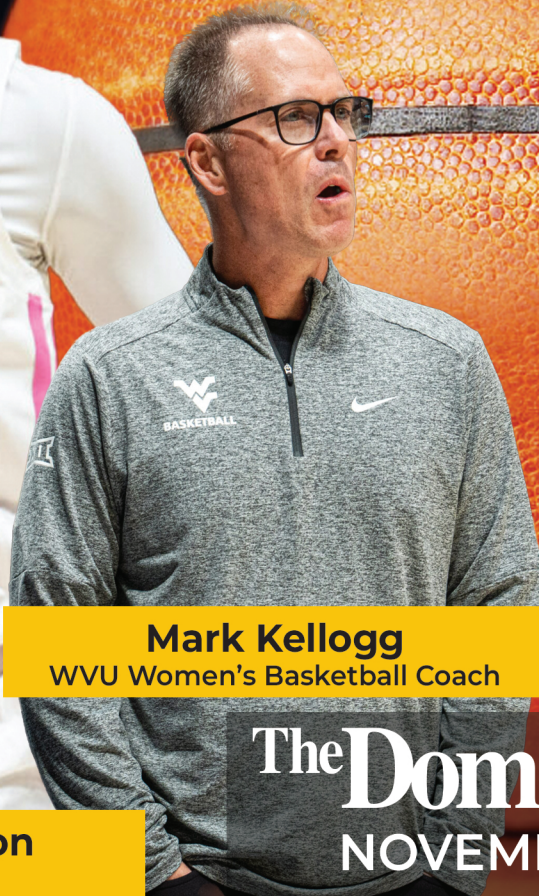


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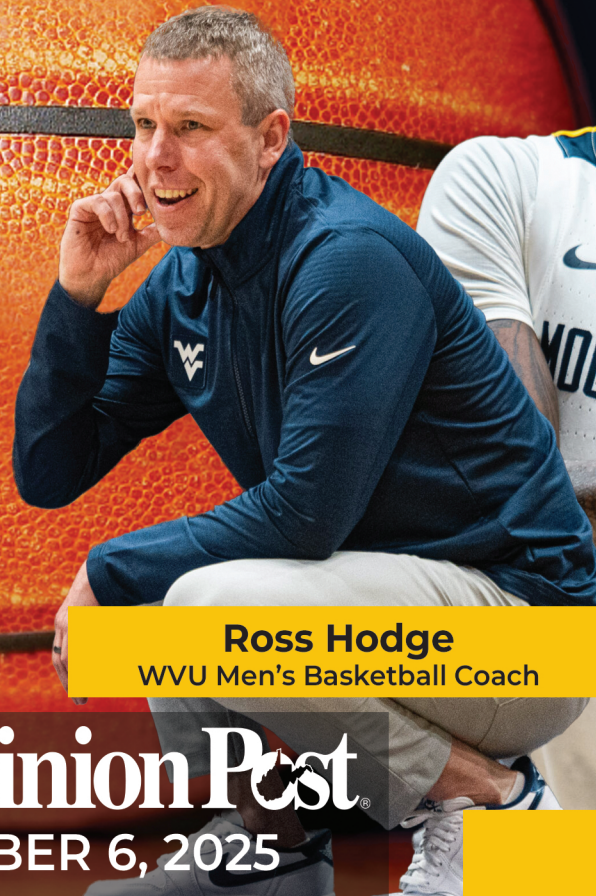
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BASKETBALL PREVIEW



Jordan Harrison
Guard



Mark Kellogg
WVU Women's Basketball Coach



Ross Hodge
WVU Men's Basketball Coach



Honor Huff
Guard

The Dominion Post
NOVEMBER 6, 2025

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WVU MEN'S PREVIEW

Roster of unknowns look to make instant impact at WVU

Ross Hodge era begins with brand new look

BY JUSTIN JACKSON

JJackson@DominionPost.com

On the surface, it may seem like a collection of “Who’s that?” first-year head coach Ross Hodge has put together for the West Virginia men’s basketball program.

To that degree, the same could even be asked of Hodge himself, who takes over the Mountaineers after two seasons as the head coach at North Texas.

“People are just now starting to recognize who I am around town,” Hodge said over the summer. “They see me and ask if I’m the new basketball coach. Everybody asks about the new players and how things are going. You definitely get a feel from just meeting new people just how important basketball is to this community.”

In his first season with the Mountaineers, Hodge, who takes over the program after Dari-



Benjamin Powell/The Dominion Post

WVU point guard Jasper Floyd transferred from North Texas, where he played for head coach Ross Hodge last season.

an DeVries left after one season to become the head coach at Indiana, is presented with a unique opportunity. WVU hasn’t experienced a 20-win season since 2019-20. It’s been three seasons since the Mountaineers played in a NCAA tournament

and five since they advanced past the first round.

To come in during his first season, rebuild the roster basically from scratch and reset all of those timelines would be one heck of a story.

And that’s sort of the

idea.

“Our expectations are to go out and compete for a Big 12 championship,” point guard Jasper Floyd said matter-of-factly. “We want to get to the NCAA tournament and play in the Final Four. That’s what we’re shooting for.”

Is that realistic?

On paper, the Mountaineers have 12 new scholarship players. The only holdover from last season, forward Abraham Oyeadier, is coming off a redshirt season in which he only practiced, but didn’t see any game action.

Of the eight players Hodge signed from the transfer portal. Only two – Chance Moore and Morris Ugusuk – have experience playing in a major Power Five Conference. Moore has to sit out the first five games this season to meet NCAA eligibility requirements.

Again, that’s all on paper. Hodge looked a little deeper when he constructed his first WVU roster.

“We were able to bring in guys who have experienced winning at different levels,” he said. “They’ve already won at different places. Now, it’s just a question of can we figure out a way to bring them all here and find a way to win together.”

There are a number of success stories on the WVU roster. Senior forward Brenen Lorient began his career at Florida Atlantic, when the Owls

pulled off one upset after another and advanced to the 2023 Final Four. He eventually transferred to North Texas and played for Hodge last season, helping the Mean Green reach the NIT semifinals.

Floyd was also part of that North Texas squad. He and Lorient followed Hodge to West Virginia.

Honor Huff was in that same NIT last season, leading the way for Chattanooga to win the tournament following an 85-84 overtime win against UC Irvine in the finals. Huff led the nation with 131 3-pointers last season. He had 19 of them over those five games in the NIT.

“Even if Honor goes a few minutes without hitting a shot, he’s still hot,” is the way WVU teammate Treysen Eaglestaff puts it. “He never goes cold.”

Eaglestaff is also an interesting story. In three seasons at North Dakota, the Fighting Hawks never advanced to the NCAA tournament or NIT, but the 6-foot-6 guard certainly made a name for himself.

He was the only player at the NCAA Division I level last season to score at least 40 points in a



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game two times. Eaglestaff went for 40 in a loss against Alabama during the regular season, before dropping 51 on South Dakota State in the Summit League tournament.

Harlan Obioha is the Mountaineers' big 7-footer in the middle, who played in the NCAA tournament at UNC Wilmington last season. Jackson Fields, a 6-8 forward who is currently working his way back from wrist surgery, had seven points and seven rebounds against Kentucky in the NCAAs last season while playing at Troy.

That's the potential Hodge has recruited. Add it all up, his eight transfers averaged a collective 91 points per game at their respective schools a year ago. Not a bad way to start for a coach who is known for his defense.

"It's funny, because I tell people all the time it's a complete flip from my

old school," Huff said. "My old coach, coach (Dan) Earl, is like an offensive savant. I come here and all we do is play defense."

Hodge's strategy is to turn the Mountaineers into a defensive machine. At North Texas, the Mean Green were third in the country in points allowed last season.

"If you look historically at which teams win the Big 12, it's the best defensive teams that win the conference," Hodge said.

Floyd will be the guy to direct the flow, on both offense and defense. He was Hodge's main man at North Texas last season, where he averaged 9.0 points and 3.9 assists per game.

Huff and Eaglestaff are the shooters who will look to stretch opposing defenses, while Obioha and Lorient will supply some pressure around the rim.

"Our point guard is really good at what he does," Eaglestaff said. "Jasper Floyd is one of the best point guards I've ever played with in my life. Honor Huff is the best shooter in the country. Harlan is 7-feet tall and his mindset is to work harder than everyone else. I'm really enjoying this team and what everyone brings to the table."

The question simply is, can it all be brought together in such a short amount of time? WVU was picked to finish 11th in the Big 12 preseason poll. The Mountaineers received no votes in the preseason AP Top 25.

The odds don't appear to be in WVU's favor early on.

"For me and the team, we really don't care about that," Floyd said. "For most of us, the odds have been stacked against us our whole lives. The odds,



Benjamin Powell/The Dominion Post

WVU center Harlan Obioha (right) transferred to the Mountaineers from UNC Wilmington, where he averaged 9.2 points per game last season.



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Ross Hodge

AGE: 45

COACHING CAREER: Went 46-24 in his two seasons as head coach at North Texas, leading the Mean Green to the NIT in both seasons. Was an assistant coach for six seasons at North Texas under Grant McCasland and also served as an assistant coach at Southern Miss, Colorado State and Arkansas State.

Hodge first made a name for himself in the junior-college ranks, where he went a combined

146-24 during stays at Paris (Texas) Junior College and Midland (Texas) College. He went 31-4 and took Midland College to the junior college Division I title game in 2011. Hodge is a native of Dallas. He and his wife, Shelly, have two children, Emery and Reed.

CONTRACT: Hodge signed a five-year deal with WVU through the end of the 2029-30 season. He will earn a base salary of \$15 million over those five seasons. According to an extension clause in the deal, if WVU finishes in the top six of the Big 12 or makes it into the NCAA tournament in either of Hodge's first two seasons, he would earn an automatic extension for the 2030-31 season, worth another \$3.3 million. For the 2025-26 season, Hodge will earn \$2.8 million in base salary.

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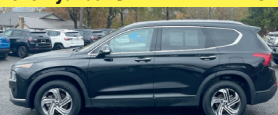
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WVU MEN'S FEATURE

Treysen Eaglestaff blazed his own path to play at WVU

BY JUSTIN JACKSON

JJackson@DominionPost.com

Looking back on it now, Treysen Eaglestaff admits he always had the dream, but not exactly the path.

The dream was to play in the NBA, but the path – growing up in Bismarck, N.D. – was filled with obstacles. Topping that list is the state of North Dakota isn't exactly known for producing future NBA talent or even Division I recruits.

"We don't get a lot of recognition from college recruiters. I could go out and score 50 one night, but then it was like, yeah, but it was against North Dakota kids," Eaglestaff said. "There was one time, we played the No. 1-ranked team in North Dakota and I had 50 points and went for a triple-double. No colleges reached out."

It is from that humbling beginning that Eaglestaff, one of the eight transfer-portal additions Ross Hodge signed at WVU this season, began to blaze his own unique path.

The first step forward

Eaglestaff is a member



Benjamin Powell/The Dominion Post

WVU guard Treysen Eaglestaff (left) transferred to the Mountaineers this season from North Dakota, where he averaged 18.9 points per game last season.

of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. The first time he picked up a basketball was at the age of two. His mother, Erica,

was playing basketball at a local community college and little Treysen would tag along at practices.

Hockey and football are the more popular sports in North Dakota. Eaglestaff said hockey was the first option.

"My mother really couldn't afford it, so that was it for hockey," Eaglestaff said.

He did play football as

the "chubby" offensive lineman, but baseball was his first true love.

"I hit a home run when I was nine and I thought I was destined to play in the pros," he said.

Basketball truly came into the picture early in Eaglestaff's high school career. He was on the JV team in football, but the coach wanted him to move up to the varsity one week and play on Friday night.

Just one problem.

"I had a fall league basketball tournament on that Friday," he said. "I chose to play in the basketball tournament and that was pretty much it for football."

How did that decision work out? He averaged 23.1 points in his junior season. As a senior, Eaglestaff was named North Dakota's Mr. Basketball after averaging 30.3 points and 8.3 rebounds per game.

"Yeah, but it was against North Dakota kids." That's either the statement Eaglestaff heard dozens of times from the doubters or ran through his own head privately.



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He did catch on with a popular AAU team from Minnesota that featured several Division I recruits, including Joe Hurlburt, who began his career at Colorado, but now plays for Davidson.

"I was pretty much the kid who stood in the corner and shot threes," he said. "That team was pretty deep, probably 10 players who went on to play in Division I. They knew I would come to practice with Joe, so that's how that got started."

Making his own name

As a 6-foot-6 forward with an outside shooting touch, Eaglestaff signed to play at the University of North Dakota, where his uncle Robert Eaglestaff once played in the 1970s.

Eaglestaff didn't waste a lot of time making an early impact with the Fighting Hawks. He started 11 games as a freshman and became a full-time starter as a sophomore.

A year ago, Eaglestaff became just the fourth player in school history to score 50 in a game, when he dropped 51 on South Dakota State in the Summit League tournament.

It had been just a few months earlier, though, when Eaglestaff made his first mark on college basketball.

No. 6 Alabama was in town as a homecoming visit for forward Grant Nelson. It was supposed to be just another blow-out win for the Crimson Tide.

"That game changed my life," Eaglestaff said. "We weren't a winning team at the time, we were not doing very well. Before the game, everyone was texting me and telling me I had to go off and how everyone was watching me."

Eaglestaff walked into a packed arena, with many family members and friends in the standing-room only crowd.

"I was thinking, 'OK, we just can't get blown out. We can't let them turn it into a dunk show,'" he recalled.

The Fighting Hawks led 38-35 at the half. While Alabama eventually pulled out a 97-90 victory, Eaglestaff dropped 40 points and connected on eight 3-pointers.

"In the second half, I think I came out and banged two in a row in," Eaglestaff said. "My uncles on the reservation said it felt like just throwing rocks into the river. I was in the flow."

The next day, North Dakota head coach Paul Sather wasn't into patting his players on the back for a moral victory.

"The next day, there weren't any compli-



Benjamin Powell/The Dominion Post

Treysen Eaglestaff handles the ball during WVU's exhibition game against Wheeling.

ments," Eaglestaff said. "Coach said, 'Trey, we could have won if you would have boxed out more.' That was so true. That's what opened up my eyes to what it takes to be a winner."

One last chance

Winning is the one

thing left off Eaglestaff's resumé. In his three seasons at North Dakota, the Fighting Hawks were 43-55. NCAA tournaments never came, even as Eaglestaff piled up the points.

He entered the transfer portal and put his name into the NBA Draft fol-

lowing last season. Suddenly, the overlooked kid from North Dakota was about to see just how far he had come.

"It was a super cool experience," Eaglestaff said of testing the NBA waters. "That's my childhood dream. I got to work out for NBA teams and I never thought that would be the case. Coming from such a small state, people don't dream that big or think it's realistic."

"My thought process when I went in for my first workout with the (Washington) Wizards was I was going to get killed. This was going to be my wake-up call. I got into the drills and I was right there with everybody else. I was really surprised. I had worked for this all my life and it was cool to see that I was right there doing just as well as everyone else."

Eaglestaff injured his hip, but still went for a second workout for the Portland Trailblazers. He had other workouts scheduled, but decided it was best to head back to college.

"The feedback was to become a better on-ball defender, more physical," Eaglestaff said. "Other than that, they told me I had a good feel for the game, which is something that really can't be taught. Obviously, with my body, I pass the eye test."

Playing better defense, that's exactly what Hodge sold to Eaglestaff when Hodge recruited the forward from the portal. That and the word trust was used in the recruiting process quite a lot.

"It was a trust with the coaching staff," Eaglestaff said. "Those big major schools, it kind of gets tricky to show love to all of your players. It's a whole different ballgame. I just wanted a coaching staff I could trust and lean on at the end of the day. During my recruitment here to West Virginia, (Hodge) told me that when times get hard, you need people who are going to stick with you. That was something that stood out to me."

He is now nearly 1,400 miles away from home with one final shot at making it into the NCAA tournament and to find his defensive footing to become a more complete player.

Overlooked for much of his athletic life, if Eaglestaff seems bothered or nervous about his new surroundings, he doesn't let it show.

"I've been dreaming about this my whole life," Eaglestaff said. "Coming from North Dakota, there's not a lot of guys who get to play high major basketball. It was my childhood dream to be here."

Good Luck Mountaineers!

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BIG 12 MEN'S PREVIEW

Houston is on top, but Kansas is still the traditional power

Associated Press

The best team in the Big 12 the last few years has pretty clearly been Houston, a once-mid-dling mid-major that Kelvin Sampson has taken to five straight Sweet 16s, a pair of Final Fours and came oh-so-close to leading to a national title last year.

It hasn't been Kansas, which struggled to live up to its billing as the preseason No. 1 the past two seasons.

But count Sampson among those that think the league is better off when the Jayhawks are in the title hunt. He has been a part of the Big 12 longer than just about everyone, when you consider his years spent at Oklahoma, dating back to the days of the old Big Eight. He remembers when Roy Williams had the Jayhawks rolling, and Bill Self kept them that way, with teams that seemed so far ahead of the pack that everyone else seemed to be playing for second place.

"I told someone the other day, I thought the best program in America with the greatest traditions was Kansas, and



AP photo

Texas Tech's J.T. Toppin was named the Big 12 Preseason Player of the Year. He averaged 18.2 points and 9.4 rebounds per game last season.

that's our bellcow, and we need Kansas to be great," Sampson said. "Every conference has a school they need to be great, like in the ACC — North Carolina and Duke. That's their bellcows. We have one bellcow in this conference and that's been Kansas.

"They've had the most success and they've done it the longest," Sampson explained, "and it gives everyone a bar to reach."

Or, in the case of the

Cougars, surpass.

Houston was picked second in the preseason AP Top 25, and chosen to repeat as Big 12 regular- and postseason champions, thanks largely to a returning backcourt featuring Milos Uzan and Emanuel Sharp. What few pieces Sampson lost from perhaps the most stable program in the country, he replaced with the likes of five-star prospects Isiah Harwell and Chris Cenac.

Preseason all-Big 12 team

AJ Dybantsa, BYU
Richie Saunders, BYU
Emanuel Sharp, Houston
Joseph Tugler, Houston
Milos Uzan, Houston
Tamin Lipsey, Iowa State
Darryn Peterson, Kansas
P.J. Haggerty, K-State
J.T. Toppin, Texas Tech
Christian Anderson, Texas Tech

Preseason Player of the Year: J.T. Toppin, Texas Tech

Preseason Newcomer of the Year: LeJuan Watts, Texas Tech

Preseason Freshman of the Year: Darryn Peterson, Kansas

As for the Jayhawks, they weren't even in the top five of the Big 12 preseason poll.

Eighth-ranked BYU was picked second on the strength of returning veterans such as Richie Saunders and the arrival of one-and-done phenom AJ Dybantsa, the highest-rated recruit in school history. No. 10 Texas Tech was chosen third after making the Elite

eight last year, No. 13 Arizona was picked fourth and No. 16 Iowa State was chosen to finish fifth.

Then came the No. 19 Jayhawks, who have their own one-and-done star in Darryn Peterson to run the show.

"The league is the best it's ever been, and it's been really good over time," Kansas coach Bill Self said last week. "I don't know statistically, but I think in the last eight years we've been rated the No. 1 league six of those years, and last year the SEC was and deservedly so, but our conference is better than it ever has been."

Along with six teams in the top 20 of the AP preseason poll, the Big 12 also has Kansas State and Baylor receiving votes.

In other words, Self and his Big 12 brethren have an argument.

"There's not a better basketball conference," incoming Utah coach Alex Jensen said. "I know there's a learning curve for me. There are some great coaches to learn from. I had a brief conversation with Kelvin, and what he's done in Houston, I admire

that. I'm kind of curious how he went about it. And that goes for a lot of coaches. There's a lot of them that have built great programs and have run great programs for a long time in this league."

One-on-one for one-and-dones

Dybantsa and Peterson are widely considered the top two prospects for next year's NBA draft, and they have met many times in AAU ball over the years. Their only scheduled matchup this season is Jan. 31, when BYU visits Kansas at Allen Fieldhouse.

Transfer time

Kansas State landed one of the nation's best transfer classes, headlined by high-scoring Memphis guard PJ Haggerty and Abdi Bashir, who spent last season at Monmouth and tested the NBA draft process. They'll be joined in Manhattan by Marcus Johnson, who averaged 16.2 points at Bowling Green, and MAC defensive player of the year Nate Johnson from Akron.

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WVU WOMEN'S FEATURE

Jordan Harrison has proved that size is only a number

BY JUSTIN JACKSON

JJackson@DominionPost.com

It is big accolades that have rolled in over the preseason for WVU senior point guard Jordan Harrison.

Along with being named to the all-Big 12 preseason team, the Oklahoma City, Okla. native is also on the Nancy Lieberman watch list for the nation's best women's point guard. As a junior, Harrison averaged 13.7 points and 4.5 assists per game.

Here's what else Harrison has accomplished so far:

- In three seasons – at both Stephen F. Austin and WVU – Harrison hasn't been on a team that has lost its first game in any type of postseason tournament.

- Barring injury, she'll likely finish her college career with at least 1,700 points, 600 assists, 400 rebounds and 300 steals.

- Harrison needs just 102 points to surpass 1,000 career points at WVU, despite playing as a freshman at SFA.

Not bad for someone who was too small. That's the message Harrison, who is listed at 5-foot-6, but that may be stretch-

ing it, was told time and again as she was beginning to make a name for herself back in the day at Classen SAS High School in Oklahoma City.

"All the time in recruiting, I would usually hear, 'You're too short or too small to play at the next level,'" Harrison said during the 2024-25 season. "I didn't pass the eye test. It kept putting a chip on my shoulder. I wanted to prove people wrong."

It was Mark Kellogg who first gave Harrison that opportunity. As the WVU head coach – he also coached Harrison at Stephen F. Austin – tells the story, he was scouting prospects at an AAU tournament when Harrison first caught his eye.

"The thing with Jordan is she played on a really talented AAU team with a lot of good college recruits," Kellogg said. "Jordan's ability was right there on par with everyone else, so you had some type of idea what she was capable of back then. The question was always going to be about her height. The question was never going to be about her ability."

"I think because of her



Benjamin Powell/The Dominion Post

Jordan Harrison was named to the all-Big 12 preseason team this season.

size some schools overlooked her a little bit. Man, that heart is pretty big. That's a pretty special kid to me."

Proving them wrong

So, just how good was Harrison back in the day? The Oklahoma prep record books tell the story.

In one game against rival Northwest Classen, Harrison set a state scoring record with 74 points.

That's not a typo, nor was it a three-overtime game that padded her playing time. Her points were all in regulation. She played in 26 minutes of the 32-minute game, averaging nearly three points per minute.

"I made 14 threes, but I did miss some," Harrison told a local Oklahoma TV station after the game. "I didn't want to get too down on myself when I was missing. I was like, 'Jordan, just keep shooting.' Honestly, I've practiced a lot, so I just stayed confident."

She had the 14 3-pointers. Harrison also launched 54 shots. Oh, by the way, Harrison also had 12 steals in the game.

Here's what you may not know: Harrison's high school team was ranked nationally in ESPN's Top 25 and also featured future Baylor star Darianna Littlepage-Buggs, who like Harrison, is on the

all-Big 12 preseason team this season.

"I'm just in awe," Harrison told The Oklahoman. "I'm amazed right now. And like I watched the boys game and didn't think much about it until I got home and I was like, 'Wow, I really did that.'"

One final ride

Harrison's college career, to this point, has been wrapped up in a tidy 100 games on the nose. While her teams have never really felt the hurt of an upset loss, Harrison hasn't truly experienced the thrill of a major victory, either.

In her two seasons at WVU, the Mountaineers advanced to the NCAA tournament, beat an IVY League team in the first round only to lose to a higher seed in the second round.

The Mountaineers haven't advanced to the Sweet 16 since 1992, when there were only 48 teams in the tournament.

Harrison's goal is to try and change that this season.

"I think we all have team goals and individual goals in mind," Harrison

said. "The big thing for me is building chemistry with my teammates."

One of her former teammates, J.J. Quinerly, is now playing in the WNBA. Together, they formed chaos in WVU's full-court pressure defense.

Quinerly was the scorer, while Harrison was a secondary option and the one who controlled the pace at point guard.

That's changed now. Harrison knows it.

"I definitely see more production," she said. "That's more shots, even more rebounds. There's certain shots I can't turn down that I turned down last year."

"I have to be more aggressive, because my teammates are going to need me a lot more."

One might say this season will be even more of a load put upon Harrison's "small" shoulders. The Mountaineers aren't expecting much of a dropoff following Quinerly's graduation.

If that's the way it works out, it will be yet another example of Harrison surpassing expectations.

"I think this is her opportunity to shine a little bit more," Kellogg said.



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WVU WOMEN'S PREVIEW

WVU expecting strong season after J.J. Quinerly's graduation

BY JUSTIN JACKSON

JJackson@DominionPost.com

Mark Kellogg, in his own words, has been around the block a time or two.

"This isn't my first rodeo," is the way the WVU women's basketball coach put it.

Having talented players graduate is nothing new, but Kellogg's task this season of replacing the production of former star J.J. Quinerly is not exactly the same as replacing just any talented player. She was a two-time Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year, as well as a multiple all-league player, one who finished her college career with 2,016 points, 341 assists and 328 steals.

"It's definitely going to look different," Kellogg said. "We'll have to coach things a little differently to be sure. It's not just replacing her 20 points a game, it's also missing that player, when things get tough, you just give her the ball and let her go."

With Quinerly in the lineup over the last two seasons, Kellogg guided the Mountaineers to a



Benjamin Powell/The Dominion Post

WVU guard Sydney Shaw (right) led WVU with 67 3-pointers and averaged 11.4 points per game last season.

combined 50 wins and two trips to the second round of the NCAA tournament.

Without Quinerly? See, that's the thing, because

there isn't expected to be too much of a dropoff.

"If we can come back without J.J. and have just as much success, I think that's a great credit to

our coaches and the type of program they're building here," WVU guard Jordan Harrison said. "It would show how complete our team can be and

it would be a credit to the type of players (Kellogg) brings in year after year."

Harrison was then asked if expectations had changed at all going into

this season.

"Not really," she fired right back. "We still expect to go out and compete for the Big 12 and go right back to the NCAA tournament."

WVU was picked to finish fifth in the Big 12 preseason poll, behind TCU, Iowa State, Baylor and Oklahoma State. The Mountaineers also received 17 votes for the preseason AP Top 25 poll, so WVU is right on the cusp of being considered among the contenders.

Breaking through to that top level again, Kellogg said, is going to be more of a team effort.

"I really like our depth. This may be the deepest team we've ever had here," Kellogg said. "I like our newcomers. I think they bring a lot of versatility. We do have more newcomers than returners, so that's going to be something we have to work through."

WVU does return two starters and five players from last season's 25-8 team that fell to North Carolina, 58-47, in the second round of the NCAAs. Harrison leads that group and returns for her third season as the Mountaineers' point

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guard. She averaged 13.7 points and 4.5 assists per game as a junior and was named to the all-Big 12 preseason team heading into this season.

“We expect Jordan can be a little more dynamic this year,” Kellogg said. “We need for her assists to go up, her turnovers to go down and then she’s probably going to have to shoot more threes. There were times last year she passed up on good attempts to try and keep others involved. I’d like for her to go ahead and take those.”

One of Harrison’s backcourt mates will be returning starter Sydney Shaw, who knows all about taking 3-pointers.

She led the Mountaineers with 67 threes a season ago after transferring over from Auburn. Shaw averaged 11.4 points per game last season and that number is expected to improve.

Where Shaw has changed her game is on the defensive end.

“I definitely feel like I’ve made a lot of progress with my defense,” Shaw said. “You may have to ask coach about that, though.”

So, of course Kellogg was asked.

“Yes, Shaw has made great strides with her defense,” Kellogg said. “She’ll love to hear that I’m giving her some cred-

it there. She’s worked so hard in the offseason to become more of a complete player.”

WVU, with its frantic full-court pressure defense, led the Big 12 with 777 turnovers forced last season. That isn’t expected to change in Kellogg’s third year with the Mountaineers.

The reason is a roster full of elite defenders, that includes the six newcomers, who are looking to create their own sense of havoc.

That’s where WVU guard Sydney Woodley comes into play. A reserve last season, Woodley appears set to move into a starting role now. She first caught Kellogg’s eye two years ago in the transfer portal after she recorded 104 steals during the 2023-24 season at Long Beach State.

That list of elite defenders also includes newcomers Gia Cooke (transfer from Maryland), Carter McCray (Wisconsin), Kierra Wheeler (Norfolk State) and Loghan Johnson (Texas Tech).

“I think Sydney Woodley is an elite defender. I think Gia Cooke can be an elite defender,” Kellogg said. “Loghan Johnson can be a great defender, more probably in the Kyah (Watson mold) than the J.J. mode. Shaw has come so far defensively



AP file photo

WVU forward Jordan Thomas (23) averaged 6.2 points and 4.3 rebounds per game last season as a freshman.

and is playing at a high level on both ends right now. I feel we have the numbers and the depth. We feel pretty good about it, actually.”

The most noticeable change will be in West Virginia’s ability to score down low and rebound the ball. Last season, the Mountaineers finished 12th in the Big 12 in rebounding.

Sophomore center Jordan Thomas is the one to watch there, as she moves into a starting role after a promising freshman campaign where she averaged 6.2 points and

4.3 rebounds per game.

McCray averaged 7.1 rebounds at Wisconsin last season and Wheeler

averaged 9.0 rebounds at Norfolk State.

“Rebounding is an issue we had to fix,” Kel-

logg said. “Jordan Thomas is poised to make a big jump. She worked hard on her body to get into better shape. You will see us be able to play more inside-out than before. That will be a positive change offensively for us, and then being able to go out and rebound the ball is a big plus for us.”

The other major change that will come this season is WVU’s schedule, as Kellogg didn’t back down from beefing up the nonconference schedule. It includes a featured game against No. 7 Duke at the Greenbrier Resort, as well as home games against Villanova, Temple and Georgia Tech.

WVU will also travel to Texas A&M and will likely match up against Ohio State during its Thanksgiving tournament in The Bahamas.



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Tampa, Fla.



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Freshman
Worcester, Mass.



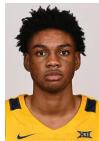
#3 Honor Huff
Guard 5'10"
Senior
Brooklyn, N.Y.



#4 Jayden Forsythe
Guard 6'5"
Freshman
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#5 DJ Thomas
Forward 6'9"
Freshman
Allen, Texas



#7 Evans Barning Jr.
Forward 6'7"
Freshman
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#8 Abraham Oyeadier
Center 6'9"
R-Freshman
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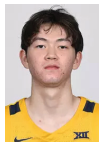
#13 Chance Moore
Guard 6'6"
5th
Brookhaven, Ga.



#15 Jackson Fields
Forward 6'8"
Senior
Missouri City, Texas



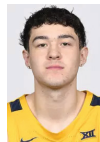
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Guard 6'6"
Freshman
Miami, Fla.



#21 Niyol Hauet
Guard 6'4"
R-Freshman
Yokohama, Japan



#23 Morris Ugusuk
Guard 6'4"
Junior
Helsinki, Finland



#52 Treysen Eaglestaff
Forward 6'6"
Senior
Bismarck, N.D.



#55 Harlan Obioha
Center 7'0"
Senior
Hoxie, Kan.



#1 Carter McCray
Forward 6'1"
Junior
Oberlin, Ohio



#2 Sydney Woodley
Guard 5'8"
enior
Moreno Valley, CA



#3 Gia Cooke
Guard 5'8"
R-Junior
Upper Marlboro, Md.



#4 Madison Parrish
Freshman 5'11"
Freshman
Mason, Ohio



#5 Sydney Shaw
Guard 5'9"
Senior
Miami, Fla.



#10 Jordan Harrison
Forward 5'6"
Senior
Oklahoma City, Okla.



#21 Riley Makalusk
Forward 6'2"
Junior
Fishers, Ind.



#22 Kierra Wheeler
Forward 6'1"
Gr
Minneapolis, Minn.



#23 Jordan Thomas
Guard 6'3"
Sophomore
Carrollton, Texas



#25 Logan Johnson
Guard 6'3"
Junior
Houston, Texas



#37 Celia Riviere
Forward 6'3"
Senior
Paris, France

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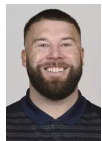
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Johnny Estelle
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Phil Forte
Assistant Coach



Jase Herl
Assistant Coach



Andre Shaw
Assistant Coach



Mark Kellogg
Head Coach



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Mark Kellogg

AGE: 49

COACHING CAREER: In his first two seasons at West Virginia, Kellogg has led the Mountaineers to a 50-16 record and two trips to the second round of the NCAA tournament. WVU finished tied for fourth in the Big 12 last season. His full-court-pressing style saw the Mountaineers finish fourth in the country in turnovers forced last season at 23.5 per game. Coached eight seasons at Stephen F. Austin, where he won 195 games and advanced to two NCAA tournaments. Including his stops at Division II schools, Kellogg has won 495 games and owns

a 78.4 winning percentage. Led West Texas A&M to the Division II national championship game in 2014 and a trip to the Elite Eight in 2015.

CONTRACT: In June, Kellogg signed a second contract extension at WVU that could potentially run through the 2031-32 season. Technically, he is signed through the 2029-30 season, but could trigger two automatic extension clauses by leading the Mountaineers to top-6 finishes over this season and next. If those clauses are in play, Kellogg's deal would reach up to as much as \$5.7 million, which includes yearly retention bonuses. For this season, he is scheduled to earn \$675,000.

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BIG 12 WOMEN'S PREVIEW

Matthew Mitchell returns to coaching in wide open Big 12

Associated Press

Amirah Abdur-Rahim remembers her first conversation with Houston coach Matthew Mitchell after she entered the transfer portal. He had brought up his "winning tools," which had helped him turn Kentucky into a women's basketball powerhouse, and which later formed the basis for his best-selling book.

They were remarkably simple: honesty, hard work and discipline.

"It spoke to me," Abdur-Rahim said. "You want to have someone who has values and who stands on them."

Abdur-Rahim eventually committed to the Cougars. TK Pitts did,

Preseason all-Big 12 team

Darianna Littlepage-Buggs, Baylor

Bella Fontleroy, Baylor

Delaney Gibb, BYU

Jade Masogayo, Colorado

Addy Brown, Iowa State

Audi Crooks, Iowa State

S'Mya Nichols, Kansas

Stailee Heard, Oklahoma State

Olivia Miles, TCU

Jordan Harrison, WVU

Preseason Player of the Year: Audi Crooks, Iowa State

Preseason Newcomer of the Year: Olivia Miles, TCU

Preseason Freshman of the Year: Dee Alexander, Cincinnati

too, after three standout seasons at SMU, and after Mitchell had courted her with the same principles he planned to use as the foundation for another vast rebuild.

"One thing that struck me," Pitts said, "is that everything he said 12 years ago, eight years

ago, 10 years ago, is what he says now. That's how I know the culture and standard will never change."

Mitchell is perhaps the most intriguing newcomer to the Big 12 this season. He was just 49 years old when he walked away from Kentucky five years

ago as its winningest coach. He had been on vacation in March 2020 when he slipped and hit his head while out for a run, leaving him with a concussion and, more distressingly, a subdural hematoma that required surgery.

When the start of the season approached that fall, Mitchell still didn't feel quite right. So, he announced his retirement, walking away from a game that had dominated his life for the past 25 years.

He wrote a couple of books on leadership. Coached his daughters' basketball teams. Eventually, he founded The Winning Tools, a firm headquartered in Kentucky

that provides companies with leadership education and workshops.

It wasn't until Houston's leadership reached out to gauge his interest in a return, that Mitchell seriously thought about it. He saw how the city had embraced its WNBA team, and how much the school had supported the men's program, which Kelvin Sampson has turned into a powerhouse again.

"I just sensed a real commitment," Mitchell said. "You can draft off that energy a little bit."

Ranked favorites

Iowa State was No. 14 in the AP Top 25, leading four Big 12 schools in

the preseason poll. Baylor checked in at No. 16, defending regular- and postseason tournament champion TCU was No. 17 and Oklahoma State was No. 22.

Speaking of TCU

The Horned Frogs lost standouts Hailey Van Lith, Sedona Prince and Madison Conner from a team that finished 34-4 last year, but Campbell reloaded with perhaps the nation's top transfer, guard Olivia Miles from Notre Dame. She was drawn by a system that prioritizes scoring from its perimeter players.

"I'm excited to get into this system and show it off in games," Miles said.



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NOV 6 (THU)	7 P.M.	HOME	CAMPBELL
NOV 9 (SUN)	3 P.M.	HOME	LEHIGH
NOV 13 (THU)	6 P.M.	HOME	PITT
NOV 17 (MON)	7 P.M.	HOME	LAFAYETTE
NOV 21 (FRI)	6:30 P.M.	NEUTRAL	CLEMSON
NOV 23 (SUN)	TBA	NEUTRAL	GEORGIA OR XAVIER
NOV 30 (SUN)	3 P.M.	HOME	MERCYHURST
DEC 3 (WED)	7 P.M.	HOME	COPPIN STATE
DEC 6 (SAT)	6 P.M.	NEUTRAL	WAKE FOREST
DEC 9 (TUE)	7 P.M.	HOME	LITTLE ROCK
DEC 13 (SAT)	8 P.M.	NEUTRAL	OHIO STATE
DEC 22 (MON)	7 P.M.	HOME	MISSISSIPPI VALLEY ST
JAN 2 (FRI)	9 P.M.	AWAY	IOWA STATE
JAN 6 (TUE)	7 P.M.	HOME	CINCINNATI
JAN 10 (SAT)	NOON	HOME	KANSAS
JAN 13 (TUE)	8:30 P.M.	AWAY	HOUSTON
JAN 17 (SAT)	6 P.M.	HOME	COLORADO
JAN 21 (WED)	9 P.M.	AWAY	ARIZONA STATE
JAN 24 (SAT)	2 P.M.	AWAY	ARIZONA
JAN 27 (TUE)	8:30 P.M.	HOME	KANSAS STATE
JAN 31 (SAT)	4 P.M.	HOME	BAYLOR
FEB 5 (THU)	7 P.M.	AWAY	CINCINNATI
FEB 8 (SUN)	1 P.M.	HOME	TEXAS TECH
FEB 14 (SAT)	6 P.M.	AWAY	UCF
FEB 18 (WED)	8:30 P.M.	HOME	UTAH
FEB 21 (SAT)	5 P.M.	AWAY	TCU
FEB 24 (TUE)	7 P.M.	AWAY	OKLAHOMA STATE
FEB 28 (SAT)	5:30 P.M.	HOME	BYU
MAR 3 (TUE)	8 P.M.	AWAY	KANSAS STATE
MAR 6 (FRI)	8 P.M.	HOME	UCF
MAR 10 (TUE)	TBD	NEUTRAL	BIG 12 CHAMPIONSHIP

HOME AWAY

WEST VIRGINIA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL 2025-26 SCHEDULE



NOV 3 (MON)	7 P.M.	HOME	PURDUE FORT WAYNE
NOV 7 (FRI)	7 P.M.	HOME	KENT STATE
NOV 11 (TUE)	7 P.M.	HOME	TEMPLE
NOV 14 (FRI)	7 P.M.	NEUTRAL	DUKE
NOV 20 (THU)	10:15 AM	HOME	APPALACHIAN ST.
NOV 24 (MON)	1:30 P.M.	NEUTRAL	MCNEESE STATE
NOV 26 (WED)	TBA	NEUTRAL	OHIO STATE OR BELMONT
DEC 1 (MON)	7 P.M.	HOME	VILLANOVA
DEC 5 (FRI)	7 P.M.	HOME	MERCYHURST
DEC 8 (MON)	7 P.M.	HOME	TEXAS SOUTHERN
DEC 11 (THU)	7 P.M.	HOME	GEORGIA TECH
DEC 14 (SUN)	3 P.M.	AWAY	TEXAS A&M
DEC 21 (SUN)	2 P.M.	HOME	HOUSTON
JAN 1 (THU)	1 P.M.	AWAY	KANSAS
JAN 4 (SUN)	2 P.M.	AWAY	KANSAS STATE
JAN 7 (WED)	7 P.M.	HOME	TEXAS TECH
JAN 11 (SUN)	3 P.M.	AWAY	IOWA STATE
JAN 14 (WED)	7 P.M.	HOME	TCU
JAN 18 (SUN)	2 P.M.	AWAY	CINCINNATI
JAN 21 (WED)	7 P.M.	HOME	ARIZONA STATE
JAN 24 (SAT)	9:30 PM	AWAY	BYU
JAN 27 (TUE)	9 P.M.	AWAY	UTAH
FEB 1 (SUN)	12 P.M.	HOME	BAYLOR
FEB 4 (WED)	9 P.M.	AWAY	COLORADO
FEB 7 (SAT)	2 P.M.	HOME	ARIZONA
FEB 11 (WED)	7 P.M.	HOME	UCF
FEB 15 (SUN)	8 P.M.	AWAY	TCU
FEB 21 (SAT)	2 P.M.	HOME	OKLAHOMA STATE
FEB 25 (WED)	7 P.M.	AWAY	UCF
MAR 1 (SUN)	2 P.M.	HOME	CINCINNATI

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There is a direct correlation between excellence in sports and business.

Both professions require a commitment to diligence, creativity and innovation. Dyke Raese had all three, and he used them in every aspect throughout his life.

Born in the small town of Davis, West Virginia, Dyke Raese grew up with a love for sports. Upon graduating from WVU in 1932, Raese became head coach of both the basketball and football programs at Davis High School. Inheriting small teams in both sports, Raese understood the need to improvise and adapt in order to overcome the odds with which he and his teams were faced.

HIS LOYALTY

Raese was one of the first coaches in the country to institute the T-formation and the forward pass in football (George Halas of the Chicago Bears being the first) whereby the quarterback gets under center to take the snap. In his first game, the opposing coach protested the formation almost every time that Raese's offense set up. The formation was eventually upheld and Raese's team won the game.



When Raese took over as the head coach for the Mountaineer basketball team in 1938 he encountered a similar situation: a team lacking in stature, size, and without any scholarship players. He decided to employ a ball-handling offense designed to deny the other team of the ball for as long as possible. He did this by installing a tenacious zone defense and an over-loaded zone offense that emphasized fast, deceptive passing-and a lethal fast break. That game plan was the deciding factor in the Mountaineers' overtime victory against No.1 LIU in the opening round of the 1942 NIT. In the words of famed opposing LIU coach Claire Bee, "They fast broke us silly."

Choosing to forgo a career in coaching, Raese decided to embark upon a business career instead and became President of Greer Limestone. Never one to rest on past laurels, Raese's only desire was to improve. In 1958, along with geologist Paul Price, he set out to find another limestone deposit to further grow the Greer Limestone Company.

Not only did Raese and Price find a significant limestone deposit estimated at 100 million tons, this particular limestone deposit was composed of 98 percent calcium carbonate-perfect in its integrity of quality and purity.

Today Greer Lime is used in soil stabilization, glass, paper and pulp manufacturing, nonferrous metals, water treatment, steel flux, mortar, plaster, refractory dolomite, sugar refining, and more.

The Greer Lime Company also has a most unique relationship with its clientele, since it is also a consumer of the same products that it provides: steel, coal, and paper. How many companies can claim that distinction?

**FOUNDER
COACH
LEADER
MENTOR**

A man who thrilled West Virginians with his coaching ability, friendship, and allegiance to his state throughout his lifetime, Dyke Raese will be sorely missed. Greer Lime, the company he founded will live on for years to come.

*Buckeye Asphalt • Buckeye Construction • Buckeye Stone • Clarksburg Asphalt • Decker's Creek Limestone • Greer Asphalt • Greer Lime • Greer Limestone
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