



# The Dolphin Digest

November 17, 2006

**SPECIAL EDITION: WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PREVIEW ISSUE**

## 2006-07 SCHEDULE:

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
11/18/06	Ithaca (Skidmore College Tournament)	4:00 p.m.
11/19/06	TBD (Skidmore College Tournament)	TBD
11/28/06	at St. Joseph's (Brooklyn)	7:30 p.m.
12/2/06	MANHATTANVILLE*	1:00 p.m.
12/6/06	CENTENARY*	6:00 p.m.
12/9/06	at Farmingdale State*	TBA
12/19/06	at Yeshiva^	8:30 p.m.
1/2/07	at NYU	5:00 p.m.
1/4/07	at CCNY	5:00 p.m.
1/8/07	at USMMA-Kings Point*	7:00 p.m.
1/10/07	at Mount Saint Mary*	7:00 p.m.
1/13/07	SAINT ELIZABETH^	1:00 p.m.
1/16/07	STEVENS*	7:00 p.m.
1/18/07	USMMA-Kings Point*	7:00 p.m.
1/20/07	at St. Joseph's (LI)*	5:00 p.m.
1/22/07	COLLEGE OF NEW ROCHELLE^	7:00 p.m.
1/24/07	at Manhattanville*	7:00 p.m.
1/27/07	OLD WESTBURY*	1:00 p.m.
1/30/07	MOUNT SAINT MARY*	7:00 p.m.
2/1/07	at Centenary*	8:00 p.m.
2/5/07	at Stevens*	7:00 p.m.
2/10/07	ST. JOSEPH'S (LI)*	1:00 p.m.
2/12/07	FARMINGDALE STATE*	7:00 p.m.
2/14/07	at Old Westbury*	7:00 p.m.
2/17/07	HVWAC Semifinals	TBA
2/18/07	HVWAC Championship Game	TBA
2/20/07	Skyline Conference Quarterfinals	TBA
2/22/07	Skyline Conference Semifinals	TBA
2/24/07	Skyline Conference Championship	TBA

## Women's Basketball: Let the rebuilding begin

By Mike Spinner – Sports Information Director

The next time somebody says a team has been “decimated by graduation”, they better hold on to the oft-used statement until they take a long, slow look at the 2006-07 Mount Saint Vincent Women's Basketball team. It's not only that four starters from last season's team have graduated, accounting for 44% of the team's roster, but the numbers the foursome represent that makes the 2006-07 campaign truly a rebuilding season. **Andrea DiNizo, Laura Bucci, Meagan Fitzpatrick, and Lauren DeRosa** – four mainstays in the Mount Saint Vincent line-up for the last four years – are gone, and with them they took a combined 3,679 points, 1,755 rebounds, 798 assists, and 591 steals after exactly 100 games together. The group marked perhaps the finest recruiting class in the history of Mount Saint Vincent Women's Basketball ... at least until now.

Turn the page and Head Coach **Ed Ryder** begins his second year at the Dolphin helm with a freshman class that is quickly making their mark on the program even before the team's first official games. In total, there are 10 newcomers to the Mount Saint Vincent line-up to go with four returnees, and Ryder said that despite the youth of his team and the fact the Dolphins are in a “rebuilding mode” he can't help but express optimism for the upcoming season.

“There is definitely an excitement to go with the rebuilding process,” said Ryder, who led the Mount to an 8-17 overall record that included a trip to the Hudson Valley Women's Athletic Conference (HVWAC) Championship Game. “I'm excited about this team. It's a young, passionate, and enthusiastic group. As a teacher, I coach because I truly love teaching kids, and this season is an incredible opportunity to teach a terrific group the game of college basketball. There is no doubt that the group I have this year is a solid nucleus for what I think is going to be an outstanding future for this program, and I am truly excited to see how they do now that we're finally playing some games.”

Ryder said the strength of this year's team lies in its overall versatility. 14 players mark the Mount's roster, almost every one of which could play more than one position, according to Ryder. The versatility, combined with what can only be described as “youthful enthusiasm” gives him a team capable of matching up and competing with the always challenging Mount Saint Vincent schedule, although Ryder said his focus is more on the development of this year's team as opposed to what others bring to the court.

“I think the best statement I could make about the newcomers is that all of them were well coached in High School. The same could be said about our veterans,” Ryder said. “The Basketball IQ is very high with this group, higher than I expected. It's clear that this team all played for very good High School programs prior to coming here with coaches who understand the game. I think it bodes very well for both our present and our future that we can recruit players who come from such solid basketball backgrounds, and I think the basketball know-how they bring with them will help make the transition from High School to College much easier for the newcomers, and allow our veterans

## 2006-07 ROSTER:

#	Name	Pos	Year
3	Ciara Clarke	G	Freshman
5	Katie Hennes	F	Freshman
11	Lauren Percodani	G	Freshman
12	Courtney Heesemann	G	Freshman
15	Katie Hannon	G	Freshman
20	Karissa Koerner	G	Freshman
21	Samantha Cullen	G	Freshman
24	Edeana Martinez	F	Junior
25	Maureen Carey	F	Freshman
31	Kaitlin Burud	F/G	Junior
32	Carolyn Suarez	G	Freshman
33	Jill Brady	G	Freshman
34	Caitlin Morch	F	Senior
35	Ashley Farrow	F	Sophomore

**HEAD COACH:** Ed Ryder (1<sup>st</sup> season – SUNY Oneonta '87)

**ASSISTANT COACH:** Jackie Cullen (1<sup>st</sup> season – Mount Saint Vincent '99)

**TEAM MANAGER:** Kyria Rousseau

to adapt better to playing with new people.”

Ultimately, Ryder said that while the team’s youth means there will be ups and downs during the year, he added that the team has the right mix of talent, energy, and leadership to make the coming campaign a success, and that he believes the year will be an incredible success based on the litmus test he has established.

“You can’t deny there is an adjustment period to go from the effort and intensity required of a High School athlete to that which is expected in College,” Ryder said. “The College game is a faster, stronger game. Like any other sport, it takes time to get used to playing in College. As a result, the team has nights where I feel like we’re going to be a very competitive team in both Conferences and nights where the going is very tough. This was all expected. At the end of the day, our yardstick will be the game of basketball, not the scoreboard. We’re focusing on instruction here. Did we finish each day better than when we started? If the answer is ‘yes’, we’ve succeeded. And if we happen to win the game that day it’s a bonus.”

“We trying to dream big dreams here at Mount Saint Vincent, and I truly believe this team is helping us take a huge first step towards achieving those dreams this season. I’m excited for this team and I think that through our effort and intensity as a team that this entire campus community should be very excited and very proud to be represented by such a group.” Ryder added.

Position by position, Ryder said this is a young team that is deep, talented, and ready to succeed.

### GUARDS:

For the first time in four years, the Mount’s backcourt play will not be dominated by DiNizo and Bucci, but Ryder said the next generation of guard at the Mount is ready to step in and succeed immediately. Between two outstanding freshman point guards, one of the best all-around players in either conference, and incredible depth at both guard positions, Ryder has a nucleus in the backcourt that is going to keep the Mount competitive night after night. The Mount’s success could hinge on guard play, and Ryder knows he has a group he can rely on.

Leading the way is junior **Kaitlin Burud** (Red Hook, NY/Red Hook HS), an HVWAC All-Conference pick a year ago, who will serve as the lone Team Captain this year. Burud, who has been the team’s top defensive player during the last two years and averaged 10.2 points and 5.5 rebounds per game a year ago to go with a team-leading 91 steals, has not only improved her game dramatically, according to Ryder, but her leadership as Captain has been tremendous. Ryder said he expects a breakout year for Burud.

“Last year when I sat back and realized how young we would be this season, I also took great delight in thinking about what a great captain Kaitlin Burud would become for this team. She is just an incredible role model and person, and her game is coming along tremendously. We can count on her for her usual excellence on the defensive end, but I also think her improved scoring touch will go a long way this season. If everything falls into place for KB, I can see her earning All-Conference in both the HVWAC and Skyline Conferences.”

Joining Burud in the backcourt are two dynamic freshman point guards who have done nothing but impress Ryder and company from their first days on-campus. Freshman **Lauren Percodani** (Staten Island, NY/St. Joseph’s by the Sea) will start and fellow freshman **Katie Hannon** (Bronx, NY/St. Barnabas) will see significant minutes running the Mount Saint Vincent point, and Ryder said he could not be happier with his two point guards.

“I am absolutely ecstatic about our two freshman point guards. They’re two

#### **THE DOLPHIN DIGEST:**

The Dolphin Digest is the official Athletics Newsletter at the College of Mount Saint Vincent.

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terrific ball handlers who can really distribute the ball, and they play with a maturity level you expect from juniors and seniors. They have a great calming influence on the floor and it makes a huge difference out there. In Lauren Percodani you have a true 'gym rat' if there ever was one. She has been in the gym every day since she arrived on-campus. She is a terrific shooter who also brings tremendous defensive presence. In Katie Hannon we have an unbelievable passer who distributes the ball as well as most veterans do. The only reason why I am not talking about how great they'll both be in the future for us is because they're doing such a great job right now."

Ryder has several other guards to turn to for quality minutes. Freshman **Katie Hennes** (Lake Grove, NY/Sachem North HS) has established herself as the model of tenacity, and fellow freshman **Ciara Clarke** (Warwick, NY/Warwick HS) will miss the teams first month of games while recovering from an ACL tear. Both are expected to have major roles in the Mount Saint Vincent effort.

"Katie Hennes is as tenacious as they come. She works hard and is tireless when she plays, and there is no doubt that we're going to get her best every game. In Ciara we have a young lady who brings so much to our team chemistry, and I look forward to her scoring touch on the floor when she is ready to return around the New Year. Both are great competitors, great kids, and strong basketball talents who will really help us." Ryder said.

Also expected to contribute at guard for the Mount are freshmen **Carolyn Suarez** (Staten Island, NY/St. Joseph Hill) and **Samantha Cullen** (Yonkers, NY/Cardinal Spellman).

#### **FORWARDS:**

Forward is where Mount Saint Vincent is most experienced as sophomore **Ashley Farrow** (Ocean, NJ/Ocean Township HS) and junior **Edeana Martinez** (Bronx, NY/St. Catherine) return after terrific efforts during the 2005-06 season. According to Ryder, Farrow's improvement has been, "simply incredible" while Martinez's athleticism makes her a key cog in the Mount Saint Vincent line-up. Farrow averaged 3.8 points and 5.2 rebounds per game a year ago while Martinez averaged 3.2 points and 4.5 rebounds. Both are expected to contribute even more this season.

"Ashley has the heart of a lion and has worked tirelessly to improve her game ... and it shows," Ryder said. "She had a very good freshman year, and I think she is ready to take on the challenge of being a key player this season."

"Edeana Martinez is one of the best pure athletes I have ever coached," Ryder said. "This year alone, she earned All-Conference from both the Skyline Conference and HVWAC for Volleyball, and she has only been playing Volleyball for three years. She is a versatile, athletic kid, and I think she has enormous potential during the next two years. I hope her development continues as the year moves along."

Joining Martinez and Farrow in the front court will be freshman **Courtney Heesemann** (New Hyde Park, NY/New Hyde Park HS), a versatile forward who was fifth-team All New York State as a High School Senior. Ryder said he is thrilled with Heesemann's development thus far and considers her a great find for this program.

"Courtney is as versatile as they come. On one hand, she is a presence in the middle and can play anywhere on the inside. On the other hand, we can play her on the outside. She is going to give us a lot of valuable minutes this season, and I do expect great things out of her as time moves on." Ryder said.

Speaking of versatile, freshman **Karissa Koerner** (Bay Shore, NY/Brentwood HS), is one player who Ryder said could play pretty much anywhere, and she may do just that as the season moves along.

"Karissa has the talent to go small with the guards or go big with the post players. She can play anywhere we ask in just about any role we ask. She is one of those kids who will do a lot of the little things we will need to be successful this season, and I am excited to see her develop into an outstanding college basketball player."

Also expected to contribute at forward for Mount Saint Vincent is senior **Caitlin Morch** (Brooklyn, NY/Bishop Kearney), who is returning to the Mount Saint Vincent line-up after taking a year off, and freshman **Maureen Carey** (Belle Harbor, NY/Stella Maris).

Overall, Ryder said that win or lose, this is a Mount Saint Vincent Women's Basketball team that will thrive because of its high-energy, up-beat way of playing the game. He admitted that a very challenging schedule that begins with this weekend's Skidmore College Tip-off Tournament will force this young team to mature quickly, but he also expressed tremendous faith in both his talented rookies and seasoned veterans.

By virtue of playing in two conferences, Mount Saint Vincent has little time to breathe during the season as only four non-conference games appear the schedule. After this weekend's tournament, Mount Saint Vincent will face national powerhouse NYU and CUNY standout CCNY in early January. Otherwise, every game is a conference game, meaning every game is important.

Of particular importance is that the Mount challenges itself right away. After the Skidmore Tip-off, the Mount takes off for the Thanksgiving holiday, and then the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, Mount Saint Vincent travels to face St. Joseph's (Brooklyn) in a rematch of the 2005 and 2006 HVWAC Championship Games. Ryder said that having so many tough tests early on will be a great way for his young squad to get their feet wet and peek ahead to what life will be like later on in the year as the Mount competes for the post-season and possible HVWAC Championship run.

"Of course it's always the goal for this program to compete for the HVWAC Championship, particularly after two terrific games with St. Joseph's during the last two years. Playing St. Joseph's early in the season will allow our freshmen to experience one of the most historic rivalries we have enjoyed over the years, and also give them a taste of what it is going to take to win the HVWAC this season. It's a good way to start the year. We're going to know where we stand and what we need to improve on right away." Ryder said.

Ryder added that when he analyzes everything about this team, what is more clear than anything else is that he is really enjoying the challenge of rebuilding a program with a strong basketball tradition and a group who he believes will lead the Mount to big things.

"Some nights are definitely better than others, but overall I am really enjoying the practices and seeing this team develop. It's an exciting group to be around that loves to learn. I think that no matter what the scoreboard ultimately says night after night, this is going to be a great season."