



Delaware Men's Basketball Quick Facts

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| Location | Newark, Delaware 19716 |
| Founded | 1743 |
| Enrollment | 16,000 Undergraduates |
| Nickname | Fightin' Blue Hens |
| Official Mascot | YoUDee |
| Colors | Royal Blue & Gold |
| Arena; Capacity | Bob Carpenter Center (Frank Acierno Arena); 5,000 |
| Affiliation | NCAA Division I |
| Conference | Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) |
| President | Dr. Patrick T. Harker |
| NCAA Faculty Representative | Dr. John L. Burmeister |

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| Athletic Director (Phone) | Edgar N. Johnson (302-831-4006) |
| Assistant Athletic Director, Internal Affairs (SWA) | Susan Groff |
| Associate Athletic Director, Recreation Services and Athletics | Kate Pohlig |
| Associate Athletic Director, Business and External Affairs | Scott Eatough |
| Assistant Athletic Director, Marketing | Curt Krouse |
| Athletics Development Director | Dr. Scarlett Schmidt |
| Sports Medicine Physician | Dr. Andrew Reisman |
| Head Trainer | John Smith |
| Associate Head Trainer | Joan Couch |
| Assistant Trainers | Dan Watson, Courtney Butterworth (MBB) |
| Senior Athletic Training Student | Sarah Murtagh |
| Strength & Conditioning Coach | Jason Beaulieu |

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| Athletics Media Relations Phone // Fax | 302-831-2186 // 8653 |
| Assistant Athletic Director, Media Relations | Scott Selheimer |
| Assistant Sports Information Director (Men's Basketball Contact) | Kevin Tritt |
| Tritt's Home Phone (Cell) | 302-602-0641 |
| Tritt's E-Mail | ktritt@udel.edu |
| Sports Information Interns | Kenny Kline, Eric Zedalis |
| Blue Hen Sports Hotline | 302-831-8139 |
| BCC Press Row Phone | 302-831-8715 |
| Internet Address | www.udel.edu/sportsinfo |
| Athletics Media Relations / Basketball Senior Secretary | Linda McCormick |

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| Head Coach | Monté Ross (Winston-Salem State '92) |
| Record at Delaware/Career | 19-43 (two seasons) |
| Assistant Coaches | R.C. Kehoe (Shippensburg '04), Stephen Stewart (Coppin State '02), Jeff Rafferty (Springfield [MA] '97) |
| Director of Basketball Operations | Saul Rafel-Frankel (Delaware '06) |
| Personal Development Coach | David Baylor |
| 2007-08 Record | 14-17 (9-9 CAA, T-6th) |
| CAA Tournament | First Round, defeated #10 seed Drexel, 60-51 Quarterfinals, lost to #2 seed UNC Wilmington, 82-59 |
| All-Time Record | 1,030-1107-2 (103 seasons since 1905-06) |
| NCAA Tournament Bids | 4 (1992, 1993, 1998, 1999) |
| NIT Bids | 1 (2000) |
| 2008-09 Captains | Brian Johnson, Jim Ledsome |

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| Starters Returning (4) | Marc Egerson (Sr., G, 6-6, 13.4 ppg, 6.9 rpg, Third Team All-CAA) Alphonso Dawson (So., G, 6-4, 11.0 ppg, 4.5 rpg, CAA All-Rookie Team) Brian Johnson (Jr., G, 5-10, 9.5 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 161 assists) Jim Ledsome (Sr., F, 6-9, 5.2 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 32 blocks) |
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| Starters Lost (1) | Herb Courtney (Sr., F, 6-7, 14.1 ppg, 6.2 rpg, Third Team All-CAA) |
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| Others Returning (5) | Pau Geli (Sr., F, 6-9, 0.4 ppg, 0.7 rpg) Brian Young (Sr., F, 6-7, missed last season with compartment syndrome in right arm) D.J. Boney (So., G, 6-5, 4.1 ppg, 1.1 rpg) Edwin Santiago (So., G, 6-2, 4.8 ppg, 1.4 rpg) Jawan Carter (So., G, 5-11, sat out last season after transferring from Saint Joseph's) |
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| Newcomers (5) | Hakim McCullar (So., F, 6-8, Cincinnati, Ohio / Maine Central Institute / University of Rhode Island - eligible following end of 1st semester - will sit out 2008-09 season per NCAA transfer rules and have three seasons of eligibility beginning in 2009-10) Brian Kelly (Fr., G/F, 6-4, Clark, N.J. / Lawrenceville Prep) Samer Madarani (Fr., G, 5-10, Newark, Del. / Sanford) Kelvin McNeil (Fr., F, 6-7, Newport News, Va. / Massanutten Military Academy) Adam Pegg (Fr., C, 6-9, Clearwater, Fla. / Clearwater) |
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After struggling through a 5-26 campaign during head coach Monté Ross's first season in 2006-07, the University of Delaware men's basketball team made significant strides last year when the Blue Hens finished 14-17 overall, went 9-9 in the Colonial Athletic Association, and defeated Drexel in the first round of the conference tournament.

With four starters and five other Blue Hens returning, Delaware looks to move into the upper echelon of the conference in 2008-09.

UD lost 6-7 forward Herb Courtney, a third team All-CAA selection who led the Blue Hens with 14.1 points and ranked second with 6.2 rebounds per game, to graduation. However all four other starters return, while sophomore Jawan Carter becomes eligible after sitting out last season due to transferring from Saint Joseph's.

"I think what we are trying to do is to keep taking steps in the right direction," said Ross, who begins his third season in Newark with a 19-43 career record. "Last year was a definite step in the right direction, and what we want to do is build on last year. The kids played with a sense of passion and a sense of urgency, not only in games but also in practice. That passion and sense of urgency has got to continue this year. I know that this season the expectations will be a lot higher for us than the previous two years, but we can't let other people's expectations determine how we play every day in practice or in games."

"We'll be able to go a little more up tempo this season because we will have more ball-handlers. Brian Johnson has been relied upon so heavily his first two years but with Jawan Carter we are going to have an extra added dimension in terms of handling the ball and scoring the ball. We want to play up tempo offensively and defensively. We still probably don't have the numbers to extend the court as much as I would like on the defensive end, and our staple will still be our half-court defense. Making teams have to work every single time down the floor will be our goal."

Leading the Blue Hens will be senior Marc Egerson, who started all 24 games he was eligible last season on the wing. Egerson missed the first seven games after



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transferring from Georgetown, but ranked second on the team with 13.4 points per game while leading the Blue Hens with 6.9 rebounds per contest.

Egerson, a third team All-CAA selection, came on at the end of the season by reaching double figures in six of the final seven games of the year. The late season performance included a 22-point, season-high 12-rebound game in the win at Toledo and a season-best 24 points to go with 11 boards the following game, a Senior Night triumph over Hofstra.

Egerson, who also ranked second on the squad in three-point field goal percentage and assists, ranked among the league leaders in minutes played, rebounds, free throw percentage, assists, assist/turnover ratio, and points per game. He also came up big for the Blue Hens in clutch situations, hitting a three-pointer with four seconds remaining against Old Dominion to send the game into overtime (a game UD eventually won in two extra periods) and converting a game-winning three-point play with five-tenths of a second remaining in the triumph at James Madison.

"Coming off the year that he had when he had to sit out the first semester, being able to be fully involved this year will really help Marc as well as Jim Ledsome," Ross explained. "It took both guys a while to become acclimated last year, so I'm really looking forward to having both of those players available the entire season. Marc is our leading rebounder and we'll really lean on him for a lot of things: scoring the ball, rebounding the ball, setting other people up. We lean heavily on guys who we know can handle the responsibility, and we know Marc can handle it."

Ledsome, like Egerson, also missed the first seven games of 2007-08 after transferring from Nebraska before starting the final 24 contests. Ledsome, a co-captain who is again expected to anchor the Blue Hen front-



Jim Ledsome

court, averaged 5.2 points and 4.9 rebounds per game as a junior.

He shot a team-best 61.6 percent from the field a year ago, and ranked second on the team with 32 blocked shots while ranking fourth with 117 rebounds. Ledsome, who scored a season-high 14 points on 6 of 7 shooting in the win over Boston University, proved he would be a presence inside for the Blue Hens when he blocked seven shots, two shy of the school record, against Maryland in late December.

"We're really looking for Jim to improve his rebounding this year, which is something we've talked about with him," Ross stated. "He just gives us so much athleticism in the frontcourt that it enables us to extend the floor just a little bit since we know we do have a shot-blocker back there in Jim."

Also looking to contribute to the Delaware frontcourt will be senior Pau Geli, who appeared in 16 games off the bench last season. Geli finished the year with 11 rebounds, seven points, two assists and two steals in 5.5 minutes of action per game. He was given the team's Most Improved Player award following the season.

"Pau is a young man who understands what we're trying to do," Ross said. "Having been in the program for three years, he does a real good job of talking on the floor and being a leader and letting the other guys know what we're looking for."

The Blue Hens' final senior, Brian Young, also hopes to provide depth in the Delaware frontcourt. Young, who earned the Team Loyalty Award last year, missed the entire season after undergoing emergency surgery for compartment syndrome in his upper left arm during the preseason.

"Brian is also a young man who gives you a passion to do whatever it is that needs to be done for the team to be successful night in and night out," Ross explained. "He suffered an unfortunate injury and missed last season, but he never complained all year long. We're hoping he's healthy this year to fulfill his dream of putting on a Delaware Blue Hen uniform."

The team's lone junior, co-captain Brian Johnson, will again run the Blue Hens from his point guard position. Johnson has started all 62 games during the first two years of his career, averaging 38.0 minutes per contest.

Johnson, who enters his third season already ranked 14th in school history with 280 career assists, led the Blue Hens with 161 assists, 40 three-pointers made, and a 39.6 three-point field goal percentage. He ranked 45th in Division I with 5.2 assists per game and 47th with a 2.15 assist/turnover ratio, and was also third in the CAA in minutes played per game.

Johnson, who played at least 31 minutes in every game last season, reached double figures in 17 games including a season-high 23 points in the opening game of the year at Marist. He added 17 points while going 10 of 10 from the free throw line in a win at Vermont, and posted an 11-assist, 0-turnover performance in the Blue Hens' win at Drexel in early January.

"So much has been said about Brian's contributions, but I think the fact that he was voted captain by his teammates speaks volumes not only about his work ethic on the court but the type of person he is off the court," Ross



Brian Johnson

said. "The team really looks up to him and follows his lead in a lot of ways, which is a good thing. He's a player and a person that tries to do the right thing all the time. He's a rock for us out there and is one of those guys who you know is going to be where he needs to be and is going to put other people where they need to be on the basketball court. It's a comfort to be able to put the ball in his hands and not worry about where it's going to end up."

"One of the big pluses this season will be our versatility, being able to not only put Brian on the wing but also give him some rest. He's already set some all-time records for minutes played, and although everybody wants to play 40 minutes, he will be more effective if we can get him some rest. That's what Jawan Carter will do - along with Jawan's scoring ability and his ability to get other people involved, he is also a capable ball-handler."

Carter is expected to start at the shooting guard position for the Blue Hens after sitting out last season due to NCAA transfer regulations. A transfer from Saint Joseph's, Carter appeared in all 32 games while starting 26 for the Hawks as a freshman during the 2006-07 season.

An Atlantic 10 All-Rookie Team selection, Carter ranked fourth on the team with 7.6 points per game and was second with 74 assists. He also ranked third on the Hawks with 38 three-pointers made and a 35.8 three-point percentage, and scored a career-high 20 points in a win over Xavier.

"Jawan wants to take big shots, and you have to have players who don't worry about the consequences of a miss," Ross said. "You have to have a certain mentality of not being afraid to fail, and I think Jawan has that mentality."

"Jawan will definitely help our zone offense. Being critical of ourselves as coaches, one of the questions we asked was were we getting good shots and not making them last year or just not getting good shots. The sense was we were getting good shots; we just didn't have the capability to knock them down in a timely manner. Jawan will allow us to do that as well."

Sophomore Alphonso Dawson is expected to again start at a small forward position for the Blue Hens after

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an outstanding freshman campaign. A CAA All-Rookie Team selection, Dawson started all 31 games while ranking third on the team with 11.0 points per game and fourth with 4.5 rebounds per contest.

Dawson, who was named CollegeHoops.net High-Major Freshman Honorable Mention, earned CAA Rookie of the Week honors a school-record four times. He reached double figures in 20 games for the Blue Hens, including a season-high 25 against league regular season champion VCU. He also scored 18 in the win at Drexel and hit a clutch jumper with 18 seconds remaining to seal the victory.

"Alfonso averaged 11 points a game last season and has a scoring ability that is uncanny in today's game," Ross said. "He plays with a lot of confidence, and it will be good for him to have that year under his belt and use those experiences to benefit him."

"Although he has a knack for scoring the basketball, I think the biggest thing for him is his defense. He took a lot of pride last year in guarding the other team's best offensive guard and did a very good job. I think his defense is very, very underrated, and I look for him to be one of the guys who is talked about for the CAA All-Defensive Team this year."

Fellow sophomore D.J. Boney, who appeared in all 31 games while starting the first seven during his rookie year, will see plenty of playing time in the Blue Hen backcourt.

Boney averaged 4.1 points and 1.1 rebounds per game in 2007-08 while playing just over 17 minutes per contest. He scored 12 points at Ohio University and added 10 at Iona for his two double-digit scoring games.

Boney, who earned the Team Sportsmanship Award, had a key tip-in and two free throws in the final two minutes of Delaware's victory at Toledo.

"D.J. is just a rock," Ross stated. "His nickname is One-Time, because you tell him something one time and he does it. Once you tell him where he needs to be, he's there. He plays multiple positions for us because of his toughness, and his ability to play bigger guys is another sign of our versatility. Another thing about D.J. is that he has really worked on his offensive game where he is a good three-point shooter, and he has added the element of being able to put the ball on the floor when people are trying to crowd him and take away his three-point shot. He's one of our hardest workers and one of our most intelligent players on the court, so we're looking for big things from D.J. this year."

Sophomore Edwin Santiago will also see significant playing time at the guard position for the Blue Hens. Santiago appeared in all 31 games as a freshman, when he averaged 4.8 points and 1.4 rebounds per game.

Santiago, an excellent on the ball defender, ranked fourth on the Blue Hens with 27 steals and scored a season-high 15 points in a win over UNC Wilmington. He added 10 points against Marist, Iona and Ohio University early in the season.

"Edwin is a player who has a ton of talent, and he spent a lot of time getting stronger and improving his shooting over the summer," Ross stated. "I think we'll see the fruits of his labor this season. He's a guy that changes the game defensively with his on the ball ability to guard

the other teams' ball-handler. Those are the things we'll look for him to do this year along with the added dimension of being able to score the basketball a little better. One of the things Edwin struggled with last year that he will be better at this season is his decision-making. I think that having that experience of last year will really help him in that area."

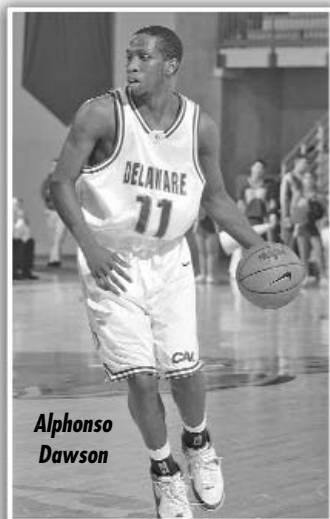
The final member of the sophomore class is forward Hakim McCullar, who will sit out this season after transferring to Delaware from Rhode Island during the summer.

McCullar saw action in 14 games for the Rams a year ago, when he finished the season with four points, eight rebounds and a blocked shot. He will have three seasons of eligibility remaining beginning in the 2009-10 season.

"Hakim brings a big body approach to the game," Ross explained. "He's a young man who can play inside but likes to step out and shoot a 15-foot jumper at times. He's really gifted in terms of scoring the basketball, and one of the things we've preached to Hakim is that he has to use this year as a benefit to him. He needs to take advantage of getting stronger and making himself a better scorer inside. He brings a fire and a work ethic in the weight room and on the basketball court that is very refreshing. We're really looking forward to Hakim having the opportunity to make our other big guys better this year before he is able to step on the court himself next year."

Freshman Adam Pegg is expected to contribute immediately to the Blue Hen frontcourt. Pegg was named Honorable Mention All-Suncoast and Fourth Team All-Central Florida last season, when he led Clearwater High School to a 22-5 record and a berth in the Florida 5A State Tournament.

"Adam is a young man who is not your typical freshman in terms of the amount of skills he has and his body," Ross stated. "He's gone to great lengths to improve his skill level, and his work in the weight room will bode well for him this year. I think the hardest transition to make is when you go from a high school senior to a college freshman because of the physical nature, but he's ready. We're looking for Adam to give us another inside presence, physicality and toughness that we have lacked somewhat on the inside."



Alphonso Dawson

"One thing Adam has done is make Jim Ledsume a much better player just from the simple fact that he has forced Jim to raise his level of play. Competition like that is very healthy for your program, because everybody knows they have to come to work very hard every single day to play. So we're really excited about Adam being a huge part of all the things we're trying to accomplish this year."

Freshman Kelvin McNeil was expected to contribute this season, but a torn labrum suffered in the preseason will shelve him for the season.

"Kelvin was playing very well in workouts," Ross said. "He's a quality player and it's very unfortunate that he got hurt because he was going to be in the rotation and would really have helped us this year. He has to use this year as an extra year of high school, more or less. He's rehabbing consistently right now; as long as he continues to do that the future is very bright for him as we move forward."

Freshman Brian Kelly will provide depth at the wing position for the Blue Hens after being named second team All-Prep by The Trentonian and the Trenton Times last season.

"Brian is a walk-on who we expect to work hard," Ross stated. "In our program the walk-ons are coached and treated just like all the rest of our players; we don't make a distinction between scholarship players and walk-ons. If you're out there, we're trying to make you better. Brian has bought into it full tilt, and I look forward to him being a part of the team and helping us get better."

With a wealth of talented, versatile and athletic players on his roster, Ross increased the difficulty of Delaware's non-conference schedule this season. The Blue Hens open at home against Big East foe Rutgers, and at the end of November travel to another Big East opponent in Seton Hall. Also on the slate are home games against Ohio University and Toledo, both of the Mid-American Conference.

"What we would like to do is challenge ourselves," Ross said. "As we grow as a program, we want to have our non-conference schedule grow as well, playing some bigger and better competition. I think the players want to be challenged, and our league is so tough, we want to make sure that we're prepared once we enter the league."

"I think our schedule will do that for us, with a couple Big East and MAC teams. That will really help us in preparation for our conference. We understand that the road we want to get to is through our conference, so we have to be as prepared as possible, and this non-conference schedule will allow us to do that."

"Expectations are raised for us this year, and that's what we want. It means that our program is headed in the right direction. We understand how tough our league is and we were very proud of the way we were able to step up last year. But last year is last year. It's a clean slate now, and everyone is 0-0. We put ourselves in a good position last year, and if we are able to build on that I really like our chances. I never put a number on the amount of wins we would like to get, but our goal as always is to be playing our best basketball at the end of the season and continue getting better as a team all year. As long as we're doing that, it will be a successful season."

