

Scouting Report for the Women's NCAA Basketball Tournament

By Ralph Watkins

Final Four in Tampa -- April 5, 2019

4:00 p.m. Oregon vs. Baylor, ESPN2

6:30 p.m. UConn vs. Notre Dame, ESPN2



Baylor University

Seventh-ranked Oregon (33-4) will be the underdog when it steps on the court at 4 pm Friday to face top-ranked Baylor (35-1) in the first of two Final Four contests. The game will match Oregon's superior discipline against Baylor's dominating defense. Oregon leads the NCAA in terms of fewest turnovers and fewest fouls committed (see chart at the end of this report), while Baylor tops the NCAA in field goal percentage defense, rebounding margin, and blocked shot per game. The Ducks and Bears rank fairly close in most other metrics.

In addition to the defensive categories noted above, Baylor ranks in the top five nationally in several offensive categories: scoring margin (2), field goal percentage (4), 3-point field goal percentage (4), assists per game (1), and assist-to-turnover ratio (2). The Bears have a tall, balanced, and experienced team that dominates the paint, makes few mistakes, and can shoot the ball accurately from distance when necessary.

The twin towers of 6-7 senior Kalani Brown and 6-4 junior Lauren Cox make for an imposing back line on both offense and defense. The pair combines for 28 points, 16 rebounds, 5 assists, and 4 blocks per game. Each was named to both the All-Big 12 First Team and Big 12 All-Defensive Team this season, with Cox also honored as the Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year. Brown likes to work close to the basket where she sports a 61% FG accuracy, while Cox likes to step out for the option of a mid-range jumper or driving to the hole. She connects on 51% of her shots. Cox has an excellent handle, dishing out 2.6 assists for each turnover committed.

Baylor sports a pair of quick 5-8 combo guards in LSU graduate transfer Chloe Jackson and hometown junior Juicy Landrum. Each was honored as All-Big 12 Second Team members this season. The duo combines for 23 points, 9 rebounds, 9 assists, and 3 steals per game. Jackson uses her speed to get to the basket (48% FG accuracy) or dish to a big, while Landrum is the Bears' most effective outside shooter, connecting on 40% of her shots from beyond the arc. Landrum has made over half of Baylor's total 3-

point baskets this season. Expect her to receive plenty of attention from Oregon's matchup zone. Duck guards may have double duty defending the 3 ball and dropping back in the paint to annoy Brown.

While Landrum shows off her shooting skills on the wing, 6-1 sophomore off guard Di Di Richards uses her height to lob passes to Brown and Cox or to overpower opposing guards while driving to the hole. She has not attempted a 3-point shot this season. She is more likely to pass the ball than to shoot it, but when she does release her shot, she makes good on over half of her attempts. Richards is second on the team in assists (4 apg), with an excellent assist-to-turnover ratio of 2.45 to one. Richards is also a shut-down defender and was named to the Big 12 All-Defensive Team this season. Satou Sabally and Erin Boley will likely share responsibility for disrupting Richards' offensive efficiency and testing her defensive skills.

Three bench players provide effective relief for Baylor's starters, averaging between 10 and 15 minutes per game. 6-2 junior NaLynssa Smith and 6-3 freshman Queen Egbo play close to the basket, combining for 14 points and 9 rebounds per game, with Smith shooting at a 53% clip. 5-6 sophomore Moon Ursin is instant offense off the bench, making 42% of her attempts from distance, while also adept at applying ball pressure on defense.

Honors:

Kalani Brown was All-Big 12 First Team in 2019 and 2018 and Big 12 All-Defensive Team in 2019 and 2017. In 2016, she was named to the Big 12 All-Freshman Team. She was AP Honorable Mention All-American in 2017. She was a McDonald's All-American in HS and the 2014 Gatorade Louisiana Player of the Year. Both of her parents (Dee and PJ) played basketball for Louisiana Tech. Her father played in the NBA for 15 seasons.

Lauren Cox was All Big 12 First Team and Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year in 2019 and Big 12 Freshman of the Year in 2017. She was rated the no. 2 recruit in the nation by Prospects Nation.

Chloe Jackson was All-SEC Second Team last season at LSU prior to earning All-Big 12 Second Team honors this season at Baylor. She spent her freshman season at North Carolina State. She was the Washington Post's Girls Basketball Player of the Year as a senior at Riverdale Baptist HS in Upper Marlboro, MD.

Juicy Landrum was All-Big 12 Second Team this season and was rated the no. 40 recruit in the nation by ESPN HoopGurlz.

Di Di Richards was named to the Big 12 All-Defensive Team this season and was both a McDonalds and Jordan Brands All-American in HS.

NaLyssa Smith was both a McDonalds and Jordan Brands All-American in HS.

Moon Ursin is a three-time Gatorade Louisiana Player of the Year.

Honesty Scott-Grayson was ranked the no. 20 recruit in the nation by ESPN HoopGurlz.



**DiDi
Richards**
G 6-1 So



**Lauren
Cox**
F 6-4 Jr



**Kalani
Brown**
C 6-7 Sr



**Juicy
Landrum**
G 5-8 Jr



**Chloe
Jackson**
G 5-8 Grad

Baylor--Likely Starters and Stats:



- 2 DiDi Richards, 6-1 So, Cypress, TX**
7 points, 3.9 rebounds, 4.1 assists, and 1.4 steals
- 15 Lauren Cox, 6-4 Jr, Flower Mound, TX**
12.9 points, 8.3 rebounds, 3.7 assists, and 2.5 blocks
- 21 Kalani Brown, 6-7 Sr, Slidell, LA**
15.5 points, 8.1 rebounds, 1.6 assists, and 1.7 blocks
- 20 Juicy Landrum, 5-8 Jr, Waco, TX**
11.3 points, 5 rebounds, and 3.9 assists
- 24 Chloe Jackson, 5-8 Sr, Upper Marlboro, MD**
11.4 points, 3.7 rebounds, 5.3 assists, and 1.6 steals

Key Subs:

- 1 NaLyssa Smith, 6-2 Jr, Converse, TX**
8.4 points and 5.1 rebounds
- 25 Queen Egbo, 6-3 Fr, Houston, TX**
5.5 points and 4.2 rebounds
- 12 Moon Ursin, 5-6 So, Destrehan, LA**
4.2 points, 2.4 rebounds, and 1.5 assists
- 10 Aquira DeCosta, 6-0 Fr, Sacramento, CA**
3 points and 1.9 rebounds
- 4 Honesty Scott-Grayson, 5-9 Fr, Brick, NJ**
2.6 points



1 · NALYSSA SMITH

F · 6-2 · Fr.
Converse, Texas



2 · DIDI RICHARDS

G · 6-1 · So.
Cypress, Texas



3 · TRINITY OLIVER

G · 5-9 · R-Fr.
Euless, Texas



4 · HONESTY SCOTT-GRAYSON

G · 5-9 · Fr.
Brick, N.J.



10 · AQUIRA DECOSTA

F · 6-0 · Fr.
Sacramento, Calif.



12 · MOON URSIN

G · 5-6 · So.
Destrehan, La.



15 · LAUREN COX

F · 6-4 · Jr.
Flower Mound, Texas



20 · JUICY LANDRUM

G · 5-8 · Jr.
Waco, Texas



21 · KALANI BROWN

C · 6-7 · Sr.
Slidell, La.



24 · CHLOE JACKSON

G · 5-8 · Gs.
Upper Marlboro, Md.



25 · QUEEN EGBO

C · 6-3 · Fr.
Houston, Texas



51 · CAITLIN BICKLE

F · 6-0 · Fr.
Cave Creek, Ariz.



KIM MULKEY

Head Coach
19th Season



BILL BROCK

Associate Head Coach
16th Season



SYTIA MESSER

Assistant Coach
Sixth Season



TOYELLE WILSON

Assistant Coach
Sixth Season



University of Oregon: Likely Starters and Stats:

- 0 Satou Sabally, 6-4 So, Berlin, Germany**
16.6 points, 6.3 rebounds, 2 assists, and 1.4 steals
- 21 Erin Boley, 6-2 So, Hodgenville, KY**
12.4 points, 3.5 rebounds, and 1.1 assists
- 24 Ruthy Hebard, 6-4 Jr, Fairbanks, AK**
16.4 points, 9.1 rebounds, and 1 assist
- 20 Sabrina Ionescu, 5-11 Jr, Walnut Creek, CA**
19.9 points, 7.5 rebounds, 8.2 assists, and 1.4 steals
- 5 Maite Cazorla, 5-10 Sr, Las Palmas, Spain**
9.8 points, 1.3 rebounds, 4.4 assists, and 1.1 steals

Key Subs:

- 32 Oti Gildon, 6-1 Sr, Spokane, WA**
4.6 points and 3.5 rebounds
- 14 Lydia Giomi, 6-6 So, Seattle, WA**
1.8 points and 2.1 rebounds
- 2 Morgan Yeager, 5-9 So, Adelaide, Australia**
1.5 points

Injured, questionable for the NCAA Tournament:

- 3 Taylor Chavez, 5-10 Fr, Surprise, AZ**
4.5 points, 1.3 rebounds, 1.6 assists, and 1.2 steals

Injured, out for the season:

- 1 Nyara Sabally, 6-4 Fr, Berlin, Germany**



University of Connecticut

Second-ranked Connecticut (35-2) will seek to halt third-ranked Notre-Dame (33-3), the defending NCAA National Champion, in Friday's second national semifinal game. Both teams are ranked in the NCAA top four for scoring and scoring margin (see chart at the end of this report). Notre Dame is a better rebounding team, while UConn has better defensive stats. Like Oregon, both teams rely on their starters for the bulk of their scoring, with little help off the bench. Both teams have five starters averaging in double-figure scoring, with UConn's starters accounting for 93% of the team's total points per game, compared with 91% for Notre Dame. (Oregon's starters account for 88% of the Ducks' total points.)

UConn's leading scorers are 6-2 senior center Napheesa Collier (21 points, 11 rebounds, and 1.5 steals per game) and 6-3 senior wing Katie Lou Samuelson (19 points, 7 rebounds, and 4 assists per game). Collier is usually quicker and more athletic than opposing post players. She also has a good mid-range jumper. Her speed allows her to score on the fast break as well. She makes good on 62% from the field and is a good ball handler, with a 2:1 assist to turnover ratio. Samuelson leads the team in made 3-pointers and connects on 38% of her shots from beyond the arc. Her height and smooth delivery make her shots difficult to defend. Samuelson is second on the team in assists, with a 2.5:1 assist to turnover ratio.

Crystal Dangerfield, a 5-5 junior, is the floor general. She can use her quickness to drive through the paint for a layup or dish to a taller teammate, or pull up for a jumper. She averages 14 points and 6 assist per contest. She leads the team in steals (1.6 spg) and is an excellent ball handler (3:1 assist to turnover ratio). She is not shy about taking shots from distance, tying Samuelson for the team lead in three-pointers attempted, but making four fewer (36% accuracy). 5-11 freshman Christyn Williams (12 points per game) helps bring the ball up the court. She too shoots 36% from 3-point range.

Similar to Samuelson, 6-1 sophomore forward Megan Walker (12 points and 7 rebounds per game) likes to step outside for her shots, making room for Collier to create in the paint. Walker is UConn's most accurate 3-point shooter at 40%.

Three players average between 10 and 14 minutes per game off the bench. Olivia Nelson-Ododa, a 6-4 freshman, is the team's best shot blocker, totaling nearly as many blocks as Collier but in 40% of her playing time. Nelson-Ododa contributes 4 points and 4 rebounds per game. 5-9 sophomore Mikayla Coombs enters the game to run the offense and apply pressure defense. When a quick scoring punch

is needed, the Coach Auriemma can turn to 5-9 junior Molly Brent or 6-2 junior Kyla Irwin. They shoot 55% and 39%, respectively, from 3-point range.

Honors:

Napheesa Collier was named the AAC Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year this season. Collier previously shared AAC Player of the Year honor with teammate Katie Lou Samuelson in 2017. Collier was AP First Team All-American in 2017 and Third Team in 2018. She was a McDonald's All-American in 2015 and was the Gatorade Missouri Player of the Year in 2013, 2014, and 2015. Her father played rugby at Buckingham University in England.

Samuelson was also the AAC Player of the Year in 2018. She was named AP All-American in 2017 and 2018. As a senior in HS, she was named the National Player of the Year by Gatorade, USA Today, McDonald's, WBCA, and Naismith. She was also Gatorade's State Player of the Year in California in 2014 and 2015. Her two sisters both played basketball for Stanford. Her father played for Cal State Fullerton and professionally in Europe.

Chrystal Dangerfield was All-AAC First Team this season, after being Third Team in 2018 and on the All-Freshman Team in 2017. In HS, she was named the 2016 Morgan Wooten Player of the Year, as well as McDonald's All-American. She was the Gatorade Tennessee Player of the year in 2014, 2015, and 2016.

Megan Walker was All-AAC Third Team this season.

Christyn Williams was honored as AAC Freshman of the Year this season. In 2018, she was named the Gatorade National Player of the Year and was rated the no. 1 recruit in the nation by ESPN.

Olivia Nelson-Ododa was a McDonald's All-American in 2018 when she was ranked the no. 5 recruit in the nation by ESPN.

Mikayla Coombs' father played soccer for the Jamaican National Team.



**Katie Lou
Samuelson**
6-3 G Sr



**Megan
Walker**
6-1 F So



**Napheesa
Collier**
6-2 F Sr



**Christyn
Williams**
5-11 G Fr



**Crystal
Dangerfield**
5-5 G Jr

UConn--Likely Starters and Stats:

- 33 Katie Lou Samuelson, 6-3 Sr, Huntington Beach, CA**
18.5 points, 6.5 rebounds, 3.8 assists, and 1.2 steals
- 3 Megan Walker, 6-1 So, Chesterfield, VA**
12 points, 6.7 rebounds, 1.9 assists, and 1.2 steals
- 24 Napheesa Collier, 6-2 Sr, O'Fallon, MO**
21 points, 10.8 rebounds, 3.6 assists, 1.6 blocks, and 1.5 steals
- 13 Christyn Williams, 5-11 Fr, Little Rock, AR**
11.5 points, 3.2 rebounds, 2.2 assists, and 1.2 steals
- 5 Crystal Dangerfield, 5-5 Jr, Murfreesboro, TN**
13.7 points, 3.3 rebounds, 5.8 assists, and 1.6 steals

Key Subs:

- 20 Olivia Nelson-Ododa, 6-4 Fr, Winder, GA**
4.4 points, 3.8 rebounds, and 1.4 blocks
- 10 Molly Bent, 5-9 Jr, Centerville, MA**
2 points
- 25 Kyla Irwin, 6-2 Jr, State College, PA**
1.6 points and 1.7 rebounds
- 32 Batouly Camara, 6-2 Jr, New York, NY**
1.6 points and 1.2 rebounds
- 4 Mikayla Coombs, 5-8 So, Buford, GA**
1.6 rebounds

2018-19 UCONN *Huskies*



3

MEGAN WALKER

G/F | 6-1 | So.



4

MIKAYLA COOMBS

G | 5-8 | So.



5

CRYSTAL DANGERFIELD

G | 5-5 | Jr.



10

MOLLY BENT

G | 5-9 | Jr.



13

CHRISTYN WILLIAMS

G | 5-11 | Fr.



20

OLIVIA NELSON-ODODA

F | 6-4 | So.



24

NAPHEESA COLLIER

F | 6-1 | Sr.



25

KYLA IRWIN

F | 6-2 | Jr.



32

BATOULY CAMARA

F | 6-2 | R-Jr.



33

KATIE LOU SAMUELSON

G/F | 6-3 | Sr.



GENO AURIEMMA

Head Coach



CHRIS DAILEY

Assoc. Head Coach



SHEA RALPH

Assistant Coach



JASMINE LISTER

Assistant Coach



Notre Dame University

Notre Dame lost only one starter to graduation after its NCAA Championship in 2018. 6-2 Kathryn Westbeld was replaced in the starting lineup by 6-3 graduate student Brianna Turner who sat out last season following a devastating knee injury. Prior to her injury, Turner was named to several All-America teams in 2016 and 2017. She is still working to regain past form. Her game is in the paint with her back to the basket. From the interior, she is averaging 14 points and 8 rebounds per game, while connecting on 64% of her field goal attempts. She is a powerful defender, blocking 100 shots this season and also coming away with 42 steals.

Turner's presence in the interior allows 6-4 senior Jessica Shepard to pop outside for midrange jumpers or work the baseline where her girth and footwork can create high percentage shots. Shepard is averaging 16 points and 10 rebounds per game while shooting 61% from the field. 6-0 junior Jackie Young is the third member of the lunch pail crew. She can use her quickness to slash to the basket, pop up for a mid-range jumper, or crash the boards. She averages 15 points on 55% shooting and grabs 7 rebounds per game. Young has a knack for getting the ball to her taller teammates, earning her a team-leading 5 assists per game.

With their teammates controlling the boards, guards Arike Ogunbowale (5-8 senior) and Marina Mabrey (5-11 senior) are free to fire away from long range, confident that their pals will corral any missed shots. On defense, they can release for fast break receptions when Turner, Shepard, and Young come away with rebounds. Ogunbowale is connecting on 35% from three-point range, while Mabrey leads the team in made 3s (72) and 3-point percentage (41%). Ogunbowale also uses her quickness to break free for mid-range jumpers and come up with steals for fast break opportunities that up her overall FG accuracy to 45%. Ogunbowale leads the team in scoring (22 ppg) and steals (2spg), while also contributing in rebounding (5 rpg) and assists (4 apg). Mabrey has developed a solid all-around game, averaging 13 points and 5 assists.

Four players average between 10 and 15 minutes off the bench. Sophomores Mikayla Vaughn (6-3) and Danielle Patterson (6-2) provide relief for Turner and Shepard in the middle. Freshmen Abby Prohaska (5-10) and Jordan Nixon (5-8) sub in at guard. These four subs combine for 11 points and 7 rebounds per game. On the season, they account for 89 (12%) of the team's assists, but 125 (25%) of the Irish turnovers. The youngsters will need to take better care of the ball if they want more playing time.

ACC Honors, 2019

First Team

Arike Ogunbowale (Blue Ribbon Panel and Coaches)

Jessica Shepard (Blue Ribbon Panel and Coaches)

Marina Mabrey (Coaches)

Second Team

Jackie Young (Blue Ribbon Panel and Coaches)

Marina Mabrey (Coaches)

Other Honors:

Arike Ogunbowale was a McDonald's and a Parade All American in HS. She has helped the United States win five medals in FIBA competition. Her older brother is a running back at Wisconsin. Her mother was a pitcher for DePaul's softball team, and her father played soccer and rugby for the Nigerian national teams.

Jessica Shepard was a Parade All-American in HS and played for the USA U18 team in FIBA competition.

Marina Mabrey holds the ACC record for steals in a game with 12 versus Valparaiso. She was both a McDonald's and Parade All American in HS and played for the USA U18 team in FIBA competition.

Jackie Young was rated the no. 5 prospect on the country as a senior in HS.

Brianna Turner was a WBCA and USBWA All-American and AP Second Team All-American in 2016 and 2017. She was the ACC Player of the Year (Coaches) and Defensive Player of the Year in 2016. The previous season, she was First Team All-ACC and ACC Freshman of the Year (Blue Ribbon and Coaches). In 2014, she was the Gatorade National Female Athlete of the Year and USA Today National High School Player of the Year. ESPN ranked her as the no. 2 recruit in the nation. She was a McDonald's All-American and 2014 Texas Miss Basketball. Both parents played basketball collegiately, her father at Lamar and her mother at Houston. Her uncle, Shannon Jones, was a linebacker at the University of Southern California.

Katlyn Gilbert was both a McDonald's and Jordan Brand All-American in 2018.

Jordan Nixon was a 2018 McDonald's All-American.

Mikayla Vaughn's father was the captain and quarterback of the football team at Penn.



**Jackie
Young**
G 6-0 Jr



**Jessica
Shepard**
F 6-4 Sr



**Brianna
Turner**
F 6-3 Grad



**Arike
Ogunbowale**
G 5-8 Sr



**Marina
Mabrey**
G 5-11 Sr

Notre Dame--Likely Starters and Stats:

- 5 Jackie Young, 6-0 Jr, Princeton, IN**
14.9 points, 7.3 rebounds, 5.2 assists, and 1.4 steals
- 32 Jessica Shepard, 6-4 Sr, Fremont, NE**
16.9 points, 10.1 rebounds, 3.2 assists, and 1.5 steals
- 11 Brianna Turner, 6-3 GS, Pearland, TX**
14.4 points, 7.6 rebounds, 1.5 assists, 2.8 blocks, and 1.2 steals
- 24 Arike Ogunbowale, 5-8 Sr, Milwaukee, WI**
21.5 points, 4.8 rebounds, 4.0 assists, and 1.9 steals
- 3 Marina Mabrey, 5-11 Sr, Belmar, NJ**
12.7 points, 2.7 rebounds, 4.8 assists, and 1.4 steals



Key Subs:

- 30 Mikayla Vaughn, 6-3 So, Philadelphia, PA**
3.6 points and 2.5 rebounds
- 32 Danielle Patterson, 6-2 So, Brooklyn, NY**
3.1 points and 1.5 rebounds
- 0 Jordan Nixon, 5-8 Fr, New York, NY**
2.6 points, 1.2 rebounds, and 1.4 assists
- 12 Abby Prohaska, 5-10 Fr, Liberty Township, OH**
1.5 points, 1.9 rebounds, and 1.2 assists
- 22 Danielle Cosgrove, 6-4 Fr, Holbrook, NY**
1.4 points

Women's Final Four teams in the top 10 NCAA rankings, games through March 31, 2019				
Category	Rank	Individual	Team	Amount
Team				
Scoring Offense	1		Notre Dame	89.1
	3		Oregon	85.4
	4		UConn	82.9
	7		Baylor	81.9
Scoring Defense	10		Baylor	54.7
Scoring Margin	2		Baylor	27.2
	3		UConn	27.1
	4		Notre Dame	25.1
	5		Oregon	22.7
Field Goal Percentage	2		Notre Dame	51.8%
	3		Oregon	50.5%
	4		Baylor	50.2%
	5		UConn	49.3%
Field Goal % Defense	1		Baylor	31.4%
	7		UConn	34.0%
Rebounding Margin	1		Baylor	17.9
	4		Notre Dame	10.5
Three Point FG per game	7		Oregon	9.8
Three Point FG percentage	1		Oregon	41.7 %
	4		Baylor	38.5%
Assists per game	1		Baylor	22.7
	4		Notre Dame	20.7
	5		UConn	19.7
	6		Oregon	19.0
Blocked shots per game	1		Baylor	7.3
Fewest Turnovers per Game	1		Oregon	9.9
Fewest Fouls Per Game	1		UConn	12.0
	4		Oregon	12.8
	6		Notre Dame	13.1
Assist to Turnover Ratio	1		Oregon	1.91
	2		Baylor	1.76
	3		UConn	1.67
	6		Notre Dame	1.48
Rebounds per game	2		Baylor	47.6
	4		Notre Dame	43.9
Individual				
Assists per game	3	Sab Ionescu	Oregon	8.2
Blocked shots per game	10	Brianna Turner	Notre Dame	2.78
Field Goal Percentage	2	Ruthy Hebard	Oregon	67.2%
	5	Brianna Turner	Notre Dame	64.3%
	8	Naph Collier	UConn	61.5%
	10	Kalani Brown	Baylor	61.1%
Three Point FG percentage	9	Erin Boley	Oregon	43.5%
Assist to Turnover Ratio	7	Sab Ionescu	Oregon	3.28
	10	Maite Cazorla	Oregon	3.10