

15 strong

By: Maddie Reyes

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The Michigan women's basketball team has been a force to be reckoned with this season. Heading into the Big 10 championship, they sit in the top three of their conference with a 22-5 overall record. For some of the players, especially the four seniors, this has been a long time coming. I spoke with senior Naz Hillmon about this team and what it means to her. Anyone who knows women's college basketball knows the name Naz Hillmon: a 6'2" forward who is an opponent's worst nightmare. Her future is bright, but she wants to leave a legacy in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

When I asked Naz about what she wanted this team to be remembered for she said "At the beginning of every year we come together and write down our goals for the year. We said that we wanted to be the best Michigan team to ever play." She went on to say that in a joking but not joking way that is exactly what they intend to do. They don't, however, just want to be remembered by their record. They want the way they treat each other and how they have been able to build this program to be recognized. These things are the most valuable to Naz and her teammates.

The team seems to be at the heart of Naz, so I asked her about the support that they give to one another and how close they are. "It's a blessing to have 15 people rally around each other and be so supportive and happy for each other." Naz said that they always talk about 15 strong, which means that it doesn't matter if you are on the court or not, you are a big part of this Michigan team. She stated that the bench is a big part of the atmosphere during games and that everyone helps each other out in the best way possible.

In my eyes I believe that one of the reasons that Michigan has been so successful is because of this motto 15 strong. To know that you are supported wherever you may be on the team is important and I think everybody on this squad knows that. Heading into the Big 10 championship, Naz and her team are a number three seed. They will have to wait and see who they will be playing against, but one thing is for certain: they will be playing not only for themselves but also for each other.