

2016-17 North Carolina Central University Lady Eagles Basketball

QUICK FACTS

School: North Carolina Central University
Location: Durham, NC 27707
Founded: 1910 by Dr. James E. Shepard
Enrollment: 8,011
Nickname: Lady Eagles
School Colors: Maroon & Gray
Home Court: McDougald-McLendon Arena
Capacity: 3,056
National Affiliation: NCAA Division I
Conference: Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC)
Chancellor: Dr. Debra Saunders-White
Alma Mater: Virginia
Athletics Director: Ingrid Wicker McCree, Ed.D.
Alma Mater: George Washington
Senior Woman Administrator: Etienne Thomas
Faculty Representative: Deborah Fortune
Athletics Dept. Phone: (919) 530-7057
Athletics Dept. Website: NCCUEaglePride.com
Twitter: @NCCUathletics
Facebook: www.facebook.com/NCCUathletics
YouTube: www.youtube.com/NCCUEagles
Instagram: nccuathletics

SPORTS INFORMATION

Volleyball SID: Kevin Buczek
SID Office Phone: (919) 530-6017
SID Mailing Address: 116 McDougald-McLendon Gym, Durham, NC 27707
SID E-Mail: kbuczek@nccu.edu
SID Cell: (919) 428-8099

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach: Vanessa Taylor
Alma Mater (Year): Tuskegee University (1991)
Record at NCCU (Years): 25-92 (4 Seasons)
Career Record (Years): 323-299 (22 Seasons)
Associate Head Coach: Kendra Eaton (Western Carolina)
Assistant Head Coach: Kyle Adams (Cheyney)
Assistant Coach: Josh Cooperwood (Tennessee State)
Graduate Assistant/Director of Basketball Operations: Dexter Jenkins

TEAM INFORMATION

total / home / away / neutral
Overall Record Last Year: 5-23 / 4-6 / 1-16 / 0-1
MEAC Record Last Year: 3-13 / 3-5 / 0-8 / 0-0
MEAC Finish Last Year: 12th/13
Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 8/6
Starters Returning/Lost: 3/2
Newcomers: 4



North Carolina Central University

2016-17 Lady Eagles Basketball Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Cl.	Hometown/Previous School
0	Rodneysha Martin	G	5-5	So.	Olive Branch, Miss./Horn Lake HS
1	Jada Blow	G	5-5	Fr.	Chicago, Ill./Simeon Career Academy
3	Chantal Thomas	G	5-6	Sr.	Philadelphia, Pa./Arizona Western College
4	Paulina Afriyie	F	5-11	Fr.	Bronx, N.Y./Herbert H. Lehman HS
10	Monique Whaley-Briggs	G	5-8	Sr.	Philadelphia, Pa./G.W. Carver HS
12	Dominique Adams	G	5-7	So.	Winston-Salem, N.C./R.J. Reynolds HS
15	Jayla Calhoun	G	5-10	So.	Houston, Texas/Summer Creek HS
21	Erin Houser	F	6-2	Fr.	Orangeburg, S.C./Orangeburg-Wilkinson HS
22	Deja McCain	F	5-10	So.	Charlotte, N.C./Ardrey Kell HS
23	Morgan Jones	G	5-9	Sr.	Stockbridge, Ga./Woodland HS
35	Kierona Morton	F	6-1	Jr.	Paterson, N.J./Passaic County Technical Institute
40	Brianna Best	F	5-10	So.	Greensboro, N.C./Rockingham County HS
	Jazlin Taylor	G	5-6	Fr.	High Point, N.C./T. Wingate Andrews HS

HEAD COACH: Vanessa Taylor (Fifth Season)

ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH: Kendra Eaton

ASSISTANT HEAD COACH: Kyle Adams

ASSISTANT COACH: Josh Cooperwood

GRADUATE ASSISTANT/DIRECTOR OF BASKETBALL OPERATIONS: Dexter Jenkins



North Carolina Central University

2016-17 Women's Basketball Schedule

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>OPPONENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Fri.	Nov. 11	PFEIFFER UNIVERSITY	Durham, N.C.	6:00 PM
Tues.	Nov. 15	at Coastal Carolina University	Conway, S.C.	7:00 PM
Fri.	Nov. 18	JOHNSON & WALES UNIVERSITY	Durham, N.C.	6:00 PM
Tues.	Nov. 22	at Campbell University	Buies Creek, N.C.	7:00 PM
Sun.	Nov. 27	at Old Dominion University	Norfolk, Va.	2:00 PM
Sat.	Dec. 3	WOFFORD COLLEGE	Durham, N.C.	2:00 PM
Sun.	Dec. 11	at Purdue University	West Lafayette, Ind.	1:00 PM
Wed.	Dec. 14	at North Carolina State University	Raleigh, N.C.	7:00 PM
Sun.	Dec. 18	UNCG	Durham, N.C.	4:00 PM
Tues.	Dec. 20	PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE	Durham, N.C.	2:00 PM
Fri.	Dec. 30	at Furman University	Greenville, S.C.	7:00 PM
Tues.	Jan. 3	USC UPSTATE	Durham, N.C.	6:00 PM
Sat.	Jan. 7	UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE*	Durham, N.C.	2:00 PM
Mon.	Jan. 9	DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY*	Durham, N.C.	5:30 PM
Sat.	Jan. 14	at Norfolk State University*	Norfolk, Va.	4:00 PM
Mon.	Jan. 16	at Hampton University*	Hampton, Va.	5:00 PM
Mon.	Jan. 23	HOWARD UNIVERSITY*	Durham, N.C.	5:30 PM
Sat.	Jan. 28	NORTH CAROLINA A&T STATE UNIVERSITY*	Durham, N.C.	2:00 PM
Mon.	Jan. 30	at Delaware State University*	Dover, Del.	5:30 PM
Sat.	Feb. 4	at Morgan State University*	Baltimore, Md.	2:00 PM
Mon.	Feb. 6	at Coppin State University*	Baltimore, Md.	5:30 PM
Sat.	Feb. 11	SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY*	Durham, N.C.	2:00 PM
Mon.	Feb. 13	FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY*	Durham, N.C.	5:30 PM
Sat.	Feb. 18	at University of Maryland Eastern Shore*	Princess Anne, Md.	2:00 PM
Mon.	Feb. 20	at Howard University*	Washington, D.C.	5:00 PM
Sat.	Feb. 25	BETHUNE-COOKMAN UNIVERSITY*	Durham, N.C.	2:00 PM
Mon.	Feb. 27	SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY*	Durham, N.C.	5:30 PM
Thurs.	Mar. 2	at North Carolina A&T State University*	Greensboro, N.C.	5:30 PM
Mon.-Sat.	Mar. 6-11	<i>Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Championship Norfolk Scope Arena</i>	Norfolk, Va.	TBA

*Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Game

HOME MATCHES IN BOLD CAPS

North Carolina Central University returns eight players and has added four versatile freshman with expectations of being a more dynamic program in head coach Vanessa Taylor's fifth season in 2016-17.

"We will be a little bit more up-tempo this year," Taylor said. "We will try and show a little bit more pressure."

The Lady Eagles had a 5-23 overall record last season, including a 3-13 mark in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC).

"Every team comes into the year with the same goal to win your conference," stated Taylor. "We are growing as a program, but that is still a goal. As we continue to build and get better as a program, we are going to make sure to put ourselves into a position to become a contender. We feel like this year's team will be able to improve overall both offensively and defensively as we become a little bit more mobile."

Senior guard Morgan Jones is NCCU's top returning scorer from a year ago, averaging 10.4 points per game. She led the Lady Eagles with 1.7 steals, 1.4 made 3-pointers and 30.6 minutes played per contest.

"Morgan Jones is one of the faces of this program," commented Taylor. "She is just a stellar student-athlete and I am very excited to see how her senior year unfolds. She worked extremely hard this summer to improve her scoring off the bounce. She has been very vocal early on in terms of leadership."

NCCU used a variety of starting lineups last season and returns four other players who started at least 10 games a year ago, including two other seniors in guards Monique-Whaley Briggs and Chantel Thomas.

Taylor believes Whaley-Briggs (18 starts) will play a bigger role with the team this season as she brings more offensive excitement to her game to go along with her leadership role and commitment to the program as a fifth-year student-athlete. Thomas (11 starts), a transfer last season, became a consistent starter late last season and averaged a team-high 2.2 assists per game. Taylor looks for Thomas to hit the mid-range jumper more after working on her floater this summer.

The maroon and gray also returns three of its top five rebounders in junior Kierona Morton (4.1 rpg), sophomore Dominique Adams (3.8) and sophomore Deja McCain (3.6).

Adams started 10 games as a rookie and played the second most minutes behind Jones at 27.9 minutes. Her hard play makes her an effective player and she has been working on her stroke as well. Taylor believes she will do well with her level of confidence.

Morton started 26 games in 2015-16, but the key for her will be to stay healthy as she is working hard on rehab this offseason. Morton is a strong defender for the Lady Eagles both in the post and as a rebounder and will once again be a staple on the court.

McCain did not start a game as a freshman last year, but she did play in every contest as one of NCCU's primary defensive stopper in the post. She is working on running the court better, which should lead to her ability to score some more easy buckets around the rim, while still being vocal and active on defense.

Two other sophomore guards return to the maroon and gray after playing in majority of the squads' games as rookies last season in Rodneysha Martin and Jayla Calhoun. Martin strokes the ball well from the three-point line, but also can shoot from the mid-range. She packs the punch with cat-like quickness and quick hands on defense. Calhoun is long and has the ability to play between the 3 and the 4 positions and can score both on the inside and on the outside.

Taylor added a quartet of freshman in guards Jada Blow and Jazlin Taylor and forwards Erin Houser and Paulina Afriyie.

"We are really excited about our freshman class," Taylor said. "As a group, they will definitely help us on the offensive side of the ball. We struggled last year to score points in bunches and we think these young ladies will help us have better offensive flow and put more points up on the board. As we play more up-tempo this year they will give us more depth as most of them can play multiple positions."

The dozen Lady Eagles will be coached by Taylor and returning associate head coach Kendra Eaton and director of basketball operations Dexter Jenkins. Taylor added assistant head coach Kyle Adams and assistant coach Josh Cooperwood over the summer.

"The two things that stand out very early on with this team is that they are very hard working and that they have a natural chemistry. They are working daily on how to play together, be great teammates and fight together," concluded Taylor.