

WISCONSIN

By Bre Morgan

For this article, I had the chance to talk to the Wisconsin women's basketball head coach, Coach Tsipis, and players Imani Lewis and Marsha Howard. In this article, I will be talking about the players and the coach's interests, families, and how basketball fits into their lives.

Coach Tsipis

Coach T's father was from Greece and the youngest player ever on the Greek national team. He was only 15 years old. He eventually immigrated to America to play basketball. Coach Tsipis was the youngest of five siblings. After a couple of years when his dad's career was over, he became a coach and an official. When I talked to Coach T, he said "Basketball is in my blood." I also asked him what was it like for his kids when he and his family moved from George Washington to Wisconsin. He said his kids had a little bit of anxiety, but they moved during the summer so they got to know some of their neighbors' kids. But he said the down side of living in Wisconsin is that Mike Sell's potato chips aren't there! That is his favorite food. He said sometimes they will have the chips shipped to them in Wisconsin. Some fun facts about him and his family are: (1) growing up he had a basketball hoop in his barn, (2) his son and daughter both play basketball, (3) and his family just got a new bulldog puppy named Luna. I also asked coach Tsipis what his favorite highlight from this season was and he said when they "beat Michigan State at the Kohl Center when MSU was ranked and when Kelly Carlis hit the game winning shot against Nebraska." And that's it for Coach T!

Imani Lewis

Imani Lewis grew up in Willingboro, New Jersey, with her mom, dad, and brother. She started playing basketball when she was six years old. I asked Imani why she picked Wisconsin. She said, "The thing that inspired me most to play basketball at Wisconsin is I wanted to change the program around. I wanted to go to a program that has not achieved the highest level and be able to change it and put the program on the road to success. I want to be able to make a name for myself and also my team, so people cannot underestimate our greatness." I also asked her what the biggest difference between college basketball and high school, was she said, "The biggest difference is in high school you're playing against all different types of talent. But in college, you're playing against people as good as you or better." Some fun facts about Imani are: (1) her favorite singer is Meek Mill, (2) she said the best thing about Madison is the cheese curds, (3) and if she could live anywhere in the world, she said she would live in Dubai. That's it for Imani!

Marsha Howard

Marsha Howard grew up in Chicago, Illinois, with her mom, dad and two brothers. She started playing basketball in third grade. I asked Marsha what her plans were after

graduating. She said, "My major is Sociology. I hope to continue playing basketball after college." Marsha also wants to use her degree in social work and wants to work with children. She also said "It's a very optional career choice of being a coach, as well."

I also asked Marsha why she picked Wisconsin and she said, "Initially it was having a black female coach, along with being not too far from home and being able to have my family come to games. Also, I loved the family atmosphere I got with visiting and the BEAUTIFUL scenery." Some fun facts about Marsha are: (1) her favorite athlete is Candace Parker (and Candace Parker is my favorite basketball player too!), (2) her favorite ice cream is Reese's or chocolate chip cookie dough, (3) and last but not least her favorite show is Martin. And that's it for Marsha!

I hope you enjoyed reading my article and it was nice for you to get to know Coach Tsipis, Imani Lewis, and Marsha Howard. Good luck in the Big 10 Tournament! Go Badgers!
XOXO Bre Morgan