

By Madison Bowser

The Ohio State women's basketball team is among the best in the country, ranked twenty second overall as of now. But do they have a fighting chance to potentially outmatch their rival teams and win it all? Well, to start with, last season the Buckeyes were unable to play in the postseason, and in an article from *The Columbus Dispatch*, Ohio State guard Jacy Sheldon says, "the team is beyond excited for the upcoming season," which the previously "upcoming season" has now begun. The Ohio State women's basketball team's excitement has, and will continue to be, clearly reflected in their performance throughout the 2021-2022 season.

The team has been phenomenal this season, with a five game win streak to start off the season. Though this win streak was broken when they lost a tough ball game against Syracuse, 97-91. The Buckeyes had another win streak of six, until a heartbreaking loss against No.7 Michigan. These losses have not stopped the Buckeyes from playing an excellent ball game, as they have ranked high in several stats. First off, the Ohio State women's basketball team is ranked twenty second overall, and fourth in the Big Ten conference. In addition the team has outscored the total points of all their opponents in every quarter. Jacy Sheldon and Taylor Mikesell are both ranking high in points per game. The Buckeyes have a record of 19-5, which is clearly owed to their high stats and game play.

A team can get into the *NCAA tournament* in one of two ways; first, by winning ones conference tournament. Second, by earning a championship invite; these are obtained from the NCAA's committee's selection. This selection is based on multiple stats, over all rankings, and various other elements of each team's game. Neither of these events have taken place yet, so there is no for sure way of knowing which of the Big Ten teams will get in the tournament. Fortunately, the Ohio State women's basketball team is ranked fourth in the Big Ten Conference; therefore, Ohio State has a relatively good chance of making it into the *NCAA tournament*.

The Ohio State women's basketball team proved that they have what it takes to get into the tournament from the great basketball they have played throughout the season. For starters, they have a win percentage of about 82%, which is extremely high considering that any win rate above 0.500 is decent to good. The whole team has solid stats; such as high field goal percentages, extremely high free throw percentage (with the lowest being 0.500 of their players who have attempted at least one free throw) and their scoring margin is an excellent +13.8 points.

Does the Ohio State women's basketball team have a chance to make it to the NCAA tournament? In conclusion, yes they most certainly do. Their current seed prediction is fifth, which means their chances of landing an at-large bid to play in the tournament are extremely likely. In addition, the Buckeyes have incredible stats, an astounding win rate of 0.821, and a record of 19-5. The Buckeyes have had an

excellent season so far, and they'll be a team to watch out for in this year's March Madness.