

JMU Nation

Living the 'Dream'

Drafted 34th overall by Atlanta, Okafor headed to the WNBA

With the 34th overall pick, the Atlanta Dream drafted JMU redshirt-senior center Lauren Okafor in the third round of the 2015 WNBA Draft.

Okafor became the second player in JMU women's basketball history to be drafted. In 2008, Tamera Young ('08) was also selected by the Dream, going eighth overall.

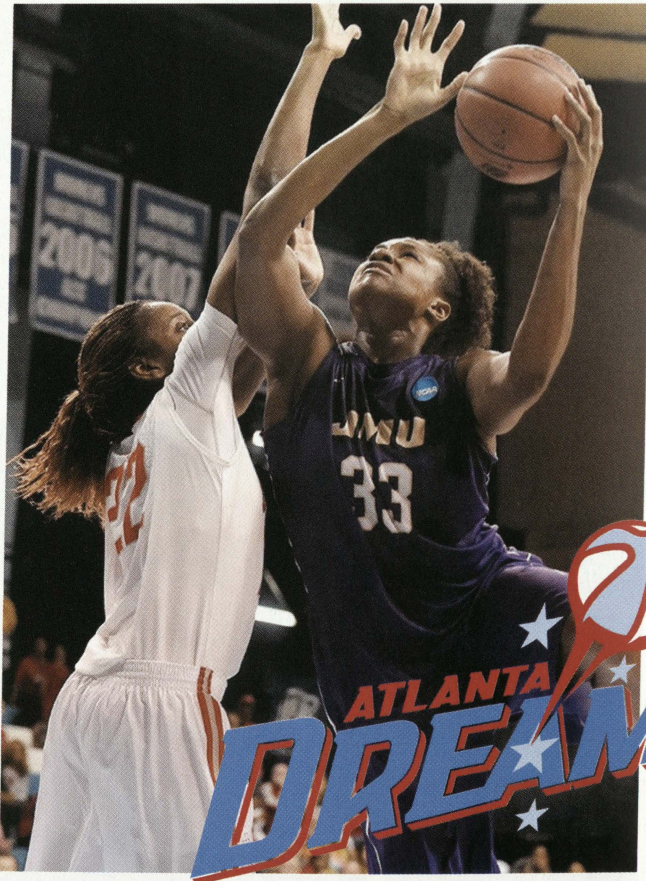
During her senior campaign, Okafor averaged 12.4 points and 9.8 rebounds per game, tallying 13 double-doubles to lead the Dukes (29-4) to the 2015 Colonial Athletic Association championship and a second consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance. She was named to the 2015 All-CAA First Team, CAA All-Defensive Team, CAA All-Tournament Team and Virginia Sports Information Directors All-State First Team. She was also honored as the 2015 Dean Ehlers Leadership Award recipient and CAA women's basketball Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

"This is amazing, I'm very happy and very proud of Lady," head coach Kenny Brooks beamed. Okafor is the third player in the last five seasons to have an opportunity to play at the WNBA level.

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— KENNY BROOKS,
Women's basketball head coach

Dawn Evans ('11) signed a contract with the Los Angeles Sparks in 2011 while Kirby Burkholder ('14) signed a free-agent contract with the Washington Mystics in 2014.



Celebrating JMU athletic achievement

James Madison University Athletics celebrated achievements during the 2014-15 year and recognized top award winners at its seventh annual Recognition Banquet on April 20 at the Festival Conference and Student Center. Receiving top accolades were softball junior Jaily Ford and football redshirt senior Vad Lee, who were voted the JMU Female and Male Athletes of the Year, respectively, while women's basketball redshirt senior Lauren Okafor and men's soccer junior Daniel Roppert were chosen as the Female and Male Scholar-Athletes of the Year. (Photo L-R, Lee, Okafor, Ford, Roppert)