

The Mustang Press is a monthly newsletter covering the experiences, progress, and events

## Dioubate on verge of re-writing PSA record books



Photo by Thomas Netzer/Netzflics

**Mouhamed Dioubate could leave PSA as a 1,000-point scorer, the school's all-time leading rebounder, and the single-season rebounding record holder.**

When Mouhamed Dioubate arrived at PSA in January 2021, there weren't many who thought he would leave in the Spring of 2023 the way he will. Dioubate, the 6-foot-7 wing from Queens, N.Y., is about to become the school's fourth member of the 1,000-point club, the program's all-time leading rebounder, AND set a new record for most rebounds in a single season in PSA history. And he could win a second national championship. That is quite the resume.

"He's going to go down as one of the best players to ever put on the PSA uniform,"

coach Tom Espinosa said. "And he really didn't play his first year, and if you think about it, last year he didn't start, probably played 16 minutes a game. He played less than half the game. So doing what he's doing...it's incredible, really. I've said it before and I'll say it again: I wouldn't trade Mouhamed Dioubate for any other prep school player in the country. He's just a monster."

Dioubate finished the regular season with 920 career points. The Mustangs are guaranteed four postseason games and could play as many as six. Dioubate averages 14.2 points per game, so unless something drastic happens, he'll join Hassan Diarra, Hamidou Diallo, and Dayshon Smith in that 1,000-point group.

He is also just 26 rebounds shy of breaking Mamadou Diarra's career mark of 647, and he needs just 71 more rebounds to break Rundell Mauge's single-season mark of 408. Averaging 9.7 rebounds per game, the first record is destined to fall and the latter is well within reach as well.

#### Career leaders, points

1. Hassan Diarra	1,469
2. Hamidou Diallo	1,415
3. Dayshon Smith	1,010
4. Eric Ayala	959
5. Mamadou Diarra	953
6. <b>Mouhamed Dioubate</b>	<b>920</b>

#### Career leaders, rebounds

1. Mamadou Diarra	647
2. <b>Mouhamed Dioubate</b>	<b>622</b>
3. Hassan Diarra	528
4. Enes Ulukaya	500
5. Hamidou Diallo	456

## Simmons sets new 3-point mark

Darryl Simmons became the school's all-time leader in 3-pointers made on February 21 when he drained one from the left wing roughly midway through the first half of the Mustangs' 104-52 win over We Believe Academy.

"I'm leaving a mark until I leave here," said Simmons, who also has a good chance to join the school's 1,000-point club. "I've got to let people know there's a new leader to chase!" Simmons' first 3 of the game was the record-breaker and came on his second attempt. He entered the game tied with Hassan Diarra with 140 3s in his career. He finished with three 3s among his 15 points.

#### Career leaders, 3-pointers

1. **Darryl Simmons, 144 (thru Feb 25)**
2. Hassan Diarra, 140
3. Jaheam Cornwall, 139
4. Dayshon Smith, 122
5. Andrew Robinson, 112

As for passing his friend and former teammate Diarra, Simmons said: "Hass was a guy who was here for a long time and he set a lot of records and set a high standard. So to break one of those records and continue to set a high standard myself, like he did, it's a big deal."

Tom Espinosa said, "It's a special record. Obviously, you have to be a terrific shooter, and Darryl is. He's worked hard at that. And you have to be here for multiple seasons and be on the court enough. Darryl and his family have trusted PSA since he was in eighth grade, and he worked his way onto the Prep team at the end of his third year, and he's been a leader for us ever since. He could end up with the 3-point record, 1,000 points, and three national championships. He will always be one of the names associated with the Mustangs." Simmons finished the regular-season with 144 career 3s and will look to add to that total during what is hopefully a deep postseason run.



Photo by Thomas Netzer/Netzflics

**Darryl Simmons made the 141st 3-pointer of his career in late February, making him the program's all-time leader in that category.**

## PSA poised for run at 4th title

And now, the fun begins.

After a long regular season of ups-and-downs and roster ins-and-outs, the postseason is here, and the Mustangs are in good position to add more hardware to the trophy case.

PSA (33-3) will open play in the Power 5 Conference Tournament semifinals March 4, having earned a first-round bye, with the final the following day in Springfield, Mass. The National Prep Tournament, which PSA won in dominating fashion last year for its third title, is currently scheduled to run March 8-10 at Clark University in Worcester, Mass.

"We're playing really well," Tom Espinosa said. "We're figuring out ways to win. We've been in dogfights and we just figure out how to win. Brewster, Vermont Academy, at South Kent. We figured out ways to win. We can win in a lot of different styles, and I think we're going to be difficult to beat. It doesn't mean we can't be beat, but we've got a lot of confidence in this group right now. I think we're playing our best basketball at the right time."

PSA has hit its stride in the second half of the year as the roster has fallen into place, particularly with the additions of athletic big man Oswin Erhunmwunse and the ultra-talented Baye Ndongo.

"We have confidence in the staff and the guys who have been here that we would figure it out," Espinosa said. "Guys like Darryl Simmons and Mo Dioubate and Miles Rose who have been here, I knew they wanted to go out on top. We have a culture here and it doesn't just go away. It's not just about this team. It's about what other teams and other players have done here in the past, too. We told these guys back in November, December that this group hasn't done anything yet. But now it's March. Now it's their time to hopefully add their names and this team to that group."

The Mustangs figure to be one of the top two seeds at the national tournament in what is always a collection of highly talented teams. And this year, there may be more teams that can win it than in the past. But PSA is not looking beyond the Power 5 Tournament.

"I want our guys to appreciate every championship," Espinosa said. "They worked hard, they want to win, and they want to enjoy the Power 5 championship, if we win it. There are no guarantees of winning another win, whether it's the national championship this year or next year, or when guys go to college. They might not play for another championship after this. So I want them to enjoy it, no matter what it is."



Photo by Thomas Netzer/Netzflics

**Miles Rose is one of five PSA players looking to win back-to-back national titles this year.**



Photo by Thomas Netzer

**Tarique Foster's turnaround this season is one that Tom Espinosa said will be talked about "for years to come with future teams."**

## Foster turns season around after benching

The comparison to Johnnie Williams IV demonstrated not necessarily how relegated to the bench Tarique Foster had become, but moreso how far Tom Espinosa believed Foster had come back.

Foster has proven to be Williams-like by responding to a benching and a challenge to be tougher in such a way that he too is a key factor in the Mustangs' hopes to win another national championship. Williams IV was a member of the 2019-20 team who essentially went from not playing for three-and-a-half months to becoming the team's second-leading scorer over the final three weeks and a key piece of the championship team. To be fair, Foster only saw his minutes decline for a few weeks, culminating in two DNPs in three games in mid-January. But like Williams IV, Foster figured it out and was ready when his name was again called. He made the biggest play of PSA's comeback win at Brewster on January 28, when he soared in for an offensive rebound putback while getting fouled late in the game. He made the free throw, and PSA had its first lead of the night, one it did not relinquish. Foster played just 6 1/2 minutes in that game, but has seen his minutes increase since, and earned a spot in the starting lineup for the regular season's last five games.

"He changed his whole mindset, his whole attitude, everything," Espinosa said. "Ty is a great story, like Johnnie Williams. And if he continues like this, we'll be talking about him for years to come with future teams. It's been unbelievable."