

MOUNTAINEER GREATS

Rosemary KOSIOREK

Lettered: 19 89-90C-91C-92C
#4, 5-5, Guard
Baltimore, Md.

A diminutive point guard from Baltimore, Maryland, Rosemary Kosiorek was West Virginia's most decorated women's basketball player ever, leading the Mountaineers to a 26-4 record and a No. 11 national ranking in 1992.

A four-year contributor, the Mountaineers were upset winners of the Atlantic 10 tournament Kosiorek's freshman year, advancing to the NCAA tournament for the first time. As a junior, she became the first player to lead the Atlantic 10 in both scoring (20.2) and assists (6.2), earning honorable mention All-America honors.

There was nothing she couldn't do. She could shoot, she could pass, she could dribble past anyone and she could score. She

held the record for most points scored in a single game (37 vs. Marshall) from 1992-98 and set the record for assists in a game (15 vs. Duquesne, 1992).

As a senior, she was unstoppable, leading WVU to a 22-game winning streak, the A-10 regular-season title and a 25-3 regular-season record, as she averaged 24.3 points and a school record 6.8 assists per game. Her 1,136 points scored that season were almost half of WVU's total output; for her career, she had 2,061 points and 725 assists. In addition, Kosiorek racked up 43 20-point games during her career.

At the end of that 1992 season, the Mountaineers received a No. 4 seed in the NCAA tournament, hosting Clemson in what would be a 71-70 win before 8,000 fans at the Coliseum. WVU advanced to the Sweet 16 before losing at powerhouse Virginia.

A Kodak All-American and a finalist for the Margaret Wade Trophy (given to the college player of the year), Kosiorek received the Frances Pomeroy Naismith Award from the Basketball Hall of Fame as the nation's best player under 5-5. A three-time All-Atlantic 10 pick, she was the 1992 Atlantic 10 player of the year and WVU's MVP and team captain. A first team Academic All-American, Kosiorek graduated with honors in accounting from WVU in 1992. Kosiorek was invited to try out for the U.S. Olympic Team and the WNBA. She was named to the West Virginia University Sports Hall of Fame in 2003.



MOUNTAINEER GREATS

Cathy PARSON

Lettered: 19 80-81-82-83C
#21, 5-7, Guard
Hagerstown, Md.

A brilliant guard from Hagerstown, Maryland, Cathy Parson is WVU women's basketball career scoring leader. Tallying 2,115 points during her four year career (1980-83), Parson appeared in a then-school record 121 career games and averaged 17.5 points per game.

Her career scoring total is even more impressive when considering Jerry West (2,309) and Rod Hundley (2,180) are the only WVU basketball players, male or female, to have scored more points. She is also the women's all-time leader in career field goals made (899) and attempted (2,072). Of her 121 games played, Parson registered double figures 108 times.

A three-time Mountaineer MVP, the 5-7 Parson was the first women's player to have her jersey retired. She was a three-time all-BIG EAST selection, an honorable mention AIAW All-America in 1982 and a third team AIAW All-America selection in 1983. After graduation, Parson was one of 20 players selected to try out for a spot with the Harlem Globetrotters. She also played a season for the Virginia Wave of the Women's American Basketball Association.

Parson later spent three years as an assistant coach at Providence College and in 1988 accepted the head job at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Va. While at Newport, she won two Dixie Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Coach of the Year awards and coached Kodak All-American Karen Barefoot, the only player in NCAA history to score 2,000 points and record 1,000 assists. She also took Newport to three Division III tournaments and made the Sweet 16 in 1992.

Parson was head coach of the WNBA's Washington Mystics for one season in 1998 and served eight seasons as head coach for Howard from 2000-08.



MOUNTAINEER GREATS

Georgeann WELLS

Lettered: 19 83-84-85-86C
#11, 6-7, Center
Columbus, Ohio

In 1983, the talk in Morgantown centered around a 6-7 center who could dunk. The folks weren't talking about men's basketball's newest recruit; they were excited about Georgeann Wells.

Wells came to WVU as a heavily recruited prep star from Northland High in Columbus, Ohio. After a short time adjusting, she averaged 11.9 points per game as a freshman. Wells went on to score 1,484 points, pull down 1,075 rebounds and block 436 shots from 1983-86, all remarkable accomplishments. But to most, the points, the rebounds and the blocks were all just window dressing. Wells could dunk, and dunk hard!

She made history against Charleston on December 21, 1984 at Elkins' Randolph County Armory during the Mountaineer Christmas Classic. With 11:18 remaining in the game and West Virginia comfortably ahead, Wells took a full-court pass from Lisa Ribble and soared to the basket with a one-handed stuff. The dunk instantly made her a national celebrity. Network television, Sports Illustrated, an NCAA luncheon in New York, a display in the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, the Women's College Basketball Hall of Fame and induction into Houston's Phi Slamma Jama dunking fraternity were just a few of the highlights of one of the school's most memorable moments. Unmatched until 1994, the feat is still one of the sport's most talked-about accomplishments.

She was inducted into WVU's Sports Hall of Fame in the Fall of 2007, and the long lost footage of her dunk was found in the spring of 2009 via investigative reporting by the Wall Street Journal.

