

women win CAA HONORS

despite small size, inexperience

The College of William & Mary Women's Basketball team overcame the detriments of a lack of size and a lack of experience coming into the season, as well as a number of in-season injuries to turn in a successful 14-17 which set the Tribe up nicely for the next season.

The team was led by seniors Courtney Portell and Dani Kell. Portell, a shooting guard from Woodbridge, Virginia, averaged seven points per game to go along with 1.97 assists. Kell, a forward from Lutherville, Maryland, finished third on the team in points per game with 8.6 and second on the team in rebounds with 6.0. Head Coach Debbie Taylor called her two seniors "the most successful class in history. They are two players who mean so much to this program."

Junior Tiffany Benson led the team in points and rebounds, averaging 12.0 points and 11.0 rebounds per game. Benson was named to the Colonial Athletic Association's Second-Team All Conference for her efforts and was honored as the CAA's Defensive Player of the Year. "I'm a leader now. It's [was] a big change for me," Benson said. "Really I can't even believe it, me being a leading scorer. It's a shock to me."

Freshman point guard Taysha Pye was named to the CAA All-Rookie Team after an impressive freshman campaign in which she averaged 9.9 points per-game. Pye started the final seven games of the season after an

injury put point guard Katy Oblinger out of the mix.

The Tribe also received important contributions from freshman Janine Aldridge (7.8 points per game), junior Kelly Heath (8.0 points per game), and junior Lauren Aadland (3.6 rebounds per game).

The Tribe Women began the season winning four of their first five games before taking one out of two games in the Holiday Inn & Suites Express Midtown Thanksgiving Tournament. They went 6-12 in conference play with a win over conference-champion Drexel University.

The Tribe won their first game in the Conference Tournament following the season, defeating Hofstra University 63-62 on a game-winning shot by Pye. The team's season ended with a loss to NCAA Tournament participant Virginia Commonwealth University.

Even considering the team's successes, it was the relationships Kell would remember most at the end of the season. Kell's friendships on and off the court characterized her memories of Tribe basketball. "It's a surreal feeling. You never think the day is going to come and then it does," Kell said. "It's special for me and Courtney because we're roommates too, so we've developed a really close friendship. I couldn't have asked to do it with anyone better."

> Jack Lambert



Photos courtesy of Philip Delano.

Releasing the jump-shot, junior forward Tiffany Benson shoots for the hoop as junior guard Kelly Heath looks on. Although the Tribe ultimately fell to VCU 61-75, Benson enjoyed a game-high 19 points and 14 rebounds.

Dribbling past a VCU opponent in Kaplan Arena, sophomore guard Katy Oblinger looks to score. Oblinger started every game in the season until an injury put her on the bench.



In the December home game versus Howard University, junior Lauren Aadland watches on as freshman Janine Aldridge blocks her opponent's moves. The Tribe women defeated the Bison 80-55.



team

Front Row: Aleia Gland, Kelly Heath, Courtney Portell, Dani Kell, Lindsey Moller, Katherine DeHenzel. Back Row: Taysha Pye, Janine Aldridge, Courtney Flynn, Tiffany Benson, Lauren Aadland, Robyn Barton, Chanel Murchison, Katy Oblinger. Not Pictured: Head Coach Debbie Taylor, Assistant Coach Meg Barber, Assistant Coach Lizzie Schiel, Assistant Coach Jewonda Bright.

<SCOREBOARD>

W&M 82 > 64 MI EXPRESS W&M 48 < 70 MORGAN STATE W&M 62 > 50 UNC ASHEVILLE W&M 98 > 38 NORFOLK STATE
W&M 47 < 63 RICHMOND W&M 59 < 72 HAMPTON W&M 60 > 51 SAINT PETER'S W&M 58 > 46 NJIT W&M 61 > 60 TOWSON
W&M 55 < 59 NORTHEASTERN W&M 61 < 75 VCU W&M 82 > 68 GA STATE W&M 57 < 73 JMU W&M 74 < 76 DREXEL
W&M 72 < 73 JMU W&M 61 > 50 TOWSON W&M 72 < 87 ODU W&M 63 > 62 HOFSTRA W&M 52 < 72 VCU

W&M 54 > 41 DELAWARE W&M 51 < 68 NEW MEXICO W&M 53 > 50 BUTLER W&M 80 > 55 HOWARD
W&M 63 > 57 DREXEL W&M 59 > 55 UNC WILMINGTON W&M 52 < 69 VCU W&M 45 < 55 HOFSTRA W&M 48 < 66 ODU
W&M 51 < 62 DELAWARE W&M 74 > 63 GMU W&M 58 < 68 NORTHEASTERN W&M 66 < 70 UNC WILMINGTON