The Dominance of Caitlin Clark

Evaluating the strength of Iowa's standout women's basketball player

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Abstract

Caitlin Clark, the Iowa-born point guard, was a standout star before she even stepped onto the University of Iowa's basketball court. In fact, she received letters of interest from Division I programs before getting into high school. She eventually committed to Iowa's program as the top-recruited athlete in the country. Now, in her third season, many analysts call her the best college player in the country, some going so far to say that she's a shoe-in for National Player of the Year. Clark's dominance is undeniable. This paper explores her statistics, compares her to other players using quantitative metrics, and seeks to ask: just how dominant is she?

1 Introduction and Methodology

Neither the writers or the analysts of this report are mathematicians or statisticians. Rather, our path to statistics came through interest in other disciplines: politics, computer science, architecture, economics, the environment, and now — after our lead author watched dozens of games — women's basketball.

We started this report after a game between Iowa's Women's Basketball team and Indiana's. The 2nd-ranked Hoosiers traveled to the 6th-ranked Hawkeyes in what was one of the closest-watched matchups of the year. Just weeks earlier — on February 9, 2023 — the Hoosiers beat the Hawkeyes, putting the Bloomington-based team in position to win the regular season conference championship.

The game on February 26, 2023, ended differently. With less than two seconds left on the clock, Indiana led by two points. But an inbound pass to the hands of Caitlin Clark and a three-point shot toward the basket cemented a one-point victory for Iowa. It reinforced a difficult lesson for Indiana: you can't leave Caitlin Clark open anywhere on the court.

^{*}I must admit to being an avid fan of Indiana University's women's basketball team. This paper is not free of bias. I'll take Mackenzie Holmes, Grace Berger, or Yarden Garzon over Caitlin Clark any day. I would like to thank Professor Christopher DeSante, Ph.D., of Indiana University for his consistent guidance on this project and others like it. He is the person who made me love math again.

It didn't take anyone — including us — this long to realize how good Caitlin Clark is. But it did raise some questions: just how good is she? How does she compare to players around the country? Those are the questions this paper seeks to answer.

1.1 The Players to Compare

It is genuinely difficult to find players to compare to Caitlin Clark. We focus on players who are active in the 2022-2023 season. For the sake of simplicity, we will rely on the November watch list for National Player of the Year. This gives us a diverse list of the best players in the country.

Fifty names were included in the Atlanta Tipoff Club watch list. They included players from 32 different schools. The previous year's winner, Aliyah Boston of the University of South Carolina, was included.

Throughout this report, we'll compare Clark's statistics to the players on this list. Table 12 is attached at the end of the report and shows the name, class year, position, and school of all 50 players we will compare.

1.2 How Should We Judge Players?

Analysts use a variety of statistics to examine player performance and predict a player's future.

In fact, there's an ongoing debate in the statistics world of sports about how to judge players. For scoring, points are king. Assists demonstrate how a player can uplift a teammate and make those around them better. Rebounds can show how a player extends or flips a possession — depending on which end of the floor is being examined.

In this paper, we will boil down Clark's performance into a few different measurements. For each measurement, we'll examine Clark's statistics and compare it to the NPOY watch list.

All of the data points we reviewed were selected before we analyzed the data. This was to avoid bias. If there are variables we reviewed where Clark was not a leader, they're included.

1.3 The Data

We obtained our data through the WeHoop Sportsdataverse API. We are very appreciative for this tool, which obtains data in real time. We reviewed all available Division I NCAA Women's Basketball games in the 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 seasons. The season was ongoing when we were writing this analysis; therefore, the last game analyzed took place on February 25, 2023. Any games after this date were not included in our data.

Before our analysis, we completed a cursory exploration of the data to ensure it could be analyzed properly. We picked our data topics before the analysis was completed.

We used R and RStudio to analyze the data. That script can be made available by request, and we are more than happy to provide the data used to complete the analysis.

2 The Points

2.1 Leading the Game and the Team

Caitlin Clark's scoring is beyond dominant.

She averaged almost 27 points per game in her first two seasons of college basketball. That led all Division I players in both seasons.

Points per game, however, doesn't tell the full story. Clark's scoring dominance is also displayed in the number of games in which she's the top-scoring player. As of the writing of this report, she's played 90 games for Iowa's team. Of those 90 games, she's been the top-scoring player in 61 of them.

That is the best rate among the 50 NPOY candidates. Creeping up behind her, however, is Maddy Siegrist, the standout star from Villanova. The top 15 players among the NPOY candidates is attached in Table 1.

Clark does face more difficult competition each year than Siegrist, on average. Iowa's conference schedule in the Big Ten is significantly more difficult than Villanova's. Each season, Clark faces the likes of Mackenzie Holmes in Bloomington or Diamond Miller in College Park.

That said, Siegrist's biggest Big East conference competition is fierce: the University of Connecticut. The Huskies — coached by Geno Auriemma – have 11 national championships under their belt.

To see this trend, one only needs to count the number of Top Ten opponents each team faced in the 2022-2023 season. Iowa played seven games against five T10 opponents to Villanova's two games (both of those games were against UConn).

| Name | Game Leader | Total Games | Proportion |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| Caitlin Clark | 61.00 | 90.00 | 0.68 |
| Maddy Siegrist | 75.00 | 111.00 | 0.68 |
| Charlisse Leger-Walker | 36.00 | 77.00 | 0.47 |
| Aneesah Morrow | 28.00 | 62.00 | 0.45 |
| Destinee Wells | 33.00 | 83.00 | 0.40 |
| Ashley Joens | 59.00 | 150.00 | 0.39 |
| Angel Reese | 28.00 | 73.00 | 0.38 |
| Sam Breen | 37.00 | 109.00 | 0.34 |
| Mackenzie Holmes | 37.00 | 111.00 | 0.33 |
| Elizabeth Kitley | 36.00 | 112.00 | 0.32 |
| Rickea Jackson | 30.00 | 94.00 | 0.32 |
| Deja Kelly | 26.00 | 82.00 | 0.32 |
| Jayda Curry | 14.00 | 50.00 | 0.28 |
| Myah Selland | 34.00 | 122.00 | 0.28 |
| Charisma Osborne | 30.00 | 109.00 | 0.28 |

Table 1: Number of Games as Point Leader (NPOY Candidates)

Out of Clark's 90 games, she's been the top-scoring Hawkeye in 69 games — more than 75% of the games in which she's played. The only player on the NPOY watch list who outperforms Clark in that category is Siegrist, who led her team in points 80% of the time.. Siegrist has played almost 20 games more than Clark, and she leads by the same number in games as team point leader.

Table 2 displays that data.

| Name | Team Leader | Total Games | Proportion |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| Maddy Siegrist | 89.00 | 111.00 | 0.80 |
| Caitlin Clark | 69.00 | 90.00 | 0.77 |
| Aneesah Morrow | 40.00 | 62.00 | 0.65 |
| Jayda Curry | 31.00 | 50.00 | 0.62 |
| Charlisse Leger-Walker | 45.00 | 77.00 | 0.58 |
| Ashley Joens | 81.00 | 150.00 | 0.54 |
| Angel Reese | 39.00 | 73.00 | 0.53 |
| Destinee Wells | 43.00 | 83.00 | 0.52 |
| Sam Breen | 55.00 | 109.00 | 0.50 |
| Rickea Jackson | 46.00 | 94.00 | 0.49 |
| Deja Kelly | 39.00 | 82.00 | 0.48 |
| Mackenzie Holmes | 51.00 | 111.00 | 0.46 |
| Elizabeth Kitley | 50.00 | 112.00 | 0.45 |
| Myah Selland | 54.00 | 122.00 | 0.44 |
| Hailey Van Lith | 39.00 | 92.00 | 0.42 |

Table 2: Number of Games as Team Point Leader (NPOY Candidates)

2.2 Producing Big Points with Big Minutes

Caitlin Clark played an average of almost 35 minutes in her 90 games for the Hawkeyes. She ranks fourth in average minutes played per game among the NPOY candidates.

She's also well above the average for the NPOY candidates. The mean of the NPOY candidates is 28.78 average minutes per game. That raises an interesting question: how productive is Clark for each minute she plays? How many points does she score each minute, and how does that compare to the other NPOY candidates?

The answer is that Clark leads all 50 players. Her average point production is .78 points per minute. The next-best candidate is Aneesah Morrow, the second-year player at DePaul. She's been garnering media attention for putting up big numbers against major opponents. A December away game against Windy City foe Northwestern saw Morrow score a careerhigh 45 points. Then, she put up six shots behind the arc against conference opponent Creighton.

The Big Ten schools bring out extraordinary point production in its players. Also ranked in the top ten in this category are Angel Reese (formerly of Maryland, now of LSU); Monika

Czinano (Iowa), a teammate of Clark; Mackenzie Holmes (Indiana); and Diamond Miller (Maryland). The data for the top 15 players in the NPOY candidates is listed in Table 3.

| Name | Average Minutes | Average Points | PPM |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------|------|
| Caitlin Clark | 34.62 | 26.87 | 0.78 |
| Aneesah Morrow | 32.65 | 23.65 | 0.72 |
| Angel Reese | 26.55 | 18.38 | 0.69 |
| Maddy Siegrist | 35.20 | 23.95 | 0.68 |
| Monika Czinano | 23.36 | 14.85 | 0.64 |
| Mackenzie Holmes | 26.65 | 16.35 | 0.61 |
| Cameron Brink | 21.21 | 12.65 | 0.60 |
| Diamond Miller | 25.50 | 14.35 | 0.56 |
| Rickea Jackson | 30.31 | 16.98 | 0.56 |
| Ashley Joens | 34.22 | 19.13 | 0.56 |
| Myah Selland | 26.80 | 14.85 | 0.55 |
| Leigha Brown | 26.69 | 14.61 | 0.55 |
| Madi Williams | 29.97 | 16.24 | 0.54 |
| Destinee Wells | 32.15 | 17.14 | 0.53 |
| Aliyah Boston | 26.80 | 14.14 | 0.53 |

Table 3: Point Production Per Minute (PPM) (NPOY Candidates)

2.3 Consistency

Clark's ability to score is not an outlier; she does it consistently from game to game.

Some teams have players that will play a breakout game. That isn't true for Caitlin Clark. While some of her teammates do lay down extraordinary statistics from time to time, Clark keeps scoring from game to game. Almost all her games feel like breakout performances.

Her worst career game as a starter was an eight-point performance against Northwestern in January 2021. It was an off game for Clark; her teammate Monika Czinano cleaned up with 28 points, and the Hawkeyes lost by 10 to the Wildcats in Chicago.

Still, her worst game as a starter is better than any of the other NPOY candidates. Indiana's Mackenzie Holmes and California's Jayda Curry tie for second place with six points each.

Looking at one bad game would not tell the full story of any player. To account for that, we decided we needed a better measure: consistency. But how can we measure that?

After some research, we found that statisticians have been begging for a consistency metric in basketball. And that's when we found Hal Brown and Krishna Narsu. They first argued for a consistency metric in a May 2014 article about the NBA.

Their metric is what we'll use. Here is the formula:

$$CM = \mu(\frac{(gamePointValue_i - averagePointValue)}{\sigma(pointValues)}$$

$$FCS = (1 - CM) * 10$$

The Consistency Metric (CM) and the Final Consistency Statistic (FCS) are the two metrics Brown and Narsu pioneered. The FCS is normalized, the values fall between 0 and 5; an FCS of 0 would be a completely inconsistent player, while a score of 5 would be a perfectly consistent player.

| Name | FCS | CM |
|-----------------|------|------|
| Maddy Siegrist | 2.39 | 0.76 |
| Cameron Brink | 2.38 | 0.76 |
| Jaz Shelley | 2.35 | 0.76 |
| Brea Beal | 2.33 | 0.77 |
| Aneesah Morrow | 2.28 | 0.77 |
| Rickea Jackson | 2.26 | 0.77 |
| Rori Harmon | 2.26 | 0.77 |
| Madi Williams | 2.25 | 0.77 |
| Destinee Wells | 2.22 | 0.78 |
| Tamari Key | 2.20 | 0.78 |
| Olivia Miles | 2.20 | 0.78 |
| Jordan Horston | 2.20 | 0.78 |
| Taylor Mikesell | 2.19 | 0.78 |
| Caitlin Clark | 2.18 | 0.78 |
| Aijha Blackwell | 2.16 | 0.78 |

Table 4: Final Consistency Statistic Leaders (NPOY Candidates)

Table 4 represents the leaders among the NPOY candidates.

Siegrist is the most consistent scoring player in that group. That said, Clark still sits solidly in the Top 15 of the NPOY candidates — already the best group of players in the country.

The gap, however, between Siegrist and Clark is notable. Siegrist's consistency is a key element to her dominance. Joining Siegrist and Clark on that list are Stanford's Cameron Brink, Nebraska's Jaz Shelley, and South Carolina's Brea Beal.

Some of the players garnering major media attention are not actually the most consistent scorers. Aliyah Boston, last year's National Player of the Year, falls in the middle of the pack; LSU transfer Angel Reese is around the same spot; Mackenzie Holmes and Grace Berger — both amazing shooters in their own right — are not consistent by this metric; and Diamond Miller and Diamond Battles both have an FCS below 2.

Brown gives an explanation for this. If players hold an FCS above 2.4 — which he suggests is "astoundingly consistent" — it may not be a good thing: if your top player is a very consistent scorer, it might mean they aren't likely "to be going on a scoring binge on any given night."

Imagine tracking two metrics on a graph. The X axis will track the player's average points-per-game; the Y axis will track the player's FCS. This graph is shown in Figure 1.

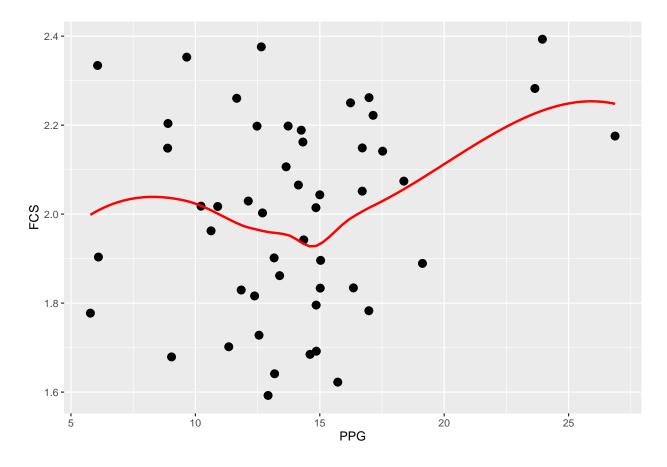


Figure 1: Points Per Game vs. Final Consistency Statistic

A player's goal is to be as far toward the top right of the graph. There are a few key takeaways from this graph.

- Players in our sample with higher PPG tend to also have higher consistency. Of course, this is only an average. Only three players in our sample have a PPG value above 20, potentially skewing the data up. That said, they are also three of the only players in Division I who is scoring at those rates.
- There does tend to be a dropoff among players whose PPG is between 10 and 15 points. The average consistency rating does taper off slightly in between these ranges. There are also more players who fall in between these ranges. 26 of the players representing more than half of the NPOY candidates score between 10 and 15 PPG.

3 Shooting

3.1 The Opportunities for Points

There are 28 players in our data set that played on the Iowa women's basketball team. We reviewed the average number of shots each of them took in a given game. Clark took the most shots on average, three more shots than the second-place Megan Gustafson, the four-year player for Iowa who graduated in 2019 (per our methodology, we did not review all of her games). Table 5 displays this data.

| Name | Average FG Attempted |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Caitlin Clark | 19.02 |
| Megan Gustafson | 16.60 |
| Kathleen Doyle | 12.26 |
| Molly Davis | 10.82 |
| Monika Czinano | 9.51 |
| Lauren Jensen | 9.47 |
| Hannah Stewart | 8.89 |
| Makenzie Meyer | 8.75 |
| Tania Davis | 8.26 |
| McKenna Warnock | 7.08 |
| Megan Meyer | 6.21 |
| Gabbie Marshall | 5.45 |
| Kate Martin | 5.12 |
| Hannah Stuelke | 4.89 |
| Alexis Sevillian | 4.27 |

Table 5: Average FGs Taken (Iowa Players)

Clark is the most likely candidate to take a shot on an Iowa possession. That's not a surprising statistic. How does it compare to the NPOY candidates? The answer is that she takes the second-most shots. Her average is about 19 shots a game. Aneesah Morrow takes takes one shot more each game, on average. Table 6 shows this data.

Three point shooting, however, is a different story. She leads the NPOY candidates in that category. See Table 7.

3.2 Capitalizing on Opportunity

Taking a large number of shots means nothing if you aren't making them. Clark's average shooting percentage hovers around a 47% average each game. That's slightly better than the NPOY candidate average of 45% each game.

The most accurate shooter among the NPOY candidates is Mackenzie Holmes at 63%. Holmes's classic work around the basket leads to high-quality layups. Tennessee's Tamari Key is a close second with 61%.

| Name | Average FG Attempted |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Aneesah Morrow | 20.24 |
| Caitlin Clark | 19.02 |
| Maddy Siegrist | 18.63 |
| Charlisse Leger-Walker | 16.14 |
| Sam Breen | 15.11 |
| Ashley Joens | 14.55 |
| Jayda Curry | 14.41 |
| Rickea Jackson | 14.37 |
| Deja Kelly | 13.55 |
| Charisma Osborne | 13.54 |
| Madi Williams | 13.38 |
| Destinee Wells | 13.26 |
| Hailey Van Lith | 12.78 |
| Angel Reese | 12.66 |
| Jordan Horston | 12.36 |

Table 6: Average FGs Taken (NPOY Candidates)

| Name | Average 3PTFG Attempted |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Caitlin Clark | 8.89 |
| Taylor Robertson | 8.14 |
| Taylor Mikesell | 6.85 |
| Charlisse Leger-Walker | 6.73 |
| Jayda Curry | 6.04 |
| Charisma Osborne | 6.04 |
| Ashley Joens | 5.95 |
| Azzi Fudd | 5.53 |
| Maddy Siegrist | 5.22 |
| Diamond Johnson | 5.22 |
| Gianna Kneepkens | 4.77 |
| Te-Hina Paopao | 4.73 |
| Jaz Shelley | 4.69 |
| Hailey Van Lith | 4.33 |
| Destinee Wells | 4.13 |

Table 7: Average Three-Point FGs Attempted (NPOY Candidates)

Table 8 shows this data. Clark is not ranked in the top 15 of the NPOY candidates in this category.

Clark's shooting dominance is best shown in three-point shooting. She can hit step-back three-point shots that few players can accurately hit. Even teams that double team Clark cannot find a way to stop her three-point shot. She ranks 6th among the NPOY candidates

| Name | Average FG Attempted | Average FG Percentage |
|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Mackenzie Holmes | 10.67 | 0.63 |
| Tamari Key | 5.83 | 0.61 |
| Monika Czinano | 9.51 | 0.60 |
| Cameron Brink | 8.91 | 0.56 |
| Aliyah Boston | 10.17 | 0.56 |
| Elizabeth Kitley | 12.26 | 0.54 |
| Myah Selland | 10.54 | 0.52 |
| Angel Reese | 12.66 | 0.52 |
| Alyssa Ustby | 10.80 | 0.50 |
| Maddy Siegrist | 18.63 | 0.48 |
| Gianna Kneepkens | 9.57 | 0.48 |
| Jacy Sheldon | 11.14 | 0.48 |
| Morgan Jones | 7.12 | 0.48 |
| Madi Williams | 13.38 | 0.48 |
| Rickea Jackson | 14.37 | 0.48 |

Table 8: Average FG Percentage (NPOY Candidates)

in three-point shooting percentage each game.

Even against some of the best defensive teams in the country, Clark's expected number of successful three-point shots is second among the NPOY candidates. See Table 9.

She beats out notable players in this category. She's far ahead of Maddy Siegrist. The only player ahead of her is Taylor Robertson of the University of Oklahoma. Robertson is comfortably ahead of Clark in this category, but Robertson rarely faces the tough defense in her conference that Clark does in the Big Ten.

3.3 Correlating Opportunity and Capitalization

Every possession counts in college basketball. The most effective players are the ones who can convert on any number of possessions.

The perfect combination is a player who shoots a lot and makes a lot of shots. If we were to track the average number of shots a player takes on the X axis and their average shooting percentage on the Y axis, we'd be able to get a glimpse into the production of a player.

The takeaway from Figure 2 is that the number of shots attempted doesn't seem to have much of an effect on a player's field goal percentage.

There is a slight increase in players who take many shots, but there are also fewer players who take that number of shots. Another takeaway is that Mackenzie Holmes, one of the most effective players in college basketball boasts a very high shooting percentage while only attempting an average of fewer than 15 shots per game.

| Name | Average | 3PTFG | Average | 3PTFG | Expected 3PTFG |
|------------------------|-----------|-------|------------|-------|----------------|
| | Attempted | | Percentage | | |
| Taylor Robertson | 8.14 | | 0.44 | | 3.58 |
| Caitlin Clark | 8.89 | | 0.37 | | 3.31 |
| Taylor Mikesell | 6.85 | | 0.42 | | 2.87 |
| Azzi Fudd | 5.53 | | 0.41 | | 2.38 |
| Ashley Joens | 5.95 | | 0.36 | | 2.13 |
| Charlisse Leger-Walker | 6.73 | | 0.28 | | 2.09 |
| Jayda Curry | 6.04 | | 0.36 | | 2.04 |
| Diamond Johnson | 5.22 | | 0.40 | | 2.01 |
| Charisma Osborne | 6.04 | | 0.31 | | 1.96 |
| Gianna Kneepkens | 4.77 | | 0.38 | | 1.88 |
| Maddy Siegrist | 5.22 | | 0.34 | | 1.83 |
| Jaz Shelley | 4.69 | | 0.33 | | 1.81 |
| Te-Hina Paopao | 4.73 | | 0.32 | | 1.64 |
| Destinee Wells | 4.13 | | 0.37 | | 1.50 |
| Hailey Van Lith | 4.33 | | 0.30 | | 1.48 |

Table 9: Average Three-Point FG Percentage and Expected Three-Point FG (NPOY Candidates)

4 The Rebounds

Clark is six feet tall. Her strength and athleticism are evident from the tip off. It is difficult to judge players based on rebounding. Players in certain positions are far more likely to rebound a ball than others. For example, a player like Mackenzie Holmes who plays right underneath the basket for most of the game is far more likely to pull down a rebound than is a point guard.

On Iowa's team, the offense runs through Clark. Almost every possession starts with the ball in her hands. If it doesn't, it surely reaches her hands at least once, and she's the most likely candidate to shoot the ball. Clark plays as a point guard.

We will rank players first at large and then we'll isolate the players who usually only play at the guard spot. For the latter, we'll leave out players who sometimes switch positions between a guard spot or a forward position.

Clark falls in 13th place among the NPOY candidates in average rebounds per game. In first place is Morrow, the DePaul standout. Angel Reese, who moved from the Big Ten to the SEC, is a few rebounds per game behind her. Table 10 displays this data.

The company at the top of the list is a force to be reckoned with: Aliyah Boston was last year's National Play of the Year; Sam Breen is the Atlantic-10 Conference's player of the year; and Angel Reese was a third-team All-American player in 2022.

Clark, however, is the second-highest-ranked player among those who only play in the Guard position. Table 11 displays this data.

The only player to outdo Clark among guards is Alyssa Ustby, who is putting up almost

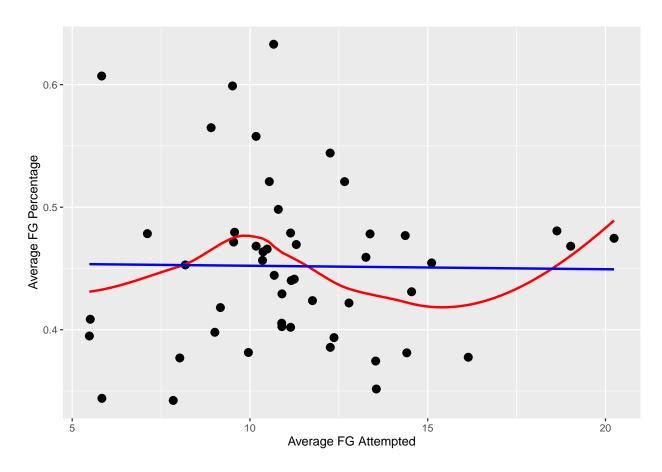


Figure 2: Average FG Attempted vs. Average FG Percentage (NPOY Candidates)

8 rebounds each game. Ustby is in her third year at the University of North Carolina.

It's worth mentioning that she's made some appearances as a Forward in the 2022-2023 season; UNC lists her as a Guard/Forward. The source of our data lists her as solely a guard. In accordance with our methodology, we will consider her to be solely a guard for the purposes of this report.

5 Conclusion

5.1 Caitlin Clark is dominant. Full stop.

This conclusion is not a surprise to any women's basketball fan. In all of the categories we reviewed, Clark excels. Even when she doesn't finish first, she's consistently toward the top — or at least in the Top 15.

Additionally, Clark isn't done. She is only in her third year of eligibility right now, and she could play for two additional seasons if she wished to do so (she's the beneficiary of the "COVID-19 year" eligibility extension). Her numbers could grow substantially, and if she

| Name | Position | Average Rebounds |
|------------------|----------|------------------|
| Aneesah Morrow | F | 13.15 |
| Angel Reese | F | 11.50 |
| Aliyah Boston | F | 10.84 |
| Aijha Blackwell | G/F | 9.68 |
| Sam Breen | F | 9.60 |
| Elizabeth Kitley | С | 9.55 |
| Maddy Siegrist | F | 9.27 |
| Alexis Markowski | C/F | 8.93 |
| Ashley Joens | G/F | 8.69 |
| Cameron Brink | F | 8.00 |
| Alyssa Ustby | G | 7.78 |
| Aaliyah Moore | F | 7.19 |
| Caitlin Clark | G | 7.10 |
| Madi Williams | F | 6.97 |
| Mackenzie Holmes | F | 6.73 |

Table 10: Average Rebounds Per Game (NPOY Candidates)

| Name | Position | Average Rebounds |
|------------------------|----------|------------------|
| Alyssa Ustby | G | 7.78 |
| Caitlin Clark | G | 7.10 |
| Haley Jones | G | 6.66 |
| Jordan Horston | G | 6.36 |
| Olivia Miles | G | 6.21 |
| Charisma Osborne | G | 5.66 |
| Charlisse Leger-Walker | G | 5.37 |
| Grace Berger | G | 5.08 |
| Brea Beal | G | 5.02 |
| Diamond Miller | G | 4.89 |

Table 11: Average Rebounds Per Game (Guards; NPOY Candidates)

played through every year of her eligibility, she's on track to break a series of records.

5.2 Despite Clark's success, there are other players who deserve serious attention

Maddie Siegrist is no joke of a player. While she plays in a non-Power Five conference, she's putting up outrageously impressive numbers. She's also remarkably consistent, being the most consistent player on the NPOY candidate list for scoring.

The national media puts a ton of attention on Caitlin Clark. It's deserved; she's an outstanding player. But we must be careful to not minimize the achievements of other

players on this candidate list. It is possible Aliyah Boston wins her second NPOY award in a row, and Siegrist deserves serious consideration as the best Division I player this year.

There are other names the national media wrote off too soon. Mackenzie Holmes is quite possibly the best post player in the country. Aneesah Morrow is getting very little attention, but her rebounding ability is helping to increase DePaul's chances with the ball.

5.3 Future studies should consider conference power

Conference power is an important consideration that we chose not to quantify. Frankly, when we first designed the study, we did not consider how important it would be when comparing players.

The vast majority of a team's schedule each year is played through a conference, and not all conferences are created equal. The University of Massachusetts Amherst plays in the Atlantic 10 Conference, and their women's basketball team boasts an impressive 24-5 record (14-2 conference record in the Atlantic 10). Yet, they would likely struggle to beat the Lady Volunteers of Knoxville, a team with a 21-10 record overall (13-3 conference record in the powerful SEC).

That is because the SEC is simply a stronger conference than the Atlantic 10. It is an anecdotal and statistical fact that some conferences are just stronger than others. We didn't adjust for that. In future reports, analysts (including us) might find value to weight statistics based on the strength of a conference.

| | Name | Class | Position | School |
|----|------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Aliyah Boston | Senior | F | South Carolina |
| 2 | Diamond Battles | Fifth Year | \mathbf{G} | Georgia |
| 3 | Brea Beal | Senior | \mathbf{G} | South Carolina |
| 4 | Grace Berger | Grad Student | \mathbf{G} | Indiana |
| 5 | Aijha Blackwell | Senior | G/F | Baylor |
| 6 | Sam Breen | Grad Student | $\mathbf{F}^{'}$ | UMass |
| 7 | Cameron Brink | Junior | \mathbf{F} | Stanford |
| 8 | Leigha Brown | Fifth Year | \mathbf{G} | Michigan |
| 9 | Jakia Brown-Turner | Senior | W | North Carolina State |
| 10 | Caitlin Clark | Junior | \mathbf{G} | Iowa |
| 11 | Zia Cooke | Senior | \mathbf{G} | South Carolina |
| 12 | Jayda Curry | Sophomore | \mathbf{G} | Cal |
| 13 | Monika Czinano | Fifth Year | F/C | Iowa |
| 14 | Azzi Fudd | Sophomore | $\mathbf{G}^{'}$ | UConn |
| 15 | Rori Harmon | Sophomore | G | Texas |
| 16 | Mackenzie Holmes | Senior | \mathbf{F} | Indiana |
| 17 | Jordan Horston | Senior | \mathbf{G} | Tennessee |
| 18 | Rickea Jackson | Senior | \mathbf{F} | Tennessee |
| 19 | Ashley Joens | Senior | G/F | Iowa State |
| 20 | Diamond Johnson | Junior | $\mathbf{G}^{'}$ | North Carolina State |
| 21 | Haley Jones | Senior | \mathbf{G} | Stanford |
| 22 | Morgan Jones | Grad Student | G | Louisville |
| 23 | Deja Kelly | Junior | G | North Carolina |
| 24 | Tamari Key | Senior | \mathbf{C} | Tennessee |
| 25 | Elizabeth Kitley | Senior | \mathbf{C} | Virginia Tech |
| 26 | Gianna Kneepkens | Sophomore | G | Utah |
| 27 | Charlisse Leger-Walker | Junior | G | Washington State |
| 28 | Jade Loville | Fifth Year | G/F | Arizona |
| 29 | Alexis Markowski | Sophomore | $\dot{\mathrm{C/F}}$ | Nebraska |
| 30 | Taylor Mikesell | Senior | G | Ohio State |
| 31 | Olivia Miles | Sophomore | G | Notre Dame |
| 32 | Diamond Miller | Senior | G | Maryland |
| 33 | Aaliyah Moore | Sophomore | \mathbf{F} | Texas |
| 34 | Alexis Morris | Fifth Year | G | LSU |
| 35 | Aneesah Morrow | Sophomore | \mathbf{F} | DePaul |
| 36 | Charisma Osborne | Senior | G | UCLA |
| 37 | Ashley Owusu | Senior | G | Virginia Tech |
| 38 | Te-Hina Paopao | Junior | G | Oregon |
| 39 | Angel Reese | Sophomore | \mathbf{F} | LSU |
| 40 | Cate Reese | Fifth Year | \mathbf{F} | Arizona |
| 41 | Taylor Robertson | Fifth Year | G | Oklahoma |
| 42 | Emily Ryan | Junior | G | Iowa State |
| 43 | Myah Selland | Redshirt Senior | F | South Dakota State |
| 44 | Jacy Sheldon | Senior | G | Ohio State |
| 45 | Jaz Shelley | Junior | G | Nebraska |
| 46 | Maddy Siegrist | Senior | F | Villanova |
| 47 | Alyssa Ustby | Junior | G | North Carolina |
| 48 | Hailey Van Lith | Junior | G | Louisville |
| 49 | Destinee Wells | Junior | G | Belmont |
| 50 | Madi Williams | Fifth Year | \mathbf{F} | Oklahoma |

Table 12: National Player of the Year Watch List (November 2022)