	Lana Rukavina	F	6-3	Fr./Fr.	Wheeling, Ill./Wheeling H.S.

\* Denotes letters earned

**Head Coach:** Jollette Law (second season)

**Assistant Coaches:** Karen Middleton (second season), Tamika Louis (second season), Patrick Klein (second season)

**Assistant to the Head Coach:** Diane Hobin (fourth season)

**Video Coordinator:** Andre Johnson (second season)

### NOTES

- Jollette Law guided the Illini to a 20-15 record in her first season as head coach, marking Illinois' first 20-win season since 1999-2000.
- Jenna Smith is the top returning scorer (18.3 ppg) and second returning rebounder (9.4 rpg) in the Big Ten. Smith had a breakout sophomore season, recording 16 double-doubles and scoring in double figures in 34 of 35 games on the season, including a string of 28 straight. She was rewarded by being named an honorable mention All-American by the *Associated Press* and also earning first team All-Big Ten honors.
- The Illini made a historic run in the Big Ten Tournament as the No. 9 seed, becoming the lowest seeded team to advance to the championship. Illinois lost the title game to Purdue on a buzzer-beater.
- Illinois' selection to the 2008 WNIT marked its fourth consecutive postseason appearance and it's 11th in the last 12 years. The Illini have advanced to the NCAA Tournament five times during the streak and to the WNIT the other six.
- Illinois led the Big Ten and set a new school record for fewest turnovers per game (15.3). In the Feb. 21 victory over Penn State, the Illini established a new school record for least number of turnovers in a game with just five.
- Smith set the single-season Illinois blocks record at 59, while the Illini broke the team record of blocked shots with 156.

## 2008-09 ILLINOIS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PRESEASON QUICK FACTS

### 2007-08 Illinois Women's Basketball Illinois Combined Team Statistics (as of Apr 01, 2008) All games

<b>RECORD:</b>	<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>HOME</b>	<b>AWAY</b>	<b>NEUTRAL</b>
<b>ALL GAMES.....</b>	<b>(20-15)</b>	<b>(10-5)</b>	<b>(4-9)</b>	<b>(6-1)</b>
<b>CONFERENCE.....</b>	<b>(8-10)</b>	<b>(6-3)</b>	<b>(2-7)</b>	<b>(0-0)</b>
<b>NON-CONFERENCE.....</b>	<b>(12-5)</b>	<b>(4-2)</b>	<b>(2-2)</b>	<b>(6-1)</b>

#	Player	GP-GS	Min--Avg	---TOTAL---		---3-PTS---		FT-FTA	Pct	----REBOUNDS----				PF	FO	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
				FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct			Off	Def	Tot	Avg								
13	Smith, Jenna.....	35-35	1305 37.3	239-475	.503	11-26	.423	151-194	.778	104	225	329	9.4	66	0	71	92	59	37	640	18.3
32	Crutcher, Danyel...	19-10	596 31.4	78-152	.513	0-0	.000	38-50	.760	41	77	118	6.2	40	2	26	44	10	14	194	10.2
30	Harris, Rebecca....	35-25	1010 28.9	115-285	.404	34-91	.374	89-113	.788	27	93	120	3.4	72	0	82	95	5	42	353	10.1
20	Bjork, Lori.....	35-35	1270 36.3	101-274	.369	77-204	.377	70-80	.875	5	79	84	2.4	70	1	87	101	7	24	349	10.0
33	Gordon, Chelsea....	35-34	1182 33.8	95-265	.358	28-109	.257	36-52	.692	47	96	143	4.1	60	1	43	56	25	39	254	7.3
22	Simpson, Lacey.....	35-24	977 27.9	101-277	.365	17-73	.233	34-49	.694	56	118	174	5.0	92	3	110	67	38	83	253	7.2
50	Chelleen, Stephanie	18-1	157 8.7	20-40	.500	8-18	.444	8-10	.800	13	18	31	1.7	11	0	1	9	1	3	56	3.1
25	Buher, Chelsea....	28-0	201 7.2	14-37	.378	6-20	.300	8-11	.727	1	7	8	0.3	18	0	7	12	0	5	42	1.5
15	Tabon, Audrey.....	31-11	256 8.3	11-34	.324	0-0	.000	12-18	.667	21	34	55	1.8	24	0	7	26	10	9	34	1.1
00	McCarthy, Erin.....	14-0	46 3.3	0-3	.000	0-0	.000	2-4	.500	1	4	5	0.4	3	0	2	3	1	1	2	0.1
TEAM.....										51	78	129	3.8	0		29					
Total.....		35	7000	774-1842	.420	181-541	.335	448-581	.771	367	829	1196	34.2	456	7	436	534	156	257	2177	62.2
Opponents.....		35	7000	743-1902	.391	142-455	.312	374-520	.719	402	754	1156	33.0	535	-	372	534	93	265	2002	57.2

TEAM STATISTICS	ILL	OPP	DATE	OPPONENT	W/L	SCORE	ATTEND	
SCORING.....	2177	2002	11/09/07	at Eastern Illinois	W	86-56	2358	
Points per game.....	62.2	57.2	11/11/07	UW-MILWAUKEE	W	63-43	1087	
Scoring margin.....	+5.0	-	11/14/07	UAB	L	56-69	1069	
FIELD GOALS-ATT.....	774-1842	743-1902	11/18/07	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	W	63-53	1315	
Field goal pct.....	.420	.391	^11/23/07	vs South Carolina	W	91-58	409	
3 POINT FG-ATT.....	181-541	142-455	^11/25/07	vs Providence	W	60-59	318	
3-point FG pct.....	.335	.312	+11/29/07	at NC State	L	47-61	1862	
3-pt FG made per game..	5.2	4.1	12/02/07	UIC	W	69-57	1471	
FREE THROWS-ATT.....	448-581	374-520	12/05/07	#9 OKLAHOMA	L	67-77	1352	
Free throw pct.....	.771	.719	!12/08/07	vs Chicago State Cougars	W	73-46	1573	
REBOUNDS.....	1196	1156	12/19/07	at Missouri	W	66-52	1350	
Rebounds per game.....	34.2	33.0	*12/27/07	at Northwestern	W	58-44	1020	
Rebounding margin.....	+1.1	-	*12/30/07	WISCONSIN	W	64-54	1485	
ASSISTS.....	436	372	*01/02/08	at Penn State	L	48-49	4324	
Assists per game.....	12.5	10.6	*01/06/08	at Indiana	L	62-70	1171	
TURNOVERS.....	534	534	*01/10/08	MINNESOTA	W	66-57	936	
Turnovers per game.....	15.3	15.3	*01/17/08	at #16 Ohio State	L	42-43	3425	
Turnover margin.....	+0.0	-	*01/21/08	IOWA	L	58-60	1258	
Assist/turnover ratio..	0.8	0.7	*01/24/08	MICHIGAN STATE	L	62-65	1411	
STEALS.....	257	265	*01/27/08	at Purdue	L	59-71	9365	
Steals per game.....	7.3	7.6	*01/31/08	#19 OHIO STATE	W	68-64	1086	
BLOCKS.....	156	93	*02/04/08	at Michigan	W	66-61	1211	
Blocks per game.....	4.5	2.7	*02/07/08	at Minnesota	L	56-61	7168	
WINNING STREAK.....	0	-	*02/10/08	INDIANA	W	73-62	2733	
Home win streak.....	2	-	*02/14/08	at Wisconsin	L	64-66	5045	
ATTENDANCE.....	22178	77520	*02/21/08	PENN STATE	W	69-49	881	
Home games-Avg/Game....	15-1479	13-3611	*02/24/08	MICHIGAN	L	52-55	1860	
Neutral site-Avg/Game..	-	7-4368	*02/28/08	at Michigan State	L	46-54	7417	
			*03/02/08	PURDUE	W	63-55	2506	
SCORE BY PERIODS:	1st	2nd	Total	&3/6/08	vs Wisconsin	W	73-58	6432
	---	---	---	&3/7/08	vs #22 Ohio State	W	64-58	6936
Illinois.....	1032	1145	- 2177	&3/8/08	vs Michigan State	W	55-41	7684
Opponents.....	894	1108	- 2002	&3/9/08	vs Purdue	L	56-58	7221
				%03/24/08	DRAKE	W	48-44	1728
				%3/26/08	at Marquette	L	64-72	1231

^ = FIU Thanksgiving Classic (Miami, Fla.)  
 + = Big Ten/ACC Challenge  
 ! = Lexus December to Remember Classic (United Center, Chicago, Ill.)  
 \* = Conference game  
 & = Big Ten Tournament (Conseco Fieldhouse, Indianapolis, Ind.)  
 % = WNIT