

# 2015-16 Preseason Information



## Marquette University Women's Basketball

**NCAA Championship Appearances:** 2011 | 2007 | 2004 | 2000 | 1999 | 1998 | 1997 | 1995 | 1994  
**WNIT Appearances:** 2014 | 2013 | 2010 | 2009 | **2008 (WNIT Champions)** | 2006 | 2005 | 2003 | 1993

It is a new era for the Marquette women's basketball team beginning in the 2015-16 season. Head coach Carolyn Kieger enters her second season at the helm of the program with just two returning players from last season's squad.

Marquette will be the youngest team in the nation with 82% of its squad new to Milwaukee. Returners McKayla Yentz and Shantelle Valentine each averaged just 2.5 points per game and combine for nine starts between the two, but the future is bright for MU with eight true freshmen and one junior college transfer joining the roster.

Along with a new team, the Golden Eagles will be playing through some new rule changes to NCAA women's basketball. Announced in June, the most visible change is that games will now be played in four 10-minute quarters, replacing the two 20-minute halves format, and is believed to help enhance the flow of the game.

The new era of Marquette women's basketball will begin with an exhibition against Southwest Baptist on Sunday, Nov. 8. The 2015-16 campaign officially begins Friday, Nov. 13 at Green Bay.

### Quick Facts

<b>Location</b>	Milwaukee, Wis., 53233
<b>Founded</b>	1881
<b>Enrollment</b>	11,782
<b>Nickname</b>	Golden Eagles
<b>Colors</b>	Blue <sup>(PMS 281)</sup> and Gold <sup>(PMS 123)</sup>
<b>Arena</b>	Al McGuire Center (3,700)
<b>Affiliation</b>	NCAA Division I
<b>Conference</b>	BIG EAST
<b>President:</b>	Dr. Michael R. Lovell
<b>VP &amp; Dir. of Athletics</b>	Bill Scholl
<b>Ticket Office Phone</b>	414-288-4668
<b>Athletic Department Phone</b>	414-288-6303
<b>Athletics Website</b>	www.GoMarquette.com
<b>University Website</b>	www.Marquette.edu
<b>2014-15 Overall Record</b>	9-22
<b>2014-15 BIG EAST Record</b>	4-14
<b>2014-15 BIG EAST Finish</b>	Eighth
<b>Home   Away   Neutral</b>	6-10   2-11   1-1
<b>Final Rankings</b>	NR
<b>First Year of Basketball</b>	1975-76
<b>All-Time Record</b>	604-535 (53.0%)
<b>NCAA Appearances/Last Result</b>	9/2011 Second Round Lost to Tennessee, 79-70
<b>NIT Appearances/Last Result</b>	9/2014 Second Round Lost to Indiana, 72-69

## Marquette Women's Basketball Staff

<b>Head Coach</b>	Carolyn Kieger (Marquette, 2006)
<b>Assistant Coaches</b>	Ginny Boggess (Wingate, 2003) Scott Merritt (Marquette, 2004) Vernette Skeete (Alcorn State, 2005)
<b>Dir. of Program Development</b>	Rachel Sander (Miami, 2004)

### Starters Returning/Lost (0/5)

Name	Class.	Pos.	GP/GS	PPG	RPG	Other
(L) Apiew Ojulu	Sr.	F	30/29	7.0	6.2	.448 fg%
(L) Tia Elbert	Fr.	G	30/22	8.8	2.5	3.07 ast/gm
(L) Kenisha Bell	Fr.	G	29/28	14.5	5.3	2.03 stl/gm
(L) Arlesia Morse	Sr.	G	30/28	14.7	6.1	.921 ft%
(L) Cristina Bigica	Sr.	G	28/16	7.3	2.9	.458 fg%

### Letterwinners Returning (2 total)

Name	Class.	Pos.	GP/GS	PPG	RPG	Other
McKayla Yentz	Jr.	G	26/2	2.5	1.3	
Shantelle Valentine	So.	C	30/7	2.5	3.4	.442 fg%

## Letterwinners Lost (8 total)

Name	Class.	Pos.	GP/GS	PPG	RPG	Other
Chelsie Butler	Sr.	C	29/14	6.3	4.3	.442 fg%
Lauren Tibbs	RJr.	C	30/3	3.8	3.5	.505 fg%
Apiew Ojulu	Sr.	F	30/29	7.0	6.2	.448 fg%
Tia Elbert	Fr.	G	30/22	8.8	2.5	3.07 ast/gm
Kenisha Bell	Fr.	G	29/28	14.5	5.3	2.03 stl/gm
Arlesia Morse	Sr.	G	30/28	14.7	6.1	.921 ft%
Cristina Bigica	Sr.	G	28/16	7.3	2.9	.458 fg%

## Key Newcomers

Name	Class.	Pos.	Hometown
Danielle King	Fr.	G	Steger, Ill.
Natisha Hiedeman	Fr.	G	Green Bay, Wis
Sandra Dahling	Fr.	F	Hasselby, Sweden
Allazia Blockton	Fr.	G	St. Francis, Wis.
Erika Davenport	Fr.	F	Clarkston, Mich.
Olivia Moskari	Fr.	G	Helsinki, Finland
Amani Wilborn	Fr.	G	Milwaukee, Wis.
Ines Mata	Fr.	F	Madrid, Spain

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## Marquette University Women's Basketball

- Marquette will look to replace much of their scoring from a year ago, including their top three scorers in 2014-15: Arlesia Morse, Kenisha Bell and Tia Elbert, who accounted for 55.9% of the team's scoring
- Arlesia Morse, Marquette's leading scorer last year as a senior, shot 129-of-140 (.921) from the free-throw line and recorded 636 career three-point field goals, which is good for second all time in MU history
- The Golden Eagles will try to replace key departures from their frontcourt, including Apiew Ojulu, Lauren Tibbs and Chelsie Butler who combined to average 14 rebounds per outing which accounts for 35% of the teams rebounds last year
- Marquette will return two letter winners from the 2014-15 squad, including junior McKayla Yentz and sophomore Shantelle Valentine, who each averaged 2.5 points last season
- The Golden Eagles welcome eight newcomers to the squad which includes a bevy of players who experienced a great deal of success in the high school ranks
- MU will welcome guard Danielle King to the backcourt, who is the sixth best prospect in Illinois and averaged 28.4 points, 6.3 assists, grabbed 6.2 boards and recorded 5.4 steals per contest
- Marquette's deep recruiting class includes three Wisconsin natives, highlighted by guard Natisha Heideman who is ranked as the No. 74 overall prospect by the All-Star Girls Basketball Report

### 2015-16 MARQUETTE ROSTER

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	CL.	HOMETOWN
1	Danielle King	G	5-5	Fr.	Steger, Ill.
<i>Averaged 28.4 points, 6.3 assists, 6.2 rebounds and 5.4 steals during her senior season.</i>					
3	McKayla Yentz	G	6-1	Jr.	Sun Prairie, Wis.
<i>Averaged 19.8 points per game as a senior at Sun Prairie high school in 2012-13</i>					
5	Natisha Heideman	G	5-8	Fr.	Green Bay, Wis.
<i>Averaged 25.6 points during her senior season, and totaled 1,773 points during her HS career.</i>					
10	Sandra Dahling	F	5-9	Fr.	Hasselby, Sweden
<i>Team captain of Sweden's Solna Branten and named the team's MVP last season.</i>					
11	Allazia Blockton	G	6-0	Fr.	St. Francis, Wis.
<i>Recorded over 2,000 points career points and averaged a double-double her junior season.</i>					
12	Erika Davenport	F	5-11	Fr.	Clarkston, Mich.
<i>Selected as a Miss Basketball Top 5 finalist for the state of Michigan.</i>					
13	Olivia Moskari	G	5-9	Fr.	Helsinki, Finland
<i>Averaged 9.8 points per contest as a member of the U18 Finland national team.</i>					
15	Amani Wilborn	G	5-9	Fr.	Milwaukee, Wis.
<i>Ranked as No. 84 prospect and earned Second Team All-State honors last season.</i>					
22	Ines Mata	F	6-1	Fr.	Madrid, Spain
<i>Earned a Gold Medal in the U16 European Championships in 2013 with Spain.</i>					
31	Shantelle Valentine	C	6-3	So.	Toronto, Ontario, Canada
<i>Most experienced Marquette returnee, totaling seven career starts during her freshman season.</i>					
32	Chelsey Gibson	G	6-0	Jr.	Pensacola, Fla.
<i>No. 23 ranked JUCO transfer and averaged 19 points and nine rebounds as a sophomore.</i>					
<b>Head Coach</b>		Carolyn Kieger (Marquette, 2006)			
<b>Assistant Coaches</b>		Ginny Boggess (Wingate, 2003)			
		Scott Merritt (Marquette, 2004)			
		Vernette Skeete (Alcorn State, 2005)			
<b>Dir. of Program Development</b>		Rachel Sander (Miami, 2004)			

- Marquette's 4-14 conference record was the eighth best in the conference, and MU took down Providence in the first round of the 2014-15 BIG EAST Conference Championship
- In 2014-15, Marquette performed exceptionally well on the defensive glass, gathering 27.1 rebounds per outing during conference play, which was good enough for the third best mark in the conference
- MU shot 72.2% from the charity stripe (second in the BIG EAST), led by Arlesia Morse who shot 90.6% during conference play, which led the entire conference
- Marquette scored 66.6 points per contest in conference play, which was good enough for fourth in the BIG East
- MU's perimeter defense was one of the best in the conference, as they limited opponents to a shooting percentage of 31.4 from beyond the arc, which was second best in the conference

# 2015-16 Preseason Information

## Marquette University Women's Basketball



### Carolyn Kieger

Head Coach I Second Season  
Marquette, 2006

Former Marquette University women's basketball standout Carolyn Kieger became the program's fifth head coach on

May 1, 2014 and begins her second year at the helm of the Golden Eagles in 2015-16.

Kieger made her collegiate head coaching debut on Nov. 15, 2014 when Marquette hosted Green Bay in the 2014-15 season opener.

Kieger's earned her first career victory on Nov. 17, 2014 when Marquette defeated Loyola Chicago, 86-71, at the Al McGuire Center. She completed her first year with a 9-22 overall record, but saw three student-athletes earn individual accolades in the BIG EAST with three all-conference selections.

Kieger spent six seasons as the assistant coach at the University of Miami. She was the Director of Operations for the Golden Eagles during the 2007-08 season and spent a year at Miami as the coordinator of basketball operations from 2006-07.

"As one of Marquette's most successful women's basketball players of all time, Carolyn knows what it takes to succeed both on and off the court," Former Interim President Rev. Robert A. Wild, S.J. said. "Carolyn expects excellence from herself, her coaching staff and her players, and her experience coaching in three NCAA postseason appearances will be critical to helping Marquette reach new heights of success. We're thrilled to welcome Carolyn back to campus and look forward to great things to come for our women's basketball program."

While at Miami, Kieger was primarily responsible for guard development. She focused a lot of attention on refining the skills of the Hurricanes' star guard, Shenise Johnson, who earned All-America and ACC Player of the Year honors in 2010-11, while the squad was crowned ACC regular season champions. She also saw guard Riquna Williams earn All-ACC First Team accolades and finish as the ACC scoring leader with

21.7 points per game.

"Carolyn Kieger is an exceptional person with an extraordinary ability to get the most out of everyone she coaches and Marquette has made an amazing hire," Miami head coach Katie Meier said. "Carolyn leads with integrity and her value system permeates all of her decisions. She was an integral part of our success here at Miami, and her impact on this program was immense. I am grateful for the time I had with her here at Miami, and know she is more than ready to lead Marquette. Her fire and passion for her alma mater is 100 percent authentic and it will resonate within (the Marquette) community. I couldn't be more proud of her and am so happy she is pursuing her dream."

As a player at Marquette, Kieger was a four-year starter, three-year captain and is MU's all-time assists leader. She is the only player in program history with at least 1,200 career points, 400 career rebounds and 600 assists. For her career, Kieger averaged 10.3 points per game and was a second team All-BIG EAST selection for the 2005-06 season, as well as, a second

team All-Conference USA selection for the 2003-04 and 2004-05 seasons. During her senior campaign, she was a finalist for the Nancy Lieberman Award, given to the nation's top point guard.

In addition to her athletic accomplishments, Kieger received the BIG EAST Conference's Sportsmanship award as a senior.

A native of Roseville, Minn., Kieger graduated Cum Laude from Marquette University with a bachelor's degree in broadcasting and electronic communications in 2006. In 2007, she received the McCahill Award given to a graduated MU senior student-athlete who demonstrated the highest performance in scholarship, leadership and athletics.

"Carolyn is a rising star in the profession and we are excited about the future of Marquette women's basketball under her leadership," Cords said.

#### Coaching Career

2014-present	Head Coach	Marquette	WNIT First Round (2013-14) NCAA First Round (2012-13) NCAA Second Round (2011-12) NCAA Second Round (2010-11) WNIT Championship (2009-10) WNIT Champions
2008-09 to 2013-14	Assistant Coach	Miami	
2007-08	Director of Operations	Marquette	
2006-07	Coordinator of Operations	Miami	

#### Kieger File

Birth Date:	August 17, 1983
Hometown:	Roseville Minn.
Education:	Marquette University, 2006 (Bachelor's in Broadcast and Electronic Communication)