

SPORTS

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Name: Mallory Booker
 Year: 2011
 Major: Exercise Sports Science with a concentration in Health and Wellness
 Minor: Psychology

Junior Mallory Booker is a crucial part of the 2009 Meredith Volleyball Team. As one of the most dangerous outside hitters on the team, Booker is a key player on offense as well as a consistent protection on defense. It is because of Booker's many talents that this year's team is successful.

Booker's love for volleyball started when she was in middle school. In the sixth grade Booker was the volleyball team manager, but by 7th grade she was a stand-out player on the court. Her love for the game continued to fuel her success, and in high school she decided to make the commitment to play volleyball at the collegiate level.

"I decided on playing at Meredith because I know I wanted to go to a school where my education would be very important. The Meredith volleyball program mirrored all of the same qualities I was looking for. I wanted to play for a program that valued the team as a whole and not as individuals.

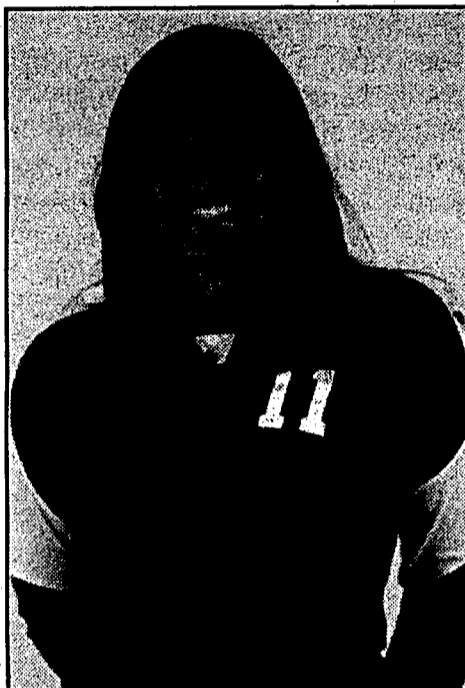


Photo courtesy www.meredith.edu/athletics/volleyball

This Meredith program caught my attention by the level of competition, sportsmanship, and fun all tied together," stated Booker.

Booker also loves the memories and relationships she has formed by being a member of the

Meredith Volleyball team. Some of her most treasured college memories include playing on the volley ball team. However, Booker also is a dedicated student off the court. She is an ESS major with a concentration in Health and Wellness, as well as a psychology minor. Booker says the hardest thing about college is time management, but she is thankful to have such an understanding coach who is supportive of her school work as well.

Because of Booker's talents and hardworking attitude, the Meredith Volleyball team is sure to achieve a very high level of success this season.

"Our team this year has tons of potential. We have a huge class of freshman with amazing talent, and returners who continue to show their hard work and dedication to this program. I think we will pull out a great season this year. Teams are scared to play us. If we bring our A-game we can definitely end up first in our conference," confirmed Booker.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday Oct. 24:
 Volleyball vs Christopher Newport 11am (Newport News, VA)

Volleyball vs Ferrum 1pm (Newport News, VA)

Soccer vs Methodist 2pm (Fayetteville, NC)

Sunday Oct. 25:
 Soccer vs Greensboro 2pm (Greensboro, NC)

Tuesday Oct. 27:
 Volleyball vs Peace 7pm (Peace)

MORE THAN A DANCE INSTRUCTOR

Jillian Curtis
 Staff Writer

Ms. Talani Torres is one of the most distinguished members of the Meredith College dance program. Because of her extensive experience both performing and teaching dance, Torres is able to provide a large foundation of information to her students. Torres has taught several dance classes at Meredith including Dance in Society, Capoeira, Jazz, Tap, Modern, Movement for musical Theatre, Improvisation II, Dance Repertory, Music for Dance, Performing Arts Administration, FYE, and Dance Research.

Torres is currently in her fourth year at Meredith College and is truly grateful to be part of such a unique community.

"Coming from predominantly large higher education settings, I've been struck by the kind of individual support and attention students are able to receive here. Even at the faculty level, I'm not

accustomed to the kind of support and genuine care that the Meredith Community offers," commented Torres.

Torres also stresses the importance of physical fitness in dance. Although some may doubt the true athleticism required for dance, Torres is a firm believer in the two being interconnected. In her classes she often makes students do strength building exercises in order to enhance their dance performances. One of Torres' favorite quotes is by Albert Einstein that says "Dances are the athletes of God"

Before coming to Meredith, Torres received her BA in psychology from Florida International University with a minor in dance. She then went on to be the Artistic Director of the Miami Children's Dance Ensemble from 1991-2004. She co-owned The Dance Space in Miami for ten years, and then

moved to North Carolina where she earned her MFA in choreography from the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. Since then, Torres has taught a variety of people how to dance, including all ages from 3 through adulthood. She has also taught students from the 2nd to the 12th grade in public and private schools. She taught jazz at a residential rehabilitation center for women recovering from cocaine addiction. Because of her eclectic experience, Torres has been able to be a true mentor for dance students at Meredith.

"Talani Torres is an amazing dance professor. I have taken her jazz 3 class, and I am currently in her tap class. She is very encouraging, energetic, and her friendly attitude is another added in bonus to her wonderful teaching style," stated sophomore Laura Holder.