

Waldrop looks to return to the national ball scene



Courtesy of the athletic department

Senior Terrell Henry

Daniel Bravo
dabravo@mail.txwes.edu

Good teams rebuild, while great teams reload.

That is exactly the case with the Texas Wesleyan men's basketball team. The team is coming off another impressive winning season, posting a 29-5 record and reaching the Sweet 16 in last year's NAIA national tournament.

Head Coach Terry Waldrop knows that hard work is ahead for the Rams if they wish to continue to be a top-tier program.

"Following a 29-5 season, we certainly have our work cut out for us," he said.

Waldrop wasted no time after last year's heartbreaking loss in the NAIA National Tournament and looked to reload his squad. The 87-75 loss came at the hands of McKendree University in a close game in last year's Sweet 16.

The team lost four seniors including First-Team All-American Chris Berry. This year's edition features a strong recruiting class and experienced underclassmen. The

recruiting class includes three transfer students who look to make an immediate impact having played at NCAA Division I programs last year.

Jeremy Smith, junior, comes from nearby University of Texas at Arlington is expected to see playing time immediately. Jeremy Havard, a 6-foot-8-inch junior from Houston Baptist, and Jeremy Mayfield, a 6-foot-10-inch junior from the University of Alabama at Birmingham look to add size to the team.

All wasn't lost with the departure of Berry. All-Conference forwards Terrell Henry and Hector Mukweyi are back for their senior campaigns and look to add to the success of the school's basketball program.

Henry, a senior communication major, looks to fill the leadership role that Berry had last season.

"Trying to replace someone like Chris Berry is almost impossible because of the type of player he was," he said. "I feel that I need to be more of a leader this year. Hector [Mukweyi] and I have to step up

and provide that senior leadership that we had last year."

Texas Wesleyan has become a powerhouse in recent years under Waldrop. The Rams have 114 wins in the last five years placing them third as one of the most successful basketball programs at any college level, trailing only the University of Texas (129) and Texas A&M University (119).

"I am very humbled that we are mentioned with such prestigious coaches and programs as those," Waldrop said. "I believe it says a tremendous amount about the character and commitment of the student athletes we have recruited and also our coaching staff to be able to sustain the success we have had on the court the last number of years."

The Rams began conference play Dec. 17 versus Wiley College. All home games are played in the Sid Richardson Center, and admission is free with a student ID. For more information on the men's basketball team, visit the home page at www.txwes.edu/athletics/m-basketball.

Guide to the Game: Basketball

Jacqueline Wittman
jrwittman@mail.txwes.edu

The Game

Have you ever wondered what's going on in the game or why that crazy fan is yelling at the referee? Worry no more.

We have the insider's guide to basketball in order for you to learn the rules and lingo of the game.

Now you will sound like a pro when you cheer and yell at the basketball game. Get out there, join in the fun, and cheer on your Rams!

For the complete guide, visit www.therambler.org/sports.

- The game consists of two 20 minute halves.
- The game begins with a jump ball (tip off).
- The players change ends before the next game begins.
- Each team gets four 75 second timeouts and two 30 second timeouts.
- If a player is fouled while shooting, she gets two free throws if the shot doesn't go in or one free throw is the shot does go in.
- If a team commits ten or more fouls in a half, then the player who was fouled is awarded two free throws.

Basketball Lingo

"Alley-Oop"
An offensive play when one player throws the ball near the basket to a teammate who jumps and scores a basket in mid-air.

"Layup"
A close-range shot made on the move by using one hand to bounce the ball off the backboard and into the basket.

"Charging"
An offensive foul; when a player pushes or runs over a defensive player.

Women's basketball building, Francis brings in experience

Daniel Bravo
dabravo@mail.txwes.edu

Coach Stacy Francis and the word "success" go hand-in-hand.

Last season Francis surpassed the 105 victory mark, becoming women's basketball's most winningest coach at Texas Wesleyan. This year, Francis and her squad look to add to that success and make a serious run at the Red River Athletic Conference title.

"Six players left, and seven returned," she said. "I expect the nine new transfer students to bring experience and energy to the team."

The woman's basketball team kicked off the regular season with a 64-62 win over St. Gregory University but knows that there is still a lot of work ahead of them.

The Lady Rams have seven returning players and 10 new faces this season. The team is considered to be fairly young, having only four seniors on the 17-woman roster.

"Once the team chemistry forms, I believe we will be successful," Francis said.

Sophomore marketing major Ashley Bringol said that the major difference between this year's team and that of years past is the number of new players.

"The team chemistry is still building, but we still plan to make it to nationals this season," she said.

And she knows Francis will

be there every step of the way making sure this team has a successful season.

"Playing for such an accomplished coach is a great feeling," Bringol said. "Her knowledge and experience really gives us confidence in the system. She has affected me as a player by making me become more patient."

Also new to the fold is Assistant Coach Bill Franey who brings more than 35 years of high school and college coaching experience to the

Lady Rams. Franey, a graduate of Southern Illinois University, has an 85 percent winning percentage at the high school and college level.

The Lady Rams opened conference play against Wiley College Dec. 17. Their home games can be seen at the Sid Richardson Center. Admission is free with a student ID.

For more information on the women's basketball team, visit the home page at www.txwes.edu/athletics/w-basketball.



Courtesy of the athletic department

Sophomore Ashley Bringol

The Weekly Sports Quote

"When you get that nice celebration coming into the dugout and you're getting your ass hammered by guys—there's no better feeling than to have that done."

Matt Stairs
MLB pinch hitter

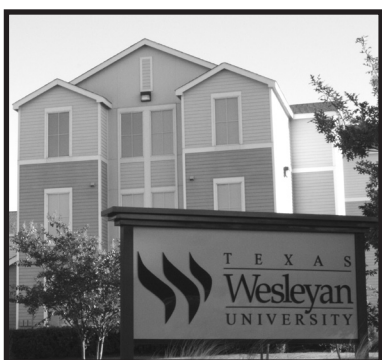
Wesleyan Week-in-Sports

- The Lady Rams Volleyball team (16-17) suffered a season-ending 3-2 (22-25, 19-25, 25-16, 25-23, 15-11) loss to Our Lady of the Lake University in the first round of the Red River Athletic Conference tournament Nov. 13. During the tournament, the Lady Rams' Angelica Arroyo and Kristen Venhuizen received honorable all-conference honors, Kaitlyn Lowes was named second team all-conference and Brittney Person, Destiny Clemons and Chelsy Covington received first team all-conference honors. Covington also received the honor of Defensive Specialist of the Year.
- The Lady Rams Basketball team (1-2) suffered a 68-50 loss to Evangel University Nov. 13. The Lady Rams then dropped a game 70-52 to Rogers State University Nov. 14.
- The Rams Basketball team (2-3) lost 75-59 to Oklahoma Baptist University Nov. 10 before following up with wins against Southwestern Adventist University (119-60) Nov. 13 and Sterling College (70-68) Nov. 14.

Looking for a place to call Home?

Housing is still available on campus

Singles
All to yourself!



Doubles
Get a roommate!

Dorms and Apartments
Stella, Elizabeth, and Wesleyan Village!

For more information
Contact Residence Life at
817-413-5000

Upcoming Sports

	Game	Time/Place
Wednesday	JV Basketball vs. Eastfield College	7 p.m. Mesquite
Friday	Women's Basketball vs. Lubbock Christian University Men's Basketball vs. Arlington Baptist C.	5 p.m. Lubbock 7:30 p.m. Sid W. Rich.
Monday	JV Basketball vs. Arlington Baptist C.	6 p.m. Dallas
Tuesday	Women's Basketball vs. Mid-America Christian University Men's Basketball vs. Oklahoma City Univ.	6 p.m. Sid W. Rich. 8 p.m. Sid W. Rich.