

Records, Rosters, and Reasons

By: Ava Stone

Basketball at Penn State is bigger than just records and rosters for Makenna Marisa, a women's basketball player. Makenna is a junior at Penn State University, an Early Childhood Education major, and has played basketball all three of her years at Penn State. Makenna Marissa is 5'11". Her position for the Nittany Lions is guard. Although there may have been some difficult times, Makenna has always been the player to watch for the Nittany Lions.

Makenna's Reason

Makenna started playing basketball when she was five years old. She said that she had wanted to play Penn State basketball since 7th or 8th grade. She is from McMurray, Pennsylvania, and went to Peters Township High School. During her junior year at Peters Township, she averaged 23 points per game and nine rebounds. Marisa's goal is to hang a banner on the wall at Penn State University just like her grandfather. Now that she is at Penn State, she says she loves her coaches, other players, and all the people who put everything into this team. Her advice for all young basketball players is to always work hard and to be a gym rat.

Freshman Year Record

Makenna had an amazing start to her Penn State career. Her freshman year she started 29 games and played in all 30 of their games that season. She averaged 9.2 points per game, 4.5 rebounds and 2.2 assists. Their record that season was 7-23.

Sophomore Year Record

Starting in all 24 games, Makenna Marissa had an even better second season than her first. She averaged 13.4 points per game, 5 rebounds and 5 assists. Their final record that year was 9-15. Makenna improved tremendously after her freshman season.

Junior Year Record

Makenna has been continuing to grow throughout her junior season. She has accomplished many things. First, she has scored 30 or more points in five of her games- 30 points against Delaware State, 33 against Dugsuesne, 32 against Iowa, 31 against Purdue, and 32 against Michigan State. She has also now scored over 1,000 points in her career of Penn State basketball. She is 1 of only 40 women's basketball players at Penn State to accomplish this achievement. Makenna currently averages 22.8 points per game this season. Penn State's regular season record was 11-17.

Makenna and Her Roster

In my interview, Makenna said that one her biggest moments of success and pride for her and her teammates was when they beat the Ohio State Buckeyes last season. The Buckeyes, at that time, were ranked 25. Makenna said that she and her team are very close. They are like her best friends. They share the same goal of putting Penn State back on the map and push each other to be able to do so. They are also very encouraging. Makenna points out they need to work on rebounding and basketball IQ- meaning she wants her and her team to understand the game better. Makenna has high hopes for next season. They have impressive talent coming in next year, and they will have returning players with experience. She expects a lot of improvement for next season.

Makenna has the second highest average score in the entire Big 10. I have seen her play and know her potential. She is a great basketball player who will always work hard. During her time at Penn State she has won 27 games and lost 49 games. She is a great player, and I wish her the best of luck in the tournament and in the future.