



MARANATHA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

BASKETBALL MEDIA GUIDE

2025-26

GIRLS BASKETBALL



CHEER TEAM



BOYS BASKETBALL

MUSTANGS



PROTECTING MOMENTS LIKE THIS

From the field to the court and beyond, you've worked hard to make your dream a reality.
And we're behind you — cheering you on as you set your sights on the next big goal.

Let's talk about your future plans and how I can help protect them.



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ABOUT MARANATHA



Maranatha Christian Academy endeavors to build unity by creating a kingdom culture that challenges and equips students, parents, and staff to respect and value all people according to God's Word. This is our Kingdom Culture Statement.

Our Culture in Action

Maranatha is not just a school, it's a community where each student and staff member contributes to what makes up the culture of the school.

Together we commit to becoming:

- Spirit-Driven Leaders
- Impactful Innovators
- Critical Thinkers
- Kingdom Community Builders
- Courageous Change Agents
- Compassionate Problem Solvers

At Maranatha, we are going way beyond the ordinary measures of academic standards, delivering the kind of education that opens eyes and hearts for a lifetime. Here curiosity is applauded, discovery is championed, and ultimately world-influencers are shaped.

An Innovative Approach

There was a time when education was comfortable. Parents sent their kids on the bus in the morning and late afternoon they returned home smarter; at least that was the assumption. While other industries continued to be pushed to improve, many educational institutions were not challenging the norm. Maranatha Christian Academy noticed a change was needed, especially within the private Christian education space. So, it went to work seeking out what was successful in other industries and cutting-edge schools. Then, methodically began to incorporate these concepts, integrating them with our strong Christian worldview.



Today, Maranatha is an innovative and counter-cultural school, always looking for ways to improve teaching and learning. Industry-leading consultants continually work with teachers to incorporate innovation incubators. Using comprehensive design thinking cohorts, teachers learn changemaker processes of problem-solving, critical thinking, collaboration, and more. Then, creatively release them into their classroom.

A Christian Worldview

The world around is unsettled. Many schools and the curriculum they use to educate students are changing in an attempt to fit into societies' ever-shifting perspectives. At Maranatha Christian Academy, we believe that having a strong biblical foundation is essential to teaching and learning.

One such area under scrutiny as of late is how Minnesota schools will handle their social science curriculum in the near future. We endeavor to see and teach everything through the eyes of Jesus. This perspective allows us to base our educational standards on our Christian worldview, developing strong co-creators of tomorrow.



Service Learning

In everything we do and say, we want it to be a true reflection of who we are, what we believe, and what we will never stop standing for. We embody this by teaching our students to lead with empathy through service projects, beginning in Pre-k and continuing through to graduation. The Share Christmas event gathers 1000s of toys for our local community, and over the last few years, we have packed over 215,000 meals to be delivered to local food shelves, providing real



practical solutions for the battle against hunger in our community. Upper School students have the opportunity to serve a local orphanage, church, and the people of Zacatecas, Mexico through our annual missions trip.

**Learn more by scheduling a visit today
at mcamustangs.org**





DEB LARSON

HEAD OF SCHOOL

WELCOME TO MARANATHA

Maranatha Christian Academy is positioned to go well beyond the ordinary, identifying opportunities that explore possibilities and establish purpose in our students, staff, and parents. Our unwavering vision, relentless pursuit of improvement, and dedication to our mission serve as inspiration to continue to set and then re-set the bar in education.

In our fast-paced world, change is inevitable. At Maranatha, we adapt, or better yet, get out in front of change, resulting in a truly innovative school and, in turn, learning experience. We inspire students to be Spirit-driven leaders who are courageous change agents for kingdom building. Our Christian faith is at the core of Maranatha. We celebrate our Creator's unique design of each student, seeking to personalize education so students can discover and develop their gifts.

I am honored that you value your children's education enough to explore not only what is best but what is right. By experiencing our community of learning at Maranatha, your students will be prepared for life's next chapter as they grow into courageous change agents, compassionate problem solvers, impactful innovators, critical thinkers, Spirit-driven leaders, and kingdom community builders.

I look forward to collaborating with you as we develop the co-creators of tomorrow.

Serving Him together,

Deb Larson



ADMISSIONS



Join us at
Maranatha Christian Academy!

2025-2026



currently accepting mid-year transfers
in grades Pre-K through 12th

schedule a campus visit!

VISIT US

Beyond books and screens, brains and grades, Maranatha is a place dedicated to faith, academic excellence, leadership, and everything in-between. When you enter, you will immediately sense an unmistakable difference. A welcoming vibe that begins with a morning greeting and handshake at the front door and ends with teachers inviting students into their classrooms, clubs, practices, and sports events after school.

There is no other school quite like it – we promise.

But don't take our word for it! We invite you in to see for yourself. There are several ways for your family to get to know us. Please join us for an upcoming event or personal tour.



LOEFFLER
CONSTRUCTION & CONSULTING

ATHLETICS ADMIN



ATHLETIC DIRECTOR | DREW RONGERE

DREW.RONGERE@MCAMUSTANGS.ORG

Drew Rongere was named Athletic Director at Maranatha Christian Academy in November 2021 and took over as Head Volleyball Coach in 2023, leading the team to the most regular season wins in program history. He has over 23 years of experience in athletics as a director and coach. "I'm thankful to be a part of the Maranatha Christian Academy family. Our main goal as an athletics department is to make sure families have a great experience while being involved in Mustang Athletics. We intend to be excellent role models as we encourage our athletes to develop and display strong Christian values through competition," said Rongere.

Rongere comes to Maranatha Christian Academy from Minneapolis College, where he served as the Director of Campus Recreation & Wellness for 9 years.

As a coach, he has trained athletes from the youth level to Division I in a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, football, hockey, soccer, softball, and volleyball. He is the current 18-1 Head Coach at MN Select Volleyball Club. Last year as the 17-1 Head Coach, his team finished 5th in the country at USAV Nationals in the 17-Open Division. Under Rongere's leadership, his coaching staff has helped hundreds of athletes go on to play at the collegiate level.

From 2007-2013 he coached and held the positions of CEO & Director of Operations for WM Volleyball Club. From 2009-11, he served as Head Volleyball Coach at Chisago Lakes High School and Totino-Grace High School.

At Anoka-Ramsey Community College from 2005-2009, Rongere was responsible for overseeing an athletic department that sponsored 7 varsity sports. He also led the Women's Volleyball program. He took over a program that had zero returning players and produced a record of (2-50) over the three seasons prior to his arrival. While at the helm, he led the Golden Rams to three consecutive trips to the MCAC Tournament and consecutive NJCAA DIII top ten national rankings. Rongere was named the 2008 MCAC Coach of the Year as he led six players to a third-place finish in the MCAC Southern Division and a trip to the MCAC Tournament. As the 2006 MCAC Coach of the Year, he led the Golden Rams to their best finish in 18 seasons. During his four years at Anoka-Ramsey, he coached (2) NJCAA All-Americans, (3) All-Region XIII players, (5) All-MCAC players, (7) All-MCAC Southern Division performers, and (5) All-MCAC Tournament selectees.

Prior to taking over at Anoka-Ramsey, Rongere took on a Volunteer Assistant Coach role for the Texas State University Women's Volleyball team during their 2003 and 2004 Southland Conference Championship seasons. He also volunteered in the Campus Recreation & Wellness department and taught undergrad physical education classes.

Rongere began his coaching career at Clarksville High School in Clarksville, Texas, where he led the Volleyball and Softball programs from 2001-2003. As the Head Volleyball Coach, he coached 6 Red River Valley All-Conference players and compiled a record of (51-13) over two seasons. He also served as the Head Softball Coach and finished with an overall record of (42-10).

He earned his master's degree in Sports Management from Texas State University in 2005 and a bachelor's degree in Physical Education K-12 from North Dakota State University in 2001.

Rongere and his wife Lisa live in Otsego, MN, with their two boys, Riley (23) and Cody (19).



ASSISTANT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR | CHAZ MAHLE

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Chaz Mahle was named Assistant Athletic Director in June 2022. In his role at Maranatha, Mahle will work closely with current Head Athletic Director Drew Rongere. He comes to Maranatha Christian Academy from the Minnesota Vikings, where he worked as a strength and conditioning coach for 10 seasons in two separate stints. During his time with the Vikings, Mahle was responsible for facilitating and managing player workouts as well as conditioning sessions during both the in-season and off-season programs. He was also in charge of distributing and running all aspects of GPS sports tracking data.

In between stints with the Minnesota Vikings, Mahle worked as a Sports Performance Coach at Stanford University directing Track and Field as well as assisting with the Cardinal Football team. The University would go on to win the 2012-2013 school year NACDA Directors' Cup, which is awarded to the most successful overall athletic program in the country. While at Stanford University, Mahle would coach a combined 22 All-Americans. During his lone season on the farm, the Women's Track and Field team would go on to win the Women's Indoor Conference Championship, while the Cardinal Football team would finish at number 6 in the BCS college football rankings with a record of 11-2 capping off the season with a win over Wisconsin at the 2013 Rose Bowl Game.

From 2008-2010, Mahle worked as a graduate assistant Strength and Conditioning Coach at Bowling Green State University. He would have a primary role in training all 18 sports offered by the university while designing and implementing the training programs for Baseball, Volleyball, Golf, Tennis, Gymnastics, and Women's Soccer. The Falcon Baseball team would win the MAC Conference Championship in both 2008 and 2009 during Mahle's time at the University.

He would begin his Strength and Conditioning coaching career in Jacksonville, Florida, with the Jacksonville Jaguars, where he would conduct group training sessions along with having a key role in administering both injury prevention and rehabilitation protocols. Mahle would remain with the club during both the 2006 and 2007 seasons. During the 2007 season, the Jaguars would finish second in the AFC South with a record of 11-5, which would earn a wildcard playoff spot where the Jaguars would beat the Pittsburgh Steelers 31-29. The team would advance to the divisional round of the playoffs and lose to the eventual Super Bowl runner-up New England Patriots by a score of 31-20.

Mahle received his bachelor's degree in Physical Education from St. Cloud State University (2005) and a master's degree in Sports Management from Bowling Green State University (2010).

Mahle and his wife, Ashley, live in Circle Pines, MN, with their five girls, Blakely (7), Collins (5), Emelia,, Emersyn (3), and Georgia (6 mo).





ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR | JAMIE AXELBERG

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Jamie Axelberg joined the Maranatha Christian Academy Athletics Department in July 2022 as the administrative assistant and has since taken over the role of Activities Director. She also serves as the Head Softball Coach for the Mustangs and led them to three straight Skyline Conference Championships.

Axelberg's athletic journey began at Bethel University, where she was a five-year starter at shortstop for the women's softball team. She was named two-time all-conference, one-time honorable mention, and All-American Scholar-Athlete. During her time at Bethel, she has been part of some record-breaking teams. During her sophomore season, she helped her team etch their name in Bethel's record books by breaking long-term standing team records and individual records. Going into her 5th year, she was a part of the first team to win the MIAC regular season and Playoff Championships. They made it to the NCAA Softball DIII World Series tournament, where they hosted the first ever 4 team regional. In come from behind, walk-off fashion, the Royals made it all the way to the Super Regional round where the Record-breaking season came to end.

As a coach, Axelberg has coached softball at all levels starting from 8u all the way to 18u. She has helped lead teams to 8 state tournaments, placing in the top 3 every year in attendance. She also led her teams to 8 Nationals appearances with a top 4 finish in their respective bracket.

Prior to Maranatha, Axelberg worked for WOW Factor Sports, where they hosted the US Pond Hockey Championships. Axelberg oversaw sponsors, on-site activation, and Merchandise and had the role of Event Coordinator.

Axelberg also had the opportunity in 2019 to intern for the Scrap Yard Dawgs down in Texas for a summer, where she assisted with gameday operations, practice plans, catch bullpens, and travel plans, and worked with Team USA Softball National team as they prepared for the Olympics.

While attending college, Axelberg oversaw the Athletics ticket sales and Gym Supervision. There she assembled employees to work all home sporting events, maintain a fun and respectable environment, and help with any gameday operation for the Athletic department.

Axelberg received her bachelor's degree in Physical Education and Health Education with a DAPE endorsement from Bethel University.





SOCIAL MEDIA



FACEBOOK

MCAMUSTANGSMN



INSTAGRAM

MCAMUSTANGS_ATHLETICS



TWITTER

MCA_TEAMS

BOYS BASKETBALL | INSTAGRAM

MCABOYS_BASKETBALL



GIRLS BASKETBALL | INSTAGRAM

MCAMUSTANGSGIRLSBASKETBALL



SKYLINE CONFERENCE SCHOOLS



CONCORDIA ACADEMY | BEACONS

Address: 9201 75th Avenue, Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

School Colors: Red and White | 275



LEGACY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY | LIONS

Address: 3037 Bunker Lake Blvd., Andover, MN 55304

School Colors and Enrollment: Navy and Orange | 249



MARANATHA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY | MUSTANGS

Address: 9201 75th Avenue, Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

School Colors: Red and White | 275



NEW LIFE ACADEMY | EAGLES

Address: 6758 Bailey Road, Woodbury, MN 55129

School Colors and Enrollment: Green and Gold | 209



NOVA CLASSICAL ACADEMY | KNIGHTS

Address: 1455 Victoria Way, St. Paul, MN 55102

School Colors and Enrollment: Maroon, Black, and White | 276



ST. AGNES | AGGIES

Address: 530 Lafond Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55103

School Colors and Enrollment: Red and White | 307



ST. CROIX LUTHERAN ACADEMY | CRUSADERS

Address: 1200 Oakdale Avenue, West St. Paul, MN 55118

School Colors and Enrollment: Red and White | 401



ST. CROIX PREP ACADEMY | LIONS

Address: 4260 Stagecoach Trail North

School Colors and Enrollment: Navy and Vegas Gold | 366



TRINITY SCHOOL AT RIVER RIDGE | TRI-HAWKS

Address: 601 River Ridge Parkway, Eagan, MN 55121

School Colors and Enrollment: Royal Blue and Cardinal | 158

BOYS BASKETBALL

SEASON OUTLOOK

The Maranatha Mustangs enter the 2025–26 campaign looking to rise back to the top of the Skyline Conference after finishing second in conference last season with a record of 13–3 and an overall record of 14–14. With a balanced mix of returning experience, new talent, and a fresh leadership voice at the helm, the Mustangs appear poised for a breakthrough season.

This year marks the first for Head Coach Al Harris, who steps into the lead role bringing a wealth of experience coaching high-level athletes. His leadership, philosophy, and competitive mindset have already helped establish a renewed energy within the program.



The Mustangs return a seasoned core, including junior Christopher Daniel and seniors Teni Phillips, Jaidyn Rennie, Eli Ahrends, and Naizo Jarboi. Their familiarity with high-pressure matchups will provide valuable stability as the team transitions under new coaching direction.

Supplementing that core is an exciting group of newcomers: junior Chaz Clark, junior Marcus Marshall, sophomore Ira Thomas, and sophomore Erik Bakke. Each brings athleticism and depth that should strengthen the Mustangs' rotation and elevate their competitiveness on both ends of the floor. Several JV players also possess the skill set to provide meaningful minutes on Varsity.

Maranatha's goals are clear as they intend to return to the top of the Skyline Conference, make a deep run in the Section 5AA Tournament, and earn a trip back to the state tournament. With a unified roster and a strong coaching foundation, those aspirations feel well within reach.

This season's team identity centers around the motto "We Are One." The Mustangs are emphasizing effort, teamwork, accountability, and spiritual development. These are core values that Coach Harris believes will drive both culture and performance on and off the court throughout the year.

If the group buys into that vision, the Mustangs could be one of the most compelling teams to watch in the state this season.



COACHING STAFF



HEAD COACH | AL HARRIS

Al Harris is one of the most well-known club coaches in the state of Minnesota and is entering his first year as the Boys Basketball Head Coach at Maranatha Christian Academy. Harris has 23 years of experience working with adolescents, whether it was in the capacity of public safety, education, outreach programs, mentorship groups, and coaching basketball within the Twin Cities and surrounding communities.

"I come to you all grateful, humbled, and excited to get started with being a cooperating connection, aligned to a wonderful opportunity to not only coach basketball but to also live out my purpose, influencing young men of Christ-Centered faith amongst all who are true believers of his word," said Al Harris.

Harris most recently served on the Park Center High School boys basketball staff as a varsity assistant and analyst. He is also a current coach, recruiter, and skill development trainer at D1 Minnesota where he has been since 2016. While at D1 Minnesota, he has compiled over 300 wins, led teams to two National Adidas Championships, has coached 42 Division I commits, has trained 17 nationally ranked recruits, and a McDonald's All-American.

Coach Harris is enthused to incorporate skills gained with a very diverse background of understanding of youth in search of helping everyone in the program continue their personal academic, athletic, and social development.

He has a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Criminal Justice from Southern New Hampshire University. Throughout his career, he has worked in several different fields, mostly within public safety, however, always within some form of public service.



ASSISTANT COACH | DYLAN GILMER

Gilmer is in his third year as an assistant coach at Maranatha Christian Academy. He played four years of Division III collegiate basketball at Crown College and the University of Northwestern. This includes winning two UMAC Conference Championships with the University of Northwestern St. Paul. For the past seven years, he has been instructing, training, and coaching high school basketball athletes in Minnesota, and enjoys building trusted personal relationships with everyone that he works with.

Gilmer graduated from Crown College in May 2022 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical and Health Education.



ASSISTANT COACH | TIM GILL

Tim Gill is entering his first season as an assistant coach for the Mustangs. He is honored and humbled to serve as the new Head Junior Varsity Coach and Assistant Varsity Coach at MCA. He is truly excited to join such an amazing community and to be part of a program that values faith, character, and excellence both on and off the court. Tim's walk with Christ began six years ago when he made the decision to let the Lord guide every aspect of his life. He views this new opportunity as a clear part of God's plan for his continued growth as a servant leader.

He holds a Master's degree in Social Work and has had the blessing of living in 12 states and 4 countries. These experiences have allowed him to learn from diverse cultures and to serve others with compassion and understanding. Tim sees basketball as a powerful vessel—one that enables him to build meaningful relationships with young people, helping them grow not only as athletes but as individuals rooted in faith and integrity.

Experience & Background: 4 years as a Professional Basketball Player. Division I Athlete. 5 years of Coaching Experience — 2 internationally, 3 as an AAU Head Coach. 5 years of Mentoring Youth & Training Athletes in elite basketball development

"For me, it's bigger than basketball. Coaching is about shaping character, instilling discipline, and nurturing faith. My passion lies not only in developing great athletes but, more importantly, in helping them become strong, Christ-centered individuals." — Tim Gill

He is grateful to be part of the MCA family and looks forward to growing, learning, and serving together in faith and purpose.



ASSISTANT COACH | ROBERT MCCRAY

Robert McCray is entering his second season as an assistant coach for the Mustangs. He has been coaching AAU basketball for 8 years and has won state championships at a variety of age levels. He has also coached for the Junior NBA and MCA middle school.

As a head coach, his purpose is to cultivate a culture with PMA, discipline, all in attitude, and camaraderie. He strives to enhance athletic skills but also to impart life lessons that extend beyond the court, fostering character, leadership, and a lifelong love of the game.



BOYS BASKETBALL | VARSITY/JV



MUSTANGS

Maranatha Christian Academy 2025

ROSTER

#	NAME	G	HT	POS
1	Timmy Thomas	9	5'8	G
2	Chaz Clark	11	5'10	G
3	Marcus Marshall	11	6'1	G
4	Christopher Daniel	11	6'2	G
5	Tobi Barbington	11	6'3	F
10	Jonas Kaihoi	10	5'11	G
11	Ira Thomas	10	5'11	G
12	Teni Phillips	12	6'5	F
13	Julian Thomas	10	5'11	G
15	Henry Blake	10	5'11	G
20	Noah Schirmers	11	6'3	F
22	Jeremy Honchik	12	6'3	F
23	Tobin Taylor	11	5'11	G
24	Jaidyn Rennie	12	5'10	G
33	Eli Ahrends	12	6'4	F
35	Erik Bakke	10	6'10	F/C
52	Naizo Jarboi	12	6'8	F/C

COACHING STAFF

HEAD COACH

Al Harris

ASSISTANTS

Dylan Gilmer

Tim Gill

Robert McCray

BOYS BASKETBALL | C-TEAM



MUSTANGS

Maranatha Christian Academy 2025

ROSTER

#	NAME	G	HT	POS
3	Shylom McCray	9	5'6	G
5	Noah Fossum	7	5'5	G
14	Geleta Rabirraa	9	5'8	F
15	Caleb Bartz	9	5'10	F
20	Obinna Nwangwu	9	6'1	C
21	Jonathan Sheehy	9	5'11	G
24	Andrew Vocal	9	5'9	F
25	Justin Homchik	10	5'7	G
31	Nolan Andersen	9	6'2	C
41	Graham Thayer	8	6'2	F

COACHING STAFF

COACH
Robert McCray

THE MARANATHA FUND

At Maranatha Christian Academy, we are more than a school, we are a community dedicated to shaping the next generation of Christ-centered leaders. Every day, we pour into the hearts and minds of children during one of the most formative times of their lives. School is not just a place of learning, although we believe in Academic Excellence; it's where values are rooted, faith is nurtured, and character is built.



As a non-profit, we rely on the generous support of individuals, families, and community partners who believe in the power of Christ-centered education. Your involvement—whether through prayer, volunteering, or financial support—makes a lasting difference in the lives of our students. Together, we can invest in a generation equipped to live with wisdom, purpose, and unwavering faith. Join us in making an eternal impact! If you have any questions or to donate, contact our Development Office.

MEET THE TEAM



CHIEF ADVANCEMENT STRATEGIST | AMY CLAUSEN

AMY.CLAUSEN@MCAMUSTANGS.ORG

Amy began working at Maranatha in 2021. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Molecular Biology from St. Cloud State University and a Master of Science in Integrated Marketing from West Virginia University. Prior to working in education, she was Vice President of Business Development for a biotechnology company and Chief Marketing Officer for a Medical Device Company.



DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR | MICHELL GRUBB

MICHELLE.GRUBB@MCAMUSTANGS.ORG

Michelle started at Maranatha in 2025. She is a seasoned professional with over 25 years of diverse experience spanning multiple sectors. Her extensive background encompasses marketing and communications, business ownership and operations, downtown revitalization initiatives, and nonprofit leadership. Throughout her career, Michelle has fostered productive relationships with both private and public sector entities, effectively engaging key stakeholders to achieve organizational objectives.



ANNUAL FUND MANAGER | CHRIS BARBER

CHRIS.BARBER@MCAMUSTANGS.ORG

Chris joined MCA in 2021, bringing over 20 years of diverse experience across both nonprofit and for-profit sectors. A driven and forward-thinking development professional, Chris specializes in strategic fundraising, partnership building, and resource mobilization. He has a proven record of leading successful fundraising events, strengthening community engagement, and advancing mission-driven initiatives. Known for his critical thinking and commitment to excellence, Chris is passionate about building meaningful connections that help MCA flourish. He and his wife, Danielle, have two boys who attend MCA.



DONOR RELATIONS DATA MANAGER | SARAH GIBSON

SARAH.GIBSON@MCAMUSTANGS.ORG

Sarah began working at Maranatha in 2021. She graduated from Eastview High School and has her Bachelor's in Business Administration from National American University.

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Michael A. Matheson
CFP®, CFS, CRPC®, CDFA™
Founder and President

OUR MISSION
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Each of these are defined by us as:

Advice

A path, developed together as a team, tailored to your specific goals and financial situation.

Guidance

We serve as your reliable guide throughout your financial voyage, utilizing life simplifying and straightforward tools to assist you in making well-informed financial decisions in all areas of your financial life.

Direction

We look forward to the future with optimism, motivation, and inspiration while maintaining a vigilant focus on the present. Our client connections are built for the long haul, and our direction evolves alongside your journey through life.

Reach out today for a commitment-free, 30 minute 'Ask Anything' session to discover how we can be a game changer for you and your family!



Michael Matheson Group

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

SEASON OUTLOOK

The Maranatha Mustangs enter the 2025–26 season with high expectations after a dominant 2024–25 campaign that saw them finish 22–4 overall and 13–1 in the Skyline Conference, securing the conference championship. With every player from last year’s varsity roster returning and a Hall of Fame coach leading the charge, the Mustangs are positioned once again as the team to beat.

Head Coach Faith Johnson Patterson, now entering her third season at the helm, brings decades of championship-level experience and a proven ability to elevate her athletes. Under her guidance, the Mustangs have continued to grow in discipline, preparation, and competitive fire.



Maranatha is led by senior Olivia Lanari, the reigning Skyline Conference Player of the Year, whose leadership and all-around game sets the tone for the squad. She is joined by fellow seniors Zaniah Hunter and Heather Sheehy, giving the Mustangs a veteran presence with significant varsity experience.

The returning core continues with junior Avery Lanari, junior Greta Eaves, junior Olivia Alm, freshman Elenore Eaves, freshman Faith Taylor, and freshman Mia McFadden, a group that blends athleticism, skill, and chemistry developed over last season’s successful run. The lone newcomer, eighth grader Mikayla Johnson-Barnes, adds young talent and depth to an already well-rounded roster.

After a committed offseason of training, the Mustangs enter the season as the clear favorites to repeat as Skyline Conference champions. While their mindset remains focused on taking the season one game at a time, it’s difficult to ignore the potential for a highly anticipated rematch in the Section 5AA Tournament against the defending 2025 MSHSL State Champion Providence Academy Lions.

Coach Johnson Patterson and her staff have the team locked in from day one, prepared to open the season with three tough road matchups against larger schools in Osseo, Champlin Park, and Princeton. These early tests will set the competitive tone and offer valuable experience for the months ahead.

On the court, expect the Mustangs to showcase discipline, defensive intensity, and the relentless drive required to win at a high level. Off the court, the program will continue emphasizing growth in the weight room, academic excellence, and meaningful spiritual development which are cornerstones of Maranatha’s culture.

With a veteran roster, elite coaching, and a championship mindset, the Mustangs are primed to make another memorable run this season.

COACHING STAFF



HEAD COACH | FAITH JOHNSON PATTERSON

Faith Johnson Patterson enters her third season at the helm of the Mustangs, bringing with her one of the most accomplished résumés in Minnesota girls' basketball history. In her debut season (2023–24), she guided the Mustangs to a second-place finish in the Skyline Conference, setting a strong foundation for the program's future. She followed that up with a Skyline Conference Championship season in 2024–25.

A standout player herself, Faith starred at Marshall University High School before earning a Division I scholarship to the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where she majored in Communications. Her passion for the game naturally evolved into a coaching career, one that would become historic.

Faith began coaching as an assistant at The Blake School, contributing to the undefeated 30–0 Class A state championship team in 1994. The following year, she was recruited to take over the Minneapolis North girls' basketball program. She invited her boyfriend, now husband, John Patterson, to join her on the sidelines, marking the beginning of a coaching partnership that would shape decades of success.

Over her storied career, Faith has amassed a remarkable 526–195 head-coaching record, guiding her teams to:

- 15 conference championships
- 14 section championships
- 14 state tournament appearances
- 8 Class 3A state championships
- 4 state runner-up finishes
- 2 third-place finishes
-

Her impact on the Minnesota state tournament record books is unmatched. Faith ranks:

- #1 all-time in state tournament winning percentage (85.7%, 36–6)
- #3 all-time in state tournament appearances (14)
- #1 in consecutive state tournament appearances (9)
- #1 in state championships won (8)
-

Faith also stands as a trailblazer: she became the first African–American female head coach to both coach in and win a girls' basketball state championship. She remains the only African–American girls' basketball coach inducted into all three major Minnesota halls of fame:

- Minnesota High School Girls Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame
- Minnesota Basketball Hall of Fame
- Minnesota State High School League Hall of Fame

Recognized as one of the five greatest coaches in state tournament history—and the only woman and only African-American on that list—Faith’s influence has been celebrated nationwide. She has been featured in *Sports Illustrated* (2002), an ESPN feature (2008), the documentary *Game On: Women Can Coach*, and was a 2014 USA Today nominee for National Girls’ Coach of the Year. Her teams at Minneapolis North and DeLaSalle have earned national rankings and USA Today national award nominations.

Beyond the accolades, Faith is equally proud of the opportunities she’s helped create for young women. Her programs have produced numerous Division I, II, and III athletes, resulting in over \$3 million in college scholarships. Many former players have gone on to earn degrees, coach the next generation, serve their communities, and lead lives grounded in faith.

At the heart of Faith’s coaching philosophy is the partnership she shares with her husband, John. Together, they emphasize a mindset that puts God first—a guiding principle that has shaped not only championship teams, but also confident, resilient young women prepared for life well beyond basketball.

Coach Faith Johnson Patterson continues to inspire, lead, and elevate, carrying forward a legacy built on excellence, character, and unwavering faith.



ASSISTANT COACH | JOHN PATTERSON

John Patterson enters his third season as an assistant coach for the Mustangs, bringing decades of experience, a proven track record of player development, and a faith-driven coaching philosophy that has shaped championship programs and empowered countless student-athletes.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Patterson was a three-sport standout in football, basketball, and baseball. He also competed for the legendary

New York Gauchos, one of the nation’s most respected AAU basketball programs. After high school, he continued his basketball career at the University of Wisconsin–Stout, where he earned a degree in Industrial Technology.

Patterson has spent years training athletes across multiple sports, but his coaching journey formally began at Minneapolis North High School alongside his wife, Hall of Fame head coach Faith Johnson Patterson. Together, the two established one of the most dominant eras in Minnesota girls’ basketball history. At North, Patterson helped install their trademark full-court press and defensive schemes, worked extensively with post players on rebounding, footwork, inside scoring, and shooting, and played a key role in guiding athletes through the college recruitment process—consulting directly with coaches and helping students find the right fit.

Patterson has been named Assistant Coach of the Year multiple times and has been honored in various venues for his contributions to the program and to youth athletics. As a coaching duo, he and his wife have compiled a remarkable 559–191 record, including 14 state tournament appearances, 8 Class 3A state championships, 4 runner-up finishes, and two third-place finishes. Their teams have also captured 16 conference titles and 14 section championships, producing numerous Division I, II, and III student-athletes who have earned more than \$3 million in scholarships. Faith Johnson Patterson ranks No. 4 in Minnesota girls’ basketball history in winning percentage.

The couple's "God-first" mindset anchors their approach—one centered on leadership, relationship-building, and personal growth. They are known for fostering positive, nurturing team cultures that strike a balance between high standards of performance and character development, empowerment, and genuine care for their athletes.

While their championship résumé is extensive, John and Faith take the greatest pride in the success of their athletes beyond the court. Many former players have gone on to earn college degrees, become coaches themselves, serve their communities, and carry forward the values instilled in them—faith, discipline, and a sense of purpose.

Now in his third year with the Mustangs, John Patterson continues to bring passion, experience, and a mission-driven spirit to the program, impacting lives while helping build competitive, character-centered teams.

ASSISTANT COACH | DOUG LEMON

Douglas Lemon enters his first season as an assistant coach for the Maranatha Mustangs, bringing over 20 years of coaching experience, player development expertise, and leadership in high school and AAU basketball in Minnesota. A former point guard known for his composure and high basketball IQ, Douglas has established himself as a calm, steady presence on the sidelines—one who elevates athletes through structure, communication, and intentional skill development.

Renowned for blending detailed strategy with individualized instruction, Douglas has helped shape competitive teams while preparing players to excel both on and off the court. His coaching philosophy emphasizes discipline, confidence-building, mental toughness, and a deep sense of accountability to teammates and the community. He is highly respected for his mastery of offensive and defensive systems, guard and post development, advanced scouting, and ball-handling training, as well as his ability to mentor athletes through conflict resolution, leadership challenges, and personal growth.

Douglas's coaching journey includes significant roles at several of Minnesota's most competitive programs. Most recently, he served as the Varsity Assistant Coach for Minneapolis North Community High School's girls basketball team from 2022 to 2025, where he led practice planning, built comprehensive player-development models, strengthened team culture, and contributed to the personal and athletic development of every athlete in the program.

Prior to North, Douglas was a Varsity Assistant and Head JV Coach at DeLaSalle High School (2009–2013), where he developed JV athletes into varsity-ready contributors and coached varsity athletes in defensive principles. During his tenure, the program captured two Class AAA State Championships (2010–2012) and a third-place finish (2009–2010).

His earlier experience includes serving as a Varsity Assistant Coach for Robbinsdale Cooper High School's boys program (2006–2007), helping guide the team to a Class AAAA State Runner-Up finish, and two separate coaching stints at Minneapolis North (2003–2006, 2008–2009), where he managed scouting operations, oversaw both guard and post development, and contributed to multiple Class AAA State Championships (2003–2006).

Beyond the high school level, Douglas has coached for several respected AAU programs—including St. Paul Central, Minnesota Stars, Elite Storm, and Golden Valley Traveling Basketball—while also training individual athletes in skill development, leadership, and overall basketball IQ. Douglas is just as accomplished academically as he is on the court. He earned a B.A. in English Literature Analysis, Magna Cum Laude, from the University of New Mexico, with a minor in Africana Studies and multiple Dean’s List honors. Before that, he completed an A.F.A. in Creative Writing at Normandale Community College, where he was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa and served in leadership roles as Vice President of Service and Vice President of Leadership. A graduate of DeLaSalle High School, he was also a varsity basketball athlete and an active member of multiple student clubs.

Certified through the Minnesota State High School League, Douglas Lemon brings a comprehensive, mission-driven approach to Maranatha—a commitment to helping athletes grow as competitors, teammates, and leaders. His steady leadership, strategic mindset, and proven development system will play a key role in shaping the Mustangs’ success in the seasons ahead.

ASSISTANT COACH | LEVI SKOGERBOE

Levi Skogerboe enters his first season as an assistant coach for the Mustangs, bringing a faith-centered coaching philosophy, a passion for player development, and multi-sport experience that shapes his approach to mentoring young athletes. A former collegiate basketball player and current high school baseball coach, Levi blends spiritual guidance, skill mastery, and accountability to help athletes grow on and off the court.

Rooted in his belief that strong performance begins with a strong relationship with God, Levi emphasizes spiritual principles as the foundation of his coaching. He strives to instill confidence, discipline, and purpose in every player he works with, encouraging athletes to glorify God through both their actions and their effort. His mission is clear: to help players understand their God-given potential, strengthen their faith, and develop the skills and habits necessary for long-term success, both in basketball and in life.

A multi-sport athlete in high school, Levi competed in soccer, baseball, and basketball, building a well-rounded athletic foundation. Although injuries sidelined him during his freshman year of college at Grand Canyon University, his competitive fire never faded. He later transferred to a small Bible college in Plymouth, where he played one season of collegiate basketball. As both a point guard and shooting guard, he learned to read the floor, lead teammates, and understand the game from multiple perspectives—earning a reputation as a “coach on the floor.” These experiences continue to inform his approach across the sports he coaches.

In addition to his work with the Mustangs, Levi currently serves as a baseball coach at Osseo High School, further broadening his coaching versatility and leadership experience.

Grateful and excited for the opportunity to join an experienced and highly successful coaching staff, Levi looks forward to helping the Mustangs pursue a strong season. As he continues building his own coaching foundation, he remains committed to pushing athletes to reach their full potential while helping them strengthen their faith, character, and competitive mindset.

GIRLS BASKETBALL | VARSITY



Maranatha Christian Academy 2025

ROSTER

#	NAME	G	HT	POS
0	Avery Lanari	11	5'6	G
1	Greta Eaves	11	5'6	G
5	Heather Sheehy	12	5'5	G
10	Zaniah Hunter	12	5'6	G
11	Olivia Lanari	12	5'9	G/F
12	Olivia Alm	11	5'10	F
14	Elenore Eaves	9	5'5	G
24	Mikayla Johnson-Barnes	8	5'10	F
33	Faith Taylor	9	5'7	G
35	Mia McFadden	9	5'4	G

COACHING STAFF

HEAD COACH
Faith Johnson Patterson

ASSISTANT COACHES

John Patterson
Doug Lemon
Levi Skogerboe

GIRLS BASKETBALL | JV



MUSTANGS

Maranatha Christian Academy 2025

ROSTER

#	NAME	G	HT	POS
2	Nia Smith	8	5'5	G
3	Sydney Howell	8	5'6	G
4	Hannah Voronyak	7	5'0	G
13	Alyssa Warren	11	5'4	G
15	Nylah Dixon	8	5'11	F
22	Madi Jahnke	8	5'6	G
23	Skyla Booker-McCants	8	5'11	G/F
31	Grace Bjorklund	8	6'0	F
34	Camile Gear	8	5'6	G/F
41	Edna Hailu	8	5'8	F

COACHING STAFF

HEAD
Levi Skogerboe

CHEER TEAM



COACH | ALLIE OLIVER

Allie Oliver is entering her third year as co-coach of the Maranatha Sideline Cheer Team. She is an alumna of MCA. Allie cheered on both the sideline and competition teams and earned a State championship as an athlete in 2006.

Allie started working at MCA as a classroom assistant in 2025.



COACH | JILLENE NELSON

Jillene Nelson is entering her third year as co-coach of the Maranatha Sideline Cheer Team. A proud Maranatha Christian Academy alumna, she cheered on both the sideline and competition teams from 7th–12th grade. Since 2009, Jillene has contributed to Maranatha’s cheer program in various coaching roles, helping develop both the sideline and competitive squads. She earned a State championship as an athlete in 2006 and added another State title to her résumé as a coach in 2012.

Jillene also serves MCA as a Learning Support Specialist Teacher. She is a 2012 graduate of the University of Northwestern – St. Paul, where she earned her degree in Elementary Education.

ROSTER

NAME	GRADE
Tyra Agbagbuo	10
JoAnna Benny	10
Amelia Cromer	10
Isla Czerlanis	10
Genevieve Dudero	11
Lati Ettafa	10
Brooklyn Grasley	8
Kiera Hoven	11
Valeria Liquez	10
Ella Nix	9
Victoria Otunuga	12
Leah Steck	10
Fatima Urcuyo	9
Emily Wang	10



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GO MUSTANGS

FIGHT SONG

We are the might, might, mighty Mustangs,
There is nothing we can't do!
We are the might, might, mighty Mustangs,
Honest, brave, and true.
Unified together, MCA will show our pride.
Fighting on to victory with Jesus, our guide.
We are the might, might, mighty Mustangs,
Maranatha red and white!

FREE MUSTANG ATHLETICS GAME PHOTOS

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VON HANSON'S MEATS

MUSTANG FACILITIES



The Stable at Maranatha Christian Academy is home to Basketball and Volleyball



Noble Sports Park is home to Soccer.



Zane Sports Park is home to Softball.



Mustang Weight Room at Maranatha Christian Academy.



MUSTANGS

GOLF INVITATIONAL

DATE: JULY 13, 2026

LOCATION: FOX HOLLOW GOLF CLUB

TIME: 8:00 AM SHOTGUN START



ALL PROCEEDS GO TO SUPPORT MARANATHA MUSTANG ATHLETICS