October 2015

NEWS FROM THE LION'S DEN
WITH HEAD COACH SHEILA ROUX

It is an honor and privilege to serve as the Interim Head Women's Basketball Coach at Columbia University. After arriving at Columbia in the Spring of 2013, I have been so impressed with the academic excellence and professional success that characterize Ivy League scholars. Columbia University, however, sets itself apart from the rest of the Ivy institutions with its passionate student-body, engaged alumni community, and the endless opportunities New York City offers. I feel very fortunate to live in the best city in the world and to lead the highly selective and warm family that is Columbia Women's Basketball. I am thrilled to spend more time with each of you and continue building strong relationships.

As I enter my 15th year of coaching college basketball, I am excited for the opportunity to continue what we have started at Columbia. The foundation has been laid to turn Columbia Women's Basketball into a championship program. We have seen significant improvements over the last 2 years, in not only the number of victories, but also the development of a competitive mindset. Last season, the class of 2018 set a Columbia record with seven Ivy League Rookie of the Week honors, while the class of 2019 was ranked 1st in the Ivy League and 57th in the country, coming out of high school.

Off the court, my goals are to ensure that our program creates a world-class experience for all that connect with it and that our players grow into well-rounded leaders – developing academically, professionally, and psychosocially. One of the ways in which our players will have a special opportunity to advance professionally is through our mentoring program, the Professional Enrichment Program (PEP). This year, we are inviting all of our alumnae to the PEP Event on October 18th! We would love for you to learn more about PEP, connect with former teammates, and spend time with our current student-athletes. We look forward to seeing you there!
MEET THE FIRST-YEARS

Abby Lee is from West Monroe, Louisiana, and plans to major in business or finance. While at West Monroe High School, Abby totaled 1,724 points and pulled down 1,190 rebounds to help her team achieve a 114-25 overall four-year record. She was a three-time Louisiana State 3-point champion and nominated to be a McDonald’s All-American in her senior season. Off the court, Abby was the school’s valedictorian after being a two-time recipient of the 4.0 GPA Award. She was also a two-year member of the National Honor Society.

Paulina Körner is from Koln, Germany, and is considering a future in the field of environmental science. Paulina most recently played for TG Neuss in the second women’s national league. She averaged 7.2 points, 3.9 rebounds, 2.5 assists, and 2.1 steals per game as the starting point guard. Selected as a team captain, Paulina also played a significant role on the U18 European Championship Women’s B Division squad from 2013-2014. Off the court, Paulina was selected to be a youth ambassador for doping prevention in 2014.

Sarah Elston is from Bannockburn, Illinois, and has a strong interest in the field of law. In her final two years at Loyola Academy, Sarah averaged 10.9 points, 8.9 rebounds, 3.7 blocks, 2.4 assists, and 2.1 steals per game while shooting 62% from the field, 39% from the three-point line, and 76% from the free-throw line. She was a three-time All-Conference selection and four-time Conference All-Academic Team selection. She was named a National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalist, and an Illinois State Scholar.

Emily Surloff is from Los Angeles, California, and is considering a major in business or finance. As a senior in high school, Emily was named California’s Southern Section Division 1AA Player of the Year and Winward School’s Female Athlete of the Year. Emily started on her AAU team, Cal Storm Team Taurasi, which won the 2014 Nike Nationals Tournament. Off the court, Emily was named a National Merit Commended Scholar in 2014, was selected as a member of the National Honor Society, and made the Dean’s List all four years.

Josie Little is from San Francisco, California, and has interest in the fields of international studies, law, and business. As a two-year captain and four-year letter winner at St. Ignatius College Preparatory School, Josie led her team to two league championships. She is ranked 90th by ESPN’s scout source for high school prospects, and recognized as the #3 center in Northern California by NorCal Preps. Off the court, Josie was a four-year Principal’s Honor Roll Student and can speak French and Spanish.

Georgia Williams is from Ashland, Oregon, and plans to study chemical engineering. After graduation, Georgia would like to play basketball professionally overseas. During her high school career at Ashland High School, she averaged 15 points, 9 rebounds, and 4 blocked shots per game. Georgia was a three-time First Team All-League selection and named to the Second Team All-State in her senior season. Off the court, Georgia was a four-year Honor Roll student, and was a member of the National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta.

Emily Surloff is from Los Angeles, California, and is considering a major in business or finance. As a senior in high school, Emily was named California’s Southern Section Division 1AA Player of the Year and Winward School’s Female Athlete of the Year. Emily started on her AAU team, Cal Storm Team Taurasi, which won the 2014 Nike Nationals Tournament. Off the court, Emily was named a National Merit Commended Scholar in 2014, was selected as a member of the National Honor Society, and made the Dean’s List all four years.
Patrena Trice-Hill rejoined the Columbia women’s basketball coaching staff this past April. She returns to Morningside Heights after a two-year stint as an assistant coach at Norfolk State University. Trice-Hill made an immediate impact with the Spartans, helping them to their first .500 or better mark in league play in 12 years. She also helped coach NSU’s first All-MEAC first-team selection in 12 years.

With over 14 years of assistant coaching experience, Trice-Hill has spent time at Columbia University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Shaw University, North Carolina State University, and Hampton University. While at NC State, her alma mater, she worked for Hall of Fame coach Kay Yow. During this time, the Wolfpack advanced to three NCAA Tournaments, including a Sweet 16. Specializing in developing post players, Trice-Hill mentored three WNBA Draft selections at NC State and coached the nation’s leading rebounder while at VCU.

Prior to coaching, Trice-Hill had a very successful 14-year professional career, in both the WNBA and with the Federal International Basketball Association (FIBA). As a player at NC State, she was a four-year All-ACC member and finished her career with 1,761 points and 984 rebounds. Trice-Hill led the Wolfpack to a pair of ACC tournament championships in 1985 and 1987, and an ACC regular season title in 1985. She was also a finalist for the Wade Trophy, which honors the nation’s best women’s basketball player, and participated in the 1988 Olympic Trials.

The United States comprises only 5% of the world’s population, but has more than 25% of the world’s prisoners. Statistical evidence overwhelmingly confirms that obtaining a college education reduces recidivism, increases employment opportunities, and strengthens communities. Taking this into account, Columbia University has implemented the Justice-in-Education Initiative. This program provides greater educational opportunities to those who are or have been incarcerated, as well as enriches the academic life of faculty and students wishing to engage in issues of contemporary justice.

Justice-in-Education offers courses taught by Columbia instructors in local prisons and provides the formerly incarcerated with the opportunity to continue their education at Columbia and its partner institutions. Columbia faculty and students travel to Rikers Island Jail to teach incarcerated youth mini-courses on topics such as computer coding, developing a business plan, and hip hop/beat making. Justice-in-Education has also developed a strong curriculum to help Columbia students effectively engage in prison and jail education. The Initiative provides students with an interdisciplinary framework for understanding criminal justice issues. Aiming to change public and political opinion, the Initiative emphasizes the potential of incarcerated people to grow and develop, especially when offered access to higher education.
Professional Enrichment Program

Last year, Columbia Women’s Basketball started a mentoring program, the Professional Enrichment Program (PEP), which pairs each current player with an alumna. PEP is designed to assist the current players in furthering their professional growth and preparing them for job opportunities, while building relationships between current and former players.

In just one year, we have received a great deal of positive feedback about PEP from both the alumnae and the current players. Most mentor/mentee pairs connect once or twice a month to discuss topics that range from networking and interviewing to resume building and post-graduate opportunities. Some mentors have even assisted in helping their mentees find summer jobs and internships.

On October 18th, all Women’s Basketball alumnae are invited to the second-annual PEP Event! The keynote speaker will be Patti Phillips, the current CEO of the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletics Administrators (NACWAA). Phillips has spent her entire career committed to women’s advancement and leadership development in the arena of athletics. Click here to watch Phillip’s 2014 TEDx Talk on the topic of potential. The event will begin at 5pm in the Faculty House on Columbia University’s campus. Please RSVP to Michelle Bilek at mb3791@columbia.edu by Oct. 5th.
SAVE THE DATE! October 21, 2015, marks the fourth annual Giving Day at Columbia University. Giving Day is a 24-hour, university-wide online fundraising initiative that incorporates all University schools and programs. Last year - in just 24-hours - Columbia raised an incredible $11,064,924 for the university!! This was achieved with the contributions of 10,452 donors from all 50 states and 53 countries. Athletics in particular, raised over 2.4 million dollars between direct gifts and bonus money from the University match challenge. Over $200,000 went to The Fund for Excellence, which supports the overall student-athlete experience, including enrichment services, championship performance, championship recognition, and more.

In 2014, Women’s Basketball raised an amazing $69,230, which increased to $75,734 with the bonus money! The amount raised was 2.5 times more than the previous year! The funds raised from alumni, parents, and friends are integral to the success of our program. From sponsoring team-bonding functions to financing workouts with a speed and agility specialist, the donations greatly enhance each of our student-athlete’s experience at Columbia.

Similar to past years, Columbia Athletics is competing against other undergraduate and graduate schools to win over $420,000 of incentive funds from the University. Additionally, within the athletics department, women’s basketball is competing against the other sport programs for an additional $100,000 in incentive funds. This reward money is distributed based on dollars raised, so the impact of your contribution is exponentially increased. Additionally, there will be bonus money distributed to sports programs based on the number of new donors, so be sure to spread the word about Giving Day!

Columbia Giving Day is a remarkable display of what happens when the Columbia community comes together – it changes lives that change the world. We are calling on all alumnae, students, faculty, staff, and friends of women’s basketball to join us and help make the University the best it can be!

For more information on giving day and how to make a donation, visit givingday.columbia.edu.

Thank you for being a member of the Columbia Women’s Basketball Family!