
If it's any consolation...

Posted by daReporta - 2010/01/09 10:05

In the game notes that UNT publishes prior to each game - there is a section called "YOUTH MOVEMENT".

According to this section - UNT is the 7th youngest team in ALL of Division 1 basketball.

Teams based on years of Division 1 Experience on their roster:

1. George Washington (6 yrs) - Current Record is 3-9
2. Maryland (8 yrs) - Current Record is 14-3 There were no "Big" teams in the out of conference schedule. They got blown out in their first conference game 73-45... it's going to be a long season in conference because NC State is not that good (bottom half of ACC)
3. a. Memphis (11 yrs) - Current Record 8-7. Lost to FIU 81-72
b. Appalachian State (11 yrs) - Current Record is 7-7 (3-2 in conference). This is a very weak conference as most of the teams are pulling from the same regional pool of talent.
c. Harvard (11 yrs) Current Record 8-4. Impressive wins over BC & BU, but these girls are smart! Understanding the X's & O's... is child's play. J/K...
6. Air Force (12 yrs) - Current Record is 3-11
7. North Texas (13 yrs) - Current Record is 4-12

Now, knowing that let's look at coaching:

1. George Washington - 2nd yr as head coach (was ass't for 3 yrs), 6 yrs as a HS coach
2. Maryland - 8th year at UMD, + 3 yrs at Minnesota/Ball State, 2 yrs ass't @ Kent State
3. a. Memphis - 2nd year at Memphis - was head coach at American. Coaching exp goes back to '84
b. Appalachian State - 2nd year there - was head coach at D2 California U in PA for 8 yrs
c. Harvard - 27 yrs at the school as the head coach
6. Air Force - 9th year at AF 3 yrs prior D1 Head Coach exp - + 8 yrs as an ass't
7. North Texas - 2nd year, 14 yrs ass't (Rice/Clemson)

So, if it's any consolation... we are fine. We all had high expectations because the talent that has come in... but considering some of the records of these other teams - we are no worse off (other than Harvard) than anyone else in our shoes.

(just a little positivity prior to today's game)

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Re:If it's any consolation...

Posted by CMJ - 2010/01/09 11:31

Nice research. Still hoping we can see tangible improvement soon.

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Re:If it's any consolation...

Posted by daReporta - 2010/01/29 19:12

Found some more interesting numbers
The entire list can be found here:NCAA.com

OK, There are 332 Division 1 teams in WBB. Of the following categories, first is the category, then UNT WBB Rank, then the stat that follows

Scoring Offense 139, 65.6 ppg

Scoring Defense 329, 78.8 ppg

Scoring Margin 315, -13.1

Field Goal % 173, 39.4%

Field Goal % Defense 318, 43.9%

Free-Throw % 291, 62.6%

3 pointers per game 237, 4.3

3 point FG % 133, 32.3%

Win/Loss % 284, 28.6%

Assists per game 322, 9.2 apg

Blocked shots per game 218, 2.7

Steals per game 57, 10

Turnovers per game 330, 24.2

Personal Fouls per game 317, 21

Assist/TO ratio 328, .38

Turnover margin 299, -3.71

3 point FG Defense 99, 30.2

Some of the numbers we can take great pride in (steals per game, 3 ptr defense, scoring offense)... but some, are revealing why we are not experiencing the level of success we anticipated.

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Re:If it's any consolation...

Posted by daReporta - 2010/02/23 10:37

I wanted to address the double standard that is applied to the women's team and the recruits brought in by SS and the 2009 recruits on the men's team. I figured this would be the most relevant thread to post it under. Understandly I know the rhetorical argument will be well, "JJ has proven himself" - but, he too was a young coach when he took over with no Head Coaching experience. We know the W-L column is not what we anticipated - but just think about how much experience the women will bring to the court next year.

Let me elaborate on my thoughts, so you can understand the disservice that is being applied to the SS recruits and the coach & team in general.

By Class:

Fresh

Jacob Holmen

Alzee Williams

Nick Goff

Ben Knox

Jasmine Godbolt

Raquel Cuffie

Ravven Brown

Caitlin Hawkins

Soph

Brittney Hudson

Juniors

Shannon Shorter

Richard Thomas

Cameron Spencer

Denetra Kellum

Niq'ky Hughes

Chynna Burwell

The first analyzation is of the freshman class. A little "Apples to Apples" comparison. Unlike the men - the women rely heavily on their freshman as indicated below:

Games Played

Godbolt 27
Cuffie 27
Holmen 27
Williams 26
Hawkins 24
Brown 22
Knox 16
Goff 6

Games Started

Godbolt 24
Hawkins 12
Holmen 8
Brown 4
Cuffie 1
Williams 0
Knox 0
Goff 0

Average Minutes Per Game

Godbolt 29
Holmen 14.9
Cuffie 14.1
Brown 14
Hawkins 12.8
Williams 8.4
Knox 4.6
Goff 2

Field Goal %

Goff 50.0%
Godbolt 48.0%
Holmen 41.9%
Brown 38.8%
Knox 38.5%
Hawkins 36.7%
Cuffie 35.3%
Williams 29.3%

Total Rebounds

Godbolt 219
Holmen 71
Cuffie 56
Brown 23
Hawkins 22
Williams 22
Knox 16
Goff 4

Total Assists

Brown 27
Hawkins 26
Cuffie 20
Godbolt 12
Holmen 11
Williams 4
Knox 3
Goff 1

Total Blocks
Godbolt 13
Holmen 6
Knox 4
Williams 3
Brown 2
Hawkins 0
Cuffie 0
Goff 0

Total Steals
Godbolt 25
Cuffie 22
Brown 18
Holmen 8
Hawkins 7
Williams 6
Knox 2
Goff 0

Total Points
Godbolt 313
Holmen 146
Cuffie 108
Brown 62
Williams 51
Hawkins 50
Knox 10
Goff 4

Average PPG
Godbolt 11.6
Holmen 5.4
Cuffie 4
Brown 2.8
Hawkins 2.1
Williams 2
Goff 0.7
Knox 0.6

So, as some have said - this is a "sub-par" recruiting class. I beg to differ. Compared to the men - the women are on top of almost all of the stat columns compared to their male counterparts. Are the freshman that JJ brought in "sub-par"? Or is it because we "like" JJ and he (over the years) has proven himself to be able to build a good program.

Basketball is such a familiar relative to life. Everything is comparable. Women have to work twice as hard to be half as good. The freshmen Men in the list will most likely come off the bench next year as well - because there are more developed dependable players that are in front of them.

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Re:If it's any consolation...

Posted by TheTastyGreek - 2010/02/23 10:47

Goff is a walk-on. Factoring him into any analysis of our recruits is like counting me in the stats for the ladies games because occasionally I'll show up.

Last year's class was Holmen, Williams, Shannon Shorter, and Richard Thomas. Knox is a redshirt who actually came in 2 years ago.

So if you look at freshmen who were actually recruited... Holmen and Williams have played in every game (except one for Williams). Neither starts, but that's because we brought in Shorter and Thomas to fill an open starting role.

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Re:If it's any consolation...

Posted by daReporta - 2010/02/23 11:05

OK, so Apples to Apples

Godbolt/Holmen

Brown, Cuffie or Hawkins/ Williams

Who is giving more production (and why)?

How many wins did JJ have in his second season?

<http://web1.ncaa.org/stats/StatsSrv/careerteamwinloss>

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Re:If it's any consolation...

Posted by TheTastyGreek - 2010/02/23 11:17

JJ took over a team coming off multiple 20 loss seasons and had them over .500, in overall record and in conference games, in his first year.

Holmen and Williams don't generate more stats because they don't start. They're role players. We don't rely on them for 10 points per game or 25 minutes on the floor, because nobody running the men's team took it upon themselves to spend the past two years running off everyone in sight.

They play when they're needed, and they both have critical roles. When they play, they produce.

Look, I'm not a member of the "Shanice Stephens sucks" brigade. I'm not one of the people saying she isn't cut out for the job, I'm not questioning the ability of her recruits.

But if you're trying to compare her to JJ based on freshman stats, you're out of your mind.

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Re:If it's any consolation...

Posted by daReporta - 2010/02/23 11:33

No, I'm just trying to make a point that in JJ's second year - he was 7-21.

None of the fanbase is riding JJ's freshman recruits the way they are so critical of SS recruits and the men don't have to produce the way SS has to rely on her freshman. And HONESTLY, the only 1 of the freshman Men recruits that has any type of production is Holmen and he is no where near Godbolt's production.

Why is this not relevant? Because - Women have to work twice as hard, to be half as good

Why is everyone so insistent that SS "ran people off"? The only credible player that left was EL. She is the only 1 that has any type of production and is at a JUCO. LMAO... Slinker is gone and so are her D2 recruits. Get over it.

The win/loss column is no indication of what this team is capable of doing. They are 18 yr olds playing against 22-23 yr old women. It's like matching Tramiel against Holmen - who do you take in that battle?

Let's see how the tide turns when MT, WKU & UALR have to face a team that has 4 yrs of game time experience playing together as a unit.

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Re:If it's any consolation...

Posted by TheTastyGreek - 2010/02/23 11:46

daReporta wrote:

No, I'm just trying to make a point that in JJ's second year - he was 7-21.

Why is this not relevant?

Because in his FIRST year, he was above .500.

In his first year, he didn't run off one of the all-time greatest players we've ever had just a few weeks before the SBC Tournament, and he didn't name someone else as the player of the year out of spite.

JJ wasn't hired over an experienced, proven, local commodity that even non Women's BB followers were at least vaguely familiar with, and (fair or not), JJ didn't have to coach under the cloud of comparison to what that other possible hire would/could have done in the same situation.

In his 2nd season, JJ's worst loss was by 26 points, on the road, to nationally ranked Indiana. His teams didn't set any all time records for defensive futility. He sure as hell didn't lose back-to-back conference games by 50+. His team didn't have multiple sub-45 point performances.

Again... I've got no problem with her getting a fair amount of time to try and make it work here... But until she actually does something, she ain't no JJ. They're both snappy dressers, but that doesn't make me feel any better about her prospects than JJ's 2nd season record does.

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Re:If it's any consolation...

Posted by daReporta - 2010/02/23 12:05

Well, we both agree on something... they both do dress well.

I don't know if you watched the WKU & MTSU games but, both teams pressed the ball even when they were winning by 60+. MTSU had their 4 Seniors & 1 Junior starter on the floor up until the last 4 minutes of the game. MTSU's All American player is 23 yrs old and has been playing college ball for 5 yrs. A very disappointing performance by our 2 leading scorers and lack of senior leadership in both games. Truly an indication that as amazing as Godbolt is, she's still a freshman when matched up against the best post players in the conference. I don't know how big losses like that can be blamed on a coach because her go-to player (BJ) failed to make an appearance in either 1 of those losses. When you depend on your leading scorers to produce at least 27 points between them and they give you less than half that - not the coach's fault. In Godbolt's case, inexperience is the blame - but what happened to BJ?

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Re:If it's any consolation...

Posted by CMJ - 2010/02/23 12:29

Coach Jones's first season was like salvation, it really was. We'd been sooooo bad to even have that .500 type of year was like a godsend. If I recall we got absolutely decimated by injuries in his 2nd year. After that he turned into a roughly .500 coach again until our current 20+ wins a year run started 4 seasons ago.

SS came in for Slinker, and had a rough first year. She's following it up with a horrendous 2nd year. I'm not ready to pull the plug(I wasn't even totally in the pull the plug on Dodge camp) because I really believe you need to give a coach 4 years to prove their worth. I hope some of these kids really show their potential next season. But this is beginning to remind me a bit of Trilli. Hell, Trilli even had a 75 point defeat to a natinal power on the road.

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Re:If it's any consolation...

Posted by daReporta - 2010/02/23 13:43

CMJ - I don't really think it's going to be bad at all. The freshman and soph's are very promising and we have a bit of an injury (illness) bug on top of all the other "what can go wrong, will go wrong" murphy's law type of year.

These young players have a great upside and being young has reared it's head on some inopportune moments.

Also, playing a very hard out of conference schedule backfired as I think the belief was that they would be competitive and prepared for the conference and it actually hurt some of the player's confidence levels (IMO).

Freshman

Godbolt - 18 yrs old. Dominant right (no left hand or ball handling skills at all). Can shoot from 15 feet in. Stays within her comfort zone (back to basket, on the block). Small for a post - but in SBC, size for position is OK. I see her as the starting 4/5 next year. Has to work on free throws because over the next 3 yrs, will be going to the line ALOT.

Cuffie - 18 yrs old. What scouts call a "big guard". Equally strong left or right. Nice stroke from behind the arc. Scores at will. Dribble drive & set shot look good. I see her fighting for the 2/3 or 4 spot next year. Needs to work on shooting off the dribble and defensive foot speed. Also needs to work on her free throws for the same reasons as Godbolt.

Brown - 18 yrs old. Solid pass-first guard that has really developed since the beginning of the season. Equally strong left of right. Good court vision and her confidence is building. I see her fighting for the 1 spot next year. Apparently (according to DRC), she has some maturity issues - I'm sure as she grows older, they can be overcome.

Hawkins - 18 yrs old. She has "the stroke". A legit shooting guard, equally strong left or right. Slow but steady. I see her as a role player until her Jr year at which point she will slide in comfortably at the 2. Foot speed and lack of "explosion" makes her too easy to guard.

Sophs

Hudson - almost 21. Explosive player that can score at will. Nice stroke, with the whole package (dribble drive, mid-range, behind the arc) a legit 2 guard. Prone to injury and foul trouble. I see her as the starting 2 next year.

Torru - 19 yrs old. Lock down defender. Has developed nicely since last year into a more confident scoring threat. Righty that is left hand dominant. Tough team-player. Has to be more consistent. I see her fighting for the 3 spot next year.

Juniors

Hughes - no age posted (I'll assume 22). Versatile player that can play comfortably inside or out. Could have been a good 4 this year, just seems to "light in the behind" to bang down low. Has to be more consistent as a contributor on the team. Hard to set a game plan when you don't know if you're starter is going to give you 19 points or 3 points. I see her fighting for the 3/4 spot next year.

Kellum - almost 21. Same as Hudson except I see the edge for the 3 spot going to Kellum (over Hughes & Torru). Has to work on consistency as well.

Burwell - 22 yrs old. Nice touch 4-8 feet from the basket. Will be a back up 5 as well next year due to lack of defense, lack of intensity and lack of aggressiveness.

Re:If it's any consolation...

Posted by GrandGreen - 2010/02/23 18:05

You cannot compare the situation JJ inherited with SS. Stephens actually took over a team with 4 starters returning including one that proved to be first team all conference. Jones came in after the Trilli mess and took over a team that barely eked out wins against non-scholarship programs. Also it is hard to use youth as an excuse when the team's youth is largely the responsibility of Stephens. She could have retained more of Slinker's players, she could have recruited more transfers.

I think SS has got some good young players but I would rate only Godbolt as better than the men's freshman counterparts. You also have to factor in that JJ has only two scholarship freshmen versus a larger number on the girls team. At times NT women have looked good, but overall this season has been a disaster. Reading your analysis of the players would lead one to envision a much better team than I've seen this year.

I think Stephens has established what should be a competitive group of core players next year and with I guess 4 more ships to give could turn it around next year. Her 94 feet of heat though is going to have to start including some basic defense around the bucket.

Re:If it's any consolation...

Posted by daReporta - 2010/02/24 10:31

Comparing the men to the women is just my way of showing that there is a lot of criticism directed towards the women (justified or not), and they are producing more than their male counterparts (regardless of outcome), yet are subjected to a much more critical eye.

My analysis of the returning players is based on individual play. Example, BJ is a good individual player - but, not a good team player. There are 5 players on the floor and everyone has a job to do. I think roles/responsibilities have been a struggle for this team simply because there is no type of floor/ senior leadership and at times they are the proverbial "chicken with no head". It reflects on both sides of the ball and looks to be a bigger issue (as the season has progressed) on defense - because the offense has greatly improved (remember the beginning of the season, it was painful). There are also players filling in at positions that they don't feel comfortable in - which, I'm sure with the next recruiting class will be addressed.

It's funny that you think Godbolt is the better player. Of all the players that were brought in, she is the one with the least fundamental skills (besides Burwell). Her game is based on her athleticism.

She is very comfortable with her back to the basket and at her size, should have more of a skillset like Hughes. She scores a lot of high percentage shots and is highly effective against teams that don't have a strong post presence but "ordinary" against post dominant teams. She has a lot of heart and is strong like a bull - but I think looking over the previous outings - it is evident that she performs very well against teams that are weak in the post and doesn't produce as well against older, more developed post players (ex. WKU, MT, UT, TAMU, UALR). Alysha Clark (MT's All american post) had 47 points against U of South Alabama (undefeated in conf when we played USA) and 20 against UNT in 28 minutes. Godbolt scored 19 against USA and 6 against MT. The other day against UALR's post she 9 points and 4 rebounds, and the player she was guarding had 19 pts, 10 rebs (5 offensive).

So, I am a big Godbolt fan, but let's keep this in perspective. I think her going down in the record books is very good for the school, recruiting, and morale of the program but because awards of that nature are based strictly on scoring and not overall skillset - saying she is "the best", is unfair to her. Hopefully, she will continue to grow and work on her skills. It will be important for her continued success. (I hope that winning any awards will not make her "complacent"). Some kids (example - Chastity Reed - UALR) develop an entitlement attitude and then curse their teammates, coaches and the refs. I don't see that being tolerated on an SS team.

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