

Pain, panic, play through it. These are the three P's that run through Virginia Tech Women's Basketball forward Regan Magarity's head during every practice and game. Magarity, one of the best players on the women's team, was diagnosed with compartment syndrome in November of 2014. After receiving surgery to repair it in December of the same year, she took six months to rehab and recover, only to step foot on the court with the same issues once again. "It was definitely frustrating after having surgery to what I thought would fix the problem, just to rehab for so long and it still be painful. But I came here to play ball so that's what I am going to continue to do."

Magarity grew up in Norrköping, Sweden and was introduced to basketball by her mom and dad who both played internationally. Her father, a US citizen, met her mother while playing professionally in Europe. "I basically came from a basketball family. My mom played for the Sweden National Team, my dad came overseas to play in Europe, my uncle is the coach for West Point and my brother in law coaches at VMI. I fell in love with it, naturally."

Magarity was highly recruited thanks to her impressive record while playing with the Sweden National team in high school. Earning MVP awards earned her offers from Ole Miss and Virginia Tech, where she eventually found her home in Blacksburg. The decision to make the difficult transition overseas was credited to her brother who played basketball at Boston College at the time, and her sister who resided in Maryland. The sibling ties, while fairly distant at the time, brought them not only emotionally closer, but also physically as her brother Will transferred to Davidson and her sister now lives in Lexington, Va.

Looking at statistics from her freshman year, no one would ever know that Magarity was playing on an injury. In the five games she played, she averaged 14 points and 10 rebounds a game, and in her first appearance, scored 25 points, becoming the first rookie in Virginia Tech history to score 25 points in their first game. Her freshman year looked bright, a strong player on offense and defense, and the future of the women's program began a turn for the better. Then the pain flared up. "It would start in my calf and just shoot up and down my right leg. All the way from my toes to my quads, it would just resonate and wouldn't go away. It just got to the point where I couldn't play on it and had to do something about it."

Benched and redshirted for what was looking like her star season, Magarity watched her team play from the sidelines. The hardest part was watching them play according to Magarity. "Obviously still having the team mindset helped me a lot- the fact that I was still traveling and being with the team was good for me, but the desire to get out there and play is what killed me the most."

After months of rehab and training, and her compartment syndrome relieved, Magarity started to feel like herself again. The pain in her calf dulled slightly due to shots of cortisone before games and sitting every other one. Head coach Dennis Wolff preserved Magarity's calf for conference play later in the season, which her talent was sorely needed. The team is currently in the heart of ACC competition, Magarity only having sat

one game during conference play. “It hurts, but I love the game. It’s not going to stop me anymore.”

The Hokies, having the best start to their basketball season in ten years, had a fairytale run in the ACC Tournament last year, where they were projected to come in last place. They won their first game against NC State on a buzzer beater three pointer by teammate Hannah Young. “That play is what encourages me to get back out there and play through the pain. It makes all this worth it. Sitting on the bench and watching that play happen, it was ecstatic but I want to be apart of it. I will be apart of it.”

Pain. Panic. Play through it. If anyone does it best, it’s Regan Magarity.