

# 2018-19 VALPARAISO MEN'S BASKETBALL QUICK FACTS

## GENERAL

**Name of School:** Valparaiso University  
**City/Zip:** Valparaiso, Ind. 46383  
**Founded:** 1859  
**Enrollment:** 3,808  
**Nickname:** Crusaders  
**School Colors:** Brown and Gold  
**Home Court (Capacity):** Athletics-Recreation Center (5,000)  
**Press Row Phone:** 219-548-1502  
**Affiliation:** NCAA Division I  
**Conference:** Missouri Valley Conference  
**President:** Dr. Mark Heckler  
**Athletics Director:** Mark LaBarbera  
**Senior Woman Administrator:** Kimberly Smith  
**Athletics Department Phone:** 219-464-6894  
**Ticket Office Phone:** 219-464-5233  
**Website:** www.valpoathletics.com

## COACHING STAFF

**Head Coach:** Matt Lottich - Third season  
**Alma Mater (Year):** Stanford (2004)  
**Record at Valpo (Seasons):** 39-26 (Two seasons)  
**Overall Record (Seasons):** 39-26 (Two seasons)  
**Men's Basketball Office Phone:** 219-464-5254  
**Associate Head Coach:** Luke Gore (17th season)  
**Assistant Coaches:** Todd Townsend (First season) and Rob Holloway (First season)  
**Special Assistant to the Head Coach/Director of Basketball Operations:** Matt Bowen (First season)

## SPORTS MEDIA RELATIONS

**Assistant Athletics Director/Media Relations (MBB Contact):**  
Aaron Leavitt  
**Office phone number:** 219.464.6953  
**Cell phone number:** 219.476.6680  
**E-mail:** Aaron.Leavitt@valpo.edu

**Assistant Director of Media Relations:** Brandon Vickrey  
**Office phone number:** 219.464.5396  
**Cell phone number:** 219.771.7504  
**E-mail:** Brandon.Vickrey@valpo.edu

**Media Relations Fax number:** 219.464.5762

### Media Relations Mailing Address:

Valparaiso University  
Sports Media Relations  
Athletics-Recreation Center  
1009 Union Street  
Valparaiso, IN 46383

## TEAM INFORMATION

**Overall Record last year:** 15-17  
**Conference Record (Finish):** 6-12 (10th/10)  
**Home/Road/Neutral:** 10-4 / 3-12 / 2-1  
**Final Ranking last year:** n/a  
**Postseason:** n/a  
**Letterwinners Returning/Lost:** 7/5  
**Starters Returning/Lost:** 3/2

## HISTORY

**First year of basketball:** 1917-18  
**All-time record:** 1358-1204 (101 seasons)  
**NCAA Tournament appearances:** 14 (9 since 1996)  
**Last NCAA Tournament appearance:** 2015  
**Result:** L 65-62 vs. Maryland (Columbus, Ohio) - 2nd round  
**All-time NCAA Tournament record:** 9-14  
**Postseason NIT appearances:** 4  
**Last NIT appearance:** 2017  
**Result:** L 82-57 at Illinois in 1st round  
**All-time NIT record:** 4-4  
**Last CBI appearance:** 2008  
**Result:** W 72-71 at Washington in 1st round, L 91-67 at Houston in quarterfinal  
**All-time CBI record:** 1-1  
**CIT appearances:** 2  
**Last CIT appearance:** 2014  
**Result:** L 58-56 vs. Columbia at home in 1st round  
**All-time CIT record:** 0-2

## MEDIA INFORMATION

**Radio:** Valpo Sports Radio Network (WVUR, 95.1 FM, Valparaiso)  
**Play-by-play:** Todd Ickow [219.771.8487]  
**Color analyst:** David Huseman/Aaron Leavitt  
**Contact:** Aaron Leavitt

**Newspaper:** Times of Northwest Indiana  
**Sports Editor:** Ryan Nilsson  
**Phone number:** 219.462.5151  
**Fax number:** 219.465.7298

**Newspaper:** Post-Tribune  
**Sports Editor:** Mike Clark  
**Phone number:** 312.321.2228  
**Fax number:** 219.648.3236

**Newspaper:** The Torch  
**Sports Editor:** Maria Marzullo  
**Phone number:** 219.464.5426  
**Fax number:** 219.464.6728

# CRUSADER NOTES

- The Valparaiso University men's basketball program heads into its second season of Missouri Valley Conference play this season, coming off of a 15-17 overall record a year ago and a 6-12 mark in its first season of MVC action. The 2017-18 campaign marked the first time in the last eight years that Valpo has not earned a bid to postseason tournament play.

- Valpo will be replacing five letterwinners from last year's team, most notably a pair of graduated seniors in Tevonn Walker and Max Joseph who have gone on to professional careers in Europe. Walker was an MVC All-Defensive Team selection as a senior, finishing the year second in the conference in steals, seventh in free throw percentage and eighth in scoring. Joseph started 21 games as a senior and averaged 7.3 points and 4.2 rebounds per game.

- A pair of MVC postseason honorees highlight the corps of seven returnees for Valpo in 2018-19. Junior Bakari Evelyn led Valpo in assists and finished second on the team in scoring last season in his first year as a Crusader. The only Valpo player to start all 32 games last year, Evelyn was a member of the MVC All-Newcomer Team and averaged a team-high 14.1 points per game in MVC play.

- Junior college transfer Markus Golder made an immediate impact on the Crusaders in his first season as well. The junior was named to the MVC All-Bench Team after averaging 9.5 points per game and leading Valpo on the year with 138 total rebounds. A high flyer who electrified the fanbase with his dunking ability, Golder also proved to be the Crusaders' top shooter on the season, finishing the year best on the team in both 3-point percentage (42.9%) and free throw percentage (83.1%).

- Evelyn and Golder are two of seven members of Valpo's large junior class. Up front, juniors Derrik Smits and Jaume Sorolla again look to split time at the center position after combining to average 12.4 points, seven rebounds and two blocks per game a season ago.

- On the wing, junior John Kiser averaged 18.2 minutes per game in his first season on scholarship and led Valpo in rebounding in eight of his 26 appearances. In the backcourt, junior Micah Bradford came off the bench last year and paced the Crusaders in assists in conference play.

- Valpo's seventh and final returnee from last year is sophomore forward Mileek McMillan. McMillan joined the Crusader starting five just after the start of MVC play and started each of Valpo's final 18 games of the season.

- Valpo's lone senior is a graduate transfer, Deion Lavender. The 6'3" guard spent the last two seasons at UAB, appearing in 52 games for the Blazers. As a sophomore in 2016-17, Lavender led UAB and ranked eighth in Conference USA in assists and also ranked ninth in the conference in assist/turnover ratio. He brings MVC experience to the Valpo program as well, as he spent his freshman year at Southern Illinois.

- Local product Ryan Fazekas is eligible this season for the first time after sitting out last year as a transfer from Providence. The junior wing made 19 starts in his two years with the Friars and connected on 56 3-pointers. A standout at Marquette Catholic H.S. in Michigan City, Fazekas led the school to the Indiana 1A state title in 2014.

- Valpo welcomes a trio of freshmen to the fold this season as well. Javon Freeman finished his senior year fifth in the voting for Mr. Basketball in the state of Illinois, leading Whitney Young to the Illinois 4A state title in 2017 and a second consecutive championship game appearance in 2018. Daniel Sackey is a speedy guard from Winnipeg who was ranked #16 in his class in Canada and won the Slam Dunk Contest at the 2018 BioSteel All-Canadian Game. Langston Stalling is another local product, coming from Bowman Academy in Gary where he averaged 18.6 points per game as a senior. Stalling is attending Valpo on a Lilly Scholarship.

- The Crusaders also have a pair of transfers sitting out this season who will have two years of eligibility remaining, beginning with the 2019-20 season. Indianapolis native Eron Gordon comes to Valpo after playing two seasons at Seton Hall, while Chicago native Nick Robinson joins the Crusaders after two years at Saint Joseph's.

# 2018-19 VALPARAISO MEN'S BASKETBALL ROSTER

#	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown/High School [Prev. School(s)]
0	<b>Javon Freeman</b>	G	6-3	175	Fr.	Chicago, Ill./Whitney Young
1	<b>Micah Bradford</b>	G	6-2	155	Jr.	Bourbonnais, Ill./Bradley-Bourbonnais
2	<b>Deion Lavender</b>	G	6-3	205	R-Sr.	Alton, Ill./Marquette Catholic [UAB/Southern Illinois]
3	<b>Daniel Sackey</b>	G	5-9	175	Fr.	Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada/Thornlea
4	<b>Bakari Evelyn</b>	G	6-2	180	R-Jr.	Detroit, Mich./Hillcrest [Ariz.] Academy/Southfield Christian [Nebraska]
5	<b>Markus Golder</b>	G/F	6-6	195	R-Jr.	Portland, Ore./Clackamas [North Idaho]
12	<b>Langston Stalling</b>	G	6-3	210	Fr.	Gary, Ind./Bowman Academy
14	<b>Jaume Sorolla</b>	C	7-0	240	Jr.	Tortosa, Spain/Sunrise Christian [Kan.] Academy
21	<b>Derrick Smits</b>	C	7-1	240	R-Jr.	Zionsville, Ind./Zionsville
23	<b>Mileek McMillan</b>	F	6-8	220	So.	Merrillville, Ind./Merrillville
33	<b>John Kiser</b>	G/F	6-5	205	Jr.	Noblesville, Ind./Noblesville
35	<b>Ryan Fazekas</b>	G/F	6-7	200	R-Jr.	Chesterton, Ind./Marquette Catholic [Providence]
	<b>Eron Gordon</b>	G	6-3	200	Jr.*	Indianapolis, Ind./Cathedral [Seton Hall]
	<b>Nick Robinson</b>	G	6-5	200	Jr.*	Chicago, Ill./Kenwood [Saint Joseph's]

\* - indicates player must sit out the 2018-2019 season due to NCAA transfer regulations

Head Coach: **Matt Lottich** (Stanford, 2004) – 3rd season

Associate Head Coach: **Luke Gore** (Bethel [Tenn.], 2001) – 17th season

Assistant Coaches: **Rob Holloway** (Eastern Illinois, 2005) – 1st season and **Todd Townsend** (Marquette, 2005) – 1st season

Special Assistant to the Head Coach/Director of Basketball Operations: **Matt Bowen** (Indiana, 1995) – 1st season

Strength and Conditioning Coach: **Derek Bol** – 7th season

# 2017-18 VALPARAISO MEN'S BASKETBALL STATS

#	Player	gp-gs	min	Total			3-Point		F-Throw		Rebounds											
				avg	fg-fga	fg%	3fg-fga	3fg%	ft-fa	ft%	off	def	tot	avg	pf	dq	a	to	blk	stl	pts	avg
02	Walker, Tevonn	28-28	864	30.9	134-346	.387	39-137	.285	106-136	.779	32	103	135	4.8	67	1	49	48	2	48	413	14.8
04	Evelyn, Bakari	32-32	1006	31.4	140-312	.449	57-149	.383	65-85	.765	8	90	98	3.1	71	0	93	88	3	44	402	12.6
10	x-Burton, Joe	10-10	251	25.1	39-81	.481	17-45	.378	20-26	.769	8	26	34	3.4	14	0	8	16	6	1	115	11.5
05	Golder, Markus	32-5	724	22.6	109-221	.493	33-77	.429	54-65	.831	27	111	138	4.3	74	3	41	50	16	26	305	9.5
21	Smits, Derrick	32-18	570	17.8	91-160	.569	0-0	.000	57-87	.655	43	71	114	3.6	76	1	23	62	21	6	239	7.5
03	Joseph, Max	32-21	842	26.3	84-173	.486	17-47	.362	48-80	.600	31	104	135	4.2	73	2	66	47	2	48	233	7.3
01	Bradford, Micah	31-0	507	16.4	55-161	.342	25-91	.275	24-49	.490	4	41	45	1.5	60	1	68	38	2	21	159	5.1
14	Sorolla, Jaume	30-14	488	16.3	55-101	.545	0-1	.000	37-48	.771	44	59	103	3.4	74	2	7	25	32	11	147	4.9
23	McMillan, Mileek	32-18	338	10.6	36-87	.414	16-44	.364	14-18	.778	8	38	46	1.4	64	2	11	36	7	5	102	3.2
33	Kiser, John	26-3	472	18.2	19-48	.396	9-26	.346	25-33	.758	27	69	96	3.7	45	1	23	12	6	12	72	2.8
12	Linssen, Marten	22-0	163	7.4	13-30	.433	0-0	.000	19-33	.576	15	29	44	2.0	39	2	6	15	7	12	45	2.0
00	Hazen, Parker	21-11	175	8.3	6-20	.300	0-6	.000	8-14	.571	8	17	25	1.2	22	0	4	19	1	1	20	1.0
	Team										39	64	103				13					
	Total.....	32	6400		781-1740	.449	213-623	.342	477-674	.708	294	822	1116	34.9	679	15	399	469	105	235	2252	70.4
	Opponents.....	32	6400		732-1740	.421	192-612	.314	526-741	.710	309	765	1074	33.6	606	14	406	450	88	201	2182	68.2

# 2017-18 VALPARAISO MEN'S BASKETBALL RESULTS

RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL GAMES	15-17	10-4	3-12	2-1
CONFERENCE	6-12	5-4	1-8	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	9-5	5-0	2-4	2-1

Date	Opponent	Score	Att.	High Points	High Rebounds
11-10-17	NORTH PARK	W 88-46	2682	(20)Bradford, Micah	(10)Golder, Markus
11-13-17	TRINITY CHRISTIAN	W 83-46	2545	(18)Walker, Tevonn	(9)Kiser, John
11/15/17	at SIUE	W 94-69	1353	(22)Walker, Tevonn	(6)Joseph, Max
11-19-17	!SE LOUISIANA	W 83-50	2651	(18)Burton, Joe	(6)Smits, Derrik
11-21-17	!SAMFORD	W 88-67	2259	(26)Walker, Tevonn	(9)Walker, Tevonn
11/24/17	!vs Kent State	W 77-67	485	(17)Walker, Tevonn	(7)Linssen, Marten
11/25/17	!vs UNCW	W 79-70	547	(30)Evelyn, Bakari	(8)Evelyn, Bakari
					(8)Sorolla, Jaume
11-28-17	UTAH STATE	W 72-65	2949	(25)Walker, Tevonn	(9)Walker, Tevonn
12/07/17	at #21/21 Purdue	50-80 L	14232	(19)Burton, Joe	(10)Sorolla, Jaume
12/9/17	at Ball State	70-71 L	5009	(17)Burton, Joe	(11)Joseph, Max
12/14/17	at Northwestern	50-84 L	5299	(16)Burton, Joe	(6)Golder, Markus
					(6)Kiser, John
12/18/17	at Santa Clara	W 76-68	1305	(14)Burton, Joe	(6)Kiser, John
12/20/17	at UC Riverside	60-73 L	454	(15)Joseph, Max	(7)Smits, Derrik
12-28-17	*at Indiana State	64-73 L	3269	(19)Walker, Tevonn	(7)Joseph, Max
				(19)Evelyn, Bakari	
12-31-17	*MISSOURI STATE	50-67 L	2440	(13)Joseph, Max	(5)Joseph, Max
01-03-18	*at Bradley	71-80 L	5294	(25)Walker, Tevonn	(7)Walker, Tevonn
01-06-18	*SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	W 83-72	2966	(17)Joseph, Max	(8)Walker, Tevonn
				(17)Sorolla, Jaume	
01-10-18	*DRAKE	W 77-60	2710	(26)Walker, Tevonn	(6)Walker, Tevonn
01/13/18	*at UNI	76-81 L	4707	(19)Evelyn, Bakari	(6)Golder, Markus
01/17/18	*at Missouri State	57-64 L	4876	(12)Golder, Markus	(7)Joseph, Max
01-21-18	*LOYOLA CHICAGO	54-70 L	4040	(19)Evelyn, Bakari	(6)Kiser, John
					(6)Smits, Derrik
01-24-18	*EVANSVILLE	65-75 L	2219	(17)Evelyn, Bakari	(6)Walker, Tevonn
					(6)Joseph, Max
					(6)Golder, Markus
01/27/18	*at Illinois State	65-76 L	5024	(20)Evelyn, Bakari	(7)Kiser, John
01-31-18	*INDIANA STATE	W 69-63	2228	(20)Evelyn, Bakari	(6)Smits, Derrik
2/3/18	*at Southern Illinois	59-65 L	5694	(16)Walker, Tevonn	(9)Evelyn, Bakari
2/7/18	*at Evansville	59-63 L	3425	(15)Golder, Markus	(6)Kiser, John
				(15)Evelyn, Bakari	
02-11-18	*ILLINOIS STATE	W 74-58	3330	(22)Evelyn, Bakari	(9)Kiser, John
02/14/18	*at Loyola Chicago	71-80 L	2091	(18)Walker, Tevonn	(8)Kiser, John
02/17/18	*BRADLEY	W 77-64	3021	(16)Golder, Markus	(7)Golder, Markus
02/20/18	*UNI	63-68 L	2071	(19)Evelyn, Bakari	(5)Golder, Markus
02/24/18	*at Drake	W 69-64	4025	(22)Smits, Derrik	(9)Golder, Markus
					(9)Walker, Tevonn
3/1/18	vs Missouri State	79-83 L	4852	(25)Walker, Tevonn	(6)Evelyn, Bakari

! = Savannah Invitational (Campus sites/Savannah, Ga.)

\* = Conference game

Attendance Summary	Games	Attend	Avg/Game
Home	14	38111	2722
Away	15	66057	4404
Neutral	3	5884	1961
Total	32	110052	3439