November 2015

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

We started official team practice almost one month ago, and my staff and I have enjoyed every minute of it! All eleven of the returners from last season came back to campus much improved. Not only are their skills more developed, but they also have a sharper focus, increased confidence, and a renewed commitment. They have set a high standard for effort, execution, and approach that the first-years have completely adopted. This creates a high-energy, competitive, and productive environment in each practice. This Friday, November 6, we will play an exhibition game at home against Mansfield University. We would love to see you in the stands cheering!

It was so great to spend time with our alumnae at the WLC and PEP events this past month. It is evident that our alumnae are committed to staying connected and have a passion for giving back to the program and current student-athletes. The strong alumnae presence at the PEP event really meant a lot to our staff and players. Additionally, we could not be more appreciative of the amazing effort put forth by all of you on Giving Day 2015! From posting on social media, to rallying others to donate, to making your own gift - each of you made a meaningful contribution! We are extremely grateful for all the support you have given to our program!
Meet Assistant Coach, Brenna Rollie

Brenna Rollie has joined the Lions staff after taking a two-year hiatus from collegiate coaching to start her own Yoga company, Aham Love Yoga. She taught yoga classes and worked with collegiate athletic programs in Minnesota and North Dakota to implement yoga training for their student-athletes.

Before starting her own company, Rollie served as an assistant coach at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. During her time there, the Retrievers saw major improvements and achieved many “firsts” for their program. In 2012-2013, UMBC won its first-ever American East regular-season title and a berth in the Women’s National Invitation Tournament. With a record of 20 wins and 12 losses, the Retrievers matched the most wins in the program’s 25-year Division 1 history. Additionally, their 13-3 record in league play was the best in their eight seasons of being an American East member. UMBC consistently received votes in the CollegeInsider.com Mid-Major Top 25 Poll.

Prior to UMBC, Rollie spent two seasons as an assistant coach at Bucknell University. She assisted in all aspects of recruiting, game-planning, and on-floor player development, working primarily with the guards. She also served as the team’s academic monitor, overseeing a squad that ranked 14th in NCAA Division 1 with a 3.422 team GPA.

Rollie started her career as a graduate assistant at Bemidji State University, and then served as the director of operations at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She arranged travel, special events, and community outreach efforts. In each of her two seasons with the Panthers, the team won the Horizon League’s Community Service Award.

Rollie was the starting shooting guard at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, from 2000-2003. As a junior captain, she averaged 8.7 points and 3.4 assists, while ranking among the North Central Conference's top 10 in assists per game and assist-to-turnover ratio. Rollie completed her college career at Minnesota State University Moorhead, where she received the Dragons' Sixth Player Award after shifting to point guard. Rollie still holds the records at Rothsay High School for all-time points, rebounds, and assists.

Women’s Leadership Council Event

The Women’s Leadership Council (WLC) is a leadership giving recognition society for Columbia women donors. Since its inception in 2007, the WLC has included more than 130 women and raised over 2 million dollars! The Fall WLC event was held at Freds at Barneys. Women’s Basketball had its best turnout yet! In attendance were the coaching staff and 8 alumnae - Jennifer Beubis ‘91CC, Valerie Purdie-Vaughns ‘93CC, Manju Dawkins ‘01CC, Katie Day Benvenuto ‘03CC, Lauren Dwyer ‘11CC, Melissa Shafer ‘12CC, Nicole Santucci ‘14CC, and Caitlyn Unsworth ‘15CC.
Professional Enrichment Program Event

The 2nd Annual Event for the Professional Enrichment Program (PEP) was a great success! PEP is a mentoring initiative that connects our current players with alumnae to assist the players in preparing for job opportunities, promote their professional growth, and build and maintain relationships between current and past players. We had a fantastic turnout at the event with 25 alumnae, 17 players, and 9 Columbia staff members in attendance.

The event started with a lively reception, during which the mentors and mentees were able to spend face-to-face time together building their relationship. It was awesome to watch all the meaningful connections that were being made between former and current women’s basketball players. It was also pretty exciting to see the alumnae’s response to Nora Beck joining us for the evening!

During dinner, Interim Head Coach Sheila Roux spoke about the concept that “proximity is power.” She explained that opportunities are not necessarily “given,” but they are obtained by putting oneself in a position to succeed. After that, Patti Phillips, the CEO of the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletics Administrators, spoke on mentoring. She reminded us that mentoring is a mutually beneficial, life-long relationship that can take many forms. Patti also suggested a “go to” method during the initial stages of forming a relationship – discuss FORM (family, occupation, recreation, and motivation). Patti finished by emphasizing the importance of articulating one’s goals, being candid and open, and always showing appreciation.

The night ended with a highly competitive game of “PEP Mania.” After quadruple overtime to break a tie, Table One took home the victory! Thank you to all of the guests that came, and we look forward to another year of outstanding mentorship within the women’s basketball community!
COLUMBIA WOMEN’S BASKETBALL IS GOING TO ITALY

The Lions are welcoming alumni, family, and friends of the program to join us on our trip to Italy! We are working with Basketball Travelers to make all the arrangements, and they have put together a package for Columbia supporters that will join us on the trip. Below is information about our trip and the Basketball Travelers package for you. Please note that airfare is not included with the Basketball Travelers package price. We are extremely excited about the international experience that we will have, and hope you can join us!

SUPPORTERS TOUR FOR COLUMBIA Women's Basketball
Destination: ITALY
Lake Como, Venice, Florence, Rome
May 22-31, 2016

Where in the World?
LAKES COMO - VENICE - FLORENCE - ROME
Support the LIONS as they take their game to the world!

Are we there yet?
Tentative Tour Itinerary – May 22-31, 2016

22 Begin Tour at Lake Como hotel.
23 Boat tour of Lake Como. Game #1.
24 Bus to Venice. Tour Venice. Bus to Treviso.
25 Tour Treviso. Game #2.
27 Tour Florence & Academia. Game #3.
28 Tour Siena & San Gimignano.
29 Bus to Rome. Tour Colosseum.
30 Tour Vatican.
31 Tour Ends.

This tour will have a considerable amount of walking involved. Please confirm you are physically able to participate in the tour.

What does the package include?
Package Price Includes: Charter bus for all ground transportation • First class hotel accommodation for 9 nights • Game tickets to all games • Sightseeing tours as listed in itinerary • A tour escort from Basketball Travelers, Inc. • Breakfast at your hotel each morning

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Prices do not include: Airfare • Airport Transfers • Passport and Visa costs • Trip cancellation insurance • Any meal except breakfast • Incidental (laundry, phone, tips, etc) • NO Deviations on packages.

Why Should I Go?
The worldwide popularity of basketball provides an excellent way to combine sport with the adventure of foreign travel. The common denominator of basketball often results in a fellowship between tourists and natives that regular travelers cannot easily achieve. Shared travel experiences can also enhance the bond between fellow boosters in support of their team. Stories about the group’s travel adventures will be shared and enjoyed throughout the upcoming season and beyond.

Basketball Travelers Who?
Established in 1985, Basketball Travelers, Inc. is a company comprised of former athletes who seek to serve the needs of the worldwide basketball community.

Over 2,000 teams have participated in Basketball Travelers, Inc. events, which include tournaments and foreign tours for universities and high school basketball tournaments. The Staff at Basketball Travelers, Inc. is committed to providing our tour guests with the highest quality product available - an overseas tour experience that is unrivaled in service, quality, and attention to detail.

Apply by February 1, 2016 • contact Jacqueline at Basketball Travelers, Inc. 425.776.2775 • Jackie@basketballtravelers.com
www.basketballtravelers.com/fans
In just 24 hours, Columbia University raised a remarkable $12,788,367! This record-breaking amount was donated by 13,090 donors and distributed to 19 different schools and departments to enrich the experience of a Columbia education.

Of all 19 University departments, Columbia Athletics finished second only to Columbia College, in terms of dollars raised. Athletics received over 3,400 gifts and raised over 2.2 million dollars! Athletics also won incentive funds from the University challenges, bringing the total to $2,399,917!

Women’s Basketball had an incredibly successful Giving Day 2015, raising over $87,200! Our program received gifts from 107 donors, raised $18,000 more than last year, and finished FIRST among all women’s sports programs! We are so appreciative of all the alumni, family, and friends of the program that joined efforts to make it happen! Your generosity will help us achieve victories in the classroom, on the court, and in life!

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