

# PREVIEW

VILLANOVA



## 2002-03 SEASON PREVIEW

**B**uilding on the past is the theme for head coach Harry Perretta and the Wildcats as they prepare for the 2002-03 season. The past two seasons, Villanova has tallied consecutive 20-win seasons and back-to-back NCAA Tournament appearances. Last year, the Wildcats went 20-11 overall and an impressive 12-4 in the Big East and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament for the second-straight year. With seven letterwinners and three starters back from last year's squad, hopes are high on the Main Line that the Wildcats can record another stellar season on the hardwood in 2002-03.

### GUARDS:

Villanova will be led this season by senior guard **Trish Juhline (Havertown, Pa.)**. One of the top guards in the country, Juhline scored 326 points (13.6 ppg.) and connected on 61-of-156 (39.1 percent) from three-point range a year ago despite missing six games due to a broken foot. In addition, she averaged 3.1 rpg., 2.7 apg. and 1.2 spg. For her efforts last year, Juhline was named first team All-Big East. Juhline will start at shooting guard for the Wildcats and will also see some playing time at the point guard position.

A big question surrounding the Wildcat backcourt is who will step-up and replace the graduated Mimi Riley at point guard. A three-year starter, Riley was outstanding during her senior season in 2001-02, as she averaged 12.3 ppg., 4.8 apg., and 3.8 rpg. More importantly, Riley ran the Villanova attack with confidence and efficiency. The odds on favorite to replace Riley is junior **Courtney Mix (Perrysburg, Ohio)**, who is the team's most versatile performer. The multi-dimensional Mix has spent the first two years of her career splitting time between both forward spots and the point guard position. At 5-10, Mix will provide Villanova with good size in the backcourt. As a sophomore last year, Mix led the 'Cats in rebounding for the second consecutive season with a 6.9 rpg. average in addition to 8.4 ppg., 3.0 apg. and 1.5 spg.



*Jennifer Hilgenberg will be looked upon to provide scoring off the bench in 2002-03.*



*Villanova will depend on Courtney Mix to run the Wildcat attack from the point guard spot in 2002-03.*

Junior **Kelly Nash (Fairfield, Conn.)** will be looked upon to be a key contributor at shooting guard for the Wildcats. Nash has developed into a three-point specialist for Villanova and figures to be a key contributor against zone defenses. Last season, Nash made 27 three-point field goals. At 5-10, she can also give Villanova some minutes at small forward. Two others who will fight for playing time in the backcourt are freshmen **Betsy McManus (Pearl River, N.Y.)** and **Jenna Viani (Poughkeepsie, N.Y.)**. A pure point guard, McManus will provide Perretta and the Wildcats with quickness and court savvy, while Viani is an offensively skilled player with good shooting range. Viani was a third team *USA Today* All-American as a senior at Our Lady of Lourdes High School.

### FORWARDS:

Leading the way at the forward position will be senior **Katie Davis (North East, Md.)** who will own a starting spot for the fourth consecutive year. Davis has improved each and every season during her Wildcat career and she looks poised for a big year in 2002-03. Last season as a junior, Davis averaged 10.5 points per game, 3.9 rebounds per contest and a team-high tying 1.5 steals per contest. In addition, Davis also connected on 73-of-194 from three-point range. The 73 triples ranked her eighth in the Big East Conference. The power forward spot looks to belong to fifth-year senior **Nicole Druckenmiller (Northampton, Pa.)**. An experienced performer, Druckenmiller will be looked upon to give the Wildcats some scoring punch and tough rebounding. Druckenmiller has the ability to score on the low block and from beyond the arc. Last season, she recorded 39 made three-point field goals, giving her a career total of 88.

The top reserve at the forward position appears to be sophomore **Jennifer Hilgenberg (Readington, N.J.)**. As a freshman a year ago, Hilgenberg played in all 31 games and averaged 9.1 minutes per contest. An athletic performer with a good medium-range jump shot, Hilgenberg has showed great improvement



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*Jana Rediger is expected to provide the Wildcats with mobility at the center position.*

throughout the preseason and appears ready to log significant minutes this year. Three other players vying for playing time at forward include redshirt freshman **Courtney Roantree (Philadelphia, Pa.)** and a pair of true freshmen in **Kate Dessart Mager (Media, Pa.)** and **Jackie Adamshick (Allentown, Pa.)**. Roantree, who missed all of last season due to a knee injury, is a fundamentally sound player with a great feel for the game. Roantree also has great shooting range. Dessart Mager arrives on the Main Line with some lofty credentials. As a senior last year at Cardinal O'Hara High School, Dessart Mager led her team to the Philadelphia Catholic championship by averaging 17.1 points per game and shooting 60 percent from the field. For her efforts last year, Dessart Mager was selected to participate in the McDonald's High School All-American game. Adamshick is a versatile performer with a winning attitude. A first team All-State selection, Adamshick led Allentown Central Catholic to back-to-back state championships.

### CENTERS:

The starter at the center position looks to be sophomore **Jana Rediger (Sellersville, Pa.)**. A mobile performer with good post moves, Rediger drastically improved last season and provided the Wildcats with quality minutes late in the year. At 6-3, Rediger will give Villanova much needed size in the line-up. Junior **Jeanine Johnson (Lima, Ohio)** should also see time at center in 2002-03. A good rebounder, Johnson has been slowed by injury the last year. A third player in the mix at center is freshman **Liad Suez (Even-Yehuda, Israel)**, who is expected to see playing time at both forward and center. Suez is a multi-dimensional performer who possesses great passing skills and has good range on her jump shot.

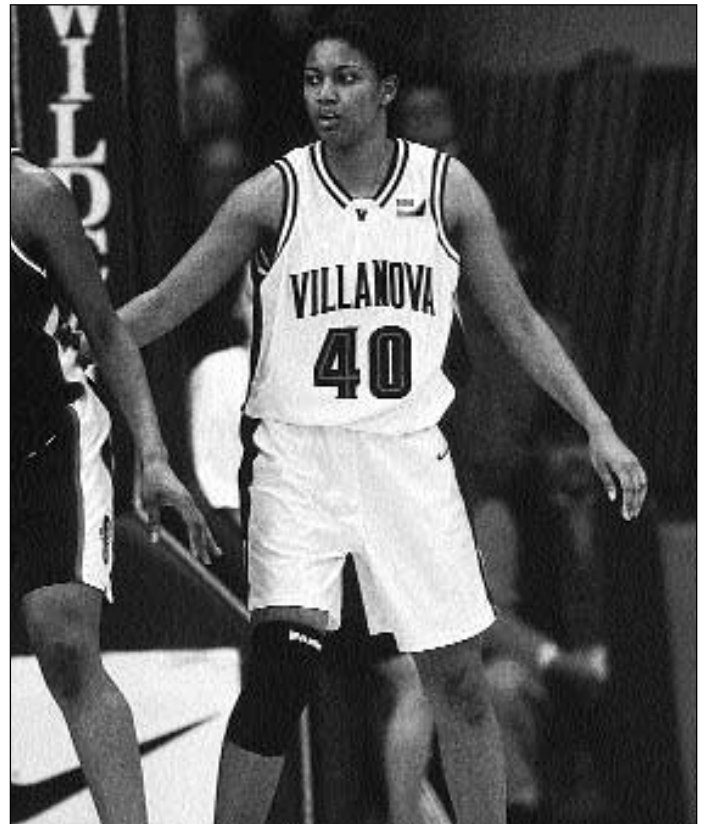
### SCHEDULE:

Villanova will open the 2002-03 season on Friday, Nov. 22, at crosstown rival St. Joseph's in the first of four Philadelphia Big Five contests. In addition to playing at St. Joseph's in City Series action, the Wildcats will also play at Pennsylvania (Dec. 4), and will host LaSalle (Dec. 7) and Temple (Dec. 21) in Big Five play.

Keeping with tradition, Villanova will go on the road for a Thanksgiving Tournament and will host the annual Christmas Classic. During Thanksgiving, the Wildcats will travel to Boulder, Colo., to participate in the University of Colorado Tournament. Joining Villanova in the tournament are Ohio State, Hartford and the host Buffaloes. The field for the 2002-03 PNC Wildcat Christmas Classic will include Fairfield, New Hampshire and Brown.

Villanova's other non-conference games include home contests against Howard (Nov. 26) and Penn State (Jan. 23), and an away game at the University of Massachusetts on Dec. 11.

Following the first of the year, Villanova will embark on its demanding Big East Conference slate. Each conference team plays three opponents twice on a home and home basis and the other conference opponents once. In the home and home games, Villanova will face three of the top league opponents in Boston College, Rutgers and Virginia Tech. The Wildcats will also play road games against defending National Champion Connecticut and 2002 NCAA Tournament participant Syracuse. The 2001 National Champion and preseason top five Notre Dame will visit The Pavilion on Saturday, Jan. 25. The Notre Dame game, along with the Seton Hall contest (Saturday, Jan. 18), will be featured as the Big East Conference Television Game of the Week.



*Jeanine Johnson will be looked upon to be a contributor at center in 2002-03.*

