

2000-01 Michigan State Women's Basketball

"Pursuing Championships"

Quick Facts

Location: East Lansing, MI
Founded: 1855
Enrollment: 43,189
President: Peter McPherson
Athletic Director: Clarence Underwood, Jr.
Senior Women's Administrator: Shelley Appelbaum

Conference: Big Ten
Athletic Affiliation: NCAA Division I
Nickname: Spartans
Colors: Green and White

Home Court (Capacity):
Jack Breslin Student Events Center (15,138)

Basketball History

1st Year of Varsity Competition: 1972-73
All-Time Record: 414-318

NCAA Tournament Appearances: 3
(1991, 1996, 1997)

NCAA Tournament Record: 2-3

WNIT Appearances: 2 (1999, 2000)
WNIT Record: 4-2

Coaching Staff

Head Coach: Joanne P. McCallie (1st Year)
Alma Mater: Northwestern (1987)

Record at MSU: First Year
Career Record: 167-73 (8)

Office Phone: (517) 353-8613
E-Mail Address: mccallie@msu.edu
Best Time To Reach Coach McCallie:
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (Weekdays)

Associate Head Coach: Katie Abrahamson (1st Year)
Alma Mater: Iowa (1990)

Office Phone: (517) 353-8478
E-Mail Address: coachabe@msu.edu

Assistant Coach: Felisha Legette-Jack (1st Year)
Alma Mater: Syracuse (1989)

Office Phone: (517) 353-2962
E-Mail Address: legettej@msu.edu

Assistant Coach: Janel Grimm (1st Year)
Alma Mater: Iowa State (1999)

Office Phone: (517) 353-1951
E-Mail Address: grimmja@msu.edu

Assistant to the Head Coach: Trena Anderson (1st Year)
Alma Mater: Southeast Missouri State (1997)

Office Phone: (517) 353-9158
E-Mail Address: ander761@msu.edu

Basketball Secretary: TBA

Office Phone: (517) 353-8613
E-Mail Address: TBA

Basketball Mailing Address:
Breslin Student Events Center
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824

Basketball Fax: (517) 432-1018

Team Information

1999-00 Overall Record: 19-12
1999-00 Big Ten Record/Finish: 8-8/T-5th

Postseason: WNIT Quarterfinalist
First Round: W-Villanova, 74-62
Second Round: W-Cincinnati, 88-83
Quarterfinals: L-Wisconsin, 77-45

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 10/3
Starters Returning/Lost: 3/2

Newcomers: 4
Tashawna Adams, 5-6, Fr., PG - *Ferndale, MI/DePorres*
Candice Jackson, 5-6, Fr., G - *Lansing, MI/Lansing Everrett*
Julie Pagel, 6-1, Fr., F - *Utica, MI/Utica*
Anne Peck, 6-2, Fr., F - *Madison, CT/Daniel Hand*

Sports Information

Assistant AD/Media Relations: John Lewandowski
Sports Info. Director (Basketball SID): Lori Schulze
Assistant SID: Mike Eidelbes
Assistant SID: Jennifer Heers
Assistant SID: Matt Larson
Intern: Dina Karwoski
Sports Information Office Phone: (517) 355-2271

Schulze's Home Phone: (517) 887-8250
E-Mail Address: schulze@msu.edu

Press Row: (517) 353-1626
Sports Info. Fax: (517) 353-9636

www.msuspartans.com

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2000-01 Season Preview

When Michigan State University went looking for a new women's basketball coach for the first time in 24 years, it was looking for a coach committed to building championship players and championship teams.

Michigan State found that coach in Joanne P. McCallie, who spent eight successful years building a championship program at Maine.

McCallie, who played at Northwestern and was an assistant at Auburn, eagerly anticipates pursuing championships academically and athletically at MSU.

"We are fortunate, we have a solid base to build upon here and we are looking forward to moving ahead at a very rapid pace," she said. "We want to pursue championships and compete successfully in the NCAA Tournament each year."

McCallie's first Spartan squad features 10 returning letterwinners, three returning starters and five seniors. The Spartans are coming off a 19-12 season in which they advanced to the quarterfinals of the Women's National Invitation Tournament for a second straight season.

Despite the loss of two key starters from last season's team, McCallie has no intention of looking at the 2000-01 season as a rebuilding year.

"Our team is working very, very hard," McCallie said. "All of our players stayed this summer to get better. They are working in the weight room, working our summer camps to get to know the coaching staff, so we can come together more quickly and effectively in the fall."

"We are going to be the kind of team that works hard, plays hard and compete aggressively for 40 minutes or whatever it takes. We will need great leadership, but we have a special senior class that is very capable of taking charge."

The leading returnee for McCallie's initial squad is senior Becky Cummings, who averaged 15.1 points and 7.4 rebounds per game en route to earning Second-Team All-Big Ten honors. The 6-3 forward also led the Big Ten and was third in the nation in field goal percentage, shooting 62 percent from the floor.

Senior guard Donita Johnson is an all-around performer who McCallie will need to play a significant role in 2000-01. Johnson, who has started 49 games in the last two years, averaged 3.0 points, 3.7 rebounds and 3.8 assists per contest last season.

The Spartans will also rely on sophomore point guard Vnemina Reese, who was named to the Big Ten All-Freshman team last season. Reese, who missed all but six games as a rookie in 1998-99 with a knee injury, averaged 5.5 points and 4.76 assists per game in her first full campaign.

Reese will also benefit from a summer trip to Europe with the Big Ten All-Star team.

The Spartans will also look for the leadership and experience from seniors Erin Skelly, Christie Pung and Nikki Davis.

McCallie will welcome four newcomers to the fold in 2000-01, led by Julie Pagel. The 6-1 forward earned all-state honors after guiding her Utica High team to the Class A state championship last year.

MSU will use a pair of exhibition games to prepare for the regular season that begins with the annual Felpausch/MSU Classic, Nov. 17-18, at the Breslin Center. The 2000 tournament features Arkansas State and a pair of NCAA Tournament teams from last season, Boston College and Tennessee Tech.

Getting off to a solid start and playing well at the Breslin Center, where MSU was 13-1 last year, will be a key to the Spartans' fortunes this season.

After playing three of their first five games at home, the Spartans will take to the road for five of seven contests in the month of December. The only home dates during that stretch are against NCAA Tournament participant UW-Green Bay (Dec. 5) and in-state rival Central Michigan (Dec. 20).

MSU will also play a Dec. 3 game against Eastern Michigan at VanAndel Arena in Grand Rapids, site of the 2001 Big Ten Women's Basketball Tournament (March 2-5).

The Spartans open Big Ten Conference play on the road against Indiana on Dec. 31, while the conference home opener is slated for Jan. 4 against Ohio State.

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Joanne P. McCallie
Head Coach

Joanne P. McCallie begins her first year at Michigan State after spending the past eight years as the head coach at Maine.

During her tenure with the Black Bears, McCallie, 34, guided Maine to a record of 167-73, six-straight NCAA Tournament appearances, two North Atlantic Conference Championships, two America East Conference Championships and five regular-season conference titles.

A native of Brunswick, Maine, McCallie guided the Black Bears to seven-straight 20-win campaigns, including a 20-11 overall record in 1999-00 and their sixth-straight NCAA Tournament appearance. She was named conference coach of the year three times, twice in the North Atlantic Conference and once in the America East in 1999.

Prior to taking her first head coaching position, McCallie was an assistant coach at Auburn from 1988-92. As the team's primary recruiter, she helped sign the fourth-ranked class in the nation in 1990-91 and the 16th-ranked class in 1991-92. While at Auburn, McCallie and the Tigers appeared in two national championship games and made an appearance in the NCAA Elite Eight.

No stranger to the Big Ten, McCallie played her collegiate basketball at Northwestern from 1984-87. As a senior, she was an All-Big Ten honorable mention selection and helped lead the Wildcats to the second round of the NCAA Tournament. McCallie also was named first-team Academic All-Big Ten.

McCallie graduated from Northwestern in 1987 with a degree in political science and earned a master's degree in business administration from Auburn in 1990.

Joanne and her husband, John McCallie, Ph.D., have a 5-year-old daughter, Madeline, and a 3-month-old son, John Wyatt (Jack).

Coach P is an active speaker within the community and for women's athletics. While at Maine, she organized an event called "Realizing the Dream; Celebrating Women in Athletics" that featured speakers Dr. Donna Lopiano and Sheryl Swoopes. During the 1997-98 season, Dana Rae Warren filmed a documentary of the Maine women's basketball season. The documentary is expected to be release within the next year.

Staff Has Been To The "Dance"

Spartan Coaches Have Championship Background

When Joanne P. McCallie was named the fourth head coach in Spartan women's basketball history on March 27, 2000, she immediately talked about pursuing championships.

Her first task, however, was be putting together a coaching staff. In a matter of weeks, McCallie assembled a trio of individuals who know how to win.

McCallie and her staff have been a part of 18 conference titles and made 20 trips to the NCAA Tournament, including two appearances in the championship game and five Elite Eight trips.

"This is an incredible staff and I feel very blessed that I was able to get my top choices across the board," McCallie said. "I feel like we have one of the best staffs in the country."

Inside The Numbers

Joanne P. McCallie

- 11 Conference titles
- 9 NCAA Tournaments
- 2 NCAA Championship game appearances
- 1 Elite Eight appearance

Katie Abrahamson

- 6 Conference titles
- 8 NCAA Tournaments
- 3 Elite Eight appearances

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Katie Abrahamson
Associate Head Coach

Katie Abrahamson, a former assistant at Iowa State, is the associate head coach for the Spartan program.

Abrahamson spent six highly successful years with the Cyclones where she was the recruiting coordinator and helped Bill Fennelly attract several nationally rated recruiting classes. The ISU program took

off and in the last four seasons had a record of 94-34 with three straight 20-win campaigns.

In 1999-00, ISU was 27-6 overall, won the regular season Big 12 title (tri-champion), won the conference tournament and advanced to the NCAA Sweet 16 before falling to Penn State, 66-65. Overall, the Cyclones made four-straight NCAA Tournament appearances and advanced to the NCAA Elite Eight in 1998-99.

A native of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Abrahamson was an assistant coach at Maine during McCallie's first two seasons with the Black Bears. As the co-recruiting coordinator, she helped lay the groundwork for the seven-straight 20-win seasons Maine would achieve. In 1993-94, her final season in Orono, the Black Bears posted a 20-7 mark and won the regular season conference title. Prior to joining McCallie's staff at Maine, Abrahamson spent two years as an assistant at Duquesne.

Abrahamson played her collegiate basketball at Georgia for Andy Landers for two years before transferring to Iowa where she closed out her career playing for Vivian Stringer. While at Iowa, Abrahamson was a member of two Big Ten title teams and in 1988-89 the Hawkeyes posted a 27-5 mark and advanced to the NCAA Sweet 16. She also collected a conference championship during her stay in Athens, Ga., when the Bulldogs won the SEC title in her freshman season (1985-86).

In 1991, Abrahamson played professionally in Dunedin, New Zealand, guiding her team to the national finals.

Abrahamson earned her bachelor's degree in physical education/sports administration from Iowa in 1990 and her master's degree in education from Duquesne in 1992.



Felisha Legette-Jack
Assistant Coach

Felisha Legette-Jack joined Joanne P. McCallie's staff as an assistant coach after seven years at Syracuse.

Legette-Jack brings nine years of collegiate coaching experience to the Spartan staff. In addition to the time she spent at her alma mater, Legette-Jack was an assistant for two seasons at Boston College.

At Syracuse, Legette-Jack served as recruiting coordinator, coached the post players and was responsible for assisting with academic support and the conditioning program. A native of Syracuse, N.Y., Legette-Jack returned to Syracuse in 1993 and helped the Orangewomen capture the 1996 BIG EAST 7 co-championship.

Legette-Jack was a two-time Honorable Mention All-American at Syracuse where she was the school's all-time leading scorer (1,526 points) and rebounder (927 rebounds). She captained Syracuse as a junior and senior and averaged 13.0 points and 7.9 rebounds during a 117-game career. Legette-Jack also was named the 1984-85 BIG EAST Freshman of the Year.

Following her playing days, she was the head coach at Westhill High from 1989-91. During that time she also ran the Felisha Legette Evening Basketball Camp for inner city youth. The camp was designed to give kids an option other than drugs.

Legette-Jack earned a dual degree in child and family studies and psychology from Syracuse in 1989. She and her husband, David, have a son, David Maceo.



Janel Grimm
Assistant Coach

Janel Grimm made the move to MSU with Joanne P. McCallie after spending one year on her staff at Maine.

A native of North English, Iowa, Grimm had an outstanding collegiate career at Iowa State where she was a two-time All-Big 12 honoree and played in two NCAA Tournaments.

As a senior co-captain, she helped lead the Cyclones to a 25-8 overall record and an NCAA Sweet 16 appearance and their second straight NCAA Tournament appearance. Grimm had a brief stint as the Director of Basketball Operations at Northern Illinois before taking a coaching position on McCallie's staff at Maine.

A four-time Academic All-Big 12 honoree, Grimm earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from ISU in 1999.

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2000-01 Roster

No.	Name	Year #	Pos.	Ht.	Hometown/High School
2	Tashawna Adams	Fr./Fr.	PG	5-6	Ferndale, MI/Detroit St. Martin DePorres
3	Julie Pagel	Fr./Fr.	F	6-1	Utica, MI/Utica
10	Candice Jackson	Fr./Fr.	G	5-6	Lansing, MI/Lansing Everett
11	Jill Blazek **	Jr./Jr.	F	6-2	Albuquerque, NM/Rio Grande
12	Nikki Davis **	Sr./Sr.	F	5-9	Brighton, MI/Brighton
15	Jennifer Callier *	So./So.	C	6-4	Indianapolis, IN/Cathedral
22	Christie Pung ***	Sr./Sr.	PG	5-5	Pewamo, MI/Pewamo-Westphalia
23	Maria Recker *	So./So.	F	5-10	Auburn, IN/DeKalb
25	Abby Salscheider **	Jr./Jr.	F	5-11	Bluffton, IN/Bluffton
32	Becky Cummings ***	Sr./Sr.	F	6-3	Walled Lake, MI/Walled Lake Central
33	Kelly Czubak	Jr./Jr.	F	6-0	Lansing, MI/Catholic Central
34	Donita Johnson ***	Sr./Sr.	G	5-10	Clinton Township, MI/Mt. Clemens
40	Vnemina Reese *	Jr./So.	PG	5-7	Fort Wayne, IN/South Side
44	Anne Peck	Fr./Fr.	F	6-2	Madison, CT/Daniel Hand
45	Erin Skelly ***	Sr./Sr.	C	6-5	Maple Grove, MN/Osseo

Head Coach: Joanne McCallie (1st Year)

Associate Head Coach: Katie Abrahamson (1st Year)

Assistant Coach: Felisha Legette-Jack (1st Year)

Assistant Coach: Janel Grimm (1st Year)

Assistant to the Head Coach: Trena Anderson (1st Year)

Athletic Trainer: LouAnne Jefferson

* Denotes letters earned

Academic standing/eligibility



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Letterwinners Returning: 10

Name (Ht., Yr., Pos.)	PPG	RPG	APG	1999-2000 HONORS
Jill Blazek, 6-2, Jr., F	2.0.....	1.3.....	0.0	
Jennifer Callier, 6-4, So., C	2.4.....	1.4.....	0.0	
Becky Cummings, 6-3, Sr., F	15.1	7.4	1.3	Second-Team All-Big Ten (media); Honorable Mention All-Big Ten (coaches); led the Big Ten and was 3rd in the nation in field goal percentage (.621); Big Ten Co-Player of the Week (Jan. 24); GTE Academic All-District IV
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.....				
.....				
.....				
Nikki Davis, 5-9, Sr., F	2.0.....	1.1.....	0.2	
Donita Johnson, 5-10, Sr., G	3.0.....	3.7.....	3.8	
Christie Pung, 5-5, Sr., PG	3.0.....	0.4.....	1.5	Academic All-Big Ten
Maria Recker, 5-10, So., F	4.2.....	1.5.....	0.7	
Vnemina Reese, 5-7, So, PG	5.5.....	3.1.....	4.8	Big Ten All-Freshman Team
Abby Salscheider, 5-11, Jr., F	4.1.....	1.4.....	0.6	Academic All-Big Ten
Erin Skelly, 6-5, Sr., C	4.0.....	4.0.....	0.7	

Letterwinners Lost: 3

Kristen Rasmussen, 6-4, Sr., F	14.8	9.8.....	2.7	First-Team All-Big Ten; Felpausch Classic All-Tournament Team; drafted by the Utah Starzz; currently playing with the Miami SOL
.....				
.....				
.....				
Maxann Reese, 5-9, Sr., G	16.0	3.0.....	2.4	First-Team All-Big Ten (coaches); Second-Team All-Big Ten (media); Felpausch/MSU Classic MVP; drafted by the Portland Fire
.....				
.....				
Whitney Winberg, 6-2, Sr., C	0.4.....	0.6.....	0.1	

Starters Returning: 3

Becky Cummings, 6-3, Sr., F
Donita Johnson, 5-10, Sr., G
Vnemina Reese, 5-7, So., PG

Starters Lost: 2

Kristen Rasmussen, 6-4, Sr., F
Maxann Reese, 5-9, Sr., G



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2000-01 Schedule

NOVEMBER

Saturday	4	NWBL (Exhibition)	7:30 p.m.
Sunday	12	TBA (Exhibition)	TBA
Fri.-Sat.	17-18	Felpausch/MSU Classic (Arkansas State, Boston College, Tennessee Tech, MSU)	6 & 8 p.m.
Sat.-Sun.	25-26	<i>at Tallahassee Democrat Seminole Classic</i> (Chicago State, Florida State, MSU, Virginia Tech)	TBA
Thursday	30	DETROIT	7 p.m.

DECEMBER

Sunday	3	vs. Eastern Michigan %	TBA
Tuesday	5	WISCONSIN-GREEN BAY	7 p.m.
Friday	8	at Samford	TBA
Saturday	9	at Alabama	TBA
Sunday	17	at Dayton	2 p.m.
Wednesday	20	CENTRAL MICHIGAN	7 p.m.
Sunday	31	at Indiana	2 p.m.

JANUARY

Thursday	4	OHIO STATE	7 p.m.
Sunday	7	at Minnesota	TBA
Thursday	11	WISCONSIN	7 p.m.
Sunday	14	ILLINOIS	2 p.m.
Thursday	18	at Purdue	TBA
Thursday	25	MICHIGAN	7 p.m.
Sunday	28	at Penn State	TBA

FEBRUARY

Thursday	1	IOWA	7 p.m.
Sunday	4	at Wisconsin	TBA
Thursday	8	PENN STATE	7 p.m.
Sunday	11	INDIANA	2 p.m.
Thursday	15	at Northwestern	TBA
Sunday	18	at Illinois	TBA
Thursday	22	at Iowa	TBA
Sunday	25	MINNESOTA	2 p.m.

MARCH

Fri.-Mon.	2-5	at Big Ten Tournament, Grand Rapids, MI
Fri.-Mon.	16-19	NCAA First & Second Rounds
Sat.-Mon.	24-26	NCAA Regionals
Fri.-Sun.	30-A 1	NCAA Final Four (Kiel Center – St. Louis, Mo.)

Home Games (**BOLD**) played at the Breslin Center
 % played at VanAndel Arena in Grand Rapids, MI
 All times are local to the event and subject to change

6/27/00