Classes are underway again, which means one thing – it is time for Ivy League play! The league is deeper than ever, with every team having a chance to win each game. This type of parody gives our players a fantastic opportunity to compete against the best and brightest in college athletics on a nightly basis.

Although we haven’t gotten the results we would like in our first few conference games, I am extremely proud of my team. They have shown incredible toughness and grit throughout our first four games. Each team member has made significant contributions, with different players stepping up in each game. This depth and balance will help us maintain our best basketball throughout the competitive Ivy League and the back-to-back games.

This upcoming Saturday, we will host our ninth-annual Play4Kay game against Brown. The Play4Kay initiative unites women’s basketball programs across the country in the same fight against one opponent – cancer. Throughout the evening, we will celebrate survivors and raise funds for the Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Kay Yow Cancer Fund, an organization founded by women’s basketball legend, Coach Kay Yow. After battling breast cancer for 22 years, Coach Yow passed away in 2009. The Kay Yow Fund continues to carry out her legacy and commitment to help find a cure for all women’s cancers and to assist the underserved. We hope to see you this weekend at Levien Gym cheering on the Lions and supporting a very important cause!
T-Spoon Visits the Lions

In the week leading up to Ivy League play, the Lions got a special visit from basketball legend Teresa Weatherspoon. T-Spoon, as she is more commonly known, led Louisiana Tech to an NCAA Championship in 1988 and won an Olympic Gold Medal that same year. She then starred overseas before the WNBA was created in 1997. T-Spoon led the New York Liberty to the WNBA Finals four out of her six years there and became known for her passionate play and charismatic leadership.

Currently on the coaching staff for the NY Liberty, T-Spoon visited the Morningside Campus and spent time with our players and coaches. She reminisced with Assistant Coach Trice-Hill, as they were teammates for the Liberty in the WNBA’s inaugural season, 20 years ago. T-Spoon then shared some of the tough times and remarkable “memories she experienced throughout her storied career. She reminded the players that greatness costs – there is a price to pay to be great. And she urged each player to strive to get better each day, on the court and in life. Having T-Spoon talk with our team and stay for practice was an awesome way to kick off conference play!

Winter Storm Jonas

From January 22 to 24, 2016, a major winter storm produced prolific amounts of snow along the U.S. East Coast. Snowfall totals from the storm topped out at 42 inches in West Virginia, while 13 other states received more than a foot of snow. Storm Jonas, as it was dubbed, ranks as the 2nd worst snowstorm recorded in New York City history, producing 26.8 inches of snow in Central Park. Governor Andrew Cuomo instituted a travel ban for New York City and declared a state of emergency. All subway trains that run above ground were terminated and NYPD threatened to arrest anyone on the roads during the travel ban. The storm was given various nicknames on social media, including Snowzilla and Snowpocalypse.

Following the historic storm, Brooklyn residents built an igloo in their backyard and listed it on the popular renting website, Airbnb. The hand-built dome-style bungalow was listed for $200 per night. However, Airbnb deleted the posting for not meeting the rules of occupancy such as electricity, piped water, and a door.
Columbia Hosts Basketball Clinics for NYC Youth

During the semester break, the Lions hosted two basketball clinics for youth from surrounding communities. The children that participated ranged from 5 to 13 years old, and all brought bundles of energy. The players and staff were able to match the children’s enthusiasm, teach basketball skills, and maintain a safe and fun environment for all. The children learned fundamentals – such as shooting, passing, ball handling, and defensive positions – and then put those skills to use in some exciting games!

The clinic for the Greenwich House Malakoff Basketball League continued a 20-year tradition! The close relationship between CU Women’s Basketball and the Malakoff Basketball League is illustrated by the former Lions that coach in the league, and by the Malakoff players cheering in the stands at our home games.

Register for Summer Basketball Camp with the Lions

Columbia Women’s Basketball is hosting three camps in Levien Gym this summer! At each camp, participants will be separated based on age and skill level, ensuring a positive experience for all. The following camps are great opportunities to be coached by the Columbia coaching staff and current players!

Day Camp is open to all girls entering 1st through 9th grade in the Fall of 2016. This camp focuses on teaching the fundamentals of basketball and improving overall basketball knowledge. The camp atmosphere will be high energy, with an emphasis placed on the enjoyment of the game.

Elite Camp is open to all girls entering 8th through 12th grade in the Fall of 2016. This camp is designed for players interested in playing basketball at the collegiate level. With a focus on the refinement of skills and teaching advanced concepts, this camp will have high-intensity drills, competitions, and 5-on-5 games.

CLICK HERE for more information and to register for camp!
During the last weekend in January, the Lions welcomed back twenty-five former players for Alumnae Weekend! The large turnout made the weekend fun and meaningful for everyone involved! There was a wide span of generations represented in the alumnae game, with three Lions that graduated last May and three that graduated in 1991. Kathy White put on a spectacular shooting performance for the “Blue Team,” complimented by Lauren Dwyer and Melissa Shafer’s teamwork. However, Taylor Ward and Katrina Cragg’s clutch three-pointers gave the “White Team” the final push to get the victory! The alumnae then joined the team for a pre-game meal. It was awesome to hear the variety of perspectives and the range of stories from women who all shared similar college paths. The commitment from our alumnae has been incredible and we really appreciate you coming back to support the current team and stay connected to the program. 

Thank you for your support!