

2019-20 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: Sarah Pruess
Athletics Department Phone: 219-464-6894
Ticket Office Phone: 219-464-5233
Website: www.valpoathletics.com

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach: Matt Lottich - fourth season
Alma Mater (Year): Stanford (2004)
Record at Valpo (Seasons): 54-44 (three seasons)
Overall Record (Seasons): 54-44 (three seasons)
Men's Basketball Office Phone: 219-464-5254
Associate Head Coach: Luke Gore (18th season)
Assistant Coaches: Rob Holloway (second season) and Matt Bowen (second season, second stint)
Director of Basketball Operations: Jason Karys (first season)

SPORTS MEDIA RELATIONS

Assistant Director Athletics/Media Relations (MBB Contact):
Brandon Vickrey
Office phone number: 219.464.5396
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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: 15-18
Conference Record (Finish): 7-11 (t-8th/10)
Home/Road/Neutral: 8-7 / 5-8 / 2-3
Final Ranking last year: n/a
Postseason: n/a
Letter winners Returning/Lost: 5/7
Starters Returning/Lost: 3/3

HISTORY

First year of basketball: 1917-18
All-time record: 1374-1222 (102 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

Video: The Valley on ESPN (ESPN+/3, all home games and MVC road games)
Broadcast & Streaming Manager: Ron Blatz
Radio: Valpo Sports Radio Network (WVUR, 95.1 FM, Valparaiso)
Play-by-play: Todd Ickow [219.771.8487]
Color analyst: David Huseman (H) and Brandon Vickrey (R)

Newspaper: Times of Northwest Indiana
Sports Editor: Mike Clark
Phone number: 219.933.4197
Fax number: 219.465.7298

Newspaper: Post-Tribune
Sports Editor: Bill Scheibe
Phone number: 312.222.3915
Fax number: 219.648.3236

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

VALPO NOTES

- The Valparaiso University men's basketball program heads into its third season of Missouri Valley Conference play in 2019-20, coming off a 15-18 overall record and a 7-11 mark in its second season of MVC action. Valpo has qualified for a postseason tournament seven times in the last nine years, but is seeking its first postseason berth since playing in the NIT to conclude the 2016-17 season.

- Valpo will attempt to replace seven letter winners from last year's team, but brings back five letter winners including two of the team's top three scorers. In addition, the program has four true freshmen, one junior college transfer, two players who are eligible after sitting out 2018-19 due to transfer rules and two walk-ons (one freshman and one sophomore).

- After a decorated freshman campaign that included Missouri Valley Conference All-Freshman and All-Defensive Team recognition, Javon Freeman-Liberty is back for his sophomore season. He started all 33 games in 2018-19, averaging 11.0 points, 4.3 rebounds, 2.0 assists and 1.8 steals per contest. Freeman-Liberty led the MVC in steals, becoming the first Valpo freshman to lead a conference in one of the five major statistical categories. He was the first Valpo player since at least 1982 to lead a conference in steals. His 60 total steals were the third-most in program history and the most by a freshman. Freeman-Liberty also ranked among Valpo's most productive freshmen in program history in points (364, fourth) and rebounds (142). He was one of just two freshmen in program history to hold marks among the top five freshman totals in scoring, rebounding and steals.

- Fifth-year senior Ryan Fazekas is back for his third year on campus and second year of eligibility at Valpo after transferring from Providence. He started all 20 of his appearances during the 2018-19 season, but missed 13 games due to injuries. Fazekas ranked second on the team by averaging 11.8 points per game and led the team by shooting 43.2 percent from beyond the arc and knocking down 2.4 3-pointers per game. He also led the squad in free-throw percentage at 80.6.

- Fazekas is joined in the senior class by John Kiser, who appeared in 29 games as a junior and started on 11 occasions. He was a walk-on as a freshman and then received a scholarship starting with his sophomore season.

- Valpo's two remaining returnees are junior Mileek McMillan and sophomore Daniel Sackey. McMillan is local to Northwest Indiana after playing his prep basketball at Merrillville. He saw action in 30 games last season. Sackey appeared in all 33 contests as a freshman and made 17 starts. The Winnipeg, Manitoba native enjoyed Valpo's foreign tour to his native land in August as he knocked down a buzzer-beater to top Canadian powerhouse Carleton 83-80 in overtime. Sackey's shot ranked ninth on SportsCenter's Top 10 plays that evening.

- After transferring into the program prior to last season, Eron Gordon and Nick Robinson both have two years of eligibility beginning this year. Gordon appeared in 48 games over his two seasons (2016-18) at Seton Hall. He was a standout in the Indianapolis area during his prep days at Cathedral, where he became a finalist for Indiana's Mr. Basketball award. Robinson appeared in 62 games over two seasons (2016-18) at Saint Joseph's, where he made 30 starts. He was named the Robert O'Neill Award winner as the team's most improved player.

- Junior college transfer Zion Morgan will have two seasons of immediate eligibility starting this year. He helped lead Wabash Valley College to a 25-8 record in 2018-19 after beginning his collegiate career at UNLV during the 2016-17 campaign.

- Valpo's crop of newcomers includes a quartet of true freshmen hailing from four different countries. Donovan Clay earned 4A First-Team All-State honors from the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association following his senior season at Alton High School. Sigurd Lorange (Trondheim, Norway), Emil Freese-Vilien (Copenhagen, Denmark) and Ben Krikke (Edmonton, Alberta, Canada) have also joined the fold.

- Two walk-on players have joined the program for this season in sophomore Brock Pappas and freshman Luke Morrill. Pappas is a Valparaiso native and played basketball at Washington Township High School.

- Five players on the roster hail from Indiana, five call Illinois home and the remaining four are from countries outside of the United States.

2019-20 VALPARAISO MEN'S BASKETBALL ROSTER

#	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown/High School [Prev. School(s)]
0	Javon Freeman-Liberty	G	6-3	175	So.	Chicago, Ill./Whitney Young
1	Sigurd Lorange	G	5-11	175	Fr.	Trondheim, Norway/Metis Videregaende Skole
2	Zion Morgan	G	6-5	185	R-Jr.	Chicago, Ill./Kenwood [Wabash Valley College/UNLV]
3	Brock Pappas	F	6-4	205	So.	Valparaiso, Ind./Washington Township
4	Daniel Sackey	G	5-9	175	So.	Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada/Thornlea
5	Donovan Clay	G/F	6-7	205	Fr.	Alton, Ill./Alton
10	Eron Gordon	G	6-3	205	R-Jr.	Indianapolis, Ind./Cathedral [Seton Hall]
11	Emil Freese-Vilien	C	6-10	230	Fr.	Copenhagen, Denmark/Falkonergarden Gymnasium
15	Luke Morrill	G	6-2	185	Fr.	Lombard, Ill./Montini Catholic
22	Mileek McMillan	F	6-8	230	Jr.	Merrillville, Ind./Merrillville
23	Ben Krikke	F	6-9	220	Fr.	Edmonton, Alberta, Canada/Jasper Place
25	Nick Robinson	G	6-5	215	R-Jr.	Chicago, Ill./Kenwood [Saint Joseph's]
33	John Kiser	G/F	6-5	210	Sr.	Noblesville, Ind./Noblesville
35	Ryan Fazekas	G/F	6-8	190	R-Sr.	Chesterton, Ind./Marquette Catholic [Providence]

Head Coach: **Matt Lottich** (Stanford, 2004) – 4th season

Associate Head Coach: **Luke Gore** (Bethel [Tenn.], 2001) – 18th season

Assistant Coaches: **Rob Holloway** (Eastern Illinois, 2005) – 2nd season and **Matt Bowen** (Indiana, 1995) – 2nd season, 2nd stint

Director of Basketball Operations: **Jason Karys** (Valparaiso 2017) – 2nd season

Strength and Conditioning Coach: **Derek Bol** – 8th season

2018-19 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
21	Derrick Smits	32-25	696	21.8	151-254	.594	0-1	.000	87-142	.613	64	119	183	5.7	95	3	25	63	31	14	389	12.2
35	Ryan Fazekas	20-20	545	27.3	79-172	.459	48-111	.432	29-36	.806	22	54	76	3.8	50	1	18	19	3	5	235	11.8
00	Javon Freeman	33-33	1029	31.2	133-294	.452	28-97	.289	70-101	.693	37	105	142	4.3	71	2	66	53	13	60	364	11.0
05	Markus Golder	31-17	774	25.0	105-244	.430	25-84	.298	51-68	.750	39	78	117	3.8	51	0	28	35	7	25	286	9.2
04	Bakari Evelyn	32-14	919	28.7	91-271	.336	48-157	.306	40-52	.769	10	66	76	2.4	61	1	68	64	3	18	270	8.4
02	Deion Lavender	33-20	950	28.8	100-198	.505	9-35	.257	50-66	.758	15	150	165	5.0	29	0	123	66	3	29	259	7.8
14	Jaume Sorolla	27-7	472	17.5	47-92	.511	2-2	1.000	16-26	.615	26	59	85	3.1	65	2	14	28	33	10	112	4.1
03	Daniel Sackey	33-17	588	17.8	48-133	.361	9-40	.225	30-47	.638	4	48	52	1.6	36	0	61	56	0	24	135	4.1
23	Mileek McMillan	30-1	244	8.1	23-60	.383	10-32	.313	27-37	.730	12	33	45	1.5	51	1	7	19	4	3	83	2.8
33	John Kiser	29-11	433	14.9	25-58	.431	6-23	.261	12-16	.750	16	66	82	2.8	34	1	20	15	3	14	68	2.3
12	Langston Stalling	8-0	22	2.8	0-7	.000	0-3	.000	4-4	1.000	1	3	4	0.5	3	0	1	0	1	0	4	0.5
01	Micah Bradford	1-0	3	3.0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.0
Team											48	38	86					17				
Total.....		33	6675		802-1783	.450	185-585	.316	416-595	.699	294	819	1113	33.7	546	11	431	436	101	202	2205	66.8
Opponents.....		33	6677		788-1822	.432	214-645	.332	397-564	.704	296	787	1083	32.8	555	12	400	420	95	226	2187	66.3

2018-19 VALPARAISO MEN'S BASKETBALL RESULTS

RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL GAMES	15-18	8-7	5-8	2-3
CONFERENCE	7-11	4-5	3-6	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	8-7	4-2	2-2	2-3

Date	Opponent	Score	Att.	High Points	High Rebounds
11/06/18	CONCORDIA CHICAGO	W 121-65	2098	(22)Javon Freeman	(7)Ryan Fazekas (7)Derrick Smits (7)John Kiser
11/15/18	!vs Western Ky.	71-83 L	3620	(15)Markus Golder	(8)Markus Golder
11/16/18	!vs Monmouth	W 64-53	2830	(15)Deion Lavender	(8)Deion Lavender
11/18/18	!vs Wake Forest	63-69 L	639	(23)Derrick Smits	(7)Derrick Smits
11/21/18	SIUE	Wot 75-70	1940	(16)Bakari Evelyn	(9)Deion Lavender
11/24/18	at West Virginia	76-88 L	9188	(20)Derrick Smits	(7)Derrick Smits
11/28/18	at UNLV	W 72-64	7587	(20)Derrick Smits	(12)Derrick Smits
12/02/18	UC RIVERSIDE	W 82-73	2112	(18)Derrick Smits	(7)Deion Lavender
12/04/18	HIGH POINT	53-55 L	2479	(14)Derrick Smits	(12)Derrick Smits
12/08/18	at George Washington	W 82-79	2107	(27)Bakari Evelyn	(9)Derrick Smits
12/17/18	BALL ST.	61-77 L	3636	(19)Ryan Fazekas	(6)Jaume Sorolla
12/19/18	at Texas A&M	49-71 L	6684	(10)Bakari Evelyn	(6)Derrick Smits
12/29/18	PURDUE NORTHWEST	W 97-61	1925	(19)Ryan Fazekas	(9)Jaume Sorolla
01/02/19	*ILLINOIS ST.	W 58-56	3818	(14)Ryan Fazekas	(9)Derrick Smits
01/05/19	*at Missouri State	W 82-66	4179	(18)Ryan Fazekas	(10)Deion Lavender
01/08/19	*BRADLEY	W 61-50	2535	(17)Javon Freeman	(8)Markus Golder
1/12/19	*at Southern Illinois	W 65-61	4671	(16)Derrick Smits	(8)Derrick Smits
01/15/19	*at Loyola Chicago	54-71 L	3412	(16)Markus Golder	(4)Deion Lavender (4)Markus Golder (4)Javon Freeman
01/19/19	*UNI	W 75-66	3160	(21)Derrick Smits	(11)Derrick Smits
01/23/19	*at Indiana St.	53-70 L	3460	(14)Derrick Smits (14)Markus Golder	(7)Deion Lavender
01/26/19	*DRAKE	59-70 L	4160	(13)Daniel Sackey (13)Jaume Sorolla	(9)Deion Lavender
01/29/19	*MISSOURI STATE	54-55 Lot	1333	(12)Javon Freeman	(15)Javon Freeman
2/2/19	*at Evansville	53-64 L	5805	(12)Javon Freeman (12)Markus Golder	(6)Javon Freeman
02/05/19	*at Illinois St.	W 69-53	4662	(27)Javon Freeman	(7)John Kiser
02/10/19	*LOYOLA CHICAGO	51-56 L	5148	(17)Javon Freeman	(9)John Kiser
02/13/19	*INDIANA ST.	82-87 Lot	3014	(23)Derrick Smits	(11)Derrick Smits
02/16/19	*at Drake	79-84 L	4035	(16)Deion Lavender	(6)Deion Lavender (6)Jaume Sorolla (6)Derrick Smits
02/20/19	*SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	W 55-52	2371	(11)Derrick Smits	(7)Deion Lavender
02/23/19	*at UNI	53-64 L	3812	(11)Javon Freeman	(5)Deion Lavender (5)Bakari Evelyn
02-27-19	*at Bradley	42-67 L	5867	(12)Derrick Smits	(7)Javon Freeman (7)John Kiser
03/02/19	*EVANSVILLE	63-65 L	2592	(15)Derrick Smits	(7)Deion Lavender
03/07/19	vs Indiana St.	W 77-55	5004	(18)Markus Golder	(7)Javon Freeman (7)Derrick Smits
3/8/19	vs Loyola Chicago	54-67 L	6774	(11)Daniel Sackey	(6)Markus Golder

! - Myrtle Beach Invitational (Conway, S.C.)

* - Missouri Valley Conference game

Attendance Summary	Games	Attend	Avg/Game
Home	15	42321	2821
Away	13	65469	5036
Neutral	5	18867	3773
Total	33	126657	3838