2009-2010 Season Preview

The Misericordia men’s basketball team will enter their second season in the Freedom Conference in 2009-10. Head Coach Trevor Woodruff, a Misericordia alum, is beginning his sixth season in charge and is looking to lead the Cougars back to the playoffs after conference and ECAC bids in 2007-08. Despite finishing 11-14 overall and missing the conference playoffs a year ago, the Cougars did have several notable performances including a tough overtime loss at DeSales (to a Bulldogs team that went to the NCAA Elite Eight) and victories over the top two teams in the Landmark Conference (Scranton and Susquehanna).

MU will have to recover from the loss of top scorer and rebounder Vinny Baumburn, the school’s all-time leader in blocked shots. However, the Cougars do have veteran experience after only losing one full-time starter from last season.

This year’s top returnees include seniors Marcus Little and Dom Del Prete, who have both been selected as team captains for the second consecutive season. Little, a point guard, averaged 8.0 points per game last season while leading the team in assists (3.1) and free throw percentage (.773). Del Prete, a forward, finished second in multiple categories, including points (12.3), rebounds (4.8) and steals (26).

Guard Rob Johnson is also back after starting 24 games in 2008-09. The junior led MU in minutes played (34.1), while contributing 11.9 points and 3.0 assists per game.

Assists

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<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Points/Assists</th>
<th>MIN</th>
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<tr>
<td>Marcus Little</td>
<td>11.9/3.0</td>
<td>34.1</td>
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<td>77.3</td>
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Other returnees include sophomore guard Jeff Stanover (20 GP, 4.5 ppg in 08-09), sophomore Tyler White and junior Frank Nutt and Mark Leonard.

This year’s freshman class is highlighted by guard Sean Bieski, who could compete for significant playing time right away. Other newcomers include sophomore forward Lee Dudick, freshman forward Foster Renn and freshmen guards Joseph Marra and Garry Melville.

First and foremost, Misericordia will be tough and hard-working on the defensive end. "Our focus is to be good defensively," said Woodruff. "That is always our first priority."

This year’s edition lacks significant size in the post, which could be an issue against bigger teams. However, the Cougars could cause matchup problems of their own. “We have a chance to be explosive on offense,” said Woodruff. “We have a lot of guys who can score the basketball, which will make us difficult to guard.”

Misericordia opens at home on November 16 against Centenary before hosting the 18th annual Laurel Line Tournament. This year’s participants will be Marywood, Baptist Bible and Penn State-Hazleton. In addition to the always-competitive Freedom Conference schedule, MU will compete in a holiday tournament at Moravian and face notable non-conference contests with Susquehanna and Albright.

“We’re going to keep it simple,” said Woodruff. “We’ll look to play good defense, rebound, and be dynamic on offense.”

Marcus Little

Dom Del Prete

FRED-THROWS MADE

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Dom Del Prete

Frank Nutt
MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY IN BRIEF

MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY is a liberal arts based, co-educational Catholic institution serving both residential and commuting students. Founded in 1924, Misericordia is the oldest four-year institution in Luzerne County and made the transition to University status in 2007. Sponsored by the Religious Sisters of Mercy, MU is one of 18 Mercy institutions in the United States. Misericordia welcomes individuals from all faiths and offers a variety of liberal arts and professional programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels. MU offers 30 majors in three academic colleges: Arts and Sciences; Health Sciences; and Professional Studies and Social Sciences.

The University is dedicated to the values of the Sisters of Mercy: mercy, service, justice and hospitality. These values can be found throughout the University, from programs of study to service projects. The hallmark of MU is a dedicated faculty and a high quality core liberal arts and sciences curriculum. In addition to their diploma, MU students can participate in the school’s Guaranteed Placement Program. The GPP is a promise that, within six months of graduation, students will have a position in their career of choice or be enrolled in graduate school, or the University will provide a paid internship in the student’s field of study. With a total enrollment of 2,501 students, Misericordia offers the benefits of a small university with the scope of a larger institution.

Classroom size is purposefully small to ensure personalized attention and our 12:1 student/faculty ratio allows students and faculty to truly know one another. In addition to academic pursuits, MU students participate in a wide range of athletic, recreational, spiritual, social and cultural activities with more than two dozen clubs and organizations on campus.

MU sponsors 22 varsity sports including men’s soccer, cross country, basketball, swimming, golf, lacrosse, indoor and outdoor track & field, and tennis; and women’s soccer, volleyball, field hockey, cross-country, tennis, basketball, swimming, softball, lacrosse, indoor and outdoor track & field and cheerleading. Women’s golf will begin varsity play in 2011. Misericordia began competing in the Freedom Conference/MAC in 2008 after 16 seasons of competition in the Pennsylvania Athletic Conference after leading the Cougars to a 19-10 record and playoff berths and two PAC finals appearances.

TREVOR WOODRUFF
Head Coach

Trevor Woodruff ‘99 is in his sixth season as head men’s basketball coach at Misericordia University. A year ago, the Cougars finished 11-14 and narrowly missed a playoff berth in their first season in the Freedom Conference. In 2007-08, Woodruff was named Coach of the Year in the Pennsylvania Athletic Conference after leading the Cougars to a 19-10 record and playoff berths in the PAC and ECAC.

During his playing days at Misericordia, Woodruff served as team captain as a senior. He was an All-Pennsylvania Athletic Conference selection and led the Cougars to the 1999 PAC title game. He was also a PAC All-Academic selection as a senior. Previously, he spent four years as a teacher and coach at Delaware Valley High School and led the Warriors to their first-ever Lackawanna League championship.

Woodruff made the transition to Lackawanna College where he was named the NJCAA District and Regional coach of the year after leading the Falcons to a 27-7 record and a trip to the national tournament.

He has overseen the development of 10 all-conference performers, three all-region selections and one All-American. In addition, with an emphasis on academic success, he has coached 11 All-Academic honorees.

Woodruff is assisted by Mike Slavoski, Willie Chandler (Misericordia ’03) and Michael English.

DAVE MARTIN
 Athletic Director

Dave Martin is in his sixth year as director of athletics at Misericordia University. In his first five years, the Cougars won nine conference championships and earned six NCAA tournament berths. In addition, he guided the Cougars through the transition from the Pennsylvania Athletic Conference to the Freedom Conference and Middle Atlantic States Athletics Corporation (MAC). He has also overseen the addition of men’s tennis and women’s golf as varsity sports at MU.

Martin previously spent 14 seasons as head men’s basketball coach at Misericordia and served as associate athletic director and coordinator of athletic recruiting.

He led the Cougars to 11 Pennsylvania Athletic Conference playoff berths and two PAC finals appearances.

Martin compiled 178 career wins at MU and was a four-time PAC Coach of the Year.

A graduate of Wilkes University, Martin earned a master’s degree in education from Misericordia.