### TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 4-5  | Women’s Roster  
Meet the Players from the Women’s Team |
| 6-7  | Men’s Roster  
Meet the Players from the Men’s Team |
| 8-9  | Season Schedules  
A Brief Overview, Plus Games to Watch |
| 10-11| Women’s Transfers  
The New Recruits Heating Up Maryland’s Offense |
| 12-13| 2019-20 Season Recap  
A Glowing Season From Both Big Ten Champions |
| 14   | Chol Marial  
How He’s Preparing for the Season After Injury |
| 15   | Angel Reese  
The Freshman Recruit Emerges as an Early Leader |
| 16-17| Baltimore Roots  
Dwain’s Murveill on Hoops Culture Back Home |
| 18-19| Big Ten Team Changes  
How Conference Competitors Stack Up This Season |
| 20-21| Looking Forward  
As Stars Go Pro, Recruits Bring Fresh Talent |
### 2020-21 UMD Women’s Basketball Rosters

#### #1 Diamond Miller
- **#10 Angel Reese**
  - **Fr. (6’3”) - Miami, FL / Miami Country Day**
  - 2018-19 season: 34 Games, 4.2 PPG, 38.4 FG%, 2.4 RPG, 5.4 APG.

#### #2 Mimi Collins
- **#3 Channise Lewis**
  - **R-Fr. (5’8”) - Baltimore, MD / St. Frances Academy**
  - 2018-19 season: 34 Games, 4.2 PPG, 38.4 FG%, 2.4 RPG, 5.4 APG.

#### #10 Angel Reese
- **R-So. (6’3”) - Spring Lake, NJ / Manasquan**
  - Last season: 32 Games, 1.8 PPG, 42.1 FG%, 2.9 RPG, 1.3 APG.

#### #11 Katie Benzana
- **Sr. (6’3”) - Wellesley, MA / Noble and Greenough School**
  - Last season (with Harvard): 36 Games, 14.1 PPG, 38.7 FG%, 3.2 RPG, 4.2 APG.

#### #12 Zoe Young
- **So. (6’5”) - West Des Moines, IA / West Des Moines Valley**
  - Last season: 32 Games, 7.7 PPG, 40.9 FG%, 3.2 RPG, 1.8 APG.

#### #13 Faith Masonius
- **Sr. (6’0”) - Waldorf, MD / Paul VI**
  - Last season: 32 Games, 12.0 PPG, 44.6 FG%, 3.8 RPG, 5.4 APG.

#### #14 Taisiya Kozlova
- **Fr. (6’6”) - Moscow, Russia / Elevation Prep Academy**
  - Averaged 13.0 points, 2.0 rebounds and 2.3 steals per game in her first season in the United States at Elevation Prep Academy.

#### #15 Ashley Owusu
- **So. (5’10”) - Des Moines, IA / West Des Moines Valley**
  - Last season: 32 Games, 12.0 PPG, 44.6 FG%, 3.8 RPG, 5.4 APG.

#### #22 Mimi Collins
- **So. (5’9”) - Waldorf, MD / Paul VI**
  - 2018-19 season (with Tennessee): 32 Games, 5.5 PPG, 51.0 FG%, 3.4 RPG, 0.3 APG. Sat out last season due to NCAA eligibility rules.

#### #55 Chloe Bibby
- **Sr. (6’0”) - Warracknabeal, Australia / Rowville Secondary College**
  - Last season with Mississippi State: 33 Games, 7.5 PPG, 40.4 FG%, 5.2 RPG, 0.9 APG.

#### #14 Taisiya Kozlova
- **Fr. (6’8”) - Moscow, Russia / Elevation Prep Academy**
  - Named second-team All-Big Ten and Big Ten Freshman of the Year in 2019-20.

#### #16 Ashley Owusu
- **So. (6’5”) - Waldorf, MD / Paul VI**
  - Last season: 32 Games, 12.0 PPG, 44.6 FG%, 3.8 RPG, 5.4 APG.

#### #17 Faith Masonius
- **So. (6’4”) - Waldorf, MD / Paul VI**
  - Last season: 32 Games, 12.0 PPG, 44.6 FG%, 3.8 RPG, 5.4 APG.

#### #18 Taisiya Kozlova
- **Fr. (6’6”) - Moscow, Russia / Elevation Prep Academy**
  - Averaged 13.0 points, 2.0 rebounds and 2.3 steals per game in her first season in the United States at Elevation Prep Academy.
2020-21 UMD Men's Basketball

#10 Marcus Dockery
FR. (6’2” / 170 LBS) - Washington, D.C. / Brewster Academy
Three-star recruit and No. 6-ranked player out of Washington, D.C. Additionally, rated as the 16th-best combo guard in the nation, according to 247Sports.

#2 Aaron Wiggins
JR. (6’6” / 200 LBS) - Greensboro, NC / Wesleyan Christian Academy
Last season: 31 games, 10.4 PPG, 3.7 FG%, 4.9 RPG, 1.4 APG. Named 2020 Big Ten Sixth Man of the Year.

#5 Eric Ayala
JR. (6’5” / 195 LBS) - Wilmington, DE / HOS Academy
Last season: 31 games, 6.3 PPG, 3.8 FG%, 2.9 RPG, 2.5 APG. Has started 53 of his 65 games at Maryland.

#11 Darryl Morsell
SR. (6’5” / 200 LBS) - Baltimore, MD / Mount St. Joseph
Last season: 31 games, 8.1 PPG, 41.3 FG%, 4.7 RPG, 2.1 APG. Has made 81 starts in 99 career games at Maryland.

#15 Chol Marial
SR. (6’7” / 230 LBS) - Rumson, South Sudan / Compass Prep
Last season: 12 games, 5.4 MPG, 0.8 PPG, 1.6 RPG, 0.2 APG. Was once rated the No. 1 center in his high school class by ESPN.

#12 Reese Mona
SR. (6’2” / 180 LBS) - La Plata, MD / St. John’s College HS
Last season: 10 games, 3.0 MPG, 0.9 PPG, 0.2 RPG, 0.2 APG. He did not miss a single field goal attempt last season.

#13 Hakim Hart
SR. (6’5” / 200 LBS) - Philadelphia, PA / Roman Catholic
Last season: 18 games, 6.2 PPG, 1.6 FG%, 0.6 RPG, 0.5 APG.

#14 Connor Odom
FR. (6’7” / 220 LBS) - Greenwhich, CT / Archbishop Spalding
His father, Ryan, coached UMBC to its historic upset as a No. 16 seed against No. 1 Virginia in 2018.

#20 Aidan McCool
FR. (6’6” / 185 LBS) - Charleston, SC / Bishop England HS
Part of Bishop England High School’s 1,000-point club.

#22 Jade Brahmbhatt
JR. (6’7” / 205 LBS) - Olney, MD / Bethesda-Chevy Chase HS
Last season (with Pacific): 19.9 MPG, 6.7 PPG, 3.5 RPG.

#23 Aquan Smart
FR. (6’3” / 200 LBS) - Evanston, IL / Niles North HS
Three-star recruit and No. 8-ranked player out of Illinois. Named Illinois AP Second Team All-State.

#24 Donta Scott
FR. (6’7” / 225 LBS) - Philadelphia, PA / Imhotep Charter
Last season: 31 games, 8.5 PPG, 42.8 FG%, 2.5 RPG, 0.5 APG.

#25 Jairus Hamilton
JR. (6’5” / 234 LBS) - Charlotte, NC / Cannon School
Last season (with Boston College): 24 games, 9.5 PPG, 42.8 FG%, 4.3 RPG, 0.0 APG.

#30 Galin Smith
SR. (6’7” / 240 LBS) - Clinton, MD / Clinton HS
Last season (with Alabama): 31 games, 3.1 PPG, 55.7 FG%, 2.5 RPG, 0.2 APG.

#31 Arnaud Revaz
FR. (6’11” / 220 LBS) - Bern, Switzerland / Bourg-en-Brasse Academy
2019-20 season with JL Bourg (France): 10.0 PPG, 6.7 PPG, 3.5 RPG.
## 2020-21 SCHEDULES

### WOMEN’S GAMES TO WATCH

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## 2020-21 SCHEDULES

### WOMEN’S

**INDIANA HOOVERIS**

Finishing 14-8 and returning four out of five starters from last season, the Hoovers will be looking to improve upon a roughly .500 season in the Big Ten. Ali Patberg returns for her third season with Indiana after being a finalist for the Nancy Lieberman two years ago. Scored 16.2 points per game and also added 5.3 assists per game to help carry the load. Returning such a large part of their 2019-20 team will be key.

**OHIO STATE BUCKEYES**

Returning five starters from the end of last season, Ohio State is shaping up to be another of the top teams in the Big Ten in the 2020-21 season. Led by junior Dorka Juhasz, who led the Buckeyes in points and rebounds in her freshman and sophomore season, Ohio State has continuity in a time of high uncertainty. Returning such a large part of their 2019-20 team will bode well for the Buckeyes as a team.

### MENS

**IOWA HAWKEYES**

Iowa is set to be one of the best teams in the conference, with returning star Luka Garza and a strong supporting cast. Garza averaged 24.4 points per game and 9.9 rebounds per game, while also blocking almost two shots a game. The Terps had mixed results against Garza and the Hawkeyes, splitting the season series 1-1, winning the second matchup thanks in part to Garza’s absence. In the first matchup, Garza scored just 15 points, and Anthony Cowan Jr. scored 35 points to help Maryland seal the win. With Smith and Garza both depleted into the 2020-21 season, Garza could be primed for big games against a Maryland team that lacks height, as they only have two players 6’10” or taller.

**WISCONSIN BADGERS**

The Badgers, who joined the Terps and the Michigan State Spartans in earning a share of first place in the Big Ten last year. Going 13-7 overall in the conference. They aren’t going to have the same kind of momentum heading into this season and may set the pace for what Coach Teri Moren expects of her Indiana Hoosiers.

**ILLINOIS FIGHTING ILLINI**

Illinois is set to be one of the most talented teams in the Big Ten. One of only four teams to beat the Terps last season, Northwestern — coming off a program-best 26-4 season — is expected to be among the Big Ten elite again this season. Led by Lindsey Pulliam and Veronica Burton, who together scored almost 31 points per game last season. Northwestern will once again have high expectations. After winning their first Big Ten title in 30 years, the Wildcats seem primed to be one of the biggest challenges for the Terps in the conference.

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**WISCONSIN BADGERS**

The Badgers, who joined the Terps and the Michigan State Spartans in earning a share of first place in the Big Ten this year, look to be another of the top teams in the 2020-21 season. Returning starogeneity and Ethan Happ, who were big parts of the Badgers’ success last season. With Smith and Garza both depleted into the 2020-21 season, Garza could be primed for big games against a Maryland team that lacks height, as they only have two players 6’10” or taller.

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New transfer recruits bring experience, offensive power to the Maryland women’s team

By Jacob Richman | @JacobHRichman | Senior staff writer

FRESH FACES

That’s last season’s scoring contribution from players no longer on Maryland women’s basketball’s roster. After Kaila Charles and Stephanie Jones graduated last year — and Shakira Austin and Taylor Mikesell unexpectedly departed — the Terps were facing a void of offensive firepower. But this summer, things started to look up.

Although the transfer portal has been a foe for the defending Big Ten champions in the past, it could also make all the difference this season, as No. 12 Maryland brings in a well-seasoned unit of transfers set to make an impact.

“Our new reality is the transfer portal,” coach Brenda Frese said. “Kids come and go and they do what’s best for their unique situations. As a program, you have to do what’s best for your program.”

What resulted was the introduction of senior guard and forward Chloe Bibby, grad transfer Katie Benzan, freshman guard Taisiya Kozlova and grad transfer Alaysia Styles.

Bibby comes to the Terps from Mississippi State, where she helped lead the team to No. 9 in the final AP poll of 2020 before the sudden cancellation of the season due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She averaged 7.5 points, 5.2 rebounds and shot 40.4 percent from the field last season.

On Nov. 8, this university announced Bibby had received a waiver from the NCAA to make her immediately eligible for this season.

Benzan, who had been recruited by Maryland out of high school, was a standout at Harvard for three years, earning First Team All-Ivy honors each season. During her career for the Crimson, she relied on her lethal 39.5 percent average from outside the arc, putting her tenth all-time at Harvard.

The 5-foot-6 guard gives more depth at a shallow position for the Terps. She had planned to take her talents to Texas. However, following a coaching change, she opened her recruitment back up.

“I just wanted to find a competitive program [where] everyone was passionate and loved the game,” Benzan said.

Both Bibby and Benzan have already brought a veteran presence in the early stages of practice for Maryland. Frese has praised their level of maturity during the preseason. For a team with three returning players who logged minutes last season, wisdom is a welcome sight for the Terps.

“We come with experience under our belt,” Benzan said. “We’ve been a leader on the floor just sharing our basketball experience and our basketball IQ.”

With such an inexperienced squad, growing pains are to be expected. Still, the team has expressed their excitement for a fresh start. Bibby said being so young makes the team more adaptable.

“Flexibility has been the name of the game for the incoming transfers,” Frese said of one of the strangest parts of the offseason was the way transfers had to make their decisions largely based on interactions online. For a player like Bibby, who was in her hometown of Warracknabeal, Australia, the entire process was virtual.

Benzan had been able to make an official visit in fall 2019 so when she opened her recruiting back up, Maryland already had its foot in the door.

Established relationships also helped the Terps pick up Alaysia Styles.

She brings more high-level experience transferring after three years at California. She averaged 8.4 points her junior season with the Golden Bears.

Maryland recruited the 6-foot-3 forward out of high school, but she elected to stay closer to home in San Diego. While she has committed to join the Terps, Styles won’t arrive until December as a spring 2021 transfer.

Despite their youth and ongoing development, expectations are high for Maryland. The Terps have brought in experienced transfers who have tasted similar success to that of the defending champs. Now the team just has to put the pieces together.

“There is no reason why we can’t win a national championship,” Bibby said.

“I wasn’t necessarily focused on my role but more of the competitive environment that I wanted to spend my last year [in].”

Bibby and Benzan have already brought a veteran presence in the early stages of practice for Maryland. Frese has praised their level of maturity during the preseason. For a team in a new season, having returning players who logged minutes last season, wisdom is a welcome sight for the Terps.

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1,889 points.

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On Nov. 8, this university announced Bibby had received a waiver from the NCAA to make her immediately eligible for this season.

Benzan, who had been recruited by Maryland out of high school, was a standout at Harvard for three years, earning First Team All-Ivy honors each season. During her career for the Crimson, she relied on her lethal 39.5 percent average from outside the arc, putting her tenth all-time at Harvard.

The 5-foot-6 guard gives more depth at a shallow position for the Terps. She had planned to take her talents to Texas. However, following a coaching change, she opened her recruitment back up.

“I just wanted to find a competitive program [where] everyone was passionate and loved the game,” Benzan said.

Both Bibby and Benzan have already brought a veteran presence in the early stages of practice for Maryland. Frese has praised their level of maturity during the preseason. For a team with three returning players who logged minutes last season, wisdom is a welcome sight for the Terps.

“We come with experience under our belt,” Benzan said. “We’ve been a leader on the floor just sharing our basketball experience and our basketball IQ.”

With such an inexperienced squad, growing pains are to be expected. Still, the team has expressed their excitement for a fresh start. Bibby said being so young makes the team more adaptable.

“Flexibility has been the name of the game for the incoming transfers,” Frese said of one of the strangest parts of the offseason was the way transfers had to make their decisions largely based on interactions online. For a player like Bibby, who was in her hometown of Warracknabeal, Australia, the entire process was virtual.

Benzan had been able to make an official visit in fall 2019 so when she opened her recruiting back up, Maryland already had its foot in the door.

Established relationships also helped the Terps pick up Alaysia Styles.

She brings more high-level experience transferring after three years at California. She averaged 8.4 points her junior season with the Golden Bears.

Maryland recruited the 6-foot-3 forward out of high school, but she elected to stay closer to home in San Diego. While she has committed to join the Terps, Styles won’t arrive until December as a spring 2021 transfer.

Despite their youth and ongoing development, expectations are high for Maryland. The Terps have brought in experienced transfers who have tasted similar success to that of the defending champs. Now the team just has to put the pieces together.

“There is no reason why we can’t win a national championship,” Bibby said.

“I wasn’t necessarily focused on my role but more of the competitive environment that I wanted to spend my last year [in].”

Bibby and Benzan have already brought a veteran presence in the early stages of practice for Maryland. Frese has praised their level of maturity during the preseason. For a team in a new season, having returning players who logged minutes last season, wisdom is a welcome sight for the Terps.

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1,889 points.
BIG TEN CHAMPS

The Maryland Terrapins men’s basketball team was absolutely dominant during the 2019-20 season, posting a 24-7 record and winning the Big Ten regular season title and Big Ten Tournament prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It’s quite possible that Brenda Frese’s team would’ve been a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament considering they finished as the No. 4 team in the final AP Poll. Yet, just as with the men’s basketball team, Maryland fans will forever wonder how far this team could’ve gone.

The Terps finished the season with a 17-game winning streak and split the regular season title with the Wisconsin Badgers and the Michigan State Spartans. Maryland ultimately finished as the No. 12 team in the final AP Poll.

Led by senior point guard Anthony Cowan Jr. and sophomore big man Jalen Smith, the Terps looked destined for their highest NCAA Tournament seeding in over a decade. Cowan Jr. led the team with 16.3 points and 4.7 assists per game while Smith averaged a double-double with 15.5 points and 10.5 rebounds per game.

The Terps also received heavy contributions from sophomore guard Aaron Wiggins, sophomore guard Eric Ayala, freshman forward Donta Scott and junior guard Darryl Morsell en route to a Big Ten title. Morsell undoubtedly had the shot of the season for Maryland when he nailed a go-ahead three pointer from way beyond the arc as Maryland came from behind to defeat Minnesota 74-73.

Other memorable moments from the 2019-20 season included Cowan Jr.’s dominant Thanksgiving weekend against Temple, Harvard and Marquette, a 15-point second-half comeback against a feisty Illinois team at Xfinity Center all season, to No. 8 South Carolina. Recent WNBA draftee Kaila Charles was the all-around leader for Maryland last season as she led the team with 14.3 points and 7.3 rebounds per game. Other contributors to the Terrapins’ success were Shakira Austin, Ashley Owusu, Stephanie Jones and Taylor Mikesell, all of whom averaged over 10.0 points per game.

The team did have some exciting games during the Big Ten Tournament and had a scare when the team won against Northwestern, their biggest competitor in the conference, on January 26.

Last season may have been the best chance for Maryland to win the national title as now, without Charles, Austin and Mikayla, the team has lost plenty of firepower. The depth that helped the Terps throughout their 2019-20 season will surely be tested during the 2020-21 season.

Women’s 2019-20 Recap

The Maryland Terrapins women’s basketball team was absolutely dominant during the 2019-20 season, posting a 28-4 record and winning the Big Ten regular season title and Big Ten Tournament prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Other memorable moments from the 2019-20 season included Cowan Jr.’s dominant Thanksgiving weekend against Temple, Harvard and Marquette, a 15-point second-half comeback against a feisty Illinois team at Xfinity Center, a comeback win on the road against Michigan State on College GameDay and the Senior Day game where Cowan Jr. and Smith helped clinch a Big Ten title just days before the coronavirus pandemic shut down the country.

Nevertheless, the 2019-20 season was a success and helped breathe new life into the Maryland men’s basketball program. The Terps garnered plenty of national attention and even hosted College GameDay for the first time in over a decade. While Terps fans will forever wonder what could’ve been, they should remember the success and memories that the Terps provided during an incredibly fun season.
After a battle with injuries, center Chol Marial prepares for a promising season

By Kevin F. McNulty | @kmcnulty_219 | Senior staff writer

Midway through the first half against Bryant University on Dec. 29, 2019, Chol Marial ripped off his warmup shirt and ran to the scorer’s table at Xfinity Center. The Maryland crowd stood and cheered as the 7-foot-2 center stepped onto the floor as a Terp for the first time.

Marial’s journey to Division I basketball was different from most. He was raised in Rumbek, South Sudan, and came to the United States for the first time when he was 14.

During his first two years of high school, he drew interest from college coaches across the country. Then, the injuries came. Ongoing shin splints left him in constant pain and kept him out of high school games. He played in fewer than a dozen games during his senior year at AZ Compass Prep before coming to play for coach Mark Turgeon at Maryland.

Marial underwent surgery to repair stress fractures in both legs in September 2019, which caused him to miss the first 12 games of his freshman season. In his debut, he played 14 minutes and notched six points and five rebounds, but those all turned out to be season-highs.

Now 14 months after his operation, Turgeon says his center is 100 percent pain-free in his left leg and only sometimes experiences pain in his right leg. Though he spent much of the offseason in Arizona away from the team, the Terps believe Marial is poised to become an impact player in Maryland’s frontcourt.

“He’s starting to look like the Chol that I remember coming out of high school a few years ago, so it’s exciting,” Turgeon said. “And he’s got a great attitude.”

While the team hasn’t entirely put last year’s Big Ten championship season behind it, Marial would like to forget a lot of the struggles he went through as a freshman.

As pain continued to run through his legs, Marial didn’t play more than 10 minutes in a game after his debut against Bryant, and he scored just four points during the conference slate. He didn’t even see the floor when Maryland clinched the Big Ten title against Michigan on March 8.

Marial was hoping to help the Terps in the Big Ten and NCAA tournaments, but he never got the chance after the season was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

“Last season was really hard,” Marial said. “When I came back, I was not really ready. Then when I started getting ready, they shut the season down. But now, we’re ready.”

Turgeon, once a point guard at Kansas, said he treats his centers the same way he treats his point guards. He expects them to work hard and challenge themselves every time they step onto the floor.

Without former Maryland big man Jalen Smith to challenge him during practice, Marial had to push himself more than ever. He said he wants to do his best to fill the void left by “Stix” in the Maryland paint.

“He got me ready, and I got him ready,” Marial said. “To have that experience with him last year was really fun, and I think I learned a lot from him even though he left. We’re just trying to fulfill what he did for us last year.”

Although he was away from Maryland’s training staff this spring and summer, Marial continued to rehab his legs following a routine with individual drills, lifting and other workouts, including conditioning in the Arizona desert. He also had the support of former teammates from AZ Compass Prep, with whom he ran pick up games over the summer.

Marial said he still felt a little rusty around his teammates when he returned to College Park. But veteran Terps such as junior Aaron Wiggins said they saw a player who looked a lot healthier and more confident than the last time he practiced at Xfinity Center.

And since, they’ve seen him display offensive and defensive skills that were lacking in an unfit Marial.

“It’s been incredible watching his growth and progress over time,” Wiggins said. “Even in the last month that we’ve been together, he’s grown. He continues to show flashes of his potential and his ability to make plays.”

While Marial won’t debut this season in front of a roaring crowd, expectations for the former four-star recruit are arguably just as high. Marial doesn’t think those expectations put too much of a burden on his shoulders, and with stronger legs under him, Marial trusts himself to take the next step for the Terps.

“I don’t really feel any pressure, I just got to do my thing,” Marial said. “When you feel pressure, you’re nervous, but I’m not nervous to play. I just want to play right now.”
Angel Reese grew up playing basketball against boys. “My mom would coach, and I would be the only girl on the team . . . and it was always competitive because no one wanted to lose to a girl, but I wanted to prove to the boys that I was actually good,” Reese said.

Years later, Reese left St. Frances Academy in Baltimore as the second-best high school basketball player in the country, according to ESPN.

Now, she’s proving her talent on the practice court as a guard on the Maryland women’s basketball team. She’s the highest ranked recruit in program history.

“Angel is beyond her years,” said coach Brenda Frese. “The way she takes care of the team and builds up her teammates, you would think she’s a junior by the way she plays and talks.”

Reese’s competitiveness and ability to take control have shone through since her first practice with the Terps. “It’s expected at this point . . . if [Reese] doesn’t come out and compete, we’re like, ‘OK, what’s wrong with you, let’s pick you up’,” said guard and Mississippi State transfer Chloe Bibby.

Reese stepped into a leadership role for the Terps right away, a rare feat for a freshman. She uses her knowledge and confidence to speak her mind in practice — and she demands excellence in return. But those insistences have helped her teammates improve, Frese said.

“If she sees someone struggling with their shot, the next time they knock down a shot she’s going to celebrate it,” Frese said. “She wants to win so badly that she understands how to breathe life and confidence into her teammates, and you don’t get that from freshmen.”

Competitiveness and support run in Reese’s family. Reese credits her mother, also named Angel, for her fierce ambition and desire to win. “My mom is a single mom, so she always has been the type to be an independent woman, and she’s taught me to always go out and fight for everything I have,” Reese said.

Reese’s younger brother, Julian, also has basketball in his blood: He signed on to play for the Terps in 2021. Julian stands at a towering six-foot-nine, six inches taller than his sister.

But that does not stop Angel from trying to be the better player. The Reeses grew up playing one-on-one against each other on a basketball court in front of their house. Eventually, they removed the court because they squabbled too much.

“When he doesn’t want to lose to a girl, and I don’t want to lose to my little brother, so it’s always been competitive,” Reese said.

Even though they compete against each other, family is incredibly important to the Reese siblings. They both wear no. 10, the same figure their mother used to wear when she played basketball at University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Reese’s grandparents have come to every one of her games — with their proximity to College Park standing as a primary reason why Reese chose to play for the Terps.

But she also came to College Park to bring a championship back to the state she loves. Reese attended Maryland basketball games throughout her high school career — and the Terps spent years recruiting her. That chance to win at home, in front of her close-knit family, was too good to pass up.

And she plans on making good on that pledge. “I came to Maryland because I want to win a national championship, especially because I’m from here, I want to bring one back home,” Reese said. “I’ve always had the drive to just win everything, and it doesn’t matter what it is, I just want to win.”
There is a lot to like about Baltimore. Darryl Morsell says. It’s a city filled with passion and camaraderie. It has a dialect — and culture — all its own.

The city has also made a sizable mark in the college game. Former Kentucky guard Immanuel Quickley and Rutgers guard Montez Mathis are also from the city. But those traits rarely draw attention. Baltimore’s basketball culture is some of the best basketball in the country. “It’s a great feeling,” Morsell said. “Usually, all the media, all the publicity Baltimore gets is bad stuff … work extremely hard and to not focus on any of the errors you make but to focus on doing better the next play.”

Said guard Marcus Dockery said. “Starting off in the first workout just to do your best and… work extremely hard and to not focus on any of the errors you make but to focus on doing better the next play.”

But it’s those mental tools that stand out to Turgeon, who has noted in Baltimore’s basketball culture that have only sharpened under his tutelage.

“All the players know that he really, truly cares about them,” Turgeon said. “His leadership has been great.”

When he takes the Xfinity court as a senior, Morsell will be representing more than just his team or his family. It’s Baltimore, he’s someone who will never see what Morsell sees: a city teeming with life.

That liveliness is particularly evident on the basketball courts that dot the Charm City landscape, converse of joy where constructs such as age and experience wash away in favor of intangibles such as grit and toughness.

It’s in this environment that Morsell became the player — and person — he is today. And as he enters his final season with Maryland men’s basketball, the senior guard is hoping to channel that intensity forged on the courts of his youth to help lead the Terps through a difficult, condensed season.

“It’s really like one big community,” Morsell said. “In those years, Morsell’s mentality took shape. Sharpend under Turgeon, who has noted in Baltimore’s basketball culture that have only sharpened under his tutelage. “It’s toughness, that’s all I can say,” Mathis said in March. “It’s just [the] different — Baltimore basketball is some of the best basketball in the country.”

Morsell has brought that physical toughness to College Park since he arrived, establishing himself as one of the best defenders in the Big Ten. But it’s those mental tools that stand out to Turgeon, who has noted in Baltimore’s basketball culture that have only sharpened under his tutelage.

“All the players know that he really, truly cares about them,” Turgeon said. “His leadership has been great.”

And they’re evident now, nine months later. This time, Morsell is looking to lead a squad that saw its two best players — along with three more rotation pieces — depart over the offseason; a team that enters this season with more questions than answers for the first time in a while under Turgeon.

Now, Morsell is the mentor, looking to impart wisdom on Maryland’s youth — just as those older players did for him back in Baltimore.

And the early signs are promising.

“Darryl’s been a big inspiration to me,” guard Marcus Dockery said. “Starting off in the first workout just to work extremely hard and to not focus on any of the errors you make but to focus on doing better the next play.”

When he takes the Xfinity court as a senior, Morsell will be representing more than just his team or his family. He’ll be carrying the legacy of Baltimore, a city of joy; a place brimming with energy and delight — and a passion for basketball unlike any other.

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Illinois

The Fighting Illini are losing three of their top six scorers from last season, with Ali Andrews and Brandi Beasley graduating, and Taye Adams transferring to UNC. They bring in three transfers in Adyace Newsome, Julya Traxler and Mena Porter, but the losses they suffered will outweigh the additions.

Indiana

Indiana did not bring in any notable high school recruits for the upcoming season, but two transfers should help offset those losses. Southern Illinois transfer Niamh Martin and Indiana Cardinals-transfer from George Mason. Add in four return- ing starters and the Hoosiers look to have a good team in 2022-23.

Iowa

Iowa possibly brought in the best recruit in the Big Ten in Angel Reese. Freshman Reese Fielder was rated as the fourth-best recruit in her class according to ESPN, and she could provide the Hawkeyes. The loss of Kathleen Doyle will hurt the Hawkeyes, but Monika Czinano should help offset those losses.

Minnesota

Minnesota’s biggest loss of the offseason came when star player Destiny Pitts entered the transfer portal and eventually landed at Texas A&M. However, the Gophers return star sophomore Jasmine Powell and bring in ESPN top-100 recruit Finnishland, but the loss of Pitts will definitely hurt Minnesota.

Nebraska

Nebraska lost last season’s top scorer as Leigha Brown transferred to Indiana to reduce their dependence on a single player, which they need. Brown ended her career with 1,139 career points, which is currently the fourth-most in Nebraska history.

Northwestern

Northwestern split the regular season title with Maryland a year ago, and that should be in the conversation again this season. Lindsey Pulliam returns for her senior year, and Veronica Burton should take a big step up this season. The Northwestern Aces and Allie Corp will help the Wildcats, but incoming ESPN top-100 recruit Amira Morales could make an instant impact.

Ohio State

The Buckeyes finished sixth in the Big Ten a year ago and should move closer to the top of the conference this season. The Buckeyes return three of their four leading scorers, and they should be in the mix for the conference title. The Buckeyes return three of their four leading scorers, and they should be in the mix for the conference title.

Penn State

Penn State had a rough season last year, finishing 10-21 in conference play. They got worse for the Nittany Lions when star forward Diara Edwards was injured in Baylor and Taylor Praeger graduated. There will be high expectations for ESPN top-100 recruit Giana Quiros and ESPN top-100 recruit Sydney Fine. Returner and Niya Beverley, but Penn State has new holes to fill this year.

Purdue

Purdue lost out of its top three scorers, with both Raya Haxton and Dominique Ollie graduating. The Boilermakers return Karynn McCleanland and add two ESPN top-100 recruits in Madison Layden and Ki’Shayta Kyle, who should take a big step up this season.

Rutgers

The Scarlet Knights return their top three scorers, Akaila Zanders and Shaq Mosley, from their fifth-place team. They also bring in one of the best recruiting classes in the Big Ten, with three ESPN top-100 recruits in Cymone Cossar, Salina Walker and Tori Walker.

Michigan

Michigan is eligible after sitting out a season, and Nicole Cardano-Hillary transferred in from George Mason. Add in four return- ing starters and the Hoosiers look to have a good team in 2022-23.

Michigan State

Michigan State will return to replace Carton Carter and several other key players. The return of guard Akeem Dozier gives them a solid backcourt player, and forward Trayce Jackson-Davis could be an instant impact player for the Spartans to build upon. Marquette transfer Joey Hauser is eligible to play this season, and Boilermakers and All Big Ten wards both return two starts.

Minnesota

Minnesota’s top-100 recruit commits, Samari and Jada Ogunlaru, to the NCA Adcha. Patrick Spencer being the only player of significantly less basketball players in the Big Ten. Their starting five was a key for the Cornhuskers in the Big Ten a year ago and should be a key player in the mix for the Big Ten title.

Nebraska

Nebraska lost all three of its top scorers from a year ago, with both transfers and graduation, and it didn’t bring in multiple re- placements. Most notably, the Cornhusker’s brought in Trey McGowens, a transfer from California, a nearly perfect match from the Nate Spence being the only player of significantly less basketball players in the Big Ten. Nebraska’s last season was rough, and the loss of Kathleen Doyle will hurt the Huskers. The loss of Kathleen Doyle will hurt the Huskers, but Monika Czinano should help offset those losses.

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bring length and versatility to a Maryland backcourt class, per ESPN, the 6-foot Sellers looks poised to return the Terps back in April. The No. 22 prospect in her class, Sellers announced her intention to join the Terps' 2021 class. Four-star guard Reynolds, a 6-foot-2 guard, is the No. 32 player in her class, per ESPN. And while Reynolds has some ways to go before making her bow for the Terps, her commitment serves as another reminder of the talent that has some pipeline to the Terps.