

THE 2003-04 HUSKIES:

BREAKDOWN BY CLASS:

SENIORS (3): Maria Conlon,
Diana Taurasi, Morgan Valley

JUNIORS (4): Ashley Battle,
Stacey Marron, Jessica Moore,
Ashley Valley

SOPHOMORES (4):

Willnett Crockett, Ann Strother,
Barbara Turner, Nicole Wolff

NEWCOMERS (2): Kiana
Robinson, Liz Sherwood

BREAKDOWN BY POSITIONS:

BACKCOURT (8): Maria Conlon,
Stacey Marron, Kiana Robinson,
Ann Strother, Diana Taurasi,
Ashley Valley, Morgan Valley,
Nicole Wolff

FRONTCOURT (5): Ashley Battle,
Willnett Crockett, Jessica Moore,
Liz Sherwood, Barbara Turner

BREAKDOWN BY HEIGHT:

5-8 (1): Kiana Robinson

5-9 (3): Maria Conlon,
Stacey Marron, Ashley Valley

6-0 (5): Ashley Battle, Diana
Taurasi, Barbara Turner,
Morgan Valley, Nicole Wolff

6-2 (2): Willnett Crockett,
Ann Strother

6-3 (1): Jessica Moore

6-4 (1): Liz Sherwood

BREAKDOWN BY STATE:

ALASKA (1): Jessica Moore
CALIFORNIA (2): Diana Taurasi,
Willnett Crockett

COLORADO (2): Ann Strother,
Liz Sherwood

CONNECTICUT (1): Maria Conlon

FLORIDA (1): Kiana Robinson

MASSACHUSETTS (1):
Nicole Wolff

NEW MEXICO (1): Stacey Marron

OHIO (1): Barbara Turner

PENNSYLVANIA (1): Ashley Battle

VERMONT (2): Ashley Valley,
Morgan Valley

Defending Champs Have Sights Set on "Three-peat"



Just when we think we know the standard for excellence in college women's basketball, Geno Auriemma and the University of Connecticut decide to raise the bar once again. The 2003-04 season should bring much of the same, featuring the return of the entire roster for the 2003 National Champions.

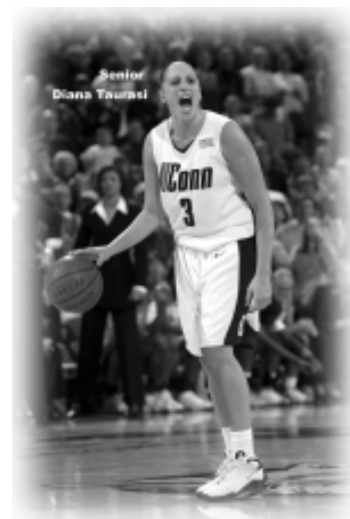
UConn comes off a 2002-03 season in which it changed the definition of the word improbable. En route to the program's fourth national championship, the Huskies set a Division I women's record for most consecutive wins with 70 straight victories.

Overall, the Connecticut tradition is four National Championships, seven Final Fours, 15 straight NCAA Tournament Appearances and 24 BIG EAST regular season and tournament championships. UConn has always been a program rich with tradition and the 2003-04 team will look to continue Connecticut's dominance in women's basketball.

THE SENIORS

Leading the way will be senior guard Diana Taurasi (Chino, Calif.). Taurasi was named the consensus National Player of the Year in 2003 and could become UConn's second three-time Kodak All-American with another strong season. In the six games of the 2003 NCAA Tournament, Taurasi averaged 26.2 points per game, including a career-high 35 points in the second round, and enters the 2003-04 season with momentum and confidence. Taurasi's athleticism, versatility and unique court vision make her one of the most gifted players in the game today. The guard not only led the team in points (17.9 ppg), rebounds (6.1 rpg), assists (4.4 apg) and blocks (1.2 bpg) but was also the emotional leader on the court. Taurasi has the capability and drive to close out her Connecticut career with staggering numbers and a third national championship under her belt.

Joining Taurasi in the 2002-03 championship backcourt was guard Maria Conlon (Derby, Conn.). Conlon, a sharpshooter from outside, served as one of UConn's top reserve guards her first two seasons at Connecticut before emerging as




 Senior
Morgan Valley

a consistent starter in 2002-03. The guard started 29 games for the Huskies as a junior and shared point duties with Taurasi. She averaged 6.9 points per game and 3.4 assists per game, and was a major catalyst in UConn's 2003 Championship after her performance of 11-points, six assists and no turnovers. As a senior, Conlon will be looked to for leadership and composure on the floor, as well as support in the scoring column.

Just as Taurasi is the emotional leader on the floor, senior Morgan Valley (Colchester, Vt.) is the emotional leader everywhere else. Valley has been hampered by foot injuries throughout her career, but her determination and love for the game has made her an integral part of the squad. Behind the scenes Valley is the model student-athlete striving to improve daily, and during the 2002-03 championship campaign she was able to contribute more than ever before to the success of the Huskies. Valley started in 18 games for UConn and made significant contributions off the bench in 16 others. She grabbed a career-high seven rebounds during a strong showing versus Rutgers (1/8/03) and had a season-high nine points versus St. Joseph's (12/22/02). Valley, who has improved in all areas of the game, is hoping to make the 2003-04 season her most memorable yet.

Senior Maria Conlon will be looked to for leadership and composure on the floor, as well as support in the scoring column.


 Senior
Maria Conlon

THE JUNIORS

The 2003-04 junior class is led by a pair of versatile student athletes in Jessica Moore (Palmer, Alaska) and Ashley Battle (Pittsburgh, Pa.). Both redshirted the 2000-01 campaign and have benefitted a great deal from the extra year of experience. Moore started all 38 games in 2002-03 and finished as UConn's second leading scorer (10.6 ppg) and rebounder (5.9 rpg). She was extremely

effective both offensively and defensively from her center position scoring at will and keeping opponents off the boards. Moore has improved her shooting range as well as her on court intensity level and should be one of the top performers in the BIG EAST for the 2003-04 campaign.

Battle, the 2002 BIG EAST Defensive Player of the Year, was UConn's greatest weapon off the bench and was the most athletic student-athlete on the floor. She raised

the energy level of any game the moment she entered the contest and was called upon for a steal or an offensive rebound when a big play was needed. In 2002-03, she averaged 8.3 points per game and 5.4 rebounds per game. She had a career-high seven steals and 17 points at Georgetown (2/26/03) and was UConn's defensive specialist throughout NCAA play. Battle's speed and ball handling skills make her dangerous around the perimeter, however, her strength also makes her a scoring threat inside.

Ashley Valley (Colchester, Vt.), the younger of the Valley sisters, has been a reserve point guard for the last two seasons and continues to increase her playing time each year. She played valuable minutes versus Notre Dame (2/23/03) and Providence (3/1/03) and is one of UConn's most aggressive defenders. Valley saw action in 31 games for the Huskies and is looking to become a steady contributor in 2003-04.

UConn's only walk-on, junior guard Stacey Marron (Albuquerque, N.M.), has continued to improve and impress the Husky faithful. Marron sees limited time off the bench but makes the most of her minutes with a great shooter's touch and quick passes. Marron saw action in 28 games in 2002-03 and finished shooting 10-of-17 from behind the three-point arc. One of UConn's hardest workers day-in and day-out, Marron plays an important role for the Huskies.


 Junior
Ashley Battle

THE SOPHOMORES

UConn's freshman class of 2002-03 contributed immediately and matured quickly en route to its first championship at UConn. As sophomores, the four student-athletes will be relied heavily upon for continued success.

Willnett Crockett (Harbor City, Calif.) is one of the quickest centers in the country and is already relied heavily upon for her footwork around the basket. Coming off the bench, Crockett picked up some of UConn's


 Junior
Jessica Moore

 Junior
Ashley Valley

biggest rebounds, both defensively and offensively, during the Final Four. She averaged 5.7 points per game and 4.6 rebounds per game for the Huskies. Her strength and speed make her just another weapon the Huskies can use around the basket.

Ann Strother (Castle Rock, Colo.) was the only other Husky besides Moore to start all 38 games. She was named to the 2003 NCAA Final Four All-Tournament team for her outstanding play in the title game. What the nation saw Strother do against Tennessee for the championship is what the Huskies saw day-in and day-out. Strother averaged 10.1 points per game and 3.1 assists per game as the third leading scorer on the squad. She is a relentless defender and her size and quickness makes her impossible to guard.

Another tough scorer to guard is forward Barbara Turner (Cleveland, Ohio). Turner averaged 10.0 points per game and 5.8 rebounds per game during her rookie campaign. She began the season as a spark off the bench, however, she started all six tournament games for the Huskies and averaged 9.5 points per game during UConn's title run. Turner is one of the quickest and most creative scorers in the league and should be one of Connecticut's top scoring threats as a sophomore. Turner and Strother both competed on the 2003 Pan American Games squad this summer for USA Basketball.

Nicole Wolff sat out the 2002-03 championship season due to stress fractures after starting the first 10 games. She proved herself immediately and the Huskies are looking forward to her becoming a regular contributor. Wolff has one of the nicest shooting touches in the nation and will be another offensive option for Connecticut.

THE NEWCOMERS

The Huskies have the luxury of adding two more talented players to a championship lineup that didn't lose anyone. The newcomers chose Connecticut because of its rich



Sophomore
Ann Strother



Sophomore
Barbara Turner

championship tradition and are looking to become part of its championship history.

Liz Sherwood (Castle Rock, Co.), a high school teammate of Strother, is a 6-4 center who brings size and strength to the floor. Sherwood helped lead Highlands Ranch High School to back-to-back state titles and averaged 27.0 ppg, 11.0 rpg, 8.0 bpg as a senior. A 2003 WBCA, McDonald's, and Parade First Team All-American, she was named the 2003 Rocky Mountain News 5A State Player of the Year. Sherwood will join

Moore and Crockett giving the Huskies one of the most formidable frontcourts in the country.

Kiana Robinson (Brandon, Fla.) will join UConn's backcourt as a 5-8 guard. Robinson is deceptively quick and can score from anywhere on the floor. She averaged 23 points, seven assists and 10 rebounds per game as a senior at the Laurinburg Institute in North Carolina. A WBCA Honorable Mention

All-American, Robinson's style of play will fit nicely within the UConn offense.



Sophomore
Wilnett Crockett

THE SCHEDULE

The Huskies will be in search of its third consecutive national championship title when opening the 2003-04 season. UConn will begin the season with four straight home games beginning with Western Michigan on November 23, Florida State on November 25, Holy Cross on November 30 and finally Sienna on December 2. The Huskies will travel back out west, as they did in 2000, taking on Pepperdine on December 5 and Southern California on December 7.

UConn will return home to the Hartford Civic Center on December 18, taking on Arizona State and then will travel to the home of UConn's 2000 Championship title, Philadelphia, when St. Joseph's will host UConn on December 21. The Huskies will close out the New Year on December 29, at home, taking on Atlantic Coast Conference for North Carolina State.

One of the hardest challenges of the season, and the Huskies first nationally televised (CBS) game of the season, the Duke Blue Devils come to Hartford, in a rematch from their 2003 loss to UConn.

Connecticut will begin BIG EAST play on January 7 at West Virginia, starting an eight-game BIG EAST schedule to close out January. Included in the month's schedule are home games against Georgetown (Jan. 10), Boston College (Jan. 17), Rutgers (Jan. 19) and St. John's (Jan. 31). The Huskies will be traveling to Notre Dame (Jan. 13), Seton Hall (Jan. 24) and Virginia Tech (Jan. 27).

Opening February, UConn will travel to nemesis Tennessee on February 5, and will be televised on espn2. Connecticut will play host to BIG EAST school's Miami (Feb. 8), Pittsburgh (Feb. 17), Providence (Feb. 25) and West Virginia (March 2), will taking to the road against Syracuse (Feb. 11), Rutgers (Feb. 14), Boston College (Feb. 21) and Villanova (Feb. 28).

Athlon Sports
Preseason Top 25

1. Connecticut
2. Duke
3. Kansas State
4. Stanford
5. Texas
6. Penn State
7. LSU
8. Texas Tech
9. Tennessee
10. North Carolina
11. Purdue
12. Louisiana Tech
13. Notre Dame
14. Georgia
15. Virginia
16. Michigan State
17. Ohio State
18. DePaul
19. Rutgers
20. Utah
21. Minnesota
22. TCU
23. Arizona
24. Virginia Tech
25. Southwest Missouri St.

Lindy's Magazine
Preseason Top 25

1. Connecticut
2. Duke
3. Texas
4. Tennessee
5. Kansas State
6. LSU
7. Purdue
8. Texas Tech
9. Stanford
10. Penn State
11. Minnesota
12. Georgia
13. North Carolina
14. Louisiana Tech
15. Utah
16. UC-Santa Barbara
17. Arizona
18. Notre Dame
19. Vanderbilt
20. Virginia
21. TCU
22. Oklahoma
23. Rutgers
24. Ohio State
25. Washington

Women's Basketball
News Service
Preseason Top 25

1. Connecticut
2. Duke
3. Texas
4. Texas Tech
5. Purdue
6. Kansas State
7. Tennessee
8. LSU
9. Minnesota
10. UC-Santa Barbara
11. Georgia
12. Ohio State
13. Stanford
14. Rutgers
15. Penn State
16. Boston College
17. Notre Dame
18. George Washington
19. Louisiana Tech
20. Arizona
21. North Carolina
22. TCU
23. Cincinnati
24. Vanderbilt
25. Utah

Slam Magazine
Preseason Top 15

1. Texas
2. Duke
3. Connecticut
4. Kansas State
5. Stanford
6. Tennessee
7. Penn State
8. Louisiana State
9. Georgia
10. Oklahoma
11. Texas Tech
12. UC-Santa Barbara
13. Utah
14. Rutgers
15. Purdue


Diana Taurasi
Women's Basketball News Service
Preseason All-America Teams
First Team

Diana Taurasi	Sr.	G/F	Connecticut
Alana Beard	Sr.	G	Duke
Nicole Ohlde	Sr.	C	Kansas State
Chandi Jones	Sr.	G	Houston
Kelly Mazzante	Sr.	G	Penn State
Lindsay Whalen	Sr.	G	Minnesota
Rebekkah Brunson	Sr.	C	Georgetown
Seimone Augustas	So.	G	LSU
Erika Valek	Sr.	G	Purdue
Stacy Stephens	Sr.	F	Texas

Second Team

Nicole Powell	Sr.	F	Stanford
Kendra Wecker	Sr.	F	Kansas State
Shereka Wright	Sr.	F	Purdue
Tan White	Jr.	G	Mississippi St.
Cappie Pondexter	So.	G	Rutgers
Ann Strother	So.	G	Connecticut
Tera Bjorklund	Sr.	C	Colorado
Vanessa Hayden	Sr.	C	Florida
Shameka Christon	Sr.	F	Arkansas
Cathy Joens	Sr.	G	G. Washington

Athlon Sports Preseason All-America Teams
First Team

Alana Beard	Sr.	G	Duke
Kelly Mazzante	Sr.	G	Penn State
Nicole Ohlde	Sr.	F/C	Kansas State
Nicole Powell	Sr.	F	Stanford
Diana Taurasi	Sr.	G/F	Connecticut

Lindy's Magazine Preseason All-America Teams
First Team

Diana Taurasi	Sr.	G	Connecticut
Alana Beard	Sr.	G	Duke
Nicole Powell	Sr.	F	Stanford
Shereka Wright	Sr.	F	Purdue
Nicole Ohlde	Sr.	C	Kansas State