



THE ROARING LION!

Columbia Women's Basketball Newsletter 2010-11

Volume 2, Issue 1 – October 2010



NEWS FROM PRIDE ROCK

With Head Coach Paul Nixon

“As a new season rapidly approaches, we are excited about the new faces in the Columbia women’s basketball program. We have two new assistant coaches for this season, Nettie Respondek and Nicole Louden. Both are former State Players of the Year in Texas and New Jersey, respectively, and both were starters in the highly competitive Southeastern Conference, at Vanderbilt and Auburn, again respectively. They have already brought great enthusiasm to our staff, shared their passion for basketball with our players and demonstrated a gift for teaching on the court. After saying goodbye to the winningest class in program history this spring, we are welcoming five first-years to the Columbia roster for this season. The two guards, two forwards and one center will bring immediate depth to both our frontcourt and backcourt. Even though it is still early in the preseason, they have all shown signs that they are ready to compete for playing time right away. The returning players in the program have returned in the best shape of any team I have coached at Columbia, and they too are ready to compete. They won’t have to wait long as we will be one of the first teams to open up the 2010-11 season. Our game against LIU on November 12th will feature a 1:00pm tip time and will serve as our annual opportunity to welcome hundreds of New York City school children to Levien Gym to cheer on the Lions! We are ready to start another exciting season of Columbia women’s basketball and hope you will follow along with us as we strive to improve on last season’s record-setting campaign.”

2010-11 Schedule

November

- 12 **Long Island**
- 16 **Fairleigh Dickinson**
- 19 St. John’s
- 23 Manhattan
- 27 San Diego

December

- 2 **Wagner**
- 5 Monmouth
- 9 **Fairfield**
- 12 Iowa State
- 28 Hawaii
- 29 UNLV
- 30 **Cal State Bakersfield**

January

- 5 **Lafayette**
- 15 **Cornell**
- 19 **St. Francis**
- 22 Cornell
- 28 **Harvard**
- 29 **Dartmouth**

February

- 4 **Brown**
- 5 **Yale**
- 11 Princeton
- 12 Penn
- 18 Dartmouth
- 19 Harvard
- 25 **Penn**
- 26 **Princeton**

March

- 4 Yale
- 5 Brown

Home Games are in Bold
**Ivy League Game*



Recruiting Corner

[Click here to update your questionnaire](#)



Women's Basketball Staff for 2010-11



[Paul Nixon](#)
Head Coach



[Shanna Cook](#)
Assistant Coach



[Nettie Respondek](#)
Assistant Coach



[Nicole Loudon](#)
Assistant Coach



[Nick Burke](#)
Director of Basketball Operations

Women's Basketball Announces Addition of Nicole Loudon to Coaching Staff

A current member of the Jamaican National Team, a former New Jersey State High School Player of the Year and a four-year letterwinner at Auburn, Nicole Loudon has been added to the Columbia women's basketball coaching staff, head coach Paul Nixon announced on Monday. "Nicole Loudon is an outstanding young coach who possesses a lot of natural leadership qualities, and we are thrilled to have added her to our coaching staff," Nixon says. "She will be a tremendous addition to the Columbia Athletics Department and our women's basketball family. Our players are really going to love playing for her."

"With the graduation of Sara Yee, we have a number of players who are competing not only for the starting point guard position but also to be in the guard rotation," Nixon continues. "Nicole will be working closely with this group to guide their development, and our players are certainly going to benefit from her wealth of experiences as a player at the highest levels." This past summer, Loudon, who will serve as the volunteer assistant coach on Nixon's staff, helped Jamaica to runner-up finish at the Centrobasket Tournament to qualify the Jamaican team for the 2011 FIBA Americas Championship. The Americas Championship will serve as the final qualifier for the 2012 Summer Olympics.

Loudon nearly registered a triple-double in the semifinals against Trinidad and Tobago, tallying 11 points, 10 rebounds and six assists in a 62-59 win. Loudon was also an integral part of the Jamaica team that earned a bronze medal at the 2010 Central American and Caribbean Games in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. Loudon had her best game against the Dominican Republic, when she totaled 17 points and eight assists in a narrow defeat. Loudon played four seasons at Auburn University in Alabama, finishing her career with 843 points, 311 assists and 185 steals. Loudon helped the Tigers to back-to-back postseason appearances as a sophomore and junior, and was a two-time Academic All-Southeast Conference selection.

The 5-7 point guard would go on to play professionally in three different countries (Israel, Czech Republic and Spain) from 2005-10. For Valosun Brno of the Czech Republic in 2008-09, Loudon averaged 13.7 points, 5.2 rebounds and 2.3 steals per game in helping the team to a third-place finish in its league. A three-time Nike All-American at John F. Kennedy High School in New Jersey, Loudon averaged 34 points, eight rebounds and five assists per game as a senior and became the all-time leading scorer - boys or girls - in Passaic County history. Loudon was the subject of a book entitled "She's Got Handle" by Adam Zagoria. Loudon graduated from Auburn with a dual bachelor's degree in psychology and physical education in 2007.

Trip to Hawaii Highlights 2010-2011 Women's Basketball Schedule

An end-of-December trip to the Aloha State highlights the 2010-11 Columbia University women's basketball schedule, as it was announced by sixth-year head coach Paul Nixon. The Lions, coming off the winningest NCAA Division I season in program history last year, will make the trek to Hawaii for a three-game tournament, hosted by the University of Hawaii, on Dec. 28-30. Columbia will play 13 home games at Levien Gymnasium in the City of New York in 2010-11, including a season-opening matinee against Long Island University on Friday, Nov. 12 at 1 p.m. The Lions will battle Fairleigh Dickinson (Nov. 16), Wagner (Dec. 2), Fairfield (Dec. 9), Lafayette (Jan. 5) and St. Francis (N.Y.) (Jan. 19) in other home tilts during the non-conference portion of their schedule.

Following the contest against the Knights on Nov. 16, Columbia will embark on a three-game road trip which includes a pair of games against local rivals. The Lions finish up their home-and-home series with St. John's in Jamaica Queens on Fri., Nov. 19, then take on Manhattan three days later in Riverdale. A trip to southern California for a single game against the University of San Diego rounds out the road swing on Nov. 27. Two Sunday road contests at Monmouth (Dec. 5) and Big XII Conference member Iowa State (Dec. 12) sandwich the home game against Fairfield, and lead into the trip to Hawaii. The Lions open the Pepsi Rainbow Wahine Invitational against the host Rainbow Wahine on Dec. 28, and will also take on UNLV and Cal State Bakersfield during the trip.

Ivy League play begins at home with the annual doubleheader against Cornell with the men's team on Saturday, Jan. 15. After the return trip to Ithaca the following weekend, the Lions host four straight conference games from Jan. 28-Feb. 5 against Harvard, Dartmouth, Brown and Yale. The Ivy League home schedule will conclude on Saturday, Feb. 26 against reigning conference champion Princeton. The game will also mark the final home regular season game for co-captains Kathleen Barry and Lauren Dwyer.

Meet the Newest Members of the Women's Basketball Team



Brianna Orlich
5'9" - Guard
Fresno, CA



Courtney Bradford
6'1" – Forward
Alpharetta, GA



Blaine Frohlich
6'1" – Forward
Kingspoint, TN



Taylor Ward
5'7" – Guard
Oregon City, OR



Nicole Santucci
6'4" – Center
Beaverton, OR

Lion's Bite

Melissa Shafer Dials Long Distance From Dominican Republic

Whether on the court or in the classroom, Columbia women's basketball player Melissa Shafer feels at ease doing things from long range. A sophomore on the Columbia women's team in 2009-10, Shafer helped the Lions set a program record for victories in an NCAA Division I season with 18. The 5-9 guard led the Ivy League in three-point field goal percentage and will look to duplicate her long-distance accuracy in the upcoming 2010-11 season.

[Click here to read the full story](#)



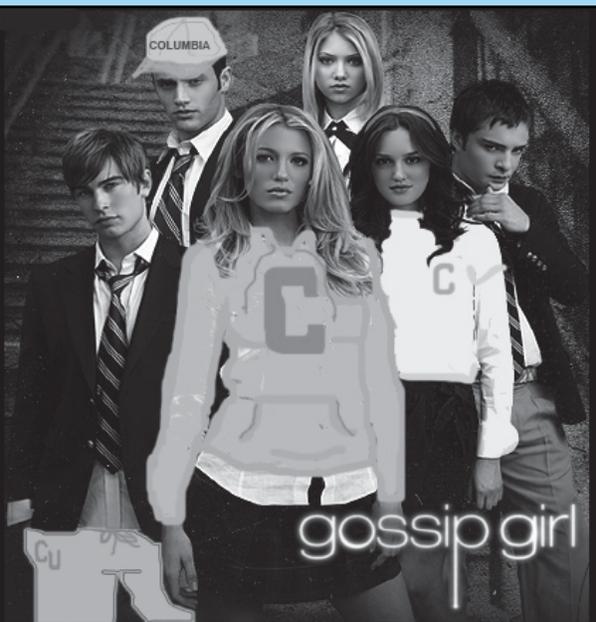
On Campus

Gossip Girl Dumps Upper East Side for Columbia University

UPPER WEST SIDE — "Gossip Girl," the teen soap opera that gave America a glamorized glimpse of Upper East Side private school life, is making its way to the Upper West Side, sources say.

The TV blog Zap2it.com reported that the show is planning a multi-episode story involving a fictional Columbia University professor to be played by "Mad Men" actor Sam Page. Stars Blake Lively and Leighton Meester were spotted filming Tuesday at Grant's Tomb. A spokeswoman for "Gossip Girl" confirmed that Page is a guest star on the show during the new season, which premieres Sept. 13 on The CW network. Page will play at professor at Columbia, where Meester's character Blair Waldorf recently transferred after a stint at NYU.

[Click here to read the full story](#)



Camp Zone

Women's Basketball Announces Camp Dates for 2011

Columbia head women's basketball coach Paul Nixon has announced dates for the 2011 Paul Nixon Basketball Camp. The women's basketball elite camp is slated for June 24-26, 2011, and is open to girls ages 14-18. The girls' basketball skills camp, which is scheduled for June 27-30, is open to girls ages 7-18.

For more information on both camps, please contact assistant coach Shanna Cook at 212-854-8861 or at ssc2153@columbia.edu.



Did you know?

Paul Nixon enters his sixth season as head coach of the Columbia women's basketball team and the team has improved its win total in each of his first five seasons."



ROAR, LIONS, ROAR!

Alumni Paw Prints

Kathy Gilbert White
'91CC



Recently Kathy Gilbert White sat down with our very own Roar-ee the Lion:

Roar-ee: What was one of your favorite memories of the Columbia campus?

KGW: It would be either having access to the park to run sprints or being on campus when everyone else was gone and eating at Tom's Diner.

Roar-ee: Any personal favorite memories of achievement?

KGW: Blocking a shot at the defensive foul line at Cornell and dribbling it down for a layup - a rare sight!

Roar-ee: What about the most grueling game?

KGW: That would have to be when I played UPenn to 4 overtimes.

Roar-ee: Any plays that just amazed you?

KGW: By far Jen Beubis's half-court shot at UPenn.

Roar-ee: Do you have any memories from practice?

KGW: Oh yes, one in particular. There was a practice where I misinterpreted being asked to throw the ball as high as I could and almost hit the gym ceiling. It was a tense practice and my misunderstanding immediately changed the mood.

Roar-ee: What were the larger themes you got to take away from your time at Columbia?

KGW: Aside from the obvious education and athletic aspects, I thoroughly enjoyed the many bonding moments with my teammates on all of our road trips.

- Inducted into the Columbia Athletics Hall of Fame in 2010
- All-time career rebounding leader at Columbia with 937 (9.4 per game)
- First Columbia women's basketball player to be named first team All-Ivy League (1990-91)
- Had 101 blocks as a first-year, which stood as the most for a first-year player in the NCAA for 18 years and currently stands as the fifth-most
- Holds Columbia's all-time career record for blocks with 305, more than double the second-place person (Trisha Suggs - 146)
- Ranks second all-time in scoring at Columbia with 1,309 points
- National High School Athletics Coaches Association All-American prior to coming to Columbia

Support Columbia Women's Basketball

Good news! We have again surpassed our fundraising goal for the year raising over \$36,000 for Women's Basketball. Thanks to everyone who made an annual gift and helped us achieve this objective.

Every gift you make helps our program grow and supports critical needs like equipment and uniforms, recruiting, alumnae and networking events, and training and travel, and also supplements our operating budget—your generosity helps us achieve our ultimate goal of becoming Ivy League champions. THANKS!

As I look ahead, I see ways we can grow our base of support even more. Of the 60 gifts we received (as of Friday June 25), 19 of them were from Women's Basketball alumnae; the rest were from parents, friends of the program, and fans. Reaching and getting more support from former Women's Basketball student-athletes—whether it comes in the form of a gift, attendance at our games or events, jobs and mentoring—will be one of our priorities for next year. We can't get where we want to go without you. We need you with us. Thank you!

~ Katie Day '03 CC –'99,'00,'01,'02

[You can give online by clicking here](#)

*No gift is too small. Every dollar counts!
We truly appreciate your generosity. Thank you.*

*Homecoming/Hall of Fame Weekend
Saturday, October 23, 2010*

