



A sign of things to come for DePaul basketball saw the Blue Demons reach the 1943 Final Four under first-year coach Ray Meyer. Meyer along with a freshman named George Mikan led DePaul to a 19-5 record and the NCAA Final Four.

In leading the Blue Demons to Madison Square Garden, Meyer became the first coach to reach the NCAA Final Four in his first season as a head coach. Meyer was hired by DePaul prior to the start of the 1942-43 campaign and was introduced to a 6-10 freshman from Joliet.

That 6-10 freshman went on to change the game of basketball as he dominated during his freshman season and entire DePaul career. With no goaltending rule in place, Mikan was a force that few teams could overcome as DePaul opened the season with wins in 13 of its first 14 contests.

Following the 13-1 start, the Blue Demons lost three of four games before finishing the season with four straight wins and a berth in the eight-team NCAA Tournament in New York at Madison Square Garden.

DePaul's first game in the NCAA Tournament saw the Blue Demons knocked off a talented Dartmouth squad by a score of 46-35. It's been noted that Dartmouth opened the game by missing its first 34 attempts from the field.

DePaul started quickly against Georgetown in the national semifinals, but they Hoyas figured out a way around Mikan and overcame the Blue Demons by a 53-49 score.

1942-43

Record: 19-5 (.792)

Head Coach: Ray Meyer

	Navy Pier	A	W	51-28
	Chicago Teachers	H	W	42-16
	Glenview NTS	H	W	47-38
	Navy Pier	H	W	
	Purdue	CS	W	
	USC	CS	W	
	Toledo	A	W	
	Duquesne	A	L	
Dec. 31	Marquette	A	W	
	Chicago	A	W	
Jan. 9	Marquette	CS	W	
	Loyola-Chicago	A	W	
	Western Michigan	CS	W	
	Michigan State	CS	W	
	Notre Dame	CS	L	
	Camp Grant	CS	L	
	Western Kentucky	CS	W	
	Camp Grant	A	L	
	Kentucky	CS	W	
	Bradley	CS	W	
	Bradley	A	W	
	Illinois Wesleyan	A	W	

NCAA Championship

	Dartmouth	MSG	W	46-35
March 25	Georgetown	MSG	L	49-53

CS = Chicago Stadium (Chicago, Ill.) | MSG = Madison Square Garden (New York, N.Y.)

