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Huskies win MVAC Championship and finish regular season 7-0



Photo courtesy of Ashe County Athletics

Ashe County finished off a dominant spring football season to close out a perfect 7-0 regular season and win a third straight Mountain Valley Athletic Conference Championship.

In what will be the team's final season in the MVAC at least through the next NCHSAA alignment period (Ashe moves to 3A next season), the Huskies held on for a 27-20 win over Starmount last Friday to claim a third straight championship.

Ashe will now focus on continuing its season in the 2AA state playoffs. The Huskies received the

fourth seed and will host fifth seeded Oak Grove on Friday, April 16. The winner of that game will face the winner of #1 North Davidson and #8 Pisgah.

2AA West Playoff Bracket

- #8 Pisgah at #1 North Davidson
- #5 Oak Grove at #4 Ashe County
- #6 Burns at #3 Hibriten
- #7 Salisbury at #2 Maiden

For other area teams, Elkin received the #1 seed in the 1A West bracket where they will host #8 Andrews in the first round. The winner of that game will face

the winner of #5 Thomas Jefferson Academy and #4 Murphy.

East Surry received the #2 seed in the 1AA West bracket and will host #7 North Moore. Mount Airy is the #6 seed in the same bracket and will travel to #3 Pine Lake Prep.

Watauga received the #1 seed in the 3AA West bracket and will host #8 Dudley. Winner of that game will face the winner of #4 A.L. Brown and #5 T.C. Roberson.

App State women's basketball adds our transfers for 2021-2022 season

The App State women's basketball coaching staff is excited to announce the addition of four incoming transfers for the 2021-22 season.

With the quartet of newcomers, App State will have nine new faces for 2021-22. The Black and Gold bring in the four transfers from Middle Tennessee, UAB, Seton Hall and Wake Forest.

"It has been an exciting offseason for our coaching staff & players as we worked to find the right pieces for our program", said Elderkin. "Each of these ladies possess the character & commitment that it takes to be a Mountaineer, and I can not wait to infuse them in our Boone Community." After the 2020-21 season, we were left with some holes to fill, and we can not be more excited about all of these young women."

Newcomers (* - transfers)

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Alexia Allesch* | Taylor Lewis* |
| Nevaeh Brown* | Breanna Locke* |
| Emily Carver | Zada Porter |
| Mariah Frazier | Summer Schloss* |
| Adair Garrison | |

Taylor Lewis | Forward | 5'10 | Middle Tennessee State | Spring Valley High School | Columbia, S.C.

Lewis is arriving to the Black and Gold after spending two seasons with one of the top mid-major programs in the country in Middle Tennessee. The Columbia, S.C. native came off the bench this past season to average 11 minutes per game to help the Blue Raiders post a 17-8 mark, a Conference USA title and an appearance in the NCAA Tournament. Lewis poured in a career-high eight points and grabbed seven off the glass in 23 minutes against Troy, and saw a personal-high 29 minutes of action against Charlotte. The 5'10 forward turned in a decorated high school career, where she was named the South Carolina 5A Player of the Year at Spring Valley High School. She was tabbed to the South Carolina All-State team and USA Today All-State Second Team. Her awards didn't stop there, as she was a 2019 McDonald's All-American nominee and a member of the South Carolina All-Star team. In 2018-19, she turned in 16.5 points and

6.2 rebounds after pouring in 15.8 points and 6.6 rebounds her junior year in 2017-18. Born on October 9, 2000, Taylor is the daughter of Ashley Utsey and has two siblings. Her hobbies include shopping for shoes and cooking.

Elderkin on Lewis: Taylor has the athleticism and versatility that fits our style of play. Defensively, her length gives her the ability to guard multiple positions along with an inside-out attack on offense.

Summer Schloss | Forward | 6'1 | UAB | Ashbrook High School | Gastonia, N.C.

An in-state native from Gastonia, N.C., Schloss redshirted her freshman season at UAB. While at Ashbrook High School, Schloss averaged a double-double of 15.5 points, 16.4 rebounds, and 0.6 steals per game. In four seasons, she helped her squad to an impressive 110-18 mark, while advancing to the postseason all four years and a conference title her senior campaign. Because of her impressive numbers, she was named the Conference Player of the Year and landed on the all-district and all-county team for three seasons. Schloss was the first player in school history to reach the 1,000-rebound plateau as well. She was a multi-sport athlete as she was a member of the track and field and volleyball teams, appearing at the state meet for track and field. Summer was born on Oct. 27, 2000, is the daughter of Tryphene Davis, and has two siblings. Off the court, Schloss made the Conference USA Academic Honor Roll, while she was a member of SAAC and the Dean's List. Her hobbies include singing, drawing, and modeling.

Elderkin on Schloss: Summer possesses all of the characteristics and qualities that we want in a post player. She has the ability to provide a paint presence for us, and has a knack for rebounding the basketball

Alexia Allesch | Forward | 6'1 | Seton Hall | Gill St. Bernard's | Basking Ridge, N.J.

The most experienced of the four transfers, Allesch spent two seasons at Seton Hall, where she helped the Pirates boast a combined 33-19 overall record and 23-12 showing in Big East play. Last season, Allesch played and started in 18 games, averaging 23.4 minutes of action, an uptick of 13.6 minutes of playing time from her first year at Seton Hall. Allesch turned in 4.3 points and 5.0 rebounds per game. She posted a double-

double of 13 points and 10 rebounds in a win over Albany (NY), while she tied a personal best with 13 points and five off the glass at Butler. Prior to SHU, Allesch spent one season at UMass, appearing in 29 games with averages of 1.9 points and 1.8 rebounds per contest. Allesch improved her numbers in every season in her collegiate career, while she was 25th in the Big East in defensive win shares (0.5) and defensive player rating (90.0) according to HerHoopStats.com. Alexia was born on Dec. 16, 1998, and is the daughter of Sandra Allesch and Joe Goritschnig. She has two siblings, while her hobbies include exercising, traveling, hiking and puzzles. In addition, she was named to the Dean's List and the Student-Athlete Honor Society.

Elderkin on Allesch: Alexia brings us experience to a position where we need depth. She helps bring versatility and mobility down low that is perfect for our style of play.

Nevaeh Brown | Guard | 5'8 | Wake Forest | Mallard Creek | Charlotte, N.C.

Brown appeared in 15 contests in her only season for the Demon Deacons. In her first collegiate appearance against Arkansas, she scored eight points off the bench. She followed that outing up with eight points the next day against Davidson. In five games this season, she led the reserves in scoring, and two of her highest scoring performances coming against Power Five programs. While at Mallard Creek for one season, she poured in 14.2 points, 4.1 assists, 1.9 steals, and 1.4 blocks per game en route to being an NCHSAA All-State honoree. In three seasons at Davidson Day, Brown led her squad to a 22-6 record and the 2A State title in 2019, while she was named All-Mecklenburg County and to the All-Charlotte Observer First Team in back-to-back years. Her defensive prowess led to a State Defensive Player of the Year honor. She averaged 14.7 points, 5.2 rebounds, and 4.2 steals per game as a junior.

Elderkin on Brown: Nevaeh is someone our coaching staff recruited out of high school. It's exciting to have this opportunity to bring her home to App State. She brings us a guard with the ability to score on all three levels, as well as an aggressive defensive mindset.