

2017-18 Preseason Information



Marquette University Women's Basketball

NCAA Championship Appearances: 2017 | 2011 | 2007 | 2004 | 2000 | 1999 | 1998 | 1997 | 1995 | 1994
WNIT Appearances: 2014 | 2013 | 2010 | 2009 | **2008 (WNIT Champions)** | 2006 | 2005 | 2003 | 1993

The Marquette University women's basketball team is coming off of a hugely successful season that featured a BIG EAST Championship and a return to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2011.

In Carolyn Kieger's third year at the helm, she guided the Golden Eagles to a 25-8 record featuring a perfect 6-0 mark against ranked teams. The team that won its first-ever BIG EAST Tournament title returns four starters and 11 total players.

Kieger's first true recruiting class enters its junior season, led by honorable mention All-American and unanimous first team BIG EAST guard Allazia Blockton, all-BIG EAST Second Team honoree Erika Davenport, conference honorable mention Natisha Hiedeman and most outstanding player of the BIG EAST Tournament Amani Wilborn. Marquette also returns key contributors like starting point guard Danielle King and key reserves Shantelle Valentine and Isabelle Spingola.

The Golden Eagles add promising freshmen Selena Lott and Myriama Smith Traore to the mix. Marquette also locked down Tori McCoy, a former top-10 recruit who transferred from Ohio State following her freshman season and must sit out the 2017-18 year due to transfer restrictions.

In their fourth season under Kieger, the Golden Eagles will look to build on last year's historical campaign and take the next step forward led by a strong core of upperclassmen.

Quick Facts

Location	Milwaukee, Wis., 53233
Founded	1881
Enrollment	11,782
Nickname	Golden Eagles
Colors	Blue ^(PMS 281) and Gold ^(PMS 123)
Arena	Al McGuire Center (3,700)
Affiliation	NCAA Division I
Conference	BIG EAST
President:	Dr. Michael R. Lovell
VP & Dir. of Athletics	Bill Scholl
Ticket Office Phone	414-288-4668
Athletic Department Phone	414-288-6303
Athletics Website	www.GoMarquette.com
University Website	www.Marquette.edu

2016-17 Overall Record	25-8
2016-17 BIG EAST Record	13-5
2016-17 BIG EAST Finish	Third
Home Away Neutral	15-3 9-3 1-2
Final Rankings	NR

First Year of Basketball	1975-76
All-Time Record	643-559 (53.5%)
NCAA Appearances/Last Result	10/2017 First Round Lost to Quinnipiac, 68-65
NIT Appearances/Last Result	9/2014 Second Round Lost to Indiana, 72-69

Letterwinners Returning (10 total)

Name	Class.	Pos.	GP/GS	PPG	RPG	Other
Danielle King	Jr.	G	33/31	11.1	4.1	.459 fg
Natisha Hiedeman	Jr.	G	32/31	13.9	5.1	.366 3fg%
Allazia Blockton	Jr.	G	33/30	17.1	6.0	.471 fg%
Erika Davenport	Jr.	F	33/29	13.2	9.2	.573 fg%
Amani Wilborn	Jr.	G	33/9	9.8	4.2	.449 fg%
Shantelle Valentine	Sr.	C	33/3	2.5	2.2	
Isabelle Spingola	So.	G	27/0	2.4	0.6	
Altia Anderson	So.	F	20/0	1.2	0.9	
Sandra Dahling	Jr.	F	15/1	0.5	0.6	
Olivia Moskari	Jr.	G	8/0	0.9	0.4	

Letterwinners Lost (3 total)

Name	Class.	Pos.	GP/GS	PPG	RPG	Other
McKayla Yentz	--	F	33/31	8.1	3.9	.391 3fg%
Meghan Mandel	So.	C	9/0	0.7	1.2	
Chelsey Gibson	Sr.	G	10/0	1.2	0.8	

Key Newcomers

Name	Class.	Pos.	Hometown
Lauren Van Kleunen	Fr.	G	Mason, Ohio
Tori McCoy	So.	F	Champaign, Ill.
(Must sit out 2017-18 season due to NCAA transfer rules)			
Selena Lott	Fr.	G	East Greenbush, N.Y.
Myriama Smith Traore	Fr.	F	Whitewater, Wis.

Marquette Women's Basketball Staff

Head Coach	Carolyn Kieger (Marquette, 2006)
Assistant Coaches	Ginny Boggess (Wingate, 2003) Scott Merritt (Marquette, 2004) Vernette Skeete (Alcorn State, 2005)
Dir. of Program Development	Rachel Sander (Miami, 2004)
Dir. of Basketball Operations	Pam Brown (Charlotte, 2006)
Video Coordinator	Rob Carver (Miami, 2014)
Coordinator of Recruiting Ops.	Nikki Nellen (Lewis, 2015)

Starters Returning/Lost (4/1)

Name	Class.	Pos.	GP/GS	PPG	RPG	Other
(R) Danielle King	Jr.	G	33/31	11.1	4.1	.459 fg%
(R) Natisha Hiedeman	Jr.	G	32/31	13.9	5.1	.366 3fg%
(R) Allazia Blockton	Jr.	G	33/30	17.1	6.0	.471 fg%
(R) Erika Davenport	Jr.	F	33/29	13.2	9.2	.573 fg%
(L) McKayla Yentz	--	F	33/31	8.1	3.9	.391 3fg%

2017-18 Preseason Information



Marquette University Women's Basketball

- Marquette returns starters Danielle King, Natisha Hiedeman, Allazia Blockton and Erika Davenport, as well as key reserve Amani Wilborn. The Golden Eagles bring back almost 90 percent of last year's 25-win team.
- Junior guard Allazia Blockton followed up her stellar freshman season with another great campaign, averaging 17.1 points and 6.0 rebounds a game. Blockton was unanimously selected to the All-BIG EAST First Team after leading the conference in scoring and ranking top-10 in assists, field goal percentage and free throw percentage. For her efforts, Blockton was selected to the 2017 WBCA NCAA Division I Coaches' All-America honorable mention team.
- Several returning players boast BIG EAST hardware from last season. Blockton made first team all-conference, while Davenport earned second team recognition and Hiedeman was an honorable mention. In the BIG EAST Tournament, Wilborn was named Most Outstanding player after turning in a pair of 20-point performances in the semifinal and title games. This quartet of juniors make up four of last season's top-five leading scorers.
- The Golden Eagles welcome four newcomers to the squad this season. Freshmen Selena Lott and Myriama Smith Traore bring a handful of high school accolades to the team, including Lott's top-30 positional ranking and Smith Traore's RVC-North Player of the Year award. Former consensus top-10 recruit Tori McCoy joins Marquette after transferring from Ohio State following a freshman year where she made the Big Ten All-Freshmen Team. McCoy will sit out the 2017-18 season due to NCAA transfer restrictions. Additionally, Lauren Van Kleunen joins the team after redshirting last season. The District 15 Underclassmen Player of the Year brings some size to the guard position for the Golden Eagles.
- MU's experienced all-junior lineup of Blockton, Hiedeman, Davenport, King and Wilborn have combined to appear in all but one game and have racked up 206 total starts in their first two seasons.
- Marquette's 13-5 record in conference play last season was good enough for a third place finish in the loaded BIG EAST. Six of the conference's 10 teams were invited to a postseason tournament (three NCAA, three

2017-18 MARQUETTE ROSTER

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	CL.	HOMETOWN
0	Tori McCoy	F	6-4	So.	Champaign, Ill. <i>Former Top-10 recruit and Big Ten All-Freshmen Team player to sit out 17-18 after transfer from Ohio State.</i>
1	Danielle King	G	5-5	Jr.	Chicago, Ill. <i>Led the team with almost four assists a game and shot team-high 39.3% from deep.</i>
5	Natisha Hiedeman	G	5-8	Jr.	Green Bay, Wis. <i>Scored 13.9 points a game on the strength of her team-leading 75 three-pointers.</i>
10	Sandra Dahling	F	5-9	Jr.	Stockholm, Sweden <i>Started one game and appeared in 15 over the course of the season.</i>
11	Allazia Blockton	F	5-0	Jr.	Milwaukee, Wis. <i>Notched 17.1 points a game en route to BIG EAST First Team and All-American honorable mention honors.</i>
12	Erika Davenport	G	5-11	Jr.	Clarkston, Mich. <i>Racked up 14 double-doubles and led the team with 9.2 rebounds a game.</i>
13	Olivia Moskari	G	5-9	Jr.	Helsinki, Finland <i>Appeared in eight games over the course of her sophomore season.</i>
15	Amani Wilborn	G	5-9	Jr.	Milwaukee, Wis. <i>Keyed the Golden Eagles off the bench with 9.8 points and 4.2 rebounds a game.</i>
20	Altia Anderson	F	6-2	So.	Bridgeville, Del. <i>Played in 20 games in her first season at Marquette.</i>
24	Selena Lott	G	5-11	Fr.	East Greenbush, N.Y. <i>Averaged 20 points a game for her high school team.</i>
30	Isabelle Spingola	G	6-0	So.	Chicago, Ill. <i>Appeared in 27 games, including a 21-point scoring outburst against Seton Hall.</i>
31	Shantelle Valentine	C	6-3	Sr.	Brampton, Ontario, Can. <i>Provided solid bench play for the Golden Eagles, appearing in all 33 games.</i>
35	Myriama Smith Traore	F	6-2	Fr.	Whitewater, Wis. <i>The RVC-North Player of the Year led her high school team to the 2015 state championship.</i>
42	Lauren Van Kleunen	G	6-2	Rs-Fr.	Mason, Ohio <i>The former District 15 Underclassmen Player of the Year redshirted the 2016-17 season.</i>
Head Coach		Carolyn Kieger (Marquette, 2006)			
Assistant Coaches		Ginny Boggess (Wingate, 2003) Scott Merritt (Marquette, 2004) Vernette Skeete (Alcorn State, 2005)			
Dir. of Program Development		Rachel Sander (Miami, 2004)			
Dir. of Basketball Operations		Pam Brown (Charlotte, 2006)			
Video Coordinator		Rob Carver (Miami, 2014)			
Coordinator of Recruiting Ops.		Nikki Nellen (Lewis, 2015)			

- In 2016-17, the Golden Eagles won their first BIG EAST Tournament title and put up a 6-0 record against ranked teams, besting No. 18/16 Arizona State, No. 15/22 Oregon State, No. 23 Creighton and a ranked DePaul team three separate times, including in the BIG EAST title game.
- MU poured in 78.8 points per game last season, good for the second-highest total in the BIG EAST and 14th in the NCAA. This scoring output came on the back of the Golden Eagles' sharp-shooting, as they led the conference with a 46 percent mark from the field.
- Marquette distributed the ball at a high rate last season, picking up a 16.6 assists-per-game average, placing MU at second in the conference. Danielle King led the way for the Golden Eagles, dishing nearly four assists per game.
- The Golden Eagles also ranked in the top of the BIG EAST in several rebounding categories, including first in rebounding margin, defensive rebounds and defensive rebound percentage, bolstered by Erika Davenport's 9.2 boards a game.

2017-18 Preseason Information

Marquette University Women's Basketball



Carolyn Kieger

Head Coach | Fourth 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 fourth year at the helm of the Golden Eagles in 2017-18.

After just three seasons, Kieger has taken the Golden Eagles to new heights after a widely successful 2016-17 campaign that saw Marquette earn the BIG EAST Tournament title on its home floor for the first time in program history, while also earning a program-best fifth seed in the NCAA Tournament, as MU returned to the Big Dance for the first time since 2011 and the 10th time in team history.

Kieger's record stands above .500 at 48-46 after she led Marquette to a 25-8 record last season, the first 20+ win season for the Golden Eagles since 2013-14, while coaching Allazia Blockton to a WBCA All-American honorable mention honor.

Blockton earned unanimous All-BIG EAST first team honors as a sophomore and became the youngest player in program history to surpass the 1,000-point plateau and Marquette's 25th all-time. Fellow classmate Erika Davenport was a second-team all-conference selection and Natisha Hiedeman earned honorable mention accolades as the Golden Eagles earned notoriety around the BIG EAST.

Kieger's offensive style of run-and-gun showed yet again as the Golden Eagles finished the season ranked 14th in NCAA Division I averaging 78.8 points per game. Marquette also finished the year a perfect 6-0 against teams ranked in the top-25.

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

In her second year at the helm of the Golden Eagles Kieger had the youngest program in NCAA Division I with eight freshmen on the roster. She took the program to a 14-16 overall record and improved her BIG EAST record to 9-9 and earned the league's No. 6 seed in the BIG EAST Tournament.

Kieger coached Allazia Blockton to become the BIG EAST Freshman of the Year, a program-first for Marquette, and saw junior McKayla Yentz named BIG EAST Most Improved Player after tripling her scoring output in 2015-16.

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

2014-15-present	Head Coach	Marquette	BIG EAST Champions (2016-17) NCAA First Round (2016-17) 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 2006-07	Director of Operations Coordinator of Operations	Marquette Miami	

Kieger File

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