



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
VARSITY BLUES WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

2007-08 MEDIA GUIDE

2007-08 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ROSTER



No	Name	Position	Ht	EI	Course	Hometown	High School/Cegep
4	Joanna Medri	Guard	5;8	1	BPHE	Toronto, Ont.	Michael Power/St. Joseph HS
5	Kyla Burwash	Guard	5'5	5	MA Physiotherapy	Vankleek Hill, Ont.	Queen's Univ/VankleekHill CI
6	Angella Griffith	Forward	5'10	2	Arts & Science	Winnipeg, Ont.	St. John's Ravenscourt
7	Alaine Hutton	Guard	5'7	3	Arts & Science	Hamilton, Ont.	Westdale SS
8	Erin McNeely	Guard	5'6	2	BPHE	Odessa, Ont.	Notre Dame
9	Megan Stoncius	Forward	5'10	1	BPHE	Mississauga, Ont.	Iona CSS
10	Jessica Hiew	Guard	5'9	3	Arts & Science	Camnberra, Aus.	Idaho State
11	Ilana Weissberger	Guard	5'8	4	BPHE	Aurora, Ont.	Dr. G. W. Williams SS
12	Allie Collyer	Post	6'2	1	BPHE	Colleyville, TX	Colleyville Heritage HS
13	Amanda Van Leeuwen	Post	6'1	5	BPHE	Salford, Ont.	Ingersoll CI
14	Christine Cho	Forward	6'2	5	Arts & Science	Lithia Springs, Ga.	Lithia Springs HS
15	Laila Bellony	Post	6'3	5	Arts & Science	Toronto, Ont.	Dillard Univ/Oakwood CI
21	Patricia Guerrero	Guard	5'6	2	Arts & Science	Mississauga, Ont.	Our Lady of Mount Carmel
22	Lyndsay Cloughley	Post	6'1	4	Arts & Science	Port Colborne, Ont.	Niagara College
23	Sherri Pierce	Guard	5'6	2	Arts & Science	Brampton, Ont.	St. Augustine

Head Coach: Michèle Bélanger **Assistant Coaches:** Jim Henderson, Mary Ann Kowal
Therapists: Danielle Dobney, Kim Cormack, Kristi Nattress
Strength and Fitness Coach: Dan Tremblay

2007-08 IN REVIEW

2007-08 has proven to be a banner year for the University of Toronto Varsity Blues women's basketball team. Coming off an average 12-10 season a year ago, the surging Blues finished the regular season with a much improved 18-4 regular season mark. They overtook the defending division-champion York Lions down the stretch to claim the number-one seed in the East division, and earned a first-round bye in the 2008 OUA playoffs.

After defeating the upstart Ottawa Gee-Gees in the East semi-final, the No. 8 Blues earned their ticket to the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) National Championship with an inspired 99-91 overtime win over the defending OUA-champion York Lions in the OUA East final.

It was the second time in three years that the long-time rivals had locked horns in the division final. This season, the Blues and Lions split the season series one game apiece. The Lions won at York 73-70 on January 26, and Blues defended their home court on February 8, defeating York for the first time in three years, 79-68.

Fifth-year post Laila Bellony was the catalyst for the Varsity Blues, scoring a team-high 21 points and 14 rebounds in the win. The East final's most valuable player, Bellony shot an impressive 10-for-15 from the field, and hauled in 11 of her 14 boards on the defensive end.

The OUA championship game would provide a different outcome, as the No. 2 McMaster Marauders claimed their second OUA women's basketball crown in three seasons, downing Toronto 69-59 on March 1.

An aggressive Marauder defence kept Toronto in check throughout the game, tallying seven blocks and 13 steals. Mac also held a 45-37 edge in team rebounds. Varsity regrouped in the second half, on three occasions pulling within seven points of the Marauders, but McMaster's offence quickly matched each Toronto score while their defence continued to frustrate fledgling Toronto rallies.

Laila Bellony would again lead Toronto's attack with 17 points, making good on seven of 11 field goals, and added a team-high seven rebounds. Also scoring in double digits for the Blues were Alaine Hutton with 13 points and Christine Cho with 10.

The Blues will need Bellony's playoff performances to continue at the CIS championships as they will undoubtedly face a tough inside presence from their Canada West opponents.

Hutton's competitive fire and penetration will also been imperative to the Blues success. A 2008 first team OUA all-star, Hutton has had a career year, excelling in all facets of the game. She finished the season fourth in OUA and seventh in the CIS in scoring averaging (17.1 ppg). She also was third in the conference, fourth in the country, with 2.75 steals per game, and compiled a team-high 79 assists.

The final piece of their puzzle comes with the poise and experience of fifth-year captain Christine Cho. In her final season of eligibility, Cho finished the year seventh in OUA scoring with a 15.6 points per game average, while leading her team with 151 rebounds on the season. She claimed her third consecutive OUA all-star nod and captured the prestigious East division Joy Belling award in recognition of her outstanding service to the sport and the advancement of university athletics.

2007-08 VARSITY BLUES WOMEN'S BASKETBALL RESULTS

OUA Regular Season

Date	Opponent	Score	W/L	Record
Fri.Nov.2	@ Ryerson	73-46	W	1-0
Tues.Nov.6	vs. Ryerson	86-67	W	2-0
Fri.Nov.9	vs. Waterloo	75-51	W	3-0
Sat.Nov.10	vs. Laurier	78-69	W	4-0
Fri.Nov.16	@ Lakehead	74-65(OT)	W	5-0
Sat.Nov.17	@ McMaster	58-66	L	5-1
Fri.Nov.23	@ Guelph	67-54	W	6-1
Sat.Nov.24	@ Brock	91-97(2OT)	L	6-2
Fri.Nov.30	vs. Western	75-85	L	6-3
Sat.Dec.1	vs. Windsor	73-65	W	7-3
Fri.Jan.4	@ Queens	74-65	W	8-3
Sat.Jan.5	@ RMC	80-46	W	9-3
Fri. Jan.11	vs. Carleton	55-39	W	10-3
Sat.Jan.12	vs. Ottawa	89-48	W	11-3
Fri.Jan.18	vs. RMC	67-25	W	12-3
Sat.Jan.19	vs. Queens	71-56	W	13-3
Fri.Jan.25	@ Laurentian	79-74	W	14-3
Sat.Jan.26	@ York	70-73	L	14-4
Fri.Feb.1	@ Carleton	71-69	W	15-4
Sat.Feb.2	@ Ottawa	77-52	W	16-4
Fri.Feb.8	vs. York	79-68	W	17-4
Sat.Feb.9 Senior Night	Vs. Laurentian	70-69	W	18-4

Exhibition/Tournament Results

Date	Opponent	Score	W/L	Record
Fri.Oct.12 Manitoba Tournament	vs. Simon Fraser	51-69	L	0-1
Sat.Oct.13 Manitoba Tournament	vs. Manitoba	82-92 (OT)	L	0-2
Sun.Oct.14 Manitoba Tournament	vs. Concordia	70-84	L	0-3
Fri.Oct.19 U of T	vs. Acadia	66-58	W	1-3
Sat.Oct.20 U of T	vs. McGill	64-66	L	1-4
Sun.Oct.21 U of T	vs. Victoria	68-62	W	2-4
Fri.Oct.26 Laval Inv Tournament	vs. Laurentian	61-56	W	3-4
Sat.Oct.27 Laval Inv Tournament	vs. Concordia	58-52	W	4-4
Sun. Oct. 28 Laval Inv Tournament	vs. Laval	64-78	L	4-5

VARSIITY BLUES COACHING STAFF



Michèle Bélanger - Head Coach

In her 29th season as the head coach of the Varsity Blues women's basketball team, Michèle Bélanger led the surging Blues to an 18-4 regular season record and an OUA East division championship.

Bélanger's head coaching resume with the Varsity Blues includes; nine OUA championships, 14 CIS championship appearances (41 games: 20 wins, 21 losses), one CIS championship (1985-86), two CIS silver medals (1995-96, 1993-94), and two CIS bronze medals (1988-89, 1984-85).

Having had great success on the university stage and as a veteran of national and international competition as both a player and coach, Bélanger has been apart of many national teams at a variety of levels, including the head coach of the 1997 student national team that won five of six games at the FISU Games in Sicily.

Fluent in French and English, Bélanger was an interpreter at the 1976 Montreal Olympics. In the summer of 1986, she gave a series of coaching clinics in Africa at the invitation of the Department of External Affairs.

She has been named the OUA Coach of the Year six times (2007-08, 1999-2000, 1996-97, 1993-94, 1981-82, 1980-81).



Jim Henderson - Assistant Coach

Jim Henderson brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Blues' bench again this year. He has 33 years of experience as a high school basketball coach, winning 15 high school championships. As head coach of the Humber College Hawks women's basketball team for nine years, Jim received four OCAA Coach of the Year awards, two CCAA Coaching Excellence awards, as well as three gold, three silver and three bronze OCAA medals. As head coach of the Weston Spartans OBA Premier Club Team, he has won four OBA gold, three silver and one bronze medal.



Mary Ann Kowal - Assistant Coach

Mary Ann Kowal finished her outstanding University of Toronto basketball career as a first team all-Canadian and a national championship all-star in 1990, and in 2003 joined the Varsity Blues coaching staff. As a player she was a three-time first team all-Canadian, unanimously selected Ontario Player of the Year twice, the University of Toronto Female Athlete of the Year, and moved on to don the red and white jersey of our national women's basketball team at the junior, student and senior levels. As an elementary school teacher in Toronto, she provides a tremendous role model for today's young women; be it in the classroom or on the court.

MEET THE TEAM



Laila Bellony - #15

Post

Ht: 6'3

El: 5

Course: Arts & Science

Hometown: Toronto, Ont.

High School: Dillard Univ/Oakwood CI

Notes: Laila was name the MVP of the OUA East final. She finished third on the Blues this year for rebounds (95). Laila joined the Blues after playing two years in the US – one year at Texas Christian J.C. and Dilliard College in New Orleans. She was on her way back to New Orleans for her second year at Dillard when hurricane Katrina changed her plans.



Kyla Burwash- #5

Guard

Ht: 5'5

El: 5

Course: MA Physiotherapy

Hometown: Vankleek Hill, Ont.

High School: Queen's University/Vankleek CI

Notes: Kyla completed three years at Queen's University and graduated with a BPHE/BA double degree. She is an Academic All-Canadian and finished this year second on the team in assists (45) and forth on the team in points (154).



Christine Cho - #14

Forward

Ht: 6'2

El: 5

Course: Arts & Science

Hometown: Lithia Springs, GA.

High School: Lithia Springs HS

Notes: A three-time OUA all-star (2006-08), Christine led the team in total point (342), rebounds (151) and three-pointers (43).



Lyndsay Cloughley - #22

Post

Ht: 6'1

El: 4

Course: Arts & Science

Hometown: Port Colborne, Ont.

High School: Niagara College/Lakeshore Catholic HS

Notes: Lyndsay joined the Blues after playing two years at Niagara College in the OCAA. While there, she was awarded the Academic/Athletic award in 2005 and 2006, and won the OCAA West Championship in 2006.



Allie Collyer- #12

Post

Ht: 6'2

El: 1

Course: BPHE

Hometown: Colleyville, TX.

High School: Colleyville Heritage HS



Angella Griffith - #6

Forward

Ht: 5'10

El: 2

Course: Arts & Science

Hometown: Winnipeg, MB

High School: Anninmuizhas Gym (Riga, Latvia)

Notes: Angella was the 2006 Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association Athlete of the Year. In 2005 she was a member of the Manitoba Provincial championship team, winning the championship game MVP and Player of the Year.



Patricia Guerrero - #21

Guard

Ht: 5'6

El: 2

Course: Arts & Science

Hometown: Mississauga, Ont.

High School: Our Lady of Mount Carmel



Jessica Hiew - #10

Guard

Ht: 5'9

El: 3

Course: Arts & Science

Hometown: Camnberra, Austrailia

High School: Idaho State

Notes: Joining the Blues from Idaho State University, Jessica finished this season fifth on the team in scoring with 152 points and third on the team in offensive rebounds (34).



Alaine Hutton - #7

Guard

Ht: 5'7

El: 3

Course: Arts & Science

Hometown: Hamilton, Ont.

High School: Westdale SS

Notes: A two-time OUA all-star, Alaine led the Blues in most offensive categories and finished her season fourth in OUA scoring (seventh in the CIS), averaging 17.1 points per game, had 53 steals, and led the team with 79 assists.



Erin McNeely - #8

Guard

Ht: 5'6

El: 2

Course: BPHE

Hometown: Odessa, Ont.

High School: Notre Dame

**Joanna Medri - #4****Guard**

Ht: 5'8

El: 1

Course: BPHE

Hometown: Toronto, Ont.

High School: Michael Power/St. Joseph

Notes: Joanna joins the Blues from an incredibly successful high school background. She was a two-time high school team MVP and Toronto All-Star. She was her high school's Athlete of the

Year three years in a row.

**Sherri Pierce - #23****Guard**

Ht: 5'6

El: 2

Course: Arts & Science

Hometown: Brampton, Ont.

High School: St. Augustine

Notes: Sherri won the St. Augustine's Reid Memorial Award for a multi-sport athlete demonstrating leadership/sportsmanship.**Megan Stoncius - # 9****Forward**

Ht: 5'10

El: 1

Course: BPHE

Hometown: Mississauga, Ont.

High School: Iona, CSS

Notes: Megan was her high school's Athlete of the Year and the MVP for her basketball team.

She also won a Toronto Raptors Fair Play Award.

**Amanda Van Leeuwen - #13****Post**

Ht: 6'1

El: 5

Course: BPHE

Hometown: Salford, Ont.

High School: Ingersoll CI

Notes: Is a co-captain of the Varsity Blues. This season she finished second on the team in rebounds with 102 and in blocks with 14.**Ilana Weissberger - #11****Guard**

Ht: 5'8

El: 4

Course: BPHE

Hometown: Aurora, Ont.

High School: Dr.G.W. Williams SS

Notes: Ilana is a three-time Toronto Star Athlete of the Week.

REGULAR SEASON STATISTICS

Player	GP	Min	MPG	FG		3P FG		FT		Pts	PPG	Reb			RPG	Ast	PF	TO	Stl	Blk
				M/A	%	M/A	%	M/A	%											
Laila Bellony	22	355	16.1	67/142	47.2	0/0	0.0	35/53	66.0	169	7.7	29	66	95	4.3	11	68	27	14	25
Kyla Burwash	21	628	29.9	47/125	37.6	18/45	40.0	42/52	80.8	154	7.3	21	46	67	3.2	45	16	60	41	0
Christine Cho	22	635	28.9	127/282	45.0	43/101	42.6	45/57	79.0	342	15.6	46	105	151	6.9	33	52	71	39	14
Lyndsay Cloughley	14	115	8.2	17/33	51.5	0/0	0.0	12/16	75.0	38	2.7	8	23	31	2.2	1	18	12	9	1
Alexandra Collyer	5	42	8.4	5/11	45.5	0/0	0.0	2/2	100.0	12	2.4	0	3	3	0.6	1	1	3	1	0
Angela Griffith	5	47	9.4	5/21	23.8	1/4	25.0	5/6	83.3	16	3.2	4	3	7	1.4	2	9	5	6	0
Patricia Guerrero	3	34	11.3	4/17	23.5	0/1	0.0	4/4	100.0	12	4.0	4	2	6	2.0	3	1	2	1	1
Jessica Hiew	20	447	22.4	57/147	38.8	4/14	28.6	34/53	64.2	152	7.6	34	34	68	3.4	27	39	41	20	1
Alaine Hutton	20	542	27.1	112/271	41.3	16/49	32.7	101/126	80.2	341	17.1	24	56	80	4.0	79	40	71	55	6
Erin Mcneely	22	359	16.3	24/73	32.9	0/2	0.0	15/18	83.3	63	2.9	14	15	29	1.3	22	15	23	10	0
Joanna Medri	18	209	11.6	20/58	34.5	6/17	35.3	3/6	50.0	49	2.7	8	16	24	1.3	13	15	20	13	0
Sherri Pierce	16	196	12.3	17/57	29.8	1/6	16.7	19/29	65.5	54	3.4	14	16	30	1.9	12	27	23	21	0
Megan Stoncius	20	190	9.5	12/45	26.7	2/3	66.7	8/18	44.4	34	1.7	18	34	52	2.6	10	30	9	9	1
Amanda Van Leeuwen	19	348	18.3	41/98	41.8	0/0	0.0	43/62	69.4	125	6.6	46	56	102	5.4	7	56	34	12	14
Ilana Weissberger	18	298	16.6	23/74	31.1	0/1	0.0	18/38	47.4	64	3.6	32	37	69	3.8	19	25	22	25	3



2007-08 AROUND THE OUA FINAL STANDINGS

Team/Équipe	GP/PJ	W/V	L/D	PTS
EAST				
Toronto	22	18	4	36
York	22	18	4	36
Laurentian	22	15	7	30
Queen's	22	9	13	18
Carleton	22	8	14	16
Ryerson	22	5	17	10
Ottawa	22	3	19	6
RMC	22	0	22	0
WEST				
McMaster	22	21	1	42
Western	22	17	5	34
Windsor	22	14	8	28
Waterloo	22	12	10	24
Brock	22	11	11	22
Lakehead	22	9	13	18
Laurier	22	9	13	18
Guelph	22	7	15	14





VARSIITY BLUES HISTORY

University of Toronto Varsity Blues Basketball has made 14 trips to the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Championship, including a berth in the 2002 National tournament. With one national title, two silver medals and two bronze medals to show for their efforts, the Varsity Blues are gunning for a trip back to the CIS Championship in 2007-08.

U of T has collected the conference crown nine times (since 1971-72), which makes them the second best team in the OUA. The team has brought home the OUA title four times in the past 14 seasons.

Along with team accolades, Varsity Blues basketball also regularly attracts some of the top high school student-athletes both from Ontario and nationwide. Since 1985, 48 Varsity Blues have been named OUA all-stars and 15 have been named CIS all-Canadians. A number of Varsity Blues have spent time with the Canadian National Team and Justine Ellison earned CIS Athlete of the Year honours in 1996.

On the sidelines, head coach Michèle Bélanger returns for her 29th season behind the Varsity Blues bench, and her record speaks for itself; nine OUA championships, 14 CIS Championship appearances and five CIS top three finishes, including a national championship in 1986.

Varsity Blues Women's basketball is all about excellence on the court, in the classroom and in the community. In 2007-08 that success continues.

ALL-CANADIANS AND ALL-STARS

CIS All-Canadians

Nikki Doucet (2003-04)
 Elizabeth Hart (97-98)
 Justine Ellison (95-96, 94-95)
 Denise Scott (92-93, 91-92, 90-91)
 Mary Ann Kowal (88-89, 87-88, 86-87)
 Angela Orton (85-86, 84-85, 83-84)
 Pat Melville (85-86, 84-85)

OUA All-Stars

2006-07 – Christine Cho, Alaine Hutton
 2005-06 - Christine Cho
 2004-05 - Joanne Chehade, Vanessa Nobrega
 2003-04 - Vanessa Nobrega, Nikki Doucet
 2002-03 - Paula Romkey
 2001-02 - Holly Pagnan, Vanessa Richardson
 2000-01 - Klara Danes, Suzanne McAlpine, Vanessa Richardson, Elanna Robson
 1999-00 - Klara Danes, Rachel Ellison
 1998-99 - Karen Bottineau, Rachel Ellison, Stephanie Splitter
 1997-98 - Liz Hart, Laura Verbeeten
 1996-97 - Liz Hart, Laura Verbeeten
 1995-96 - Justine Ellison, Liz Hart
 1994-95 - Justine Ellison, Laurel Johnson, Laurie Pinkney
 1993-94 - Laurel Johnson, Justine Ellison
 1992-93 - Justine Ellison, Denise Scott
 1991-92 - Denise Scott
 1990-91 - Samantha Reed, Denise Scott
 1989-90 - Denise Scott, Joan Stock
 1988-89 - Mary Ann Kowal, Joan Stock
 1987-88 - Theresa Burns, Mary Ann Kowal, Samantha Reed
 1986-87 - Theresa Burns, Mary Ann Kowal, Samantha Reed
 1985-86 - Pat Melville, Angela Orton



