

## **Maria Marchesano, Purdue Fort Wayne**



Fort Wayne native Maria Marchesano has found a place to shine at her hometown NCAA Division I university.

Marchesano, pronounced “mar-kuh-SAH-no,” was named Purdue Fort Wayne women’s basketball head coach on March 30, 2021. In four seasons, she has guided the Mastodons to improvement every year she has been on campus, highlighted by a 27-9 effort this past season that included a spot in the final eight of the 2025 Women’s NIT. She was voted 2025 Horizon League Coach of the Year for her successes.

Inheriting a squad that went 1-22 in 2020-21, Marchesano’s squads went 9-21, 14-19 and 23-13 in her first three seasons, also reaching the postseason in the 2024 Women’s NIT. She now has a four-year mark of 73-62 in Fort Wayne and a career mark of 213-173 in 13 seasons as a college head coach.

Marchesano started her college coaching career in 2010-11 at Manchester University. She began the 2011-12 season with the Spartans, then was hired mid-season as head coach at Urbana University in Ohio. She finished 2011-12 at 12-7 and was named NCAA Division II Independents Coach of the Year, then went 15-15 with a Great Midwest Athletic Conference Tournament title in 2012-13. She moved to Walsh University in Ohio from 2013-16, guiding Cavaliers to 52-35 mark in three seasons.

She moved to the NCAA Division I level in 2016-17, serving as associate head coach at IUPUI and helping the Jaguars to a 24-9 overall finish, a 12-4 mark in the Summit League and a Women’s NIT appearance.

Marchesano became a Division I head coach in 2017-18 at Mount St. Mary’s in Maryland, guiding the Mountaineers to a 61-54 record in four seasons. Her time there included a 17-7 overall mark, a Northeast Conference regular-season title at 14-4, a NEC Tournament championship, an NCAA Tournament berth and NEC Coach of the Year honors in 2020-21. That followed a 20-11 ledger in 2019-20.

She then moved home in 2021 to Fort Wayne, where progress has occurred each season.

At the Mount, Marchesano mentored one NEC Player of the Year, one NEC Defensive Player of the Year and one NEC Most Improved Player as well 10 all-NEC honorees. At Fort Wayne, she has guided one HL Sixth Player of the Year, one HL Newcomer of the Year and nine HL all-conference selections.

Marchesano is a 2001 graduate of Fort Wayne Elmhurst High School, where she scored a school-record 1,466 points and was chosen AP high honorable mention All-State as a senior. She went on to Butler University, where she was named to the 2002 HL all-freshman team, averaged 6.8 points and was a dead-eye 3-point shooter in 78 career games. She also played one year of softball at Butler, earning a bachelor’s degree in integrated communications in 2005.

After college, Marchesano spent four years playing and coaching professional basketball and professional softball in Italy. She then returned to Indiana to accept her first college coaching position at Manchester University in 2010. She also earned a master’s degree in athletics administration from Northcentral University in 2013.