

# LADY VOL BASKETBALL

## GAME NOTES FOR DELTA STATE

### EXHIBITION GAME 2

• Nov. 9, 2009 • 7:00 pm

TENNESSEE Lady Vols vs.  
DELTA STATE Lady Statesmen

THOMPSON-BOLING ARENA • 21,678  
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

### RECENT RESULTS:

11-5-09 Tennessee def. Carson Newman, 124-34  
First exhibition game for Delta State

### UPCOMING GAMES:

11-15-09 #7/4 Baylor at #8/9 UT, 5:00 p.m. ESPN2  
11-16-09 #4 Delta St. at LeMoyne-Owen, 5:30 pm

### COACHES RECORDS:

UT's Pat Summitt is 1,005-193 (35 yrs)  
DSU's Sandra Rushing is 177-43 (8 yrs)

UT vs. DSU: UT leads 4-2

In Knoxville: UT is 2-0

Away: UT is 1-0

Neutral: UT is 1-2

Exhibition: 0-0 (not included in overall)

Overtime: UT is 0-0

Postseason: UT is 0-1

LAST MEETING: 2-6-1979 in Knoxville  
#6 UT def. #15 Delta State, 73-57

UT RECORD IN EXHIBITIONS: 46-11

HOME: 35-4

AWAY: 6-3

NEUTRAL: 5-4

### TONIGHT'S GAME

The #8/9-ranked Tennessee Lady Vols host the #4-ranked (NCAA Div. II) Delta State Lady Statesmen in a non-counting contest tonight. It marks the first time in 30 years that the two storied programs have met on the basketball court. DSU was an AIAW juggernaut in the 1970s and was coached, back-in-the-day, by the legendary Margaret Wade.

### NEXT UP

The #8/9-ranked Tennessee Lady Vols officially open the 2009-10 season hosting the #7/4-ranked Baylor Lady Bears in the State Farm Classic in Thompson-Boling Arena on Sunday, Nov. 15 at 5:00 p.m. (ESPN2). It marks just the second all-time meeting between the two schools with UT holding a 1-0 advantage after defeating BU, 71-69 in the 2004 NCAA Tournament.

### PROBABLE UT STARTERS

(stats from exhibition game)

40-SHEKINNA STRICKLEN, F-G, 6-2, So., 12.0 ppg, 7.0 apg  
25-GLORY JOHNSON, F, 6-3, So., 22.0 ppg, 10.0 rpg  
52-KELLEY CAIN, C, 6-6, RS-So., 16.0 ppg, 8.0 rpg  
1-BRIANA BASS, G, 5-2, So., 6.0 ppg, 1.0 rpg, 8.0 apg  
5-ANGIE BJORKLUND, G, 6-0, Jr., 21.0 ppg, 5.0 rpg



### OFF THE BENCH

4-KAMIKO WILLIAMS, G, 5-11, Fr., 2.0 ppg, 0.0 rpg  
13-TABER SPANI, F-G, 6-1, Fr., 17.0 ppg, 9.0 rpg  
15-ALICIA MANNING, F, 6-1, So., 18.0 ppg, 8.0 rpg  
20-SYDNEY SMALLBONE, G, 5-10, Jr., 3.0 ppg, 4.0 rpg  
21- VICKI BAUGH, F-C, 6-4, Jr., (6.5 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 08-09)  
33-ALYSSIA BREWER, F, 6-3, So., 7.0 ppg, 5.0 rpg  
34-FAITH DUPREE, F-C, 6-3, Fr.

### NOT ON ACTIVE ROSTER

10-AMBER GRAY, F, 6-1, So., 2.7 ppg, 1.9 rpg

### LADY VOLS AT A GLANCE

This is the Lady Vols' 36th season under Head Coach Pat Summitt...She has compiled a staggering 1005-193 overall record... Collected her record 1000th coaching win with a 73-43 decision over Georgia on Feb. 5, 2009... She passed Dean Smith (879 wins) for most NCAA collegiate basketball wins of all-time with a 75-54 victory over Purdue on Mar. 22, 2005 ...Her 2006-07 and 2007-08 squads were crowned as the NCAA Champions producing the program's seventh and eighth titles...Last season, UT finished with a 22-11 overall record and lost in the First Round of the NCAA Tournament.

This season, UT returned 10 letterwinners and welcomed a talented three player rookie class...The 2009-10 season marks the Lady Vol debut for freshmen: #4 Kamiko Williams, a 5-11 guard from Clarksville, Tenn., #13 Taber Spani, a 6-1 forward/guard from Lee's Summit, Mo., and #34 Faith Dupree, a 6-3 forward/center from Knoxville, Tenn. All will see their first action in the Orange and White this season.

### LAST TIME OUT

The Lady Vols downed Carson-Newman, 124-34, in their exhibition opener on Nov. 5 at Thompson-Boling Arena. Sophomore forward Glory Johnson came off the bench to finish with 22 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Lady Vols. In addition to Johnson, all five starters posted at least 12 points. Junior guard Angie Bjorklund finished with 21 points on 9-of-14 shooting, and added five boards, three assists and three steals. Sophomore guard/forward Alicia Manning tallied 18 points, eight rebounds and four steals. The Woodstock, Ga., native converted 5-of-8 field goal attempts and 8-of-9 free throws. Freshman guard Taber Spani posted 17 points and nine boards in her first game at Rocky Top. The Lee's Summit, Mo., native converted a three-pointer with 7:50 to play to put the Lady Vols over the century mark for the night. Redshirt sophomore center

Kelley Cain tossed in 16 points, grabbed eight rebounds and blocked six shots. Rounding out the starting five was sophomore Shekinna Stricklen's 12 points, seven assists and three steals. For the game, Tennessee converted on 62.3 percent (48-of-77) of its field goal attempts, and dished out 28 assists. The Lady Vol defense forced 37 turnovers and limited the Lady Eagles to 22.8 (13-of-57) percent shooting.

#### **THE 4-1-1 ON DELTA STATE**

The Lady Statesmen return three starters from a 2008-09 squad that posted a 30-7 record and made a run to the NCAA Division II Final Four. Last season, Delta State claimed its fourth straight Gulf South Conference championship and its third consecutive Final Four. Leading the way for DSU will be Sarita "Bug" Cooper, who dished out an NCAA-leading 289 assists in 2008-09. Also back for the Lady Statesmen is GSC Freshman of the Year Veronica Walker.

Tonight's game marks the first contest of the season for the Delta State Lady Statesmen...Head Coach Sandra Rushing will look to All-American Bug Cooper to lead DSU in 2009-10...Last season, Cooper dished an NCAA-leading 289 assists...Rushing also welcomes back Gulf South Conference Freshman of the Year Veronica Walker, who posted 11.5 ppg and 5.5 rpg as a rookie in 2008-09...The Lady Statesmen were picked to win their fifth straight GSC crown in 2009-10 and are ranked No. 3 in the Division II Top 25...Delta State also added a pair of Division I transfers in center Ashley Martin (1.5 ppg, 1.9 rpg at Southern Miss) and power forward Trevonna Cannon (2.6 ppg, 2.9 rpg at SE Missouri State)...Last year, junior Moe Bell connected on 99 three pointers, setting a new single season school record...She is fifth in the DSU career annals with 135 treys...The Wade Trophy, which is awarded to the best player in NCAA Division I women's basketball is named after former Delta State coach Lily Margaret Wade...Wade led the Lady Statesmen to AIAW National Championships in 1975, 1976 and 1977, and 51 consecutive wins...In 1977, Delta State downed Tennessee, 62-58, in the AIAW national semifinals on its way to an unprecedented third consecutive national title...In addition to the three championships claimed under Wade, DSU also won the NCAA Division II national championship in 1989, 1990 and 1992...The Lady Vols own a 4-2 all-time advantage against the Lady Statesmen.

#### **DELTA STATE PROBABLE STARTERS**

1-Bug Cooper, G, 5-6, Jr., 8.9 ppg, 7.8 apg  
5-Moe Bell, G, 5-10, Jr., 9.9 ppg, 2.6 rpg  
20-Shameka Russell, F, 6-2, Jr., 4.2 ppg, 2.0 rpg  
30-Veronica Walker, C, 6-1, So., 11.5 ppg, 5.5 rpg  
32-Denesha Henderson, G, 5-7, So., 2.3 ppg, 1.9 rpg  
\*Stats from 2008-09 season.

#### **SERIES HISTORY WITH DELTA STATE**

Between the years 1972-77, tiny Immaculata College and Delta State University ruled women's collegiate basketball as the Might Macs claimed titles in 1972, 1973 and 1974 and the Lady Statesmen grabbed the 1975, 1976 and 1977 AIAW National Championship crowns. Tennessee was a fledging program led by a young third-year Coach Pat Head when the two teams first met in the 1976 Mississippi University for Women Christmas Tournament on Dec. 17 in Columbus, Miss. UT rookie point guard Holly Warlick and 6'1" senior All-American post Trish Roberts had gotten the #19-ranked Lady Vols off to a good start in the tournament that morning defeating Clemson, 87-61. That afternoon, (yes, that afternoon), Tennessee

faced the first ranked opponent in the history of its program...the top-ranked Lady Statesmen of Delta State University led by revered head coach Lily Margaret Wade, 6'3" All-America center Lucy Harris and 4'11" point guard Debbie Brock who tipped the scales at 84 pounds. The Lady Vols battled but lost the game, 74-63. There was no time to dwell on the loss with a pair of tourney games the next day – eventual wins over Gulf Coast (89-60) and Ohio State (67-57).

The two teams would meet again that season in Minneapolis, Minn., at the 1977 AIAW Championships. The Lady Vols had battled to the Final Four in the tournament and was paired against Delta State while LSU took on Immaculata in the semifinals. Fifth-ranked Tennessee almost pulled the upset but lost down the stretch to the #1-ranked Lady Statesmen, 62-58. The next day, the Lady Vols upset #2-ranked Immaculata, 91-71, in the Final Four consolation game. While Tennessee was here to stay, it marked the last time Delta State or Immaculata advanced to the Division I championships.

The following season, Tennessee visited the Cleveland, Miss., campus for the Lady Statesmen Classic but lost to Montclair State and Carol Blazejowski thus denying an opportunity to face DSU at home. Delta State made its first trip to Knoxville and Stokely Athletics Center on Jan. 5, 1978. A record Lady Vol crowd of 6,000 fans saw senior Suzanne Barbre drop in 25 points and newcomers Cindy Brogdon (24 points) and Zandra Montgomery (23 points) pace #3-ranked Tennessee to the 94-74 defeat of #2-ranked Delta State. The two teams would have three more meetings over the next season with the last coming on Feb. 6, 1979 in Knoxville.

#### **TEAMMATES**

Delta State super post Lucy Harris was teammates with Tennessee coach and forward Pat Head and Lady Vols' center Patricia Roberts and forward Cindy Brogdon on the 1976 USA Olympic Team which captured the silver medal in Montreal.

#### **WADE TROPHY WINNERS**

The Tennessee Lady Vols have been fortunate to have two players receive one of the most coveted awards in women's basketball, the Wade Trophy, named after the late Delta State coach, Margaret Wade. Current Lady Vol Assistant Coach Daedra Charles-Furlow won the award in 1991 and Candace Parker was the 2007 recipient.

#### **CHAMPIONSHIPS LIVE HERE**

Delta State didn't stop winning championships after the AIAW days. The Lady Statesmen have also collected three NCAA Division II Championships bringing the combined AIAW/NCAA titles to six. The Lady Vols have brought eight titles home to Knoxville.

#### **RUSHINGS' DAYS AT ALABAMA**

Delta State coach Sandra Rushing posted a 1-3 record versus the Lady Vols as a player at Alabama from 1982-86. She averaged 5.5 ppg and 2.3 apg against the Lady Vols.

#### **UPCOMING OPPONENTS**

The season will officially begin on Sunday, Nov. 15, when the Baylor Lady Bears make their way to Knoxville for the 2009 State Farm Tip-Off Classic. The game will be aired to a national television audience on ESPN2 at 5 p.m. Two days later, the Lady Vols will make their way to San Antonio, Texas – site of the 2010 Final Four – where they

will face the Texas Tech Lady Raiders in the ESPNU Road To The Championship in a 6 p.m. matchup on ESPNU.

#### ELITE COMPANY

In the last exhibition game, true rookie forward/guard Taber Spani started against Carson-Newman. When Coach Pat Summitt started freshmen Shekinna Stricklen and Glory Johnson last season against San Francisco, it marked only the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12th time in her coaching career that a freshman started her very first game at Tennessee. The list of opening day rookie starters: Glory Johnson and Shekinna Stricklen, 2008, Angie Bjorklund, 2007, Candace Parker, 2005, Shyra Ely 2001, Ashley Robinson 2000, Gwen Jackson 1999, Kyra Elzy 1996, Chamique Holdscraw 1995, Tiffani Johnson 1994, Bridgette Gordon and Sheila Frost 1985.

#### THE NOD

Last season, a record number of players – FIVE – were called on to start for the Lady Vols as rookies... Shekinna Stricklen (starter number 53), Glory Johnson (number 54), Briana Bass (55), Alicia Manning (56) and Kelley Cain (57) all earned starting assignments becoming the 52nd-57th freshmen to earn the honor. Angie Bjorklund became the 52nd all-time Lady Vol to start during her freshman season –she started in 30 of 38 games. Previously, Cait McMahan earned a start at point guard versus Louisiana Tech during her freshman season. Prior to Cait's starting nod, then-redshirt freshman Candace Parker played and started in all 36 games her rookie season in 2005-06. A season earlier, Tennessee coach Pat Summitt liked what she saw out of the 2004-05 rookie class as two players earned starting nods during the season. Nicky Anosike played in all 35 games with 25 starting assignments and Alexis Hornbuckle played in all 35 games with 21 starts. This duo became the 48th and 49th rookies all-time to earn starting assignments at UT as rookies. The 2001-02 rookie class found three players earn a starting nod as Loree Moore, Shyra Ely and Brittany Jackson all started at some point in their rookie careers.

#### ALWAYS A HOT TICKET

Joe Arnone, UT Associate AD for Ticket Operations, says Lady Vol season ticket sales have been steady despite the disappointment of the 2008-09 season. As of Nov. 2nd, 9,897 season tickets had been sold. Last season, over 10,400 season tickets were sold.

#### POLLSTERS

The Tennessee Lady Vols will start the season in somewhat unfamiliar territory in the Top 25 Preseason polls released in the last week. The Associated Press has UT in the eighth position to start the season, while the ESPN/USA Today Coaches Poll has UT in ninth spot. Last season, UT started in seventh in the AP and sixth in the coaches' poll. Tennessee's start in the AP poll is the lowest since the 1985-86 season when UT started in the number nine spot.

#### 2009-10 ASSOCIATED PRESS PRESEASON POLL

1. Connecticut (40)
2. Stanford
3. Ohio State
4. Notre Dame
5. North Carolina
6. Duke
7. Baylor
8. Tennessee
9. LSU
10. Michigan State

11. Xavier
12. Texas
13. Oklahoma
14. Virginia
15. Florida State
16. Arizona State
17. DePaul
18. California
19. Georgia Tech
20. Kansas
21. Georgia
22. Vanderbilt
23. Louisville
24. Middle Tennessee State
25. Rutgers

Others Receiving Votes: Texas A&M 137, Maryland 114, Mississippi State 110, San Diego State 78, South Dakota State 70, Pittsburgh 48, Purdue 45, Kansas State 33, Gonzaga 30, Marist 26, UCLA 26, Michigan 16, Iowa State 14, Minnesota 14, Boston College 12, Louisiana Tech 11, Tulane 9, Bowling Green 8, Arkansas 7, TCU 7, Wisconsin-Green Bay 7, Auburn 6, Nebraska 6, Texas Tech 6, USC 5, Florida 3, Fresno State 3, Oklahoma State 3, Delaware 1, Florida Gulf Coast 1, Temple 1

#### 2009-10 USA TODAY/ESPN PRESEASON POLL

1. Connecticut (31)
2. Stanford
3. Ohio State
4. Baylor
5. North Carolina
6. Duke
7. Notre Dame
8. Oklahoma
9. Tennessee
10. Michigan State
11. Arizona State
12. Florida State
13. California
14. Texas
15. Xavier
16. Texas A&M
17. LSU
18. Virginia
19. Louisville
20. Vanderbilt
21. Maryland
22. Pittsburgh
23. Purdue
24. Iowa State
25. DePaul

Others Receiving Votes: Middle Tennessee State 118, Kansas 110, Rutgers 106, Auburn 84, Georgia 76, Georgia Tech 73, South Dakota State 70, Mississippi State 66, Gonzaga 48, Kansas State 39, San Diego State 39, Florida 31, TCU 12, N.C. State 11, Arizona 10, Michigan 10, Bowling Green 7, South Florida 6, Syracuse 6, South Carolina 3, Arkansas-Little Rock 2, Ball State 2, Georgetown 2, Richmond 2, Southern Methodist 2, Temple 2, Central Florida 1, Charlotte 1, Fresno State 1, Hartford 1, Minnesota 1, West Virginia 1, Western Kentucky 1

#### SEC COACHES TAB LADY VOLS AS FAVORITES

The Southeastern Conference unveiled its sixth annual women's basketball preseason All-SEC first and second teams, Thurs., Oct. 30, to tip-off the 2009-10 season of SEC women's basketball. In addition, the coaches voted on a predicted order of finish, overall champion and a preseason Player of the Year.

In the closet vote yet, Tennessee was predicted to win the Southeastern Conference regular season championship

over LSU by one vote. The Lady Vols were 22-11, 9-5 in the SEC last season, while LSU finished 19-11, 10-4 in conference play. Mississippi State, Georgia, Vanderbilt and South Carolina round out the top half of the league with Florida, Auburn, Arkansas, Ole Miss, Kentucky and Alabama rounding out the lower half.

LSU senior guard Allison Hightower was named SEC Women's Basketball Preseason Player of the Year. Joining Hightower on the All-SEC First Team were Arkansas' C'eira Ricketts, Georgia's Ashley Houts and Angel Robinson, LSU's LaSondra Barrett, Mississippi State's Alexis Rack and Tennessee's Angie Bjorklund and Shekinna Stricklen. Second team consists of Auburn's Alli Smalley, Georgia's Porsha Phillips, Kentucky's Victoria Dunlap, Ole Miss' Bianca Thomas, Mississippi State's Armelie Lumanu and Chanel Mokango, Tennessee's Glory Johnson and Vanderbilt's Merideth Marsh and Hannah Tuomi.

#### **LADY VOLS PICKED NUMBER TWO BY SEC MEDIA**

The Tennessee Lady Vols were predicted to finish second in the Southeastern Conference this season following a vote by a select panel of both SEC and national media members. LSU was picked to win the 2010 SEC women's basketball championship.

Two Lady Vol players were recognized on the preseason All-SEC Team as the media picked sophomore Shekinna Stricklen for the First Team and junior sharpshooter Angie Bjorklund for the Second Team.

LSU's Allison Hightower was the overwhelming choice of the media for SEC Women's Basketball Player of the Year with 18 votes, the remaining votes were for LSU's Lasondra Barrett and Tennessee's Angie Bjorklund. Joining Hightower on the All-SEC First Team were Georgia's Ashley Houts and Angel Robinson, Mississippi State's Alexis Rack and Tennessee's Shekinna Stricklen. Second team consists of Arkansas' C'eira Ricketts, LSU's LaSondra Barrett, Ole Miss' Bianca Thomas, Tennessee's Angie Bjorklund and Vanderbilt's Merideth Marsh.

#### **Preseason Media Poll (First place votes)**

LSU (12)	206
Tennessee (6)	190
Georgia (1)	156
Vanderbilt (1)	126
Mississippi State	120
Florida	105
Arkansas	92
Auburn	85
Ole Miss	70
South Carolina	61
Kentucky	40
Alabama	24

#### **LADY VOLS OWN ALL-TIME WINS MARK**

Tennessee is the all-time wins leader in the NCAA and is just two wins from earning program victory number 1,100. The next closest program all-time in terms of wins is Louisiana Tech, which owns a 953-195 record. The Lady Vols boast a 1,098-250-2 (.814) all-time record.

#### **STAFFERS HAVE, BUT NEVER A PLAYER**

No former Lady Vol who has joined the collegiate coaching ranks has ever beaten Head Coach Pat Summitt. This year Nikki Caldwell (UCLA) and Tanya Haave (University of San Francisco) will try to accomplish the feat. Former players are 0-6 against their mentor.

#### **2009-10 LADY VOL BASKETBALL SCHEDULE NOTES**

Summitt has once again put together a demanding schedule for her squad. In 2009-10, the Lady Vols will face 14 NCAA Tournament teams from a year ago and four teams that played in the WNIT. The slate includes three of the four squads who played in the 2009 Final Four, a home match with SEC Champion Auburn and a double-date with SEC Tournament champion Vanderbilt. With the expanded SEC line-up, the Lady Vols will face four squads twice, in addition to traditional-rival Vanderbilt. Tennessee will go home-and-home with Florida, LSU, Ole Miss and South Carolina.