

# 2023-24 VALPARAISO MEN'S BASKETBALL QUICK FACTS

## GENERAL

**Name of School:** Valparaiso University  
**City/Zip:** Valparaiso, Ind. 46383  
**Founded:** 1859  
**Enrollment:** 2,868  
**Nickname:** Beacons  
**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:** José Padilla  
**Athletics Director:** Dr. Charles Small  
**Interim Senior Woman Administrator:** Candy Jessen  
**Athletics Department Phone:** 219-464-6894  
**Ticket Office Phone:** 219-464-5233  
**Website:** www.valpoathletics.com

## COACHING STAFF

**Head Coach:** Roger Powell Jr. (first season)  
**Alma Mater (Year):** Illinois (2005)  
**Record at Valpo (Seasons):** 0-0 (first)  
**Overall Record (Seasons):** 0-0 (first)  
**Men's Basketball Office Phone:** 219-464-5254  
**Assistant Coaches:** Pat Baldwin (first season), Matt Gordon (first season) and A.J. Moye (first season)  
**Director of Recruiting & Player Development:** Lubos Barton (1st)  
**Special Assistant to the Head Coach:** Quintin Garrison (1st)  
**Video Coordinator/Director of Operations:** Sean Taylor (1st)

## SPORTS MEDIA RELATIONS

**Associate AD/Strategic Communication (MBB):** Brandon Vickrey  
**Office phone number:** 219.464.5396  
**Cell phone number:** 219.771.7504  
**Email:** Brandon.Vickrey@valpo.edu

### Media Relations Mailing Address:

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

## TEAM INFORMATION

**Overall Record last year:** 11-21  
**Conference Record (Finish):** 5-15 (10th/12)  
**Home/Road/Neutral:** 8-7 / 2-12 / 1-2  
**Letterwinners Returning/Lost:** 4/11  
**Starters Returning/Lost:** 0/5

## HISTORY

**First year of basketball:** 1917-18  
**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  
Note: team accepted CIT invite in 2019-20, but tournament was canceled due to COVID-19.

## MEDIA INFORMATION

**Radio:** Valpo Sports Radio Network (WVUR, 95.1 FM)  
**Play-by-play:** Todd Ickow [219.771.8487]  
**Color analyst:** Brandon Vickrey (road games)  
**Contact:** Brandon Vickrey

**Outlet:** The Victory Bell  
**Reporter:** Paul Oren  
**Phone Number:** 414.975.7626  
**Email:** orennwi@gmail.com

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

**Newspaper:** Times of Northwest Indiana  
**Sports Editor:** Noah Bortle  
**Phone number:** 508.523.8730

**Newspaper:** The Torch  
**Sports Editor:** Nikki Coryell  
**Phone number:** 219.464.5426  
**Email:** Nikki.Coryell@valpo.edu

# SEASON OUTLOOK

A new era of Valpo basketball is set to begin in 2023-24 as head coach Roger Powell Jr. embarks upon his first season leading the program. Powell, who has reached the national title game as both a player and assistant coach, will guide a roster comprised of 11 newcomers (nine scholarship) and four returning players (three scholarship).

Senior Connor Barrett is the team's leading returning scorer and the longest-tenured member of the program. He is joined by senior Jerome Palm, in his second year at Valpo, and junior Darius DeAveiro, in his third year in the program, to form the trio of returning scholarship players.

A young group will feature six freshmen, five of whom come directly from either high school or prep school and one redshirt freshman transfer. Sherman Weatherspoon IV, Kaspar Sepp, Cooper Schwieger and Lucas Scroggins are all prep school freshmen, while Jahari Williamson is a high school freshman. Lual Manyang is a redshirt freshman after spending his true rookie season at Hofstra.

Isaiah Stafford, a junior guard with prior stops at John A. Logan and Southern Indiana, has joined the program as a transfer, as has sophomore forward Ola Ajiboye (Central Michigan) and sophomore guard Jaxon Edwards (Murray State). A trio of nonscholarship players round out the roster – Lake Land transfer Luke Carroll, former Valpo football player Anthony Sciarroni and returning walk-on Joe Vick.

Powell's assistant coaches include former Milwaukee head coach Pat Baldwin, longtime Loyola and Oklahoma staffer Matt Gordon and A.J. Moye, who played in the 2002 national title game while at Indiana. The staff also features Valpo Athletics Hall of Famer Lubos Barton as Director of Recruiting & Player Development, Quintin Garrison as Special Assistant to the Head Coach and Sean Taylor as Video Coordinator / Director of Basketball Operations.

## HEAD COACH ROGER POWELL JR.

Roger Powell Jr. was named the 23rd head coach of the Valparaiso University men's basketball program on April 7, 2023. After helping guide Gonzaga University to a 121-13 record during his four seasons as an assistant coach, Powell returned to Valpo, where he was part of head coach Bryce Drew's staff from 2011-2016 and led the team to 124 wins in five seasons, including a program-record 30 victories and a National Invitation Tournament (NIT) title game appearance in 2015-16. Powell becomes the first Black head coach in the history of the Valpo men's basketball program.

Powell was part of head coach Mark Few's Gonzaga staff as the Bulldogs reached the 2021 national championship game after winning their first 31 games of the season. During Powell's first season on staff in 2019-20, Gonzaga was 31-2 at the time the NCAA college basketball season was halted due to COVID-19. The Bulldogs reached the Sweet Sixteen each of his final three seasons on staff, including two Elite Eight appearances and the aforementioned trip to the 2021 national title game. The 2020-21 team spent the entire season ranked No. 1 in the nation by the Associated Press. The Bulldogs were the No. 1 overall seed in back-to-back NCAA Tournaments in 2021 and 2022.

Prior to his arrival at Gonzaga, Powell served as the associate head coach at Vanderbilt University under Bryce Drew from 2016-2019. In his first season in Nashville, he helped lead the Commodores to an NCAA Tournament appearance. Vanderbilt notched five top-25 wins, six top-50 victories and 11 top-100 RPI wins while playing the toughest strength of schedule nationally.

During Powell's first stint on the Valpo bench, he was part of four Horizon League regular-season championships in a five-year period while also leading the 2012-13 and 2014-15 squads to Horizon League tournament titles and NCAA Tournament appearances. Valpo reached postseason tournaments in each of his five seasons on staff, including the memorable run to the NIT title game in 2016 which featured wins over Florida State, Saint Mary's and BYU.

# 2023-24 VALPARAISO MEN'S BASKETBALL ROSTER

#	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown/High School [Prev. School]
0	Jaxon Edwards	G	6-5	195	So.	Indianapolis, Ind./Cathedral [Murray State]
1	Jerome Palm	F	6-10	230	Sr.*	Almere, Netherlands/Echnaton [Hillsborough CC]
2	Connor Barrett	G/F	6-6	210	Sr.*	Chicago, Ill./Loyola Academy
3	Anthony Sciarri	G/F	6-0	195	R-Sr.	Columbus, Ohio/St. Francis DeSales [Alderson Broaddus at Findlay]
4	Sherman Weatherspoon IV	G	6-2	180	Fr.	Bowie, Md./Bethesda-Chevy Chase [Golden State Prep]
5	Ola Ajiboye	F	6-7	200	So.	Chicago, Ill./Evanston Twp. [Central Michigan/Bosco Institute]
6	Darius DeAveiro	G	6-0	170	Jr.	Kanata, Ottawa, Canada/Orangeville Prep
7	Jahari Williamson	G	6-1	165	Fr.	Pickering, Ontario, Canada/Royal Crown Academy
10	Lucas Scroggins	F	6-9	190	Fr.	Woodbridge, Va./Hylton [Bosco Institute]
13	Cooper Schwieger	F	6-9	210	Fr.	Overland Park, Kan./Blue Valley Southwest [Link Year]
19	Isaiah Stafford	G	6-2	175	Jr.	Bolingbrook, Ill./Crispus Attucks [John A. Logan/Southern Ind.]
20	Joe Vick	G	6-2	195	So.	Kouts, Ind./Kouts
21	Kaspar Sepp	F	6-7	220	Fr.	Tartu, Estonia/Fairmont Academy
34	Lual Manyang	C	6-10	210	R-Fr.	Twic, South Sudan /Blair Academy [Hofstra]
35	Luke Carroll	G/F	6-4	235	So.	Westfield, Ind./Hamilton Heights [Lake Land]

\*- additional year of eligibility available due to COVID-19.

Head Coach: **Roger Powell Jr.** (Illinois, 2005) – 1st season

Assistant Coaches: **Pat Baldwin** (Northwestern, 1994) – 1st season, **Matt Gordon** (Illinois State, 2006) and **A.J. Moye** (Indiana, 2004) – 1st season

Special Assistant to the Head Coach: **Quintin Garrison** (Illinois, 2005) – 1st season

Video Coordinator/Director of Basketball Operations: **Sean Taylor** (Marquette, 2021) – 1st season

Director of Recruiting & Player Development: **Lubos Barton** (Valparaiso, 2002) – 1st season

Graduate Assistants: **Jacob Lindsey** (Butler, 2023) – 1st season and **Colin Walls** (Indiana, 2023) – 1st season

# 2022-23 VALPARAISO MEN'S BASKETBALL STATS

Team Box Score

No.	Player				Total			3-Point			F-Throw		Rebounds									
		GP-GS	MIN	AVG	FG-FGA	FG%	3FG-3FGA	3FG%	FT-FTA	FT%	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG	PF	DQ	A	TO	BLK	STL	PTS	AVG
23	KRIKKE, Ben	32-32	1143:15	35.7	244-442	.552	17-61	.279	117-147	.796	63	126	189	5.9	74	4	67	71	28	17	622	19.4
35	KING, Kobe	32-32	1129:57	35.3	195-456	.428	19-86	.221	109-142	.768	42	89	131	4.1	58	0	54	68	9	22	518	16.2
14	GREEN, Quinton	31-31	930:52	30.0	107-283	.378	68-204	.333	49-66	.742	13	130	143	4.6	74	2	30	34	17	26	331	10.7
5	EDWARDS, Nick	32-24	865:54	27.1	91-227	.401	16-62	.258	46-78	.590	12	114	126	3.9	56	0	160	74	4	48	244	7.6
13	NELSON, Maximus	31-22	561:08	18.1	50-134	.373	38-111	.342	6-6	1.000	13	88	101	3.3	63	3	8	23	4	6	144	4.6
3	BARRETT, Connor	31-1	519:60	16.8	43-99	.434	28-79	.354	14-18	.778	6	47	53	1.7	61	1	12	14	2	15	128	4.1
12	BAYU, Ibra	27-0	325:12	12.0	30-59	.508	2-12	.167	4-10	.400	20	53	73	2.7	39	1	14	30	11	15	66	2.4
32	HEDSTROM, Joe	14-0	75:18	5.4	10-16	.625	3-8	.375	8-9	.889	5	7	12	0.9	8	0	3	5	1	1	31	2.2
2	RUEDINGER, Preston	9-6	185:47	20.6	6-29	.207	3-17	.176	4-5	.800	0	21	21	2.3	23	1	9	9	0	8	19	2.1
33	PALM, Jerome	23-9	310:09	13.5	18-43	.419	0-8	.000	8-16	.500	27	65	92	4.0	32	1	7	10	7	2	44	1.9
4	DEAVEIRO, Darius	25-2	385:59	15.4	14-47	.298	3-16	.188	13-21	.619	4	35	39	1.6	24	0	68	36	0	27	44	1.8
11	FREESE-VILJEN, Emil	10-0	62:36	6.3	5-8	.625	0-0	.000	0-2	.000	0	10	10	1.0	12	0	2	4	0	0	10	1.0
1	PALESSE, Cam	4-0	39:42	9.9	0-5	.000	0-2	.000	2-2	1.000	1	1	2	0.5	4	0	1	1	0	0	2	0.5
15	MORRILL, Luke	7-1	12:54	1.8	1-4	.250	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	0	1	1	0.1	1	0	0	3	0	0	3	0.4
20	VICK, Joe	1-0	01:18	1.3	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.0
Team											45	49	94					24				
<b>Total</b>		<b>32</b>	<b>6550</b>		<b>814-1852</b>	<b>.440</b>	<b>198-668</b>	<b>.296</b>	<b>380-522</b>	<b>.728</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>1087</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>2206</b>	<b>68.9</b>
<b>Opponents</b>		<b>32</b>	<b>6550</b>		<b>843-1882</b>	<b>.448</b>	<b>239-704</b>	<b>.339</b>	<b>430-586</b>	<b>.734</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>1116</b>	<b>34.9</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>2355</b>	<b>73.6</b>

