

The 1978-1979 VSC
Lady Blazers



The Coaches

Lady Blazers' head coach, Lyndal Worth and assistant coach, Charles Mancil in a relaxed moment prior to the start of the 1978-79 season.



1978-1979 Lady Blazers



Colson Printing Company

The Lady Blazers at a Glance

STEVE ROBERTS
SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTOR



School Valdosta State College
Senior Unit of University System of Georgia
4-year plus graduate division
multi-purpose, 70 major degree programs

Location Valdosta, Georgia
South-Central Georgia
Population 40,000

Enrollment 5000

Nickname Lady Blazers

Colors Flame red and black

Conference GAIAW Southern District
Large College Division

National Affiliation AIAW

President Dr. Hugh Bailey

Athletic Director Bill Grant

Head Basketball Coach Lyndal Worth
Native of Valdosta
Graduate of Union University Jackson, Tennessee
Masters in Physical Education, VSC
Career Coaching Record: 91-19

Assistant Coach Charles Mancil
Graduate of VSC
Graduate Student in Physical Education

Sports Information Director Steve Roberts

Starting Time of Home Games 8:00 P.M.

Home Floor VSC Gymnasium

Capacity 1,500

Team History 91-19 (.827)

1974-75 18-5

1975-76 20-4, GAIAW Large College Runner-up

1976-77 26-6, GAIAW Large College Champion
3rd Place, AIAW SE Regional
5th Place, NWIT National

1977-78 27-4, GAIAW Large College Champion
AIAW Southeastern Regional Champion
3rd Place, AIAW So. Sectional-National Tournament

Lettermen Lost 1

Lettermen Returning 7

Starters Returning 4

Schedule

NOVEMBER

23 - Thur.	Queen's Classic Tourn.	Plainville, TX
24 - Fri.	Queen's Classic Tourn.	Plainville, TX
25 - Sat.	Queen's Classic Tourn.	Plainville, TX
27 - Mon.	Louisiana State Univ.	Baton Rouge, LA
30 - Thur.	*Georgia Southern College	Valdosta

DECEMBER

4 - Mon.	Mississippi College	Valdosta
6 - Wed.	Belmont College (TN)	Valdosta
9 - Sat.	Tennessee Tech	Valdosta
14 - Thur.	MUW Christmas Tourn.	Columbus, MS
15 - Fri.	MUW Christmas Tourn.	Columbus, MS
16 - Sat.	MUW Christmas Tourn.	Columbus, MS

JANUARY

3 - Wed.	Mercer University	Valdosta
6 - Sat.	Fort Valley State	Fort Valley, GA
8 - Mon.	Mississippi College	Clinton, MS
11 - Thur.	Delta State Univ.	Valdosta
18 - Thur.	*Albany State College	Valdosta
24 - Wed.	Fort Valley State	Valdosta
27 - Sat.	University of Tennessee	Knoxville, TN
31 - Wed.	*Albany State College	Albany

FEBRUARY

1 - Thur.	Berry College	Rome, GA
3 - Sat.	Memphis State	Memphis, TN
5 - Mon.	University of Alabama	Tuscu
9 - Fri.	Louisiana State Univ.	Valdosta
12 - Mon.	Univ. of South Carolina	Valdosta
14 - Wed.	*Georgia Southern College	Statesboro, GA
17 - Sat.	Mercer University	Macon, GA
22 - Thur.	GAIAW State Tournament	Albany
23 - Fri.	GAIAW State Tournament	Albany
24 - Sat.	GAIAW State Tournament	Albany

*GAIAW Conference Games

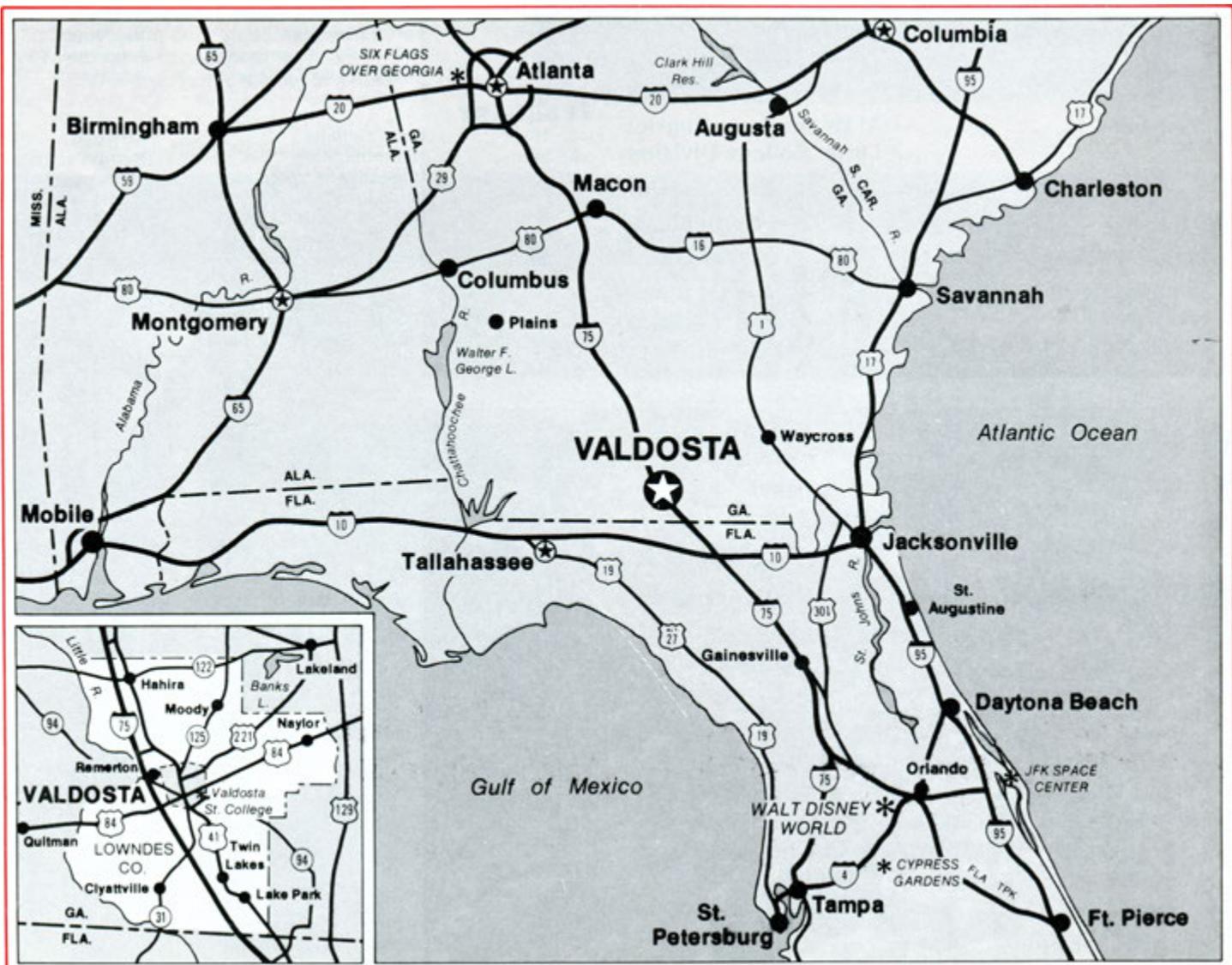


Valdosta, Georgia

Hub of the Deep South

Located on the Georgia-Florida border, Lowndes County is bisected by Interstate 75, the major highway into Florida. Valdosta, the seat of Lowndes County is the ninth-largest city in Georgia. From Valdosta, Tallahassee, Florida is only 75 miles to the southwest; Jacksonville, Florida, only 124 miles to the southeast. Interstate 10 links the two Florida cities, and continues west through Mobile,

Biloxi, New Orleans, Houston, and on to Los Angeles. Best-known as the halfway point between Atlanta and Walt Disney World in Orlando, Valdosta has become familiar to thousands of travelers for its warm hospitality. Many also are discovering that Valdosta itself is more than a traveler's oasis...it's a great place to call home.



Valdosta State College

Valdosta State College is a fully accredited, coeducational institution. The more than 5,000 students, coming from all over the country and abroad, are enrolled in over 70 different undergraduate and graduate majors in arts and sciences, business, education, fine arts and nursing. An Air Force ROTC unit, nationally recognized intercollegiate athletic teams and a full program of student activities add much to the educational experience at the College.



This is VSC...

Valdosta State Fans Turn Out in Force to Support Lady Blazers



The Administration

One of the most significant higher education developments in recent years has been the emergence of first-rate women's inter-collegiate athletic teams whose existence provide opportunities for women to participate in varsity sports.

We at Valdosta State College are fortunate to have the Lady Blazers basketball team. Their competence, their dedication, and their excellent coaching result in championship teams which have obtained national recognition for the college. This achievement demands enormous dedication on the part of the players, coaches, and a loyal group of

devoted followers. Our team merits the wholehearted support, not only of the college community, but of our entire service area.

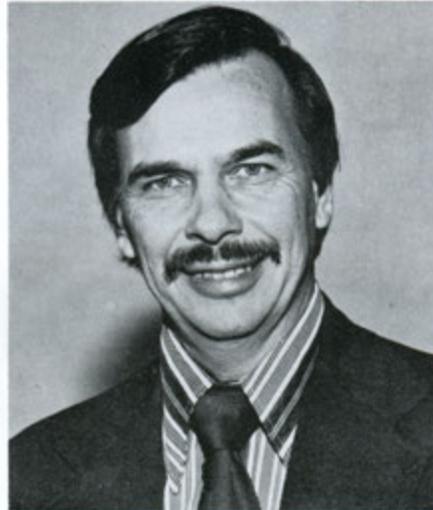
The next few years may well prove to be a prologue to even greater achievements. Our continued appreciation and support of the Lady Blazers will play a vital role in their success.

Hugh C. Bailey
President of VSC



The Valdosta State College Lady Blazers seem to possess an invisible asset that places them among the best teams in the nation. With limited resources they have emerged as a leader among large universities and other prestigious institutions in the field of women's athletics. How could a team from a small South Georgia college rise to such eminence in such a short period of time? The answer is simple — the invisible asset is the absolute commitment of a small group of girls and a determined coach.

W. Ray Cleere
Vice President and
Dean of Faculties



The Health, Physical Education and Athletic Department at VSC has been recognized across the country as a result of the amazing Lady Blazers. The hard work and devotion of these ladies is exceeded only by their dedicated coach. Coach Worth, the first and only coach of the Lady Blazers, has a phenomenal record on the basketball court as well as the classroom. The Physical Education Department is proud to be a part of this team.

Floyd D. Toth
Head of Physical Education
and Athletics



The Valdosta State College Athletic Department is excited and pleased with the solid growth and outstanding success of our women's basketball program.

Under the capable direction of Coach Lyndal Worth, Valdosta State has become a national powerhouse in just four years.

I join the rest of the VSC Athletic Department and the college administration in wishing the Lady Blazers the best of luck as they enter what should be their most challenging campaign yet.

William C. Grant
Director of Athletics

AIAW Affiliations

STATE: Georgia Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (GAIAW)

Valdosta State competes in the Large College division of GAIAW. The Blazers are in the southern district of the state conference along with Albany State, Georgia Southern and Savannah State. The northern district consists of Mercer, Fort Valley State, the University of Georgia and Georgia State.

The champion and runner-up from Georgia advance to the AIAW Region III Tournament.

REGIONAL: GAIAW is part of the Southeastern Region - Region III of AIAW. It is comprised of teams from Alabama, Georgia, Florida, and Mississippi. The Region III Tournament is an 8-team tournament that gives berths to the champion and runner-up from each of the four states.



Valdosta State College
1977-78 Georgia State Champion
1977-78 Region III Champion

The champion from the Region III tournament, to be held at Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama, advances to the AIAW National Tournament.

NATIONAL: The AIAW is the national governing body under which Valdosta State's Lady Blazers compete. The nation is divided into 10 regions consisting of all 50 states. The AIAW National Tournament is structured to allow 16 teams to advance from regional to national competition.

All ten region champions ad-

vance, as well as the number two teams from the regions placing in the top six at the previous national tournament.

The Region III champion will advance to the southern sectional of the national tournament, which will be held at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville, Tennessee.

The AIAW National Tournament begins with four sectional tourneys. The sectional champions advance to a four-team national finals, which will be held this year at North Carolina State.

On The Road With The Girls...



The 1977-78 Season in Review

Milestones Remembered

Dreams do come true. Dedication and hard work do pay high dividends. Reaping what you sow is more than South Georgia colloquialism. It's the gospel truth, and if you're not among the believers just talk to a Lady Blazer about the fairy tale, dream come true year that was 1977-78.

It all began on November 15 with the VSC women off and running against the University of Florida, posting their first of 27 wins on the road. Falling to the scrappy Blazers in rapid succession came Alabama, Florida State, Mercer, Albany State and Mississippi College.

The prestigious MUW Christmas Tournament found the VSC Ladies road weary and jittery. After dropping a two point decision to a tall and talented Pittsburg team in the opening round, VSC regrouped. Circling wagons around wounded pride, VSC moved through the remainder of the tournament toppling Gulf Coast, Savannah State, and the University of Mississippi.

Returning to Georgia more determined than ever, the Blazers ran past seven opponents recording all in the the VSC win column. Among the prey were Memphis State, Georgia Southern, Fort Valley State, and Mississippi College.

January 28th saw the flame red of VSC cast in sharp contrast to the green and white of three time national champion, Delta State. The picture of perpetual motion was painted in the Delta Coliseum. When the dust finally settled the Lady Statesmen issued a sigh of relief and shook their heads at what had been an awesome display of man to man defense by the small and courageous VSC team. The Lady Blazers left Cleveland with a loss, but more convinced than ever. The ever present tape player on the big red VSC bus seemed to say it all as Helen Reddy voiced the inner feelings of every team member... "You can bend but never break us, cause you'll only serve to make us more determined to achieve our final goal"... The stage had been set. The dye had been cast. Only time stood in the way as the Blazers lived for a rematch, hoping it would come on the neutral court of the regional

tournament.

Finishing the regular season with a 20-3 record the "hustling Ladies" blistered their way through the GAIAW State Tournament averaging an unbelievable 110 points per game, defeating the University of Georgia, Georgia Southern, and Fort Valley State in route to their second straight Large College state title. In testimony that great teams are composed of great players VSC was honored by having two players, Carol Chason and Sue Ann Christie, named to the GAIAW All Conference Team. VSC junior, Susan Taylor, was named GAIAW Player of the Year. VSC Coach Lyndal Worth was voted GAIAW

Large College Coach of the Year by her fellow coaches. Taylor was named to the GAIAW All Tournament Team while teammate and senior captain, Sue Ann Christie, was tagged tourney MVP. Valdosta State had dominated team play and individual honors. It was only a preview.

The opening round of the regional tournament saw the VSC flame continue to burn and the motion machine rolled to a 104-59 victory over the host FSU team. The mood and events of the following night were beautifully captured by Mike Chason, Sports Editor of the Valdosta Daily Times, in the following article. It bears repeating...

Clenched Fists Showed VSC Mood

By Times Staff Writer
TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—
Call it clenched fist confidence.

The mood was almost solemn as Valdosta (Ga.) State's Lady Blazers boarded the bus for their long awaited tournament matchup with Delta (Miss.) State here Friday night.

Few of the players smiled and some seemed to exist in their own worlds, psyching themselves for the biggest game in the history of the VSC women's basketball program.

Carol Chason popped a tape into the player and flipped the buttons to a familiar tune, which is rapidly becoming the Lady Blazers theme song.

As the strains of "We are the Champions" passed down the narrow aisle of the red Blazer bus, Chason hammered her fist into her hand with the beat.

VSC coach Lyndal Worth sat silently in the front seat with both fists clenched and determined eyes already looking toward a game still two hours in the future.

It was time to play the big

one...and the emotion packed Blazers were ready.

The game began 15 minutes late, adding to the tension which was creeping into every corner of Florida State's Tully Gym, and which would be heightened by the hollars of the VSC fans.

Delta State had its loyal supporters but the green-and-white checked folks across the floor couldn't cope with the bongo drums, cowbells, and two trumpets the Lady Blazer fans featured.

Showing their respect for Margaret Wade, the coach of the three times national champions, the starting members of the Lady Blazers shook her hand after each was introduced.

It was the only courtesy Valdosta State extended to the Lady Statesmen all night.

After what seemed an eternity, the game ended. Valdosta State won, 79-77, the time for tightness was over.

The team members carried Worth around the floor on their shoulders. Chason sob-

bed uncontrollably into Worth's shoulder when the VSC coach returned to the ground.

Four year starter Sue Ann Christie attacked one of the nets with a pair of scissors. Worth said later FSU officials requested her to replace the nets before tonight's southeastern regional championship.

Understandably, the win didn't mean as much to those officials as it did to VSC.

To Worth, it meant everything.

"We've never set a goal we haven't accomplished," Worth said. "And this was one of our goals."

VSC point guard Cathy McCurdy bounced up and down on her toes with excitement long after the game was over. She seemed ready to do it all again.

Finally, McCurdy settled down in the bus on the way to a post game meal. She was emotionally and physically exhausted.

Clenched fist confidence time was over.

The championship game was almost an epilogue. VSC upended the Mississippi State Champion, Ole Miss, by a score of 65-58. Again the VSC players dominated the individual awards. Chason, Taylor and Christie were named to the All Region Team. Coretta Bloom and Taylor were members of the five player All Tournament Team. Chason was the tournament MVP.

An emotional downbeat after the super highs of the regional tournament crept into the Blazer camp, and a disappointed VSC

contingent saw the Lady Blazers tripped up in a surprising 6 point loss to Southern Connecticut in the opening round of the national tournament. Showing their character, perhaps more than at any other time during the year, the VSC team bounced back the following night and closed out their season in fine style with a 83-80 win over the University of Tennessee, the team ranked number one in the nation during the entire 77-78 season. Short of advancement in the tournament, it was a sweet way to end a great season.

Lady Blazer Boosters

Valdosta and Valdosta State College are justly proud of the Lady Blazers basketball team's accomplishments in the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women large college division. Achieving a national ranking of eighth is no small accomplishment when a team competes in the same league with UCLA, Maryland, Tennessee, Delta State, and other athletic giants.

The Lady Blazers Boosters Club, formed just last year, sets as its purpose to recognize the outstanding achievement of our team. A \$10 membership in the club entitles one to reserved parking on game nights, a reserved

seat in the padded center section, refreshments in the hospitality room at half-time, a bus to out-of-town games, press releases sent bi-monthly, and an invitation to the post-season recognition banquet.

Join us this season to watch this superlative team, to thrill to their wins, and to applaud their successes.

Julia Connell

Julia Connell
President,
Lady Blazers Booster Club



Lady Blazer supporter Joe Glenn Smith witnesses an historic moment as Cathy McCurdy becomes the recipient of the first scholarship awarded to a female athlete at Valdosta State. Also pictured is NWIT All American, Sue Ann Christie, for whom the scholarship was named. The "Christie Scholarship", donated by Joe Glenn and his family, marked the beginning of a new era for women's athletics at VSC.



Lady Blazer Booster Club Officers
L to R: Julia Connell, President; Sharon Lancaster,
Membership Chairman; Jean Snyder, Secretary.



Chason named to All Region Team



Coach Lyndal Worth named GAIAW Coach of the Year

This Is Lady

Three times this season the Lady Blazers reached high enough to claim a net from the perennial orange rim...each one now a proud trophy of a true team victory...



Susan Taylor All Region Team



Once to claim the Georgia State Championship...



The Lady Blazers at the Post Season Banquet



Taylor Named Region III All Tournament



It was a beautiful moment as "We Are The Champions" rang through Blazer Fieldhouse



VSC Lady Blazer mascot Jolyn Smith

Blazer Basketball



Chason named MVP of Region III Tourney

Once to proclaim the defeat of three time national champion, Delta State...



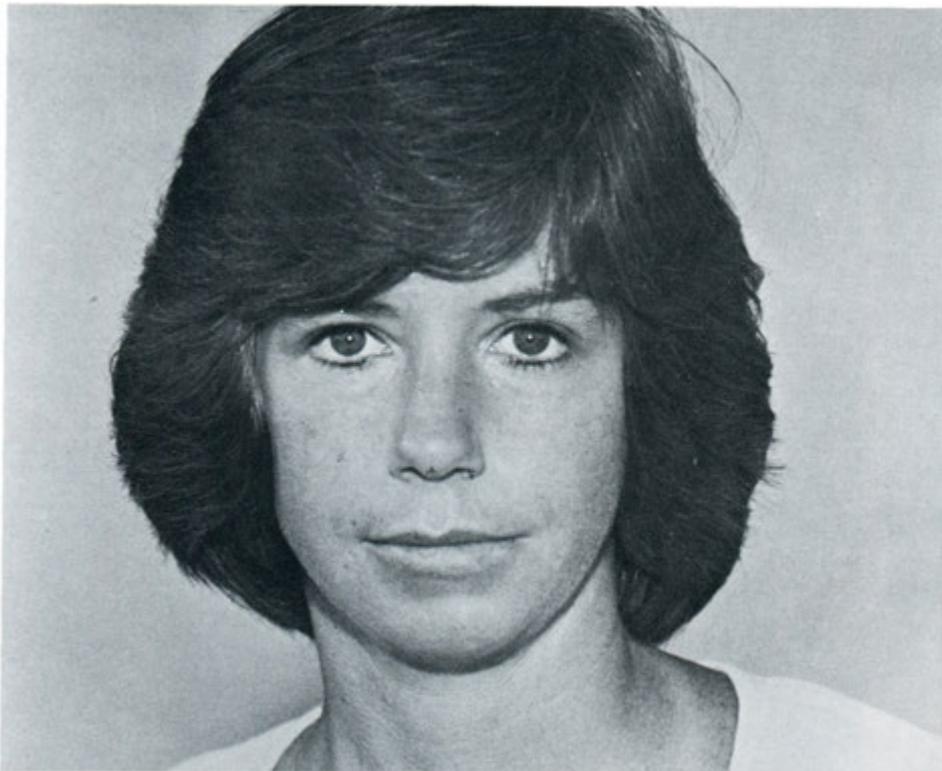
And one final time to underscore the Georgia Champion's victory over Old Miss in the Region III Championship game...



Coretta Bloom receives her first individual honor-Region III All Tournament



Susan Taylor named GAIAW Player of the Year



Head Coach *Lyndal Worth*

When Valdosta State College began a women's basketball program five years ago, the school hired a young, inexperienced assistant high school coach on a part-time basis.

Since that time, Lyndal Worth has been hired full time as an instructor in the physical education department. She has completed work on her master's of education degree at VSC and built a women's basketball program that stacks up favorably against any other program in the country.

A native of Valdosta, Worth played high school basketball at Valdosta High School, attended Valdosta State and earned the BS degree from Union (Tenn.) University. She also did graduate work at Western Kentucky University.

When hired by Valdosta State, she was basketball assistant to Jamie Felts at Brooks County High School in nearby Quitman and also coached the girls track team at Brooks, a team that won the state championship.

She is married to Jimmy Worth, owner of Music and Worth Con-

struction Company.

The 31-year-old coach's record at Valdosta State reads like the original success story. Her teams have won 91 games and lost only 19, and each year another milestone has been reached.

Her first club was 18-5. The second year, the Lady Blazers went 20-4 and finished second in the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women state tournament, large college division. In 1976-77, the team recorded a 26-6 worksheet, winning the AIAW state championship and finishing fifth in the National Women's Invitational Tournament in Amarillo, Texas. Last season, the Lady Blazers were 27-4, winning a second straight AIAW state title, capturing the AIAW regional crown and finishing third in the AIAW sectional tournament.

And the outstanding record has not been overlooked. Honors have come in clusters, including Kellogg Coach of the Year in Georgia in 1975-76 and Georgia AIAW Coach of the Year in 1977-78.

Worth has also headed up or been a member of various basketball committees on both the state and national level. She has been the all-sports chairperson and a member of the board of directors of the GAIAW and was on the selection committee for the All-Region III team last year. Region III includes Georgia, Florida, Alabama and Mississippi.

This year she will help select the

winner of the prestigious Wade Trophy, emblematic of the outstanding female college basketball player in the nation. Worth is also a member of the Kodac All-American selection committee.

This year she will help select the winner of the prestigious Wade Trophy, emblematic of the outstanding female college basketball player in the nation.

With that enviable record and impressive list of accomplishments, one would think Worth must have a secret formula...a special philosophy that guarantees favorable results. That's not necessarily the case.

"I didn't have a philosophy initially," the now veteran head coach began. "I was very inexperienced five years ago and developed a philosophy that suited the needs of our program... that made us competitive. The philosophy has developed as the program has.

"My approach to basketball goes beyond viewing it just as a game. It's a way for a young lady to make a statement about who she is. My players, the way they respond, allow me to make a statement about who I am."

Worth believes the key to all her teams has been conditioning.

"I think the foundation of the game is conditioning. The ability to play is the ability to move and out of that comes our running game."

She takes issue with the idea that her teams have had the reputation of being "run and gun" outfits.

"We run because we're capable of it. Many teams that we play aren't. Therefore, it's to our advantage. But we're always under control.

"Defensively, we take the same approach. We try to make other teams perform at their best. We attack them at the fundamental level...make the opponents play to their best. If they do, we normally have a very competitive contest."

Admittedly, Worth is demanding. She is demanding of herself, and her players.

"We are an intense group. I do demand total commitment, and my players respond to that. They appreciate it because they are rewarded for doing their best."

Worth's teams also have the reputation of being a very close group, on and off the floor. They are each other's best friend.

All in all, it's a winning combination.



Cathy McCurdy

Height: 5'3"
 Weight: 120 lbs.
 Classification: Senior
 Position: Point Guard
 Hometown: Valdosta, Georgia
 Major: Physical Education

5

Coaches Comments...

floor leader, unselfish, great stamina, endless effort, tremendous passer, quiet leadership, controls team on the floor, coach on the floor, one of the best guards in the nation.

Statistics:

	G	FGM	FGA	PCT	FTM	FTA	PCT	PTS	AVG	REB	AVG	Asst.
1977-78	30	67	139	.482	29	41	.707	163	5.4	112	3.7	174
Career	85	215	482	.446	74	115	.643	504	5.9	268	3.2	438



"Achievement Through Others"

"I guess more than anything else I enjoy the accomplishments and achievements of the people around me, the people I am close to. I have found that if I can have a part in that achievement, lend a helping hand, then the success of my friends is doubly rewarding...once to them and once to me."



"I Can and I Will"

"The most driving force in my life is my belief in God. Like most people, I have days when I am very discouraged, days when achieving my goals seems hopeless. Many more of my days are bright and beautiful, but regardless of the circumstances, it is through turning to Christ that I find a way to accomplish what I set out to do. I am always sure of one thing. Each day is a special gift to me, a time in which I can live, grow and accomplish.

Beyond this, I have always been an independent person. I cherish the closeness and friendship of others, yet I do not need anyone to stand on. This life is mine, and I must live it as best I can. I don't mean that to sound selfish. I simply feel that a person must not live to please others, but rather to be true to one's self. The most precious gift God has given me is life itself. I cherish that gift and the right to be myself."



Carol Chason

23

Height: 5'6"

Weight: 122 lbs.

Classification: Senior

Position: Guard

Hometown: Bainbridge, Georgia

Major: Physical Education

1977-78 GAIAW All Conference Team

1977-78 GAIAW All Tournament Team

1977-78 AIAW Region III All Region Team

1977-78 AIAW Region III Tournament MVP

1978 ABA-USA Select Team

1978 ABA-USA National Team

1978 Kodak All Region Team

1978-79 Lady Blazer Captain

Coaches Comments...

great leadership, a coach's ideal player, total dedication to pursuit of excellence within the game, extremely diciplined, productive, finest conditioned player in the country, great court sense and game knowledge, highly respected

Statistics:

	G	FGM	FGA	PCT	FTM	FTA	PCT	PTS	AVG	REB	AVG	AsT.
1977-78	31	224	435	.515	131	188	.697	579	18.7	240	7.7	77
Career	86	620	1217	.509	202	299	.676	1545	18.0	680	7.9	262



Susan Taylor

Height: 5'9"
 Weight: 160 lbs.
 Classification: Junior
 Position: Forward
 Hometown: Enigma, Georgia
 Major: Psychology
 1977-78 GAIWA Player of the Year
 1977-78 GAIWA All Tournament Team
 1977-78 AIAW Region III All Region Team
 1977-78 AIAW Region III All Tournament Team
 1977-78 VSC Leading Scorer & Leading Rebounder
 1977-78 Kodak All Region Team

24

Coaches Comments...

strong, strong player, greatest offensive threat, exceptional court leadership, fierce determination to achieve potential, a truly great player, cat-like quickness, tremendous personal growth and player development, "Miss T" demands respect

Statistics:

	G	FGM	FGA	PCT	FTM	FTA	PCT	PTS	AVG	REB	AVG	Asst.
1977-78	31	315	610	.516	98	159	.616	728	23.5	315	10.2	30
Career	61	579	1151	.503	286	423	.676	1360	22.3	693	11.4	74



"Achievement Through Change"

"I believe that a person's potential can be compared to mining the earth: small effort will only scratch the surface, and probably not yield any precious substances. I see the potential in my life as a mine, and with God's gift of courage I know that I can dig deeper than the surface and achieve any level of aspiration that I desire."



"Play Bigger Than You Are"

"I place high value on my family and friends. I have learned the hard way that "nothing comes easy." I know that there is a price to pay for every worthwhile part of life, especially relationships with people we love. But these relationships, though they are difficult at times, are so valuable. In fact, I see them as what life is all about. I truly believe that, within those relationships, every person is an individual and should be treated as such. God created us all and gave each of us the gifts of life according to our special needs."



Coretta Bloom

Height: 5'10"
 Weight: 154 lbs.
 Classification: Senior
 Position: Center
 Hometown: Barney, Georgia
 Major: Physical Education
 1977-78 Region III All Tournament Team
 1978-79 Lady Blazer Captain

12

Coaches Comments...

a leaper, great physical capabilities, best athlete on the team, strong player, tremendous love of the game, never overpowered at the post, key to post-season success of team last year, "ready to play" her last season

Statistics:

	G	FGM	FGA	PCT	FTM	FTA	PCT	PTS	AVG	REB	AVG	Asst.
1977-78	31	185	347	.533	58	101	.574	428	13.8	296	9.5	59
Career	86	469	993	.472	261	159	.609	1107	12.9	867	10.1	139



Jeri Roche

11

Position: Forward
Height: 5'9"
Weight: 154 lbs.
Classification: Junior
Hometown: Cordele, Georgia
Major: Accounting

Coaches Comments...

great offensive player, pure shooter, "6th player position past two years", strong rebounder, injury limited action '77-78 season, 100% for 78-79, key role in many team victories, experienced reserve.

"I just love people. I guess that makes it come natural to me to enjoy communication with others. Some folks call it "running your mouth" or just plain being crazy. Well, that's probably right, but if I can give my friends something to laugh about, maybe even someone to laugh at sometimes (me), then I've added a little something pleasant and positive to their life. That's important to me."



Gwen Durham

3

Position: Guard
Height: 5'4"
Weight: 130 lbs.
Classification: Senior
Hometown: Valdosta, Georgia
Major: Physical Education

Coaches Comments...

great quickness, great enthusiasm on the court, tremendous defensive player, leaper, fierce determination to play, loves the game, injured '76-77 season, courageous return '77-78, worked extremely hard summer.

"I believe in living my life one day at the time. I try to always be strong enough to take the bad along with the good. I believe in new beginnings. Sometimes a person simply has to drop back and start all over again. I'm not a quitter, and with a little help from my family and friends, I hope I can always overcome the bad and enjoy the good that each day brings. I enjoy laughter, and I cherish my ability to make others laugh."





Angelia Johnson

One of the greatest lessons a person can learn in life is that, truly, in order to receive, one must give. I believe that this is true whether the achievement being sought is spiritual, social, emotional or cultural. Therefore, one of the greatest mistakes that one can make is to hold back and not give one's all in any situation. If I had just one wish that God would grant me to come true, it would be that of always being able to give my all.

30

Position: Center
Height: 6'1"
Weight: 180 lbs.
Classification: Senior
Hometown: Tifton, Georgia
Major: Special Education

Coaches Comments...

good condition due to off season work, great development at post position, improved jumping ability, strong defensive player, tremendous potential to give much needed height



Vicki Smith

15

Position: Guard
Height: 5'7"
Weight: 145 lbs.
Classification: Freshman
Hometown: Grand Blanc, Michigan

Coach's Comments...

great quickness, reported in excellent condition, potential for greatness, most talented freshman ever in program.



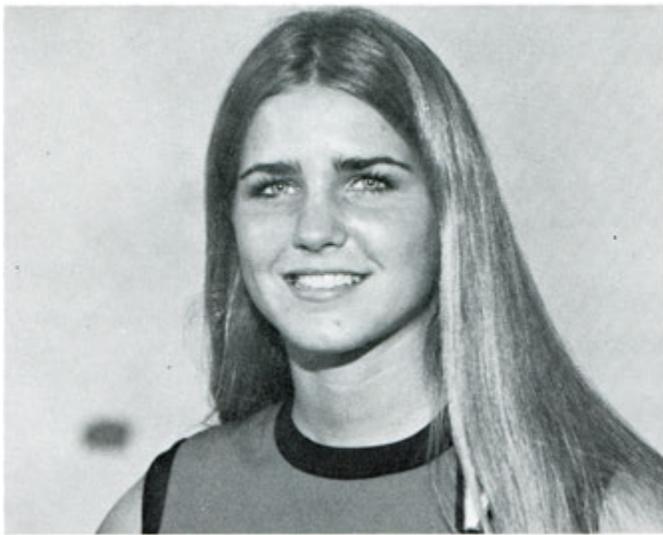
Joan Bloom

21

Position: Forward
Height: 5'8"
Weight: 140 lbs.
Classification: Freshman
Hometown: Barney, Georgia

Coach's Comments...

great shooter, strong passer, unlimited potential, super moves with the ball



Kelly Bozeman

Position: Guard
Height: 5'3"
Weight: 119 lbs.
Classification: Freshman
Hometown: Sylvester, Georgia

33

Coach's Comments...

hampered by knee injury, good shooting guard, great dedication to the game



Debby Dernay

Position: Forward
Height: 5'8"
Weight: 145 lbs.
Classification: Freshman
Hometown: Livonia, Michigan

25

Coach's Comments...

super athlete, strong desire to learn, great future



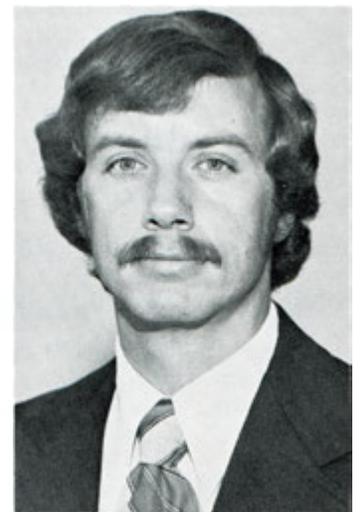
Missie Milton

Position: Guard
Height: 5'5"
Weight: 140 lbs.
Classification: Freshman
Hometown: Albany, Georgia

10

Coach's Comments...

very solid player, good shooter, fundamentally sound



Charles Mancil

Graduate Assistant

Charles Mancil, a 1976 alumnus of VSC, will serve this year as a graduate assistant to Coach Worth. Charles received his B.S. degree in physical education from Valdosta State and has worked the past two years in his hometown, Broxton, Georgia, as head coach of Broxton High School's girl's program.

In addition to his coaching duties with the Lady Blazers, Coach Mancil is presently pursuing a master's degree in physical education with an emphasis in exercise physiology. After a year in VSC basketball, Charles anticipates continuing his coaching career on the collegiate level.



Debbie Bruner

Debbie, a native of Leesburg, Georgia, is a senior in the Health and Physical Education Department. Much more than a manager, Debbie coordinates the statistical service and public relations for the Lady Blazers. Worth refers to her as a "coach's assistant in the finest sense of the word; she's been my right arm for the past two years." Debbie's efficiency in the office and within the organizational framework of the team has made her a valuable asset to the team.



Steve Higginbottom

Steve is a senior majoring in journalism within the VSC department of English. He has been a part of the Lady Blazer organization since the fall of '77, serving as both a driver and a part of the statistical team. Steve is a favorite among all the Lady Blazers, but is especially special to senior captain, Carol Chason. They are engaged to be married following graduation.

1977-78 Cumulative Statistics

NAME	GAME	FGM	FGA	PCT	FTM	FTA	PCT	PTS	AVG.	REB	AVG.	A	LBC	TO	PF
CHRISTIE	31	191	415	.460	98	127	.772	480	15.5	128	4.1	72	60	117	75
CHASON	31	224	435	.515	131	188	.697	579	18.7	240	7.7	77	100	93	82
TAYLOR	31	315	610	.516	98	159	.616	728	23.5	315	10.2	30	100	96	101
BLOOM	31	185	347	.533	58	101	.574	428	13.8	296	9.5	59	101	118	122
ROCHE	24	49	128	.383	17	22	.772	115	4.8	89	3.7	24	12	36	37
McCURDY	30	67	139	.482	29	41	.707	163	5.4	112	3.7	174	86	82	54
DURHAM	26	24	61	.393	12	31	.381	60	2.3	36	1.4	14	28	41	39
JOHNSON	18	17	31	.548	4	15	.267	38	2.2	45	2.6	1	6	20	30
OTHERS	27	55	119	.462	30	53	.566	140	5.2	115	4.3	34	31	71	46
TEAM										170					
TOTALS	31	1127	2285	.493	477	737	.647	2731	88.1	1546	49.9	485	659	677	586
OPPONENTS	31	1002	2295	.437	335	566	.592	2241	72.3	1288	41.5	---	---	---	---

Previewing the 1978-79 Season

Milestones to Come

by Mike Chason, Sports Editor, The Valdosta Daily Times

In every one of the four years the Valdosta State College women's basketball program has been in existence, the Lady Blazers have set a goal. Not once has the team failed to reach its preseason destination.

In Year Five, the goal has been set again. This time, it's the big one, the national championship. It won't be easy.

"Nobody makes the statement we're going to win the national championship," Valdosta State Coach Lyndal Worth said. "There are just too many things that you can't figure in. The caliber of competition in our state and region alone is so strong that no one could predict a pre-season winner.

"But there are only a handful of teams that realistically could be considered national contenders. I think we're one of those teams.

"We realize the odds are against us. We're just going to have to face up to that. But our seniors are totally committed to achieving this ultimate goal in their final year. The rest of us are dedicated to doing as much as we can to help them."

There's no doubt the 31-year-old Worth has her best team since she took the reins of the infant program four years ago.

Four starters return including 5-10 junior Susan Taylor, last year's leading scorer and rebounder, and 5-6 senior Carol Chason, who was named to the United States Women's Select team which toured the Orient this summer.

Five-ten senior Coretta Bloom and 5-3 senior Cathy McCurdy, both three-year starters, are also back in the flame red-and-black uniforms for their final season.

Add top reserve Jeri Roche, a 5-8 junior, to that group and the Lady Blazers appear capable of shooting it out with any team in the country. Five-four senior guard Gwen Durham is expected to be much improved, and six-foot Angelia Johnson is slowly making progress toward being the kind of post player Worth is looking for.

Only four-year starter Sue Ann Christie and reserves Dana Boykin and Cindy Somers are missing from last year's 27-4 club, which

rolled to the AIAW Region III title.

"We undershot our potential last year," Worth said. "This year we're not going to be satisfied with anything but the very best."

To accomplish the lofty pre-season goal, Worth has recruited five players who give VSC its top freshman class since the Chason-Bloom-McCurdy-Durham group in 1975.

The number one candidate to capture a starting role in her first year is 5-7 Vicki Smith, who Worth says "has potential for greatness."

"In terms of overall physical capabilities, she is the most talented person I've ever worked with as a freshman," Worth said. "She has a tremendous amount of natural ability."

Five-nine Joan Bloom, from nearby Brooks County High School and sister of Coretta, is another player that Worth expects to see extensive playing time along with 5-7 Debby Dernay, who Worth says "has all the tools."

Kelly Bozeman, a 5-3 rookie, is trying to bounce back from a knee injury but is called "one of the most dedicated people I know" by the VSC Coach.

Worth said 5-3 Missie Milton is a "solid, fundamental player" who will be battling for playing time in the backcourt.

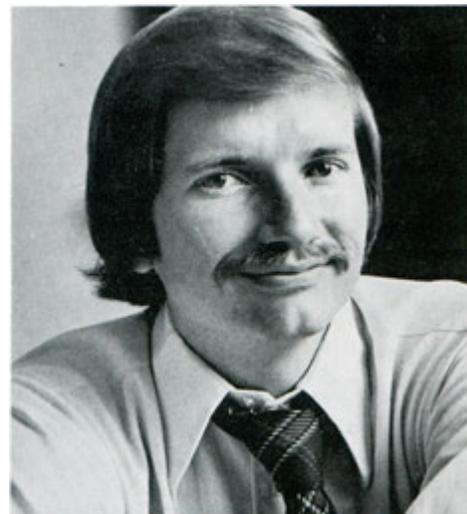
But the newcomers are only the topping. The veterans are the cream.

"Our returning players have continued to work with a great deal of intensity," Worth said. "I think they've jelled even more.

"Coretta started maturing as a player at the end of last year and has matured even further over the summer. Susan Taylor reported in great condition, and Gwen Durham has worked harder than she's ever worked.

"Jeri will finally be 100 percent physically, and we expect some scoring out of her. Chason's international experience has given her more confidence in her game. She feels like she's going to win every time she steps on the floor.

"McCurdy has been a 50 percent shooter the last three years but we could never get her to shoot it as much as we wanted her to. This



year, we think she's going to be a real offensive threat.

"Angelia Johnson has done a lot of individual work over the summer. We're looking for her to take some of the pressure off us in the middle."

But just as the talent appears to be the best ever, so does the schedule.

Valdosta State plays in two of the prestigious tournaments in the country when it travels to Plainsville, Texas, for the Queen's Classic Nov. 23-25 and to Columbus, Miss., for the MUW Invitational in December.

"It's definitely the strongest schedule we've ever had," Worth said. "We're playing a lot of really tough games on the road."

The Queen's Classic included bigtime college power Wayland Baptist, and the MUW tournament field features the University of Tennessee, Mississippi State, and the University of Mississippi.

The Lady Blazers' have their most attractive home slate ever with both LSU and Delta State scheduled to invade Blazer fieldhouse. VSC plays Memphis State, Alabama and Tennessee on the road as well as return engagements with Mississippi College and LSU.

Inside the state, Valdosta State matches up against always tough Ft. Valley State, longtime rival Mercer University, as well as Albany State, Georgia Southern, and Berry.

An exhibition game with the Australian national team may be on tap for January.

"I expect a great season," Worth said. "I think great expectations have been a pattern with us."

But this is the year when the expectations are the highest ever. The goal has been set. The problem now is reaching it.

Portrait of a Winner...

We want to share with you a little about our basketball team. There are so many facets to consider when a group of people come together and combine their efforts to try to achieve a common goal. The most obvious part of that effort is seen when you observe our team on the court. That's an important part, and we always are concerned that you, as friends and fans, parents and students, understand that we are constantly striving to do our best. The players on this team are very much aware of how blessed they are with youth and strength and health of mind and body. They feel that they have an obligation to you to use their talents to the utmost. It is, after all, you who make our program possible.

In addition to being very fine athletes, these young women are exceptional human beings. They go about their lives, both on and off the court, in a most positive manner. They are stronger individuals because they are a part of a group that is dedicated to achievement. It is intangible qualities that gives this team its personality and character. That is what we want to share with you...the individual player, the growing, changing, person, the unspoken personality of their team. We want you to know what they're all about, and we can't tell you that with stats and won-loss records alone. We want to take you for a look inside the Lady Blazers.



in the heat of practice,
before the victory,
with pounding heart,
bursting lungs and aching legs
they moved—

never allowing the pain to
defeat them
never saying no when pushed
beyond all expectations
hanging on, they helped one
another
and moved and moved
until it became a thing of
beauty
long before the victory

it became a celebration
long before that night—
a celebration of life and
strength and youth
a celebration of womanhood
and all the subtle truths
of just being all you dream
to be
before the game
before the crowd
before the cheering and final
achievement
we became who we were
long before the victory

and my heart attuned...

I must be the right kind of person,
it's character and dedication that
make me different, not talent
alone...I am a part of my fellow
man, and I must never forget

THE CROWD

Remember, athlete, the crowd
they love you
because you make them proud
you let them shout about
something in their life
you pull their apathy into
celebration
you make them feel joy and
anger and frustration and
hope and excitement and
finally satisfaction

The Lady Blazer Creed

*With my feet on the ground and my heart attuned I
will reach for the stars.*

With my feet on the ground...

I've got to work, stay in touch with
reality, pay the physical price for
my dreams

before the victory

there was the pain of prepara-
tion, so many lost and
hopeless moments,
cubicles of frustration isolated
in time, meaningless
confusion—

where are we headed and
why...

where does that one over there
fit in..

all of the nagging unanswered
questions

will we ever be good enough
will we ever be prepared
enough to face those
nameless opponents who
are bound to be better than
we could ever hope to be

in the cold grey dawn,

so very long before the victory,
there was the endless question
of reason

with the rest of the world
asleep

these few faced the morning
with empty stomachs
and sleepy eyes
and time and again



forced a protesting body to
move, move, move
responding to a persistent
voice
that promised meaning
at a moment
so far removed from the
victory

they love you
because you help them re-
affirm to themselves
that all is alive and well inside
where from time to time
each of us slips a bit
on the brink of futility

they love you
because you say with your
bodies
that life is good
that you are strong
and quick of mind

I will reach for the stars!

I must have a dream, I must be ex-
cited about what I do, it is not just
a game, it's how I want to go
about my life, I want the best, and
I am learning how to obtain it.

THE GAME

it could have been so different
if you didn't care
tonight was not so big
until you made it that way,

THE TEAM

you are a special group of people
you are unique in your
commitment
strong in your dedication
you are growing, changing,
becoming
together what none of you
could be alone...

you are a part of one another
and yet so separate,
so different
it's a thing of beauty
to see you mesh together
and give to one another...

offer a helping hand
a slap on the tail
a word of encouragement
or praise
an assist here and there
and a little help on defense..

yeah, you are a special group of
people



they go with you
up and down the court
and soar with you
high in the air
and feel it a little
when you are on your knees
and when it's over

they want to touch you and say,
"Thanks, I had a good time."
and what greater compliment
than to add meaning
to the moments and hours
of our fellow man

remember, athlete, the crowd

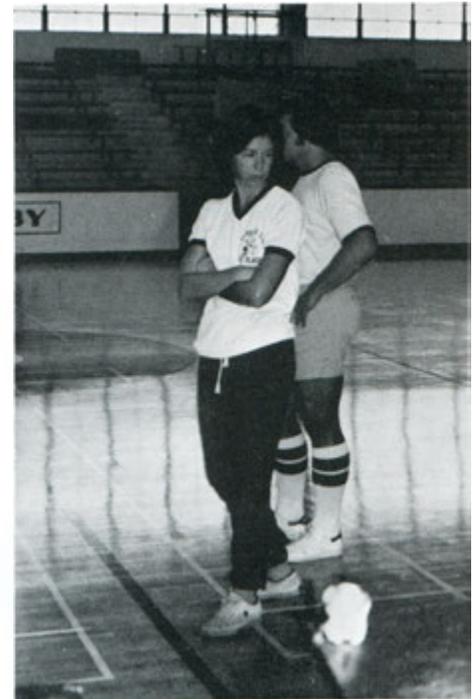
THE OPPONENT

the player who played against me
was really working with me
she caused me to make moves
I had never made before
and any magic that came
from the surprise of what I did
came because she guarded me so
well

the two of us were just work-
ing together
creating a new form in time and
space...



and yet,
it was every game played
all games and none in
particular
it was whatever we made it
and we made it good!



THE COACH

if I have a statement
to make, it must
be made through you—
if I can reach
anyone, I must reach
them through you—
if I can give
anything, I must
give it through you—
that is a precious trust
and I am so very grateful
that you treat it with respect
and allow me to say
who I am through you—

Lady Blazer Record Holders

Scoring Leaders by Years

Season	Player	Games	Points	Avg.
1977-78	Susan Taylor	31	728	23.5
1976-77	Susan Taylor	30	632	21.1
1975-76	Sue Ann Christie	24	432	18.0
1974-75	Sue Ann Christie	23	458	19.9

1000 Point Club

Name	Games	Points	Avg.	Years
Sue A. Christie	109	1978	18.1	1974-78
Susan Taylor	61	1360	22.3	1976-78
Carol Chason	86	1545	18.0	1975-78
Coretta Bloom	86	1107	12.9	1975-78

Individual — Career

Points Scored — 1978,
Sue Ann Christie (1974-78)
Scoring Average — 22.3,
Susan Taylor (1976-78)
Field Goals Made — 756,
Sue Ann Christie (1974-78)
Field Goal Percentage — .509,
Carol Chason (1975-78)
Free Throws Made — 468,
Sue Ann Christie (1974-78)
Free Throw Percentage — .833,
Jeri Roche (1976-78)
Games Played In — 109,
Sue Ann Christie (1974-78)

Games Started — 109,
Sue Ann Christie (1974-78)

Individual In A Single Game

Points Scored — 43, Sue Ann Christie
vs Mississippi College (1976-77)
Field Goals Made — 17, Susan Taylor
vs Savannah State (1977-78)
17, Sue Ann Christie
vs Mississippi College (1976-77)
Free Throws Made — 13, Carol Chason
vs Belmont (1977-78)
13, Sue Ann Christie
vs Albany State (1976-77)
13, Sue Ann Christie
Mercer University (1974-75)
13, Sue Ann Christie
vs Albany State (1974-75)
Most Rebounds — 21, Susan Taylor
vs University of Florida (1976-77)
21, Coretta Bloom
vs University of Georgia (1976-77)
Most Assists — 14, Cathy McCurdy
vs University of Alabama (1976-77)

Individual In A Season

Points Scored — 728,
Susan Taylor (1977-78)
Scoring Average — 23.5,
Susan Taylor (1977-78)

Field Goals Made — 315,
Susan Taylor (1977-78)
Field Goals Attempted — 610,
Susan Taylor (1977-78)
Free Throws Made — 143,
Sue Ann Christie (1976-77)
Free Throws Attempted —
Sue Ann Christie (1976-77)
Field Goal Percentage — .533,
Coretta Bloom (1977-78)
Free Throw Percentage — .864,
Jeri Roche (1976-77)
Rebounds — 378,
Susan Taylor (1976-77)
Rebound Average — 12.6,
Susan Taylor (1976-77)
Consecutive Free Throws — 17,
Carol Chason (1976-77)
Assists — 196,
Cathy McCurdy (1976-77)

All-Time Statistical Leaders

TEAM IN SINGLE GAME

Most Points Scored — 115
vs Florida (1976-77)
Most Field Goals Scored — 53
vs Tift College (1974-75)
Most Free Throws Scored — 36
vs Ft. Valley State (1977-78)
Most Rebounds — 72
vs Ft. Valley State (1977-78)
Largest Combined Score — 204
vs Mississippi College (1976-77)
Fewest Points Opponents — 28
vs Tennessee Temple (1974-75)
Largest Victory Margin — 61 points
vs Tift College (1974-75)
Largest Defeat Margin — 19 points
vs Ft. Valley State (1974-75)

TEAM IN A SEASON

Most Points Scored — 2731 (1977-78)
Highest Game Average — 88.1 (1977-78)
Field Goals Made — 1127 (1977-78)
Field Goals Attempted — 2346 (1976-77)
Field Goal Percentage — .496 (1977-78)
Free Throws Made — 496 (1976-77)
Free Throw Percentage — .647 (1977-78)
Rebound Average — 49.9 (1977-78)
Longest Winning Streak — 14 games
(1975-76)
Longest Losing Streak — 2 games
(1975-76)
Most Times Scoring 100 Points — 11
(1977-78)
Most Games Won — 27 (1977-78)
Best Winning Percentage — .871 (1977-78)



All-Time Scores

1974-75 (18-5)

VSC	
51	Savannah State 47
56	Mercer University 96
77	Georgia College 67
51	Mercer University 53
61	Ft. Valley State 55
65	University of Georgia 62
57	University of Florida 47
53	Florida State University 42
74	University of Georgia 73
113	Tift College 52
85	Albany State College 45
69	Savannah State 57
71	Ft. Valley State 78
61	Albany State College 50
65	Tennessee Temple 28
56	Ft. Valley State 53
57	Savannah State 43
49	Florida State University 32
49	Ft. Valley State 53
65	University of Florida 60
54	Florida State University 50
83	Tift College 56
60	Ft. Valley State 79

1975-76 (20-4)

VSC	
71	University of Florida 68
81	Georgia Southern 70
60	Mercer University 76
80	Georgia State 67
89	University of Florida 59
54	Savannah State 52
109	Tift College 52
84	University of Georgia 61
93	Albany State College 70
99	Florida State University 44
106	Ft. Valley State 71
70	Georgia College 28
84	Savannah State 72
81	Albany State College 71
81	University of Georgia 69
73	Georgia Southern 69
57	Ft. Valley State 54
82	Mercer University 79
62	Georgia College 34
101	Florida State University 50
75	Albany State College 56
84	Georgia Southern 53
74	Mercer University 77
76	Talledega 78

1976-77 (26-6)

VSC	
79	University of Florida 65
59	Savannah State 49
101	University of Georgia 65
78	Mercer University 73
92	Georgia Southern 58
104	Florida State University 65
64	Memphis State 58
81	Blue Mountain 63
54	University of Mississippi 68
—	Talladega (forfeit) —
94	University of Georgia 68
69	Ft. Valley State 79
93	Berry College 72

70	Savannah State 71
83	Mississippi College 69
85	Ft. Valley State 70
115	University of Florida 62
90	Albany State College 68
82	Mercer University 78
78	Berry College 80
92	Florida State University 60
95	Georgia Southern 69
97	Albany State College 74
97	Ft. Valley State 68
102	Albany State College 83
82	Savannah State 77
99	Auburn University 56
100	Mississippi College 104
99	University of Alabama 85
71	Old Dominion 77
106	Indiana State 78
84	Belmont College 64

1977-78 (27-4)

VSC	
84	University of Florida 65
74	University of Alabama 72
94	Florida State University 57
73	Mercer University 70
105	Albany State College 87
107	Mississippi College 89
63	University of Pittsburgh 65
78	Mississippi Gulf Coast 67
68	University of Mississippi 62
90	Savannah State 61
100	Memphis State 84
92	Albany State College 73
92	Savannah State 82
108	University of Florida 59
100	Georgia Southern 76
103	Ft. Valley State 82
70	Mississippi College 69
61	Delta State University 73
86	Georgia Southern 71
87	Berry College 74
67	Tennessee Tech 81
88	Belmont College 75
108	Mercer University 65
110	University of Georgia 70
107	Georgia Southern 80
110	Ft. Valley State 76
104	Florida State University 59
79	Delta State University 77
65	University of Mississippi 58
75	Southern Connecticut 82
83	University of Tennessee 80



Record vs. Opponents

Albany State College	10-0
Auburn University	1-0
Belmont College	2-0
Berry College	2-1
Blue Mountain (Miss)	1-0
Delta State University (Miss)	1-1
Florida State University	9-0
Fort Valley State	8-4
Georgia College	3-0
Georgia Southern College	8-0
Georgia State University	1-0
Indiana State	1-0
Memphis State	2-0
Mercer University	4-5
Mississippi College	3-1
Mississippi Gulf Coast	1-0
Old Dominion	0-1
Savannah State College	9-1
Southern Connecticut	0-1
Talledega	1-1
Tennessee Tech	0-1
Tennessee Temple	1-0
Tift College	3-0
University of Alabama	2-0
University of Florida	8-0
University of Georgia	7-0
University of Mississippi	2-1
University of Pittsburgh	0-1
University of Tennessee	1-0

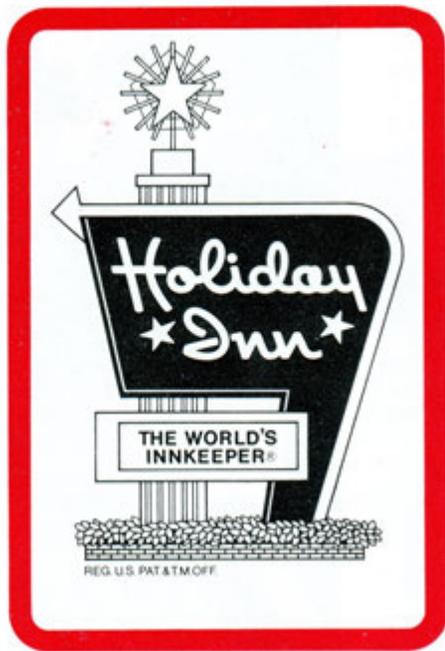


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and enjoy the Lady Blazers this
Basketball Season!



**HOME A DAY
PEPSI DAY**

Carol Chason

1978 ABA-USA Select Team

1978 ABA-USA National Team

