

WESTERN CAROLINA

BASKETBALL

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Location: Cullowhee, N.C.
 (pronounced KULL-uh-wee)
 Founded: 1889
 Enrollment: 12,000
 Nickname: Catamounts
 School Colors: Purple and Vegas Gold
 Affiliation: NCAA Division I
 Conference: Southern
 Chancellor: Chancellor Kelli R. Brown
 Director of Athletics: Randy Eaton
 Basketball Facility: Ramsey Regional Activity Center (7,826)

COACHING STAFF:

Head Coach: Kiley Hill
 Alma Mater/Year: Arkansas Tech / 1995
 Assistant Coach: Shyla Coleman
 Alma Mater/Year: Southern Wesleyan University / 2015
 Director of Basketball Operations: Megan Brown
 Alma Mater/Year: Southern Miss / 2017

TEAM INFORMATION:

2018-19 Overall Record: 4-26
 2017-18 SoCon Record/Finish: 0-14 / 8th
 Starters Returning/Lost: 4 / 1
 Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 7 / 3

MEDIA RELATIONS INFORMATION:

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 Ramsey Center-Athletics
 Cullowhee, NC 28723

RETURNING PLAYERS

#	Name	Class	Ht.	Pos.
2	Kayla Brown	So.	6-2	C
3	Farasia Hodge	Sr.	6-0	F
4	Lauren LaPlant	R-Jr.	5-7	G
14	Judith Martin Ruiz	R-Sr.	5-7	G
15	Jada Miller	So.	5-6	G
30	Jewel Smalls	So.	5-7	G
33	Tembre Moates	R-Jr.	6-0	G/F

NEWCOMERS

#	Name	Hometown	Ht.	Pos.
00	Alyssa Walker	Maryville, Tenn.	5-11	G/F
5	Mia Littlejohn	Shelby, N.C.	5-7	G
20	Andrea Martin Ruiz	Granada, Spain	5-6	G
21	Diarra Smith	Lawrenceville, Ga.	5-6	G
*	Kyla Allison	Orlando, Fla.	6-0	G

*Will redshirt 2019-20 season



WESTERN CAROLINA CATAMOUNTS 2019-20 SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER

Nov. 5	TUES.	UVA-WISE	CULLOWHEE	7 PM
Nov. 7	Thurs.	at North Carolina	Chapel Hill, N.C.	6 PM
Nov. 9	Sat.	at Elon	Elon, N.C.	7:30 PM
Nov. 12	Tues.	at USC Upstate	Spartanburg, S.C.	TBA
Nov. 14	THURS.	CAMPBELL	CULLOWHEE	7 PM
Nov. 18	MONDAY	UNC ASHEVILLE	CULLOWHEE	11:30 AM
Nov. 20	Wed.	at Davidson	Davidson, N.C.	7:30 PM
Nov. 24	SUN.	COASTAL CAROLINA	CULLOWHEE	2 PM
Nov. 27	Wed.	at Gardner-Webb	Boiling Spring, N.C.	2 PM

DECEMBER

DEC. 4	WED.	CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	CULLOWHEE	7 PM
Dec. 6	FRI.	CLEVELAND STATE	CULLOWHEE	7 PM
Dec. 17	TUES.	TENNESSEE TECH	CULLOWHEE	7 PM
DEC. 21	SAT.	WINTHROP	CULLOWHEE	2 PM
Dec. 30	Mon.	at College of Charleston	Charleston, S.C.	6:30 PM

JANUARY

JAN. 6	Mon.	SOUTHERN WESLEYAN	CULLOWHEE	7 PM
Jan. 9	THURS.	*CHATTANOOGA	CULLOWHEE	7 PM
Jan. 11	SAT.	*ETSU (DH)	CULLOWHEE	2 PM
Jan. 18	Sat.	*at UNCG	Greensboro, N.C.	4 PM
Jan. 23	Thurs.	*at Wofford	Spartanburg, S.C.	7 PM
Jan. 25	Sat.	*at Furman	Greenville, S.C.	2 PM
Jan. 30	THURS.	*SAMFORD	CULLOWHEE	7 PM

FEBRUARY

Feb. 1	SAT.	*MERCER	CULLOWHEE	2 PM
Feb. 6	Thurs.	*at ETSU	Johnson City, Tenn.	7 PM
Feb. 8	Sat.	*at Chattanooga	Chattanooga, Tenn.	2 PM
FEB. 15	SAT.	*UNCG	CULLOWHEE	2 PM
FEB. 20	THURS.	*FURMAN	CULLOWHEE	7 PM
FEB. 22	SAT.	*WOFFORD (DH)	CULLOWHEE	5 PM
Feb. 27	Thurs.	*at Mercer	Macon, Ga.	TBA
Feb. 29	Sat.	*at Samford	Birmingham, Ala.	TBA

MARCH

Mar. 5-8	Thurs-Sun.	2020 SoCon Basketball Championships (Harrah's Cherokee Center Asheville)	Asheville, N.C.	TBA
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BOLD — Home Games * — Southern Conference Games

- All times listed are EASTERN - All times and dates are subject to change -



WESTERN CAROLINA RADIO/TV CHART



00

ALYSSA WALKER

Freshman / Guard/Forward
Maryville, Tenn.



2

KAYLA BROWN

Sophomore / Center
Jonesboro, Ga.



3

FARASIA HODGE

Senior / Forward
Hopkinsville, Ky.



4

LAUREN LaPLANT

R-Junior / Guard
Asheboro, N.C.



5

MIA LITTLEJOHN

Freshman / Guard
Shelby, N.C.



14

JUDITH MARTIN RUIZ

R-Senior / Guard
Granada, Spain



15

JADA MILLER

Sophomore / Guard
Wake Forest, N.C.



20

ANDREA MARTIN RUIZ

Freshman / Guard
Granada, Spain



21

DIARRA SMITH

Freshman / Guard
Lawrenceville, Ga.



30

JEWEL SMALLS

Sophomore / Guard
Roswell, Ga.



33

TEMBREE MOATES

Senior / Guard/Forward
Greenwood, S.C.



KYLA ALLISON

R-Junior / Guard
Orlando, Fla.

WESTERN CAROLINA CATAMOUNTS 2019-20 ROSTER

Numerical Roster

#	Name	Ht.	Pos.	Cl.	Hometown (Previous School / High School)
00	Alyssa Walker	5-11	F/G	FR	Maryville, Tenn. / William Blount HS
2	Kayla Brown	6-2	C	SO	Jonesboro, Ga. / Lovejoy HS
3	Farasia Hodge	6-0	F	SR	Hopkinsville, Ky. / John Logan / Hopkinsville HS
4	Lauren LaPlant	5-7	G	R-JR	Asheboro, N.C. / Southwestern Randolph HS
5	Mia Littlejohn	5-6	G	Fr.	Shelby, N.C. / Shelby HS
14	Judith Martin Ruiz	5-7	G	SR	Granada, Spain (La Preseutacion de Nuestra Senora / CD Presentacion
15	Jada Miller	5-6	G	SO	Wake Forest, N.C. / Wake Forest Rolesville
20	Andrea Martin Ruiz	5-6	G	FR	Granada, Spain / La Presentacion de Nuestra Senora
21	Diarra Smith	5-6	G	FR	Lawrenceville, Ga. / Central Gwinnett HS
30	Jewel Smalls	5-7	G	SO	Roswell, Ga. / McEachern HS
33	Tembre Moates	6-0	G/F	R-JR	Greenwoods, S.C. / Greenwood HS
*	Kyla Allison	6-0	G	R-JR	Orlando, Fla. / Middle Tennessee / Wekiva HS

Alphabetical Roster

#	Name	Ht.	Pos.	Cl.	Hometown (Previous School / High School)
*	Kyla Allison	6-0	G	R-JR	Orlando, Fla. / Middle Tennessee / Wekiva HS
2	Kayla Brown	6-2	C	SO	Jonesboro, Ga. / Lovejoy
3	Farasia Hodge	6-0	F	SR	Hopkinsville, Ky. / John Logan / Hopkinsville HS
4	Lauren LaPlant	5-7	G	R-JR	Asheboro, N.C. / Southwestern Randolph HS
5	Mia Littlejohn	5-6	G	Fr.	Shelby, N.C. / Shelby HS
14	Judith Martin Ruiz	5-7	G	SR	Granada, Spain (La Preseutacion de Nuestra Senora / CD Presentacion
15	Jada Miller	5-6	G	SO	Wake Forest, N.C. / Wake Forest Rolesville
20	Andrea Martin Ruiz	5-6	G	FR	Granada, Spain / La Presentacion de Nuestra Senora
33	Tembre Moates	6-0	G/F	R-JR	Greenwoods, S.C. / Greenwood HS
30	Jewell Smalls	5-7	G	SO	Roswell, Ga. / McEachern HS
21	Diarra Smith	5-6	G	FR	Lawrenceville, Ga. / Central Gwinnett HS
00	Alyssa Walker	5-11	F/G	FR	Maryville, Tenn. / William Blount HS

*Will redshirt 2019-20 season

Head Coach: Kiley Hill

Assistant Coaches: Shyla Coleman

Director of Basketball Operations: Megan Brown

Pronunciations:

Farasai Hodge - Far-Asia

Tembre Moates - Timber

Andrea Martin Ruiz - An-Drah-A Rue-ease

Judith Martin Ruiz - Rue-ease

Diara Smith - De-R-Ah

WESTERN CAROLINA HEAD COACH KILEY HILL



Former associate head coach at the University of Southern Mississippi and head coach at Valdosta State, Kiley Hill was named head women's basketball coach at Western Carolina University on July 8, 2019.

A veteran coach with more than 25 years' experience in collegiate women's basketball including 17 as a head coach, Hill comes to Western Carolina after spending the last three seasons as the associate head coach at Conference USA-member, Southern Miss in Hattiesburg, Miss. His experience also includes a 16-year stint as the head coach at Valdosta State in Georgia, and a four-year term at West Alabama in Livingston, Ala. – one as head coach preceded by three as the assistant coach and recruiting coordinator.

As the associate head coach at Southern Miss, Hill helped the team amass a record of 56-40 including a 23-11 tally in the 2016-17 season that finished with a return to the Conference USA championship game. Hill's experience helped an undersized squad, nicknamed the "Feisty Bunch," rank 11th nationally for total steals (370) and finish No. 20 in steals per game (10.9).

In the 2017-18 season with the Eagles, Hill helped 10 players surpass their career-highs in season points. Jayla King joined the 1,000-point club with 1,023 points, and Shonte Hailes led C-USA in assist-to-turnover ratio at 2.4, while also leading the conference in 3-point field goal percentage at 45.2 percent.

This past season, 2018-19, Hill and the Eagles strung together a record of 18-14, reaching the second round of the Women's Basketball Invitational (WBI) postseason tournament before being edged by North Alabama 69-65. The Eagles had an All-Conference USA selection as the team ranked third in the conference in scoring defense limiting opponents to an average of 59.1 points per game while also ranking second in steals (8.9).

Hill came to Southern Miss following a 16-year stint as head women's basketball coach at Valdosta State where he compiled a 279-177 record. He established himself as one of the top NCAA Division II coaches in the nation and was recognized as the 2012 Women's Basketball Coaches Association's (WBCA) South Region Coach of the Year. He stacked that on top of being named the Gulf South Conference (GSC) East Division's Coach of the Decade. During his time at Valdosta, Hill garnered the GSC East Coach of the Year twice.

Hill advanced to postseason play 14 times during his tenure at VSU. Ten of his 16 teams ranked in the Top-10 or no lower than 25th in the nation in team defense. He had six teams finish in the top two in the Gulf South Conference Eastern Division and collectively, averaged 19 wins over his last 10 seasons.

During his tenure, Hill coached three All-Americans, two GSC All-Decade team selections, a GSC Female Athlete of the Year and 22 of his players earned all-conference plaudits. Not only did his teams perform well on the court, but off the court as well as his teams produced 28 academic all-conference accolades and were twice named to a WBCA Academic Honor Roll while boasting a team GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Hill joined the VSU staff in 2000 after a year as the head coach at the University of West Alabama that was preceded by three seasons as the assistant coach and recruiting coordinator. While on the bench at UWA from 1996-2000, Hill helped orchestrate the program's first 20-win season since 1982 and produced four all-conference performers and six all-academic conference selection.

A four-year letter winner on the baseball diamond and a 1995 graduate of Arkansas Tech in Russellville, Ark., Hill got his start in collegiate coaching at his alma mater as a graduate assistant.

Hill is married to the former Molly Longing and the couple has two children; Whitley and Skyler.

Western Carolina returns seven players from last year's squad including the Southern Conference Sports Media Association (SCSMA) Freshman of the Year, Jewel Smalls and will be adding five newcomers to the club.



KYLA ALLISON

Junior • 6-0 • Guard • Orlando, Fla. • Middle Tennessee

THE ALLISON FILE

Spent three seasons at Middle Tennessee including a sophomore year in which she missed 35 games due to an injury ... As a redshirt sophomore for the Lady Raiders in the 2018-19 season, she played in 23 games and started four, averaging 1.7 points and 1.3 rebounds per game in a reserve role ... She missed 25 games in her sophomore year due to an injury setting up her redshirt year last season. As a freshman, in 2016-17, Allison played in 29 games and started 12 including starts in eight of the last nine games. She averaged 3.1 points and 1.4 rebounds in her rookie campaign with Middle Tennessee.

WHAT HILL IS SAYING ABOUT KYLA ALLISON:

Having to sit for this year due to NCAA transfer rules, Ky is already making an impact on and off the floor as we knew she would. A quiet but commanding demeanor is something that she is providing along with unbelievable work habits.



KAYLA BROWN #2

Sophomore • 6-2 • Center • Jonesboro, Ga. • Lovejoy HS

THE BROWN FILE

In the 2018-19 season played in 20 games and started eight ... Scored in double figures twice including a career-best 12 points against Samford (Jan. 19) ... Ended the season averaging 4.1 points and 4.4 rebounds per game leading the team with 16 blocks.

WHAT HILL IS SAYING ABOUT KAYLA BROWN:

Kayla is another high basketball IQ player and understands concepts quickly. Her biggest challenge is strength and positive habits to consistent success. We believe she can make some strides toward these in the weeks and months ahead.



FARASIA HODGE #3

Senior • 6-2 • Center • Hopkinsville, Ky. • John Logan

THE HODGE FILE

In the 2018-19 season, played in 30 games and started 11 ... Scored in double figures twice scoring a career-best 12 points against Young Harris ... Ended the season averaging 3.5 points and 4.5 rebounds.

WHAT HILL IS SAYING ABOUT FARASIA HODGE:

RayRay is one of the most positive teammates we have on the club. She truly wants success for each of her teammates. She has had to battle through some injuries, but she has been a warrior trying to fight through them all.



LAUREN LAPLANT #4

R-Junior • 5-7 • Guard • Asheboro, N.C. • Southwestern Randolph HS

THE LAPLANT FILE

Did not play in the 2018-19 season due to injury ... In the 2017-18 season, Played in the first 12 games of the season before missing six games due to injury ... Came back to play a total of 24 games on the year ... Scored in double figures nine times ... Scored a career-high 16 points against Warren Wilson ... Scored a season-best 19 points ... Ranked second on the team with 32 three-pointers more than doubling her total of 19 in her freshman year ... Dished out a career-best five assists against South Carolina on Nov. 30 ... Led the team in scoring five times ... Second on the team averaging eight points per game.

WHAT HILL IS SAYING ABOUT LAUREN LAPLANT:

Incredible work ethic is the first thing that I think of when asked about Lauren as a basketball player. She has had a rough go of it physically the last year and half, but has really shown some amazing mental toughness to get herself back to a competitive edge for this year.



MIA LITTLEJOHN #5
Freshman • 5-7 • Guard • Shelby, N.C. • Shelby HS

THE LITTLEJOHN FILE

As a senior, finished her high school career with a total of 1,498 points receiving the Golden Lion Leadership Award. She was also the second-leading scorer on the team. As a junior, named to All-Conference team and second-team All-District. She also reached the 1,000 point milestone in her junior campaign.

WHAT HILL IS SAYING ABOUT MIA LITTLEJOHN:

Mia really loves WCU and the game. She has been like a sponge trying to learn the pieces associated with being a college basketball player.



ANDREA MARTIN RUIZ #20
Freshman • 5-6 • Guard • Granada, Spain • La Presentacion de Nuestra Senora

THE ANDREA MARTIN RUIZ FILE

Came to Western Carolina in January 2019 sitting out the remainder of the season and will be a freshman in the 2019-20 season.

WHAT HILL IS SAYING ABOUT ANDREA MARTIN RUIZ:

Andrea is an explosive attack mentality type player and adjusts to things rapidly in being a problem solver. She loves to compete and we have seen incredible growth of her game during our short time with the program. Andrea will be a fun player to watch as the year progresses.



JUDITH MARTIN RUIZ #14
R-Senior • 5-6 • Guard • Granada, Spain • La Preseutacion de Nuestra Senora/CD Presentacion

THE JUDITH MARTIN RUIZ FILE

In the 2018-19 season, played in 30 games and started 29 ... Scored in double figures 13 times including a career-high 20 points against UNCG (Feb. 28) ... First career double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds against ETSU (Feb. 2) ... Ended the season scoring a season-best 246 points averaging 8.5 points and 4.0 rebounds per game and dishing out 103 assists and a season-best 14 blocks.

WHAT HILL IS SAYING ABOUT JUDITH MARTIN RUIZ:

I absolutely love Judy's passion of play. Sometimes it gets her into pickle but we know she is going to play with her heart. This intangible is worth its weight in gold!



JADA MILLER #15
Sophomore • 5-6 • GUARD • Wake Forest, N.C.. • Wake Forest HS

THE MILLER FILE

In the 2018-19 season, played in 30 games and started one ... Scored in double figures twice including a career-best 11 points against ETSU (Feb. 2) ... Averaged 4.7 points and 2.4 rebounds per game.

WHAT HILL IS SAYING ABOUT JADA MILLER:

I'm excited to see how Jada can grow as a player this season. She has some gifts that can be catalyst for success of this team. As she learns to discipline her game more, opportunities will present themselves that she may never realized.



TEMBRE MOATES #33

R-Junior • 6-0 • Guard/Forward • Greenwoods S.C. • Greenwoods HS

THE MOATES FILE

In the 2018-19 season, played in eight games and started seven before sidelined by an injury ... Averaged 5.6 points and 4.5 rebounds per game ... Scored in double figures her first game of the season with 11 points against Coastal Carolina.

WHAT HILL IS SAYING ABOUT TEMBRE MOATES:

Tembre has been an awesome surprise for us. She has really shown an amazing effort to get herself physically prepared for the season. Tem had a rough patch of health issues last season, but she is shown flourishes of great mental and physical toughness since we arrived on campus.



JEWEL SMALLS #30

Sophomore • 5-6 • GUARD • Roswell, Ga. • McEachern HS

THE SMALLS FILE

In the 2018-19 season, played and started in all 30 games ... 2019 Southern Conference Freshman of the Year (media) ... 2019 Southern Conference All-Freshman Team (coaches and media) ... 2019 Southern Third Team All-Conference (media) ... The 330 points scored in her rookie campaign in the second most points scored by a Catamount freshman in WCU women's basketball program history ... Led the team averaging 11 points per game ... Scored in double figures 16 times including a career-best 32 points against ETSU (Feb. 2) ... Ended the season scoring in double figures in six consecutive games ... First career double-double of 14 points and 12 rebounds against Chattanooga (Mar. 2).

WHAT HILL IS SAYING ABOUT JEWEL SMALLS:

Jewel is a young lady that feeds off competition. As she refines and polishes her skill sets, she will be a player that can be special in the SoCon.



DIARRA SMITH #21

Freshman • 5-6 • GUARD • Lawrenceville, Ga. • Central Gwinnett HS

THE SMITH FILE

During her high school career, named MVP her freshman, junior and senior year ... As a senior had the highest free throw percentage and number one three-point shooter on the team.

WHAT HILL IS SAYING ABOUT DIARRA SMITH:

Dee has had some learning curves to go through as any freshmen thrown into the fire, but her effort has been good and she has had the willingness to climb some hurdles. We are excited to see her maturity grow on and off the floor.



ALYSSA WALKER #00

Freshman • 5-11 • GUARD/FORWARD • Maryville, Tenn. • William Blount HS

THE WALKER FILE

As a senior at William Blount High School honored with the Lady Gov Hustle Award, Lady Gov Most Assists Award, named All-District, All-District Tournament and Sports Page Player of the Week ... She was also part of the Daily Times All-County team and selected to play in the All-Star "Border Wars" game aiding her team in victory ... In her final season, scored 336 points, ripped down 187 rebounds and 75 assists ... As a junior named Character Star Athlete Award ... As a freshman named Newcomer

of the Year and the only freshman to make varsity.

WHAT HILL IS SAYING ABOUT ALYSSA WALKER:

Alyssa has a high basketball IQ and nice stroke. She is still learning the speed and tempo of the college game like any freshmen and will be a quick study to find ways to contribute