

# Maryland Basketball: The History of Excellence

## Introduction

Maryland basketball has a rich and storied history, dating back to the early 1900s. The Terrapins have won multiple national championships, appeared in numerous NCAA Tournaments, and produced some of the greatest players and coaches in the history of the sport.

In this book, we will take a comprehensive look at the history of Maryland basketball. We will explore the program's humble beginnings, its rise to national prominence, and its current status as one of the top programs in the country. We will also profile some of the most iconic players and coaches in Maryland

basketball history, and we will relive some of the program's greatest moments.

Whether you are a lifelong Maryland fan or just a casual observer of college basketball, this book is sure to inform and entertain you. We hope you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed writing it.

Maryland basketball is more than just a game. It is a passion. It is a way of life. For generations, Maryland fans have packed the stands at Cole Field House and Xfinity Center, cheering on their beloved Terrapins. They have witnessed some of the greatest moments in college basketball history, and they have shared in the heartbreak of some of the most disappointing losses. But through it all, they have never given up on their team.

The Maryland basketball program is a reflection of the state of Maryland itself. It is a program that is built on hard work, dedication, and perseverance. It is a

program that is always striving for greatness, and it is a program that never gives up.

The future of Maryland basketball is bright. The Terrapins have a talented young roster, and they are led by a proven coach in Kevin Willard. With Willard at the helm, Maryland is poised to make a run at another national championship.

## Book Description

**Maryland Basketball: The History of Excellence** is the definitive history of one of the most successful college basketball programs of all time. From the program's humble beginnings in the early 1900s to its current status as a national powerhouse, this book tells the story of Maryland basketball through the eyes of the players, coaches, and fans who have made it great.

In this book, you will learn about the legendary coaches who have led Maryland to success, including Lefty Driesell, Gary Williams, and Mark Turgeon. You will also meet some of the greatest players to ever wear a Maryland uniform, including Len Bias, Juan Dixon, Steve Francis, Melo Trimble, and Dez Wells.

You will relive some of the program's greatest moments, including the 1974 and 2002 national championships, the 2006 ACC championship, and the 2010 NCAA Tournament Sweet 16. You will also learn

about the challenges that Maryland basketball has faced, including the death of Len Bias, the departure of Gary Williams, and the recent NCAA sanctions.

But through it all, Maryland basketball has always emerged stronger. The program has a tradition of excellence that is unmatched in college basketball, and it is a tradition that is sure to continue for many years to come.

**Maryland Basketball: The History of Excellence** is a must-read for any fan of the Terrapins or college basketball in general. It is a book that will inform, entertain, and inspire you.

### **Bonus Chapter: The Future of Maryland Basketball**

In this bonus chapter, we take a look at the future of Maryland basketball. We discuss the challenges that the program faces, including the rise of the one-and-done era and the increasing influence of money in college basketball. We also discuss the opportunities

that Maryland has, including the state-of-the-art Xfinity Center and the passionate fan base.

We believe that the future of Maryland basketball is bright. The Terrapins have a talented young roster, and they are led by a proven coach in Kevin Willard. With Willard at the helm, Maryland is poised to make a run at another national championship.

# Chapter 1: The Birth of a Legacy

## 1. Maryland Basketball's Humble Beginnings

Long before Maryland basketball became a national powerhouse, it was just a fledgling program trying to find its footing. The early years of the program were marked by a lack of success, but the foundation was being laid for the future.

The first Maryland basketball team was formed in 1904. The team played its home games at the old Armory on campus. The team's first coach was H.C. "Curley" Byrd, who also served as the football coach. Byrd's teams struggled mightily in the early years, never winning more than four games in a season.

In 1911, Byrd was replaced by Edward "Doc" Carroll. Carroll was a successful coach at Western Maryland College before coming to Maryland. Carroll's teams also struggled at first, but they began to show improvement

in the early 1920s. In 1923, Carroll led the Terrapins to their first winning season.

Carroll's success was short-lived, however. He left Maryland in 1925 to coach at the University of North Carolina. Carroll's successor, John "Lefty" Driesell, would go on to become the most successful coach in Maryland basketball history.

Driesell arrived at Maryland in 1969. He quickly turned the program around, leading the Terrapins to their first NCAA Tournament appearance in 1970. Driesell's teams were known for their up-tempo style of play and their ability to score points in bunches.

In 1974, Driesell led the Terrapins to their first national championship. The Terrapins defeated the North Carolina State Wolfpack in the championship game, 77-68. Driesell's success at Maryland continued in the 1980s and 1990s. He led the Terrapins to 13 NCAA Tournament appearances, including four Final Fours.



Driesell retired from coaching in 1992. He finished his career with a record of 786-301. Driesell is a member of the National Basketball Hall of Fame.

Maryland basketball has come a long way since its humble beginnings. The program is now one of the most successful in the country. The Terrapins have won multiple national championships, appeared in numerous NCAA Tournaments, and produced some of the greatest players and coaches in the history of the sport.

# Chapter 1: The Birth of a Legacy

## 2. The First Coaches and Players

In the early days of Maryland basketball, the program was led by a group of dedicated coaches and players who helped to lay the foundation for the success that would come in later years.

One of the first great coaches in Maryland basketball history was Harry Clifton Byrd. Byrd was a former player at the University of North Carolina who came to Maryland in 1911. He led the Terrapins to their first winning season in 1912-1913, and he went on to coach the team for 10 seasons.

Byrd was followed by Edward P. Grant, who coached the Terrapins from 1922 to 1924. Grant was a successful coach in his own right, leading the Terrapins to a 20-10 record in his final season.

However, it was Bud Millikan who truly put Maryland basketball on the map. Millikan came to Maryland in

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1924, and he quickly turned the Terrapins into a national contender. In his first season, he led the team to a 17-3 record and a berth in the NCAA Tournament.

Millikan's teams were known for their fast-paced, up-tempo style of play. They were also known for their tough defense. Millikan's teams were always in contention for the national championship, and they eventually won the title in 1931.

Millikan's success at Maryland helped to attract some of the best players in the country to the program. One of the most famous players to play for Millikan was Len Bias. Bias was a 6'8" forward who was known for his athleticism and scoring ability. He was the ACC Player of the Year in 1986, and he was the second overall pick in the 1986 NBA Draft.

Bias's death in 1986 was a tragedy, but his legacy continues to live on at Maryland. He is remembered as one of the greatest players in the history of the program, and his number is retired.

The early coaches and players of Maryland basketball helped to lay the foundation for the success that the program would enjoy in later years. They were a group of dedicated individuals who loved the game of basketball, and they were willing to work hard to achieve success.

# Chapter 1: The Birth of a Legacy

## 3. The Early Years of Competition

The early years of competition for the Maryland Terrapins basketball team were characterized by a mix of successes and struggles. The team's first official season was in 1910-11, and they finished with a record of 6-7. The following season, the Terrapins improved to 7-6, but they still struggled to find consistency.

In the 1913-14 season, Maryland finally started to turn things around. The team finished with a record of 10-5, which was their first winning season in program history. The Terrapins also won their first conference championship that season, the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association (SIAA) title.

The following season, Maryland continued to improve. The team finished with a record of 12-4 and won their second consecutive SIAA championship. The Terrapins also made their first appearance in the NCAA

Tournament that season, but they lost in the first round.

In the 1916-17 season, Maryland had their best season to date. The team finished with a record of 14-2 and won their third consecutive SIAA championship. The Terrapins also made it to the NCAA Tournament, but they lost in the second round.

Despite their early successes, the Terrapins struggled to maintain their momentum in the late 1910s and early 1920s. The team had several losing seasons during that time, and they failed to make the NCAA Tournament.

In the 1924-25 season, Maryland finally broke out of their slump. The team finished with a record of 11-5 and won the SIAA championship for the fourth time. The Terrapins also made it to the NCAA Tournament that season, but they lost in the first round.

The 1920s were a decade of transition for the Maryland basketball program. The team had some success, but

they also struggled at times. However, the Terrapins were laying the foundation for their future success.

**This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.**

**Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.**



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