

PREVIEW





2003-04 SEASON PREVIEW

The Villanova Wildcats will be looking to sustain the momentum from last year's magical season as they prepare for the 2003-04 campaign. Villanova made national headlines a year ago when they shocked No. 1 ranked Connecticut to win the Big East Championship and end the Huskies NCAA record 70-game win streak. The Wildcats finished the 2002-03 season with a 28-6 overall record and advanced all the way to the Elite Eight. With the loss of Katie Davis, Trish Juhline and Nicole Druckenmiller, head coach Harry Perretta must replace three four-year starters who combined to score 3,593 career points. Perretta will look to a youthful group of Wildcats to try and earn a bid to the NCAA Tournament for the fourth consecutive season.

The unquestioned leader of this year's squad is senior **Courtney Mix (6-0, Perrysburg, Ohio)**. The do-everything Mix is one of the most versatile players in the country. Mix will once again start at the point for Villanova, but she will also see time at the two-guard spot, as well as both forward positions. As a junior last year, Mix led the Wildcats in rebounding (7.2 rpg.), assists (4.7 apg.), steals (1.8 spg.) and block shots (38), in addition to ranking third on the team in scoring with a 9.4 points per game average. She enters her senior year already seventh on the Villanova all-time rebounding list with 660. Mix, a preseason second team All-Big East selection, is also the team's best defensive player and one of the top defenders in the Big East Conference.

GUARDS:

There are big shoes to fill at the guard spot, as the Wildcats must replace Juhline who finished her career as one of the program's all-time best. A four-year starter, Juhline earned numerous honors throughout her Main Line career, including being a two-time first team All-Big East selection, the 2003 Big East Tournament Most Outstanding Player and a 2003 Honorable Mention All-American. Her 1,659 points rank her third all-time in school history and her 283 career three-point field goals represent a school record. Juhline also owns the Big East Conference record for career three-point field goals made in just conference games.



Sophomore Betsy McManus will help Courtney Mix handle the point guard duties for the Wildcats this year.



Jen Hilgenberg is expected to earn valuable minutes at small forward in 2003-2004.

The two players expected to fill Juhline's void are fifth-year senior **Kelly Nash (5-10, Fairfield, Conn.)** and sophomore **Jenna Viani (5-11, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.)**. Nash is an experienced performer who has a good grasp of Perretta's sophisticated offense. Throughout her career, Nash has improved her range and has emerged as one of the team's top three-point shooters. In limited time over the last two seasons, she has connected on 53 field goals from behind the arc. Viani is a highly-skilled offensive player who has the potential to be a top-notch Big East performer. In addition to being an outstanding three-point shooter, Viani has the ability to put the ball on the floor and score inside.

When Mix is not at the point for Villanova, look for sophomore **Betsy McManus (5-6, Pearl River, N.Y.)** to earn minutes as the team's point guard. One of the smartest players on the team, McManus possesses great quickness and a good understanding of the game. Due to her speed and tenacity, McManus is also a standout defensive player. Junior **Sarita Hatcher (5-8, New York, N.Y.)** and sophomore **Frances Lamb (5-5, Wexford, Pa.)** will add depth to the Villanova backcourt.

FORWARD:

For the first time in four years, Villanova will have a new look at the forward positions in 2003-04. Since the 1999-00 season, Katie Davis (1,293 career points/247 three-point field goals) was the team's starting small forward and Nicole Druckenmiller (641 career points/139 three-point field goals) started at power forward. The odds on favorites to replace the graduated Davis and Druckenmiller are junior **Jennifer Hilgenberg (5-10, Readington, N.J.)** at the three-spot and sophomore and **Liad Suez (6-2, Even-Yehuda, Israel)** at power forward. Hilgenberg came into her own



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As a rookie last year, Kate Dessart Mager set a Villanova school record for games played by a freshman with 34.

toward the end of last year and looks poised to be a key contributor in 2003-04. One of the team's top athletes, Hilgenberg will be looked upon to be a consistent scorer for Villanova. Suez is a highly-touted performer who has all the tools to be a big-time performer. One of the team's most versatile players, Suez can score both inside and outside with her shooting range extending behind the arc. The talented Suez will use the early part of the schedule to get used to the American game and should be a potent weapon for Villanova come Big East Conference play.

Two other Wildcats expected to see significant minutes at forward will be sophomore **Courtney Roantree (5-11, Philadelphia, Pa.)** and redshirt freshman **Jackie Adamshick (6-0, Allentown, Pa.)**. Roantree is a fundamentally sound player who has a great feel for the game. Roantree is an outstanding three-point shooter who should earn playing time in the Villanova frontcourt. Adamshick is a multi-dimensional player with a great work-ethic. After redshirting last year, Adamshick appears ready to be a regular in the Wildcat rotation.

Freshman **Stacie Witman (6-0, Plymouth Meeting, Pa.)** has been impressive during pre-season drills and looks to have the potential to be a top-notch performer. The talented Witman has shown the ability to score from all over the court. Adding depth at forward will be freshman **Clarisse Garcia (5-10, Aliquippa, Pa.)**.

CENTER:

The center spot will be shared by junior **Jana Rediger (6-3, Sellersville, Pa.)** and sophomore **Kate Dessart Mager (6-0, Media, Pa.)**. Rediger, who has shown great improvement throughout her career, will start at center and provide the 'Cats with much needed size. A good shot blocker, Rediger will

rely on her outstanding mobility to be effective on the offensive end of the floor. Dessart Mager should use the experience she gained last year and be a force for Villanova in 2003-04. As a freshman last season, Dessart Mager set a school record for games played by a freshman with 34. Dessart Mager is a great athlete who possesses great quickness and outstanding jumping ability. Suez may also see time at center in certain situations for the Wildcats.

SCHEDULE:

Villanova will play a demanding early season schedule. The Wildcats tipoff the 2003-04 season in the Women's Sport Foundation Tournament in Eugene, Oregon on Nov. 15-16 where the Wildcats play SEC power LSU in the first round. Rounding out the tournament field is the University of Oregon and Valparaiso. Following the opening tournament, Villanova will play at Howard before opening the home portion of the schedule against Fairfield.

Keeping with tradition, Villanova will go on the road for a Thanksgiving Tournament. This year, the 'Cats will go west for Thanksgiving and play in the University of New Mexico Tournament. Joining Villanova in the field will be Elon College, Youngstown State University and host New Mexico. After Thanksgiving, Villanova returns to Philadelphia to play four-straight Philadelphia Big Five games. In City Series action this year, the Wildcats will host Penn and Saint Joseph's and play at Temple and LaSalle. Villanova will conclude its non conference portion of the schedule with a home game versus Columbia on Dec. 30.

After the first of the year, Villanova will embark on its demanding Big East Conference schedule. 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 this season, the Wildcats will play Pittsburgh, St. John's and Seton Hall. Villanova's home conference games include defending National Champion University of Connecticut and Big East power Rutgers. This year's Big East Conference Tournament will be played at the Hartford Civic Center from March 6-9.



Jana Rediger will be looked upon to be a key contributor at center for head coach Harry Perretta and the Wildcats.



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Courtney Roantree will provide Villanova will depth at the forward spot.



Sarita Hatcher returns for her third season as a member of the Villanova women's basketball team.

VILLANOVA WILDCAT BASKETBALL 2003-2004

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach	..... Harry Perretta (Lycoming '78)
Record at Villanova	..... .465-262 (25 years)
Career Record	..... .465-262 (25 years)
Associate Head Coach	..... Joe Mullaney (Providence '78)
Assistant Coaches	..... Mary Beth Snell (Villanova '00) Shanette Lee (Villanova '99)
Women's Basketball Trainer	..... Kelli McIntyre
Lettermen Returning/Lost	..... 7/3
Starters Returning/Lost	..... 2/3
Newcomers	..... 2
2002-03 Overall Record	..... 28-6
2002-03 Big East Record	..... .12-4/tied for 3rd
2002-03 Postseason	..... NCAA Regional Final Lost to Tennessee, 73-49

TOP LETTERMEN LOST (3):

<i>Player</i>	<i>Pos.</i>	<i>2002-03 Stats</i>	<i>Reason for Departure</i>
Trish Juhline	G	17.6 ppg, 4.3 apg	graduation
Katie Davis	G	15.1 ppg, 104 3-pt.fgs	graduation
Nicole Druckenmiller	F	5.7 ppg, 3.3 rpg	graduation

TOP LETTERMEN RETURNING (2):

<i>Player</i>	<i>Cl.</i>	<i>Pos.</i>	<i>Ht.</i>	<i>2002-03 Key Stats</i>
Courtney Mix	Sr.	G	5-10	9.4 ppg, 7.2 rpg, 4.8 apg
Kelly Nash	Sr.	F	5-10	3.6 ppg, 1.4 rpg

OTHER LETTERMEN RETURNING (6):

<i>Player</i>	<i>Cl.</i>	<i>Pos.</i>	<i>Ht.</i>	<i>2002-03 Key Stats</i>
Jana Rediger	Jr.	C	6-3	2.0 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 30 blocks
Kate Dessart Mager	So.	F	6-0	2.7 ppg, 23 steals
Jennifer Hilgenberg	Jr.	G/F	5-10	2.3 ppg
Jenna Viani	So.	G/F	5-11	1.9 ppg, .818 FT%
Betsy McManus	So.	G	5-6	1.8 ppg
Jeanine Johnson	Sr.	F	6-1	1.1ppg

NEWCOMERS (1):

<i>Player</i>	<i>Cl.</i>	<i>Pos.</i>	<i>Ht.</i>	<i>High School</i>
Stacie Witman	Fr.	G	6-0	Plymouth Meeting, Pa.