

= 2011 ? 12 Harvard Crimson men 's basketball team =

The 2011 ? 12 Harvard Crimson men 's basketball team represented Harvard University in the Ivy League athletic conference during the 2011 ? 12 NCAA Division I men 's basketball season . The team played its home games in Boston , Massachusetts at the Lavietes Pavilion , located across the Charles River from the university 's main campus in Cambridge with a capacity of 2 @, @ 195 . The team was led by fifth @-@ year head coach Tommy Amaker and senior co @-@ captains Keith Wright and Oliver McNally .

Harvard began the season 8 ? 0 , the best start by an Ivy League team since Columbia won its first ten games to begin the 1969 @-@ 70 season . On December 5 , 2011 , Harvard made its first @-@ ever appearances in the AP Poll and the Coaches ' Poll , ranking 25th and 24th , respectively . The season included two wins against teams in the powerhouse Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) .

Harvard set a school record with 26 wins during the season and tied a school record for conference wins with 12 . Its 14 non @-@ conference wins also tied an Ivy League record previously held by the 2009 @-@ 10 Cornell Big Red . The season culminated in an invitation to the 2012 NCAA Men 's Division I Basketball Tournament , where Harvard lost in the second round . It was Harvard 's first NCAA tournament appearance since 1946 and third consecutive appearance in a postseason tournament . Junior Kyle Casey was a first @-@ team All @-@ Ivy selection , while junior Brandyn Curry and senior Keith Wright earned second @-@ team recognition .

= = Preseason = =

Harvard came into the 2011 @-@ 12 season off of its first Ivy League championship and two school record @-@ setting years in terms of total wins . The 2010 ? 11 team that won the league championship during the 2010 ? 11 Ivy League men 's basketball season had no seniors . Ivy League Men 's Basketball Player of the Year Keith Wright returned to the team as a senior , as did All @-@ Ivy League juniors Kyle Casey , Brandyn Curry and Christian Webster . Harvard entered the season with a 17 @-@ game home winning streak , the 10th @-@ longest in the country . Senior co @-@ captain Oliver McNally entered the season with a 32 @-@ shot free throw streak , having finished second in the nation in free throw percentage the previous year .

The upperclassmen on the team came from the first top @-@ 25 recruiting class in Ivy League history . Harvard and Wright won numerous preseason honors . Wright was a preseason John R. Wooden Award Top 50 Watchlist honoree as well as a Lou Henson Preseason All @-@ America team selection . Harvard was selected as the conference preseason favorite for the first time in school history . In addition , Harvard received preseason votes in the AP Poll , marking the fourth straight season it received votes at some point in the year .

The team 's schedule included power conference opponents Boston College (ACC) , Utah (Pac @-@ 12) and Connecticut (Big East) as well as a possible second @-@ round Battle 4 Atlantis match against Florida State (ACC) . Expectations were high for Harvard , and a December 8 contest against Connecticut was the only Ivy League game scheduled for broadcast on ESPN2 during the season .

= = Schedule = =

= = Rankings = =

On December 5 , 2011 , Harvard made its first @-@ ever appearance in either the AP (25th) or Coaches ' Poll (24th) . That left Brown as the only Ivy League school never to have been ranked in the AP Poll and left only seven Division I schools active since the poll began that have never been ranked in it . Harvard was the first Ivy League team ranked in the Coaches ' Poll since the 2009 ? 10 Cornell Big Red and the first Ivy League team ranked in the AP Poll since the 1997 ? 98 Princeton Tigers . By January 2 , the team achieved rankings of 22nd in the AP Poll and 21st in the Coaches '

Poll . On February 6 , the team again attained the ranking of 21st in the Coaches ' Poll .

= = Season = =

Harvard 's season began with a Crimson Madness event on October 15 where the team raised a 2010 ? 11 Ivy League Championship banner and held an intrasquad scrimmage . The team opened the season with a victory over MIT on November 11 that extended Harvard 's win streak against MIT to nine games .

Following the victory over MIT , Harvard took part in the 2011 Battle 4 Atlantis Tournament . The team beat Utah 75 ? 47 in the first game of the tournament , its first @-@ ever win against a Pac @-@ 12 Conference opponent . On November 25 , Harvard faced Florida State , which was then ranked 22nd in the AP poll and 20th in the Coaches ' Poll . Harvard won that game 46 ? 41 for the second @-@ ever defeat of a ranked opponent in team history . Harvard then matched up against UCF in the tournament final , winning 59 ? 49 . Wright earned Ivy League player of the week for his performance in the Battle 4 Atlantis tournament . McNally extended his free @-@ throw streak to 51 in the Florida State victory , but his run ended in the final minutes of the UCF game .

The 2008 ? 09 team had previously defeated then @-@ ranked Boston College (17th in the AP Poll and 24th in the Coaches ' Poll) for the first win over a ranked team in the program 's history , but lost to all ranked opponents in the 2009 @-@ 10 and 2010 @-@ 11 seasons . The win against Boston College was the 1000th in school history . The Florida State victory was the school 's second over a ranked team in its history and the highest @-@ ranked opponent in the Coaches ' Poll that Harvard has ever defeated . Florida State went on to win the 2012 ACC Men 's Basketball Tournament .

Harvard began the season 8 ? 0 , the best start by an Ivy League team since Columbia won its first ten games to begin the 1969 @-@ 70 season . Harvard , then ranked 25th in the AP poll and 24th in the Coaches ' poll , next faced its most formidable challenge yet : Connecticut , which then had a 7 ? 1 record and was ranked 9th in both polls . Harvard had the better record against common foes , Florida State and UCF (2 ? 0 versus 1 ? 1) . Connecticut won the teams ' previous meeting at Harry A. Gampel Pavilion in 2009 by a score of 79 ? 73 as the 2009 @-@ 10 Huskies (then ranked 14th in the AP Poll and 13th in the Coaches ' Poll) survived a 30 @-@ point , 9 @-@ rebound effort by Jeremy Lin . Harvard lost the 2011 meeting 67 ? 53 .

Harvard won its next four games , including victories over Boston University and Boston College for a season sweep of city rivals after beating MIT in November . Harvard 's victory over Boston College was its fourth in a row against the Atlantic Coast Conference team , giving it five consecutive wins overall against ACC teams , including its only two wins against ranked opponents . After rising to 21st in the Coaches ' Poll and 22nd in the AP Poll , Fordham upset Harvard 60 ? 54 in January . A 65 ? 35 win over Yale three weeks later was Harvard 's widest margin of victory against its Ivy League rival in 183 meetings . Harvard lost its third Ivy League game of the season , falling to Princeton on February 11 , but avenged the loss in a home win on February 24 . That victory gave Harvard a new school record for single @-@ season wins as well as single @-@ season non @-@ league wins and tied the record for conference game wins . A day after beating Princeton , however , Harvard lost to Penn , snapping a 28 @-@ game home winning streak dating to February 20 , 2010 . Nonetheless , Harvard finished the season with a 26 ? 4 overall record . The team won Ivy League regular @-@ season title and earned its first invitation to the NCAA tournament since 1946 . Harvard entered the tournament with a 2 ? 1 record against teams in the field and was seeded 12th in the East Region . Harvard lost in the second round of the tournament to fifth @-@ seeded Vanderbilt on March 15 by a score of 79 ? 70 .

Harvard set a school record by selling out 10 of 12 home games at Lavietes Pavilion (the sellouts came in all seven Ivy League matchups , as well as versus MIT , Saint Joseph 's , and George Washington) . All five of Harvard 's starters and 12 total players returned from the previous year 's championship team , but freshmen accounted for over 22 % of minutes played in the 2011 @-@ 12 season . By sweeping its four games against Massachusetts rivals , Harvard extended an in @-@ state winning streak to 14 games . The program also defeated teams from a record @-@ setting 11

conferences , plus an independent . Other school records set during the season included best Ivy League start and most road wins , with 12 . Harvard 's 14 non @-@ conference wins in the regular season tied an Ivy @-@ League record .

= = Honors = =

= = = In @-@ season = = =

Each week the Ivy League selected a player of the week and a rookie of the week .

= = = Postseason honors = = =

Kyle Casey and Keith Wright were selected by the U.S. Basketball Writers Association to its 10 @-@ man All @-@ District I (ME , VT , NH , RI , MA , CT) team , while Tommy Amaker was named the All @-@ District I Coach of the Year . The National Association of Basketball Coaches announced its Division I All ? District 13 team on March 14 , recognizing the nation ? s best men ? s collegiate basketball student @-@ athletes . Keith Wright was a first @-@ team selection , while Kyle Casey was a second @-@ team selection . Wright was also selected to participate in the NABC 2012 Reese 's Division I All @-@ Star Game at the 2012 NCAA Tournament final four .

The following players earned Ivy League postseason recognition :

First Team All @-@ Ivy

Kyle Casey , (Jr . , F , Medway , Mass .)

Second Team All @-@ Ivy

Brandyn Curry , (Jr . , G , Huntersville , N.C.)

Keith Wright , (Sr . , F , Suffolk , Va .)