

# WAYZATA GIRLS BASKETBALL



## CLASS OF 2026



Together these seniors have embraced all roles to help lift our team. I'm forever grateful for their contributions. It will impact our program for years to come. Thank you from the bottom of my  ...

*Coach Stew*

**SENIOR NIGHT**  
Tuesday, February 17, 2026



# 2025-26 Wayzata Girls Basketball

## Varsity & JV Roster



### Players

- #1 Annika Kieser (Jr.)
- #2 Kaja Nash (Jr.)
- #3 Maren Day (Jr.)
- #4 Evie Backer (Jr.)
- #5 Kate Amelotte (Sr.)
- #10 Harper Kietzer (Jr.)
- #11 Juliette Brill (Jr.)
- #12 Kylie Englund (Fr.)
- #13 Noraa Ivey (So.)
- #14 Grace Eernisse (Jr.)
- #15 Ava Doherty (Jr.)
- #21 Tessa Frank (Jr.)
- #22 Mallory McBeth (So.)
- #23 Sawyer Backer (Fr.)
- #24 Nikki Gustafson (Fr.)
- #30 Brielle Denkmann (Fr.)
- #31 Isabella Margulis (Jr.)
- #33 Elli Howard (Sr.)
- #34 Chloe Lundgren (So.)

### Coaches

- Julie Stewart
- Tina Christopherson
- Casey Payne
- Alivia Arnebeck
- Sarah Bingea

### Managers

- Alli Dwyer (Sr.)
- Hannah Brenke (Sr.)
- Millie Marlin (Sr.)
- Nora Eddleman (Sr.)



# Kate Amelotte

**Favorite Basketball Memory:**  
Winning 8th grade state championship

**Favorite Coach Saying:**  
“Stop playing hero ball” - Herbie

**Pregame Meal/Ritual:**  
PB&J and strawberries, then stretching with Alli

**Favorite Basketball Player:**  
Napheesa Collier



**Nickname:**

Pearl



## Coaches Comments:

*KATE, YOU ARE SUCH AN EXPLOSIVE, INSTINCTIVE PLAYER, AND I'VE ALWAYS ADMIRER HOW YOU COMBINE RAW STRENGTH/TALENT WITH A SELFLESS, 'TEAM-FIRST' MENTALITY. YOU BRING A DYNAMIC, CONTAGIOUS ENERGY TO EVERY PRACTICE AND GAME. YOUR PASSION IS VISIBLE TO ANYONE WATCHING—YOUR GENUINE JOY FOR THE GAME IS EASY TO SEE IN EVERY PLAY.*

*WHETHER IT'S IN THE CLASSROOM OR PUTTING IN EXTRA WORK ON YOUR OFF DAYS, YOU'VE SHOWN WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A TRUE STUDENT-ATHLETE. YOUR IMPACT ON OUR CULTURE IS ROOTED IN PURE GRIT. I LOVE HOW YOU EMBRACE THE PRESENT, YOU'VE HELPED THIS PROGRAM GROW IN SO MANY WAYS AND THE STANDARD YOU'VE SET HERE WILL BE FELT FOR YEARS TO COME.*

*YOUR SPIRIT FOR COMPETITION IS REFRESHING AND ADMIRABLE. IT HAS BEEN AN ABSOLUTE PLEASURE TO COACH YOU, AND I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT YOU WILL FIND SUCCESS IN ANYTHING YOU PUT YOUR MIND TO. CREIGHTON BLUE JAYS ARE GETTING A SPECIAL ONE - FLY HIGH, KATE! ⚡ 'CHARGE' ON. —STEW*

*KATE, YOU ARE AN IMPACTFUL PLAYER AND TEAMMATE. YOUR ABILITY TO SEE THE FLOOR, PASS TO AN OPEN TEAMMATE, AND TAKE OVER A GAME IS SO FUN TO WATCH. MOST PLAYERS WHO HAVE FACED SEASON ENDING INJURIES ARE MORE WORRIED ABOUT ACCUMULATING STATS OR CATCHING UP ON THE YEAR THEY MISSED, NOT YOU. YOUR UNSELFISH PLAY AND SUPPORT OF YOUR TEAMMATES HAS BEEN INCREDIBLE THIS YEAR. YOU HAVE GROWN AND MATURED OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS AND HAVE BECOME A TEAM LEADER AND COMPLETE PLAYER. THE BEST PART ABOUT IT IS THAT YOU ARE HAVING FUN AND THAT BRINGS JOY TO EVERYONE THAT KNOWS HOW DIFFICULT THE LAST YEAR HAS BEEN. YOUR FUTURE IS BRIGHT, KEEP SMILING AND HAVING FUN ON THE COURT! —TC*

**Advice to Younger Players:**  
Don't take the opportunity to play the game you love for granted

# Elli Howard

## Favorite Basketball Memory:

My 8th grade season and spending time with my team

## Favorite Coach Saying:

“Don’t stop believing” - BAM

## Pregame Meal/Ritual:

Eat a PB&J and stretch before the game

## Favorite Basketball Player:

Steph Curry



Nickname:

*Buckets*



## Coaches Comments:

*ELLI, YOU ARE A GREAT TEAMMATE! YOU ARE WILLING TO TAKE ON ANYTHING WE ASK YOU TO DO. YOUR ACTIONS/ATTITUDE SPEAK LOUDLY TO OUR TEAM AND HAVE IMPACTED OUR ENTIRE PROGRAM. YOU BRING INFECTIOUS ENERGY THAT HAS HAD SUCH AN IMPACT ON THE WAYZATA PROGRAM. YOUR ATHLETICISM AND STRENGTH ARE QUALITIES YOU HAVE DEDICATED YOURSELF TO AND IT HAS PAID OFF. YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AN AUTO BUCKET ('ELLI BUCKETS🏀'). YOUR DEDICATION TO OTHER PARTS OF THE GAME OUTSIDE OF SCORING HAS BEEN SO IMPRESSIVE. YOUR WELL ROUNDED APPROACH TO LIFE WILL BRING YOU SUCCESS FOR A LIFETIME. YOU HAVE A REMARKABLE NATURAL TALENT FOR CONNECTING WITH OUR YOUTH, AND WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR YOUR INSPIRATION. THANK YOU FOR BEING A BRIGHT LIGHT IN THEIR LIVES! ELLI, IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE COACHING YOU AND WATCHING YOU GROW OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS. YOUR COMPETITIVENESS AND DRIVE SERVES YOU WELL ON THE COURT AND IN THE CLASSROOM. WE CAN'T WAIT TO KEEP WATCHING YOU EXCEL AT BETHEL UNIVERSITY! THE SKY IS THE LIMIT! —STEW*

*“ELLI BUCKETS” - HAS BEEN COACH STEW'S TAG FOR YOU SINCE FRESHMAN YEAR. YOUR POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND WILLINGNESS TO PLAY ANY POSITION IS A TESTAMENT TO YOUR COMMITMENT TO OUR TEAM. EVERY TIME YOU RECEIVE A PASS BEYOND THE 3 POINT LINE EVERYONE'S ARMS GO IN THE AIR BECAUSE WE KNOW YOUR ABILITY TO ADD TO THE SCORE IS HIGH. IN THE LAST TWO YEARS YOU HAVE EXPANDED YOUR GAME FROM THE THREE POINT LINE TO IN THE PAINT. YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED YOUR STRENGTH AND ABILITY TO SCORE AROUND THE RIM AND REBOUND AGAINST BIGGER OPPONENTS. YOU ARE LEADING WITH KINDNESS AND GRACE, AND ARE WILLING TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO HELP THE TEAM REACH OUR GOALS. THANK YOU ELLI! —TC*

## Advice to Younger Players:

Look for the positive in every situation and embrace your role!

# Alli Dwyer

## Favorite Basketball Memory:

Freshman year Moorhead trip and becoming conference champs last year!

## Favorite Coach Saying:

“Do you want to be average or great, choose to be great” - TC

## Pregame Meal/Ritual:

PB&J and stretching Kate out before every game

## Favorite Basketball Player:

Napheesa Collier



## Coaches Comments:

*ALLIE, THANK YOU FOR BEING THE CAPTAIN OF OUR MANAGERS BY ORGANIZING SCHEDULES AND COMMUNICATING WITH ME. YOU ARE SELF-DRIVEN AND DEPENDABLE. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE TO HELP OUR PROGRAM BE SUCCESSFUL. YOUR ATTENTION TO DETAILS IS IMPRESSIVE. WE APPRECIATE YOUR KINDNESS AND WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND WILLINGNESS TO DO THE EXTRA! YOU ARE GREAT AT HELPING THE GIRLS STRETCH AND MAKING SURE THEIR HAIR IS READY TO GO!*

—STEW

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION AND WILLINGNESS TO MAKE SURE THE TEAM HAS EVERYTHING WE NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN PRACTICE AND GAMES. YOU ASK HOW YOU CAN HELP AND CONTINUALLY ARE FINDING WAYS TO HELP THE TEAM BE BETTER. THESE HABITS WILL SERVE YOU WELL INTO YOUR FUTURE.*

—TC

## Advice to Younger Players:

Play with joy, cherish all moments with your teammates and have so much fun!



# Hannah Brenke

**Favorite Basketball Memory:**  
Moorhead freshman year!

**Favorite Coach Saying:**  
“Never apologize for being yourself” - CP

**Pregame Meal/Ritual:**  
Pesto Cavatappi from Noodles, a Bubblr...  
and doing a slick back in my hair

**Favorite Basketball Player:**  
Anthony Edwards



**Advice to Younger Players:**  
Be confident in your abilities and be coachable!  
Don't let a rough game or practice hinder your  
attitude or effort.

## Coaches Comments:

*HANNAH, YOUR POSITIVITY IS CONTAGIOUS. YOUR DEDICATION IN THE CLASSROOM, SPORTS AND MUSIC WILL SERVE YOU WELL WITH A BRIGHT, WELL ROUNDED FUTURE AHEAD OF YOU. THANK YOU, YOUR PRESENCE AND WILLINGNESS TO HELP IN ANY WAY MAKES OUR ENVIRONMENT BETTER. YOU BRIGHTEN UP A GYM WITH YOUR SMILE! I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU ON AMERICAN IDOL! LET'S GO!*  
- STEW

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO DETAIL AND BEING THERE FOR THE TEAM, EVEN WHEN YOU HAD A TRIP TO FLORIDA PLANNED YOU STAYED BEHIND AND WERE THERE FOR US WHEN WE NEEDED YOU. WE LOVE TO HEAR YOU SINGING, WHILE YOU ARE RUNNING THE CLOCK OR RECORDING FREE THROWS. YOUR FUTURE IS BRIGHT!*  
- TC



# Millie Marlin

**Favorite Basketball Memory:**  
Sophomore year season with CP

**Favorite Coach Saying:**  
"Did you get that on video?" - Stew

**Pregame Meal/Ritual:**  
I listen to purple rain every game day

**Favorite Basketball Player:**  
Paige Bueckers



## Coaches Comments:

*MILLI, THANK YOU FOR BEING HELPFUL IN PRACTICE AND ALWAYS MAKING IT MORE FUN. WE ENJOY YOUR SENSE OF HUMOR. WE APPRECIATE YOUR HELP WITH THE BOOK, RUNNING THE CLOCK, HELPING PASS AND DOING ANYTHING WE ASK OF YOU. YOUR 'YUP CLAP CLAP CLAP 🙌🙌🙌' 'YUP CLAP CLAP CLAP 🙌🙌🙌' WILL LIVE ON IN OUR PROGRAM FOR MANY YEARS TO COME! THANKS FOR SHARING YOUR CREATIVITY!*

*- STEW*

*THANK YOU FOR KEEPING THE BOOK DURING GAMES AND HELPING IN PRACTICE. YOU BRING FUN AND A BEAUTIFUL SMILE EACH AND EVERY DAY. WE APPRECIATE YOUR HELPFULNESS AND YOUR POSITIVE ATTITUDE. KEEP SMILING AND BRINGING POSITIVE "BENERGY"!*

*- TC*

**Advice to Younger Players:**  
Stay disciplined and do the little things right



# Nora Eddleman

**Favorite Basketball Memory:**  
8th grade state tournament

**Favorite Coach Saying:**  
"Geronimo" - TC

**Pregame Meal/Ritual:**  
Sandwich and Starbucks/Alani

**Favorite Basketball Player:**  
Cotie McMahon



## Coaches Comments:

*NORA, YOUR IMPACT HAS BEEN A CONTRIBUTION TO OUR SUCCESS. YOU ARE ALWAYS READY TO HELP WITH ANYTHING WE ASK. YOU TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN DETAILS AND MAKING EVERYTHING BETTER. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR THE ROLE YOU HAVE PLAYED IN OUR PROGRAM. NORA, YOUR FUTURE IS BRIGHT. YOUR WORK ETHIC IS INCREDIBLE AND WILL SERVE YOU WELL IN THE FUTURE. THANK YOU FOR PLAYING YOUR MUSIC, THE TEAM SOMETIMES NEEDS A BREAK FROM MY PLAY LISTS!*

—STEW

*THANK YOU FOR BEING THERE FOR THE TEAM, RUNNING THE CLOCK, PASSING DURING DRILLS, AND TAKING STATS. WE APPRECIATE YOUR GIVING SPIRIT AND POSITIVE ATTITUDE. YOUR TRAITS WILL BE AN ASSET FOR YEARS TO COME.*

—TC

**Advice to Younger Players:**  
Cherish every moment on and off the court because it really does go by so fast!





Kate



Elli



Alli

**"I owe basketball. I'm forever indebted to it. It engulfed my life for the positive."**

*Dawn Staley*



Hannah



Millie



Nora

# SENIOR SUPERLATIVES

(as voted on by their teammates and coaches)



these girls grew up to be the...

*most likely to...*



Kate

“laugh at the worst possible time”  
& win the  
“always want her on your side”  
award



Elli

“make friends with the other team”  
&  
“make someone’s day better”



Alli

“text back in under 30 seconds”  
&  
“have 47 tabs open at all times”



Hannah

“be everyone’s ‘mom friend’”  
&  
“be the loudest from the bench”  
(besides juliette, of course 📣)



Millie

“be on a reality TV show”  
&  
“dance during time-outs”

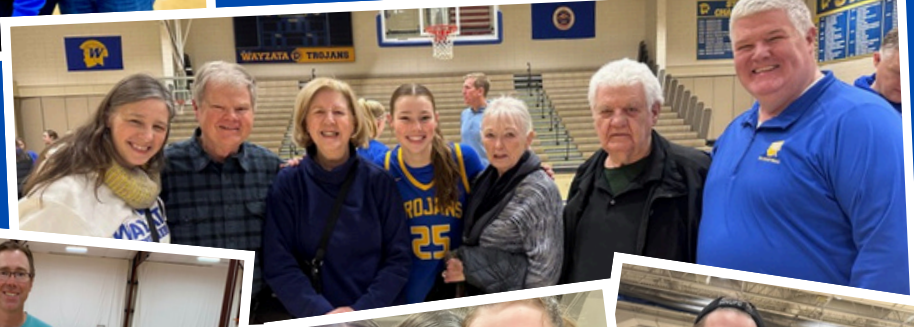


Nora

“always have that perfect hair”  
&  
“have the best playlist”  
(besides stew, of course 🥰)



# SUPERFANS



Thank you for ALWAYS being there for us. We LOVE our fan club!

*Kate Elli Alli Hannah Millie Nora*



*Wishing you the very best  
in your next chapter, Seniors!*



TBD

