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Final Four Basketball Special

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Sid, Whit still thread, needle

by William Terry Kelley Sports Editor

Basket by Whittenburg. Assist Lowe.

words if you're a follower of Wolfpack basketball. They're Not an unusual sequence of been called the bookends. One of them has been labled the synonym of point guard by his coach, the other called a pure shooter.

Some say they comprise the best backcourt in college basketball and few will argue. Needless to say the pair in question is State senior point guard Sidney Lowe and runningmate senior Dereck Whittenburg. For the last seven years, except for a 14-game span this year, they have practiced their trade together in the backcourts of famed DeMatha High and here at State. When they met, both were scorers, but that has since changed.

"I met Dereck the summer before I went to DeMatha," Lowe said. "We were at Coach Morgan) camp. We (DeMatha coach Wooten's basketball camp. We didn't go to DeMatha as freshmen. He was the leading scorer in the Maryland area and I was the leading scorer in the D.C. area. I had heard a little about him. I saw a guy go up for a layup and saw Dereck pin it against the backboard. I just looked at him and asked him what school he was going to. So we introduced each other and became good friends.

Lowe sees similarities in the two six-foot specimens, until it comes to work

"Both of us have a great sense of humor," Lowe said. "Both of us are serious about our work when it comes to basketball. I think Dereck is more serious than me. It's like he's possessed out there. He's in his own little world. His eyes get big and he's ready to play

Playing with the same guy in the backcourt for seven years might get boring to some, but for this pair it has just gotten more exciting. The duo was split for about five weeks earlier this year as Whit went down with a broken foot against Virginia, but made a memorable comeback to

help the Pack to the Final Four. "It's to the point now that I can throw the ball before he even gets there," Lowe said. "I think it gives us a second or two advan-tage on the defense. It was like losing a brother when he went down. I've seen him happy and I've seen him sad. This time I thought it was over. He went down in high school when he was a senior averaging 20 points a game and was a bonafide firstteam all-America

"After that he didn't get the recognition he deserved. This year I saw a repeat of what I saw in high school. I think if he hadn't gotten hurt he would have been an all-America this year.

In all the years that the two have played together, Sidney still cannot get Whit to pass the ball back to him.

"I asked him one time why he wouldn't pass the ball back to me and he told me it wasn't his job." said the stocky floor leader. "I can get him to swing it when we are really trying to run the of-

. When he gets on a roll its hard to give it to another person. I try to relay to them (the team to reverse it and then Coach V is telling me they're not reversing it so I tell him to tell them to reverse it."

One of the most crucial plays in Whittenburg's career cam a pass recently, however, as he whipped the ball inside to Loren-zo Charles who drew a foul on Ralph Sampson and then sank a pair of free throws to put State in the Final Four.

"At that time he had taken complete control of the game." Lowe said of Whittenburg, who had 24 points in the contest and had just hit a tying jumper the last time down the floor. "You could see the determination in his eyes. I told him if he gets it that we would clear it out. When I saw him moving, he was so under control. When he's under control, he's hard to stop. He's faking and juking. He had just pulled up for a jumpshot three times in a row. He was able to get inside and make the pass to Lorenzo. It was a great pass, but it did surprise me

Although both went to the same high school, Lowe says neither knew the other had sign ed with State until Wooten call ed them together to make the annoucement

"I signed like a week and four days before he did," Lowe said. 'Coach Wooten kept it quiet because he didn't want to fluence his decision. Dereck was serious about Rutgers. It was two individual decisions. We wanted to play together, but we wanted to do what was best for the individual. Coach Wooten d us together and told us we call would be playing together for another four years and we just looked at each other and started laughing.

Winning and being the Belle of the Ball has been enjoyable for Lowe in the past couple of weeks.

"People have been waiting a ng time for this," Lowe said. nen we beat Carolina this year, it was chaos. All around



Sidney Lowe needs 10 parcel deliveries to topple Phil Ford's career ACC assist record.

campus, everybody was happy. When we won the ACC Tourna-ment, I said 'I bet there's a party going on now

"If we win the national chamin we will have to move pionship, they'll have to move the school. They'll tear this place up. Everybody has been burning sofas and chairs. They may say that's it for school, let's burn it down

Life with Whittenburg over the last seven years has been interesting to say the least for Lowe. Sidney recalled one of those times when they were travelling in South America to play a few games while in high

"Dereck never goes to sleep," Lowe said. "One night, he and Tommy Branch, Adrian Branch's brother got together and tried to keep me up. I locked them out and they got back in. So I threw water on them and locked them out again.

"I'm asleep and its about four in the morning. I felt a tap and I woke up and Dereck was staring me in the face and they drenched

Sidney and Dereck may have both gotten soaked that night, but they have never been all wet since. The Pack duo have each copped a Most Valuable Player or this year, Lowe in the ACC Tournament and Whit in the West Regional.

Valvano admits it will be "hard to go into battle without them next year.'

"After we beat Vegas, I went down to San Francisco to see my old college roommate. Bobby Lloyd," Valvano said. "He and I played together in the NIT. We watched some films of us playing and I kept telling him to speed it up. I told him we should be glad we never had to play against Lowe and Whittenburg." Many wish they hadn't either:

The sports staff of the Technician hopes that this special NCAA Final Four edition will serve as a preview of the upcoming national semifinals and finals as well as tracing the Pack's road into that elite group. This edition, however, would not have been possible without the help of Assistant Sports Editors Devin Steele and Bruce Winkworth. Production Managers Terry Keever and Annette Rowell, lay-out artists Laura Jessup and Larry Jon Janolino, sports writers Tom DeSchriver and Todd McGee, Copy Editor Debbie Boyd, Senior Editor Tom Alter, Editorial Writer Tom Carrigan, Photo Editor Clayton Brinkley, photographers Patrick Chapman and Greg Hatem, Assistant Production Manager Connie Elder, Graphics Editor Dennis Draughon, and cartoonist B. Griffin. The staff of the Technician wishes the basketball team the best of luck as it vies for the national title.

> - William Terry Kelley Sports Editor



Staff photo by Clayton Brinkley Dereck Whittenburg makes his shot look as natural as jump, pump and dump.

Pack cagers on destiny mission in 'Land of Enchantment' Out of Bounds-

Perhaps the college basketball gods had worked up an agree-ment with the American western settlers to nickname New Mexico the "Land of Enchantment Perhaps they prophesized for Easter Weekend, 1983, in the territory called Albuquerque, a rather fascinating roundball gathering within the state's oundaries

Perhaps not, but this weekend, the city in the nor-thern part of the state will be the site of the NCAA Tournament Championships, the grandaddy of all within the collegiate basketball circles.

State, Georgia, Houston and Louisville – the elite quartet, the lone survivors of the 52-team NCAA tourney field - make for some of the most charming and unique Final Four pairings in recent memory.

the 47th-annual When semifinal round opens Saturday afternoon, it will be Cinderella vs. Cinderella and Workhorse vs. Workhorse battling it out for the right to play in the National Championship game Monday night

night. The No. 15 Wolfpack and the No. 16 Bulldogs, after surviving the rigors of the vigorous tourney latter, kick off the festivities at 3:39 (EST) in University Arena. The two fairytale squadrons, who have defied the odds in getting to the prestigious event, meet in what looks like a pretty even matchup.

The ensuing game which many realistically refer to as the actual national championship pits the No. 1 Cougars and the No. 2 Cardinals, a pair of skyjammers otherwise known as the "Phi Slamma Jamma" fraternity and "Doctors of Dunk," respecthe tively.

There will certainly be a big favorite, the surviver of the lat ter throwdown, in the champion ship game, but don't count the finals as a pushover by any means

"I think it's going to be ex-citing the way it's worked out because you know there will be an underdog in the final," said Jim Valvano, whose coach Wolfpack team is making its first appearance in the Final Four since '74. "Most people are say-ing that the champion is going to come from the Houston. Louisville matchup, and rightfully so. Those two teams are the eavyweights.

"Then you've got two teams who have lost 19 games (total), both very similar in how we got there. We had to win the con-ference championship. Most people didn't think we'd be there. You've got a contrast there, and I think that's exciting to most fans."

The canines of the foursome, the Wolfpack and the Bulldogs, carry similar worksheets into the contest. State, which cap-tured the ACC Tournament title and rides an eight-game winning streak, brings in the most losses with a 24-10 overall record. Georgia, similarly, sports a 24-9 ledger and a seven-game win string after capturing the SEC crown

You're going to see in the first game two teams that have scratched and clawed and are very fortunate to be there, but you know somebody's going to win. Somebody's going to be in the final, and whether it's Georgia or whether it's State. you're going to have a tremendous underdog. Most people are going to say the game's going to be a lock for the favorite. But the closer it gets to game time, that's when it gets interesting. That's what makes horse races

And, as State's Thurl Bailey said, "We're on a mission." John Belushi couldn't have said it better

The Pack and the Dogs took omewhat contrasting routes to the event, though each owns a pair of humdingers over highly rated teams. The Cardiac Pack



Assistant Sports Editor

also referred to as a Destiny Team, has made miraculous comebacks in the second half in six of its seven post-season outings, in-cluding cliffhangers over former foes Nevada-Las Vegas No. 1 (71-70) and Virginia (63-62). The Bulldogs, though finishing just 9-9 in league, is undefeated 9.9 against outside opponents after barely edging Virginia Com-monwealth (56-54) in the opening round and upsetting big shots St. Johns (70-67) and North Carolina (82.77)

"Making the Final Four is obviously a coach's dream come true," said coach Jim Valvano. who is in only his third year with the Wolfpack. "Georgia plays with great enthusiasm, and they obviously are one of the hottest teams in the country. But we look forward to meeting them on Saturday in what, naturally, is a very, very big game for both clubs."

What concerns Valvano the most is the Bulldogs' speed and quickness, which keyed the victory over the defending national champion Tar Heels Sunday

"We saw Georgia play North Carolina on the tube." said Valvano, whose team departed for Albuquerque Wednesday afternoon. "They are an outstan-ding basketball team. Their speed and quickness really con cerns us. They use it both on of-fense and on defense. On offense they've got transition, then they shoot it and go get it. They us multiple defenses, they use the full-court and they press on the halfcourt.

State will be at a definite eight advantage with 6-11 lozell McQueen, 6-11 Bailey and 6-7 Lorenzo Charles in the front line. Georgia's tallest player, Terry Fair, is only 6-7, but the Dawgs have overcome this han dicap with consistent offensive rebounds and accurate shooting Valvano doesn't think height will be a big factor.

We're a bigger team, but we're a bigger team," he said. "We have one player, Lorenzo Charles, who is an inside player. But Thurl and Cozell are not physical players.

The Bulldogs' pressing defense, which has created 600 turnovers, has often hampered opponents this season.

Their offensive cog is junior guard Vern Fleming (17 ppg.), who makes up one half of the backcourt, along with quick Gerald Crosby (10 ppg.) Starting center Fair (13.9), incidently, sat out the last 18 minutes against the Tar Heels after picking up four fouls. The forwards are 6-6 forward James Banks (14.0) and 6-5 Lamar Heard (7.0).

"We feel we have a very balanced attack," said Georgia coach Hugh Durham. "We aren't as deep inside as some of the other teams as some of the other teams

Valvano pointed out that the key to his team's gaining the upper-hand will be ball control, a oted trademark of the Pack in close games

"When they get in their rhythm, they can score a lot of points in a short period of time,"

he said. "We've got to control tempo. We don't want to run up and down like that. We're using and down like that. We're using a very similar gam-eplan that we did against Vegas. They're a very similar team. We've need to try to disturb their rhthym." This is the first time Georgia has been to the NCAA Tourna-nent, but Durham has reached the Final Four before, having come with his 1972 Florida State

gone with his 1972 Florida State team

"This is a new experience for us," said Durham. "Our guys are

still up." The "Land of Enchantment" the place to be in '83.

...

Valvano's wit hasn't subsided due to the hoopla surrounding the Final Four event, as evidence ed by his rash of one-liners and humorous responses at Wednes day's press luncheon

Asked if his team has done more homework and analysis for Georgia than other teams, Valvano said, "No. We've been consistent in our preparation. We spend a great deal of time on the films. We tape everything that's on. In fact, we were wat-ching the tape of one of the Virginia games in our prepara-tion for them, and somebody pressed the wrong button and we were watching Saturday Night Live. We watched Eddie Murphy for a while. We can guard Eddie Murphy, by the way. We can stop him down low

Asked if he could pick one thing that made all the Final Four appearance possible, Valvano quickly responded, "It's probably my blue pin-stripe suit."

Coach V. quoted a philosopher, "Anticipation is better than realization." then added. "Ob than viously, that guy didn't coach col-lege basketball."

If a post-game party on the **Brickyard after Saturday's game** with Georgia takes place, please **DO NOT BRING GLASS. The same** goes for Monday night. GO PACK!!!

Unsung big man, **Bailey**, develops on, off hardwood

by Dan Lohwasser **UPI** Sports Writer

For four years State's Thurl Bailey has played in the shadow of some big men with some big names in ACC basketball, but now he's got the spotlight all to himself.

Ralph Sampson is gone at Virginia, and North Carolina's Sam Perkins won't be heard from again until next November, and that's when Bailey hopes he'll have left the legacy of an NCAA championship at State.

"I feel that when I first came in, my talents as far as the other big men in the ACC were not as good as theirs because I was still developing," said Bailey. "I think playing with some of the guys I played against here and in the conference for four years has really helped me develop as a player.

Bailey shrugs off the notion that due to the presence of Sampson and Perkins he hasn't gotten the publicity and honors he deserves.

"Ralph is Ralph, and he's one of the best," said Bailey, one of three seniors who will lead the Wolfpack up against Georgia Saturday in the semifinals of the NCAA basketball championship ournament. "At North Carolina they have two all-Americas (Perkins and Michael Jordan) because statistically they have a great basketball team with winning records every year. Now our time has come and we're due some recognition."

Bailey may be the unsung big man of the ACC, but he hasn't been overlooked by the NBA. Detroit Pistons General Detroit Manager Pete McCloskey says he thinks Bailey is going to go high in the first round of the NBA draft.

"I hate to talk about myself, but I have a lot of confidence in my game now," said Bailey, a 6-foot-11, 214-pounder who leads the team in rebounding, blocked shots, and ranks second in scor ing and field goal accuracy. "I've matched up well and done well against a lot of the better players and I wouldn't be surprised to go in the first round."

Looking back on his four years, Bailey, a native of Seat Pleasant, Md., sees a steady improvement that has made him an all-around, consistent inside player.

Tm 12th or 13th in the counin blocked shots," Bailey try said. "I'm happy to say that I think defense is my strong point. I started out in high school as a defensive player, then I became a rebounder and I gradually worked on my offensive game. I've had a strong jump shot from the range of about 19 feet.'

Bailey generally draws the toughest defensive assignments, but against Georgia he will also play a big part in the outcome in how well he rebounds. Despite their size disadvantage, the Bulldogs had an overwhelming edge in rebounding in defeating a bigger North Carolina team for the Eastern Regional Champion

ship. "Rebounding is one thing we'll Bailey. have to do well," said Bailey. "When they get the ball inside, it's like Dunk City for them. But I think we'll match up real well with them."

When Coach Jim Valvano talks about Bailey's develop-ment, he also likes to mention personal development.

"He, more than anyone else, has grown here," Valvano said. "I've watched him develop and grow over the past three years, and I feel very fortunate to have been able to do that."

Off the court, Bailey has a wide range of interests. He's pro bably one of the only players in the Final Four who could also sing the national anthem. Singing is his hobby, along with playing the trombone, baritone horn and tuba.

He once sang with a group on a



Shot blocking has become a norm for Thur! Bailey, who has held his own ag

men this season. concert wur in Florida, and last year acted in a school production of the play Of Mice and Men, playing the part of the black field hand "Crooks."

When his playing days are over, he's hoping for a career in broadcasting.

Bailey recalls the ups and

downs of the Wolfpack program. After his freshman year, the man who recruited him, former Wolfpack coach Norm Sloan, left for a more lucrative financial package at Florida.

"I was concerned when he (Sloan) left because when he

Staff photo by Greg Hatem nst some of the biggest

recruited me, he told me he would be here my whole four years," asid Balley. "But in the four years, I think the high point was Coach V's arrival. I've really enjoyed him, and he's made me a lot better person. He's the one thing that's kept us going and keeps us winning."



No trip to the Final Four would be complete without a nostalgic look back at those glorious days of yesteryear. Tradition plays a big part in the making of a lasting and suc-cessful backetball more and successful basketball program, and State boasts a fine and storied collection of basketball memories to wax sentimental

The coming of DT October, 1972 wasn't much different from any other October as far as ACC basketball fans were concerned. Every October brings three things – autumn, Hallo-ween and fall drills for ACC hoopball clubs. At State, hopes were high in October, 1972 because of two players, one a holdover, the other a muchheralded newcomer.

Tom Burleson stood 7'4" tall and after a slow start had a very good rockie season as a sophomore (freshmen were ineligible in those days). With Burleson as the hub to build around, State coach Norman Sloan went out and recruited a freshman team for '71-'72 that rolled to an absolutely splendid season

Losing only one game and often thrilling Coliseum crowds with its court magic, this freshman team was comprised of players with names like David Thompson, Monte Towe, Tim



Stoddard, Mark Moeller and Craig Kuszmaul. As sophomores, they were blended with Burleson and holdover starters Joe Caf-ferkey and Rick Holdt to form

the most promising State var-

Thompson, of course, was the man on whom the season's hopes

were primarily pinned. As a freshman, he scored over 35 points and pulled down double-figure rehounds

figure rebounds per game to lead that freshman team. Sloan had

spent the previous season teas-

ing Wolfpack fans that if

freshmen were eligible that season, Thompson would be all-

It turned out he wasn't really

teasing. The Wolfpack was pre-season ranked No. 10 by UPI and picked

to finish second to Maryland by

ACC sportswriters and coaches. The Pack was not to be so

the next two years.

ously under-rated again in

ACC.

Assistant Sports Editor

IImb ten and on probation David Thompson's first varsity game at State would have to considered a success. The Wolfpack routed Appalachian State, 130-53, and Thompson State, 130-53, and Thompson scored 33 points and pulled off 13 rebounds.

In the following weeks, Thompson led State to wins over Atlantic Christian, 110-40. Georgia Southern, 144-100 and South Florida, 125-88. None of these blowouts were against na-tional contenders, though, something the press did not overlook.

It was in the Big Four Tourna-ment that the Wolfpack began to dispell all doubts about its greatness. An 88-88 win over Wake Forest and a thrilling come-from-behind 68-61 win over North Carolina gave State the Big Four Championship and sent it on its way.

On its way, but the way was not very far. The NCAA had

slapped a year's probation on the Wolfpack for recruiting viola-tions regarding Thompson. The most serious violation involved a pickup game involving several-recruits – Thompson included – and assistant coach Eddie Biedenbach, now an assistant at Georgia. With NCAA play out of the question, the Wolfpack set as season goals an unbeaten season and the ACC Championship.

Those goals did not come easi-ly, but the Wolfpack achieved oth. Close exciting wins against the likes of Maryland and UNC took the place of the early dogfood wins, and State capped its season as unbeaten ACC Champions at 27-0.

The Bruins are coming One other team finished unbeaten in '72-'73. UCLA won its seventh-straight NCAA title with a devastating rout of Memphis State, and talk began to build about a possible dream matchup between State and UCLA. Before long, talk became action, and action became fact. The two met Dec. 15 in St. Louis.

UCLA's all-America center Bill Walton got into early foul trouble, but the Bruins played the Wolfpack an even game with Walton on the bench. Led by Keith Wilkes, who did a magnificent defensive job on Thompson, the Bruins held a 54-52 lead when Walton returned to the game

with just over 10 minutes left to

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After Steve Nuce tied the score for State, the Bruins went on a 19-2 tear and coasted to an 84-66 win. The loss dropped the Wolfpack to sixth place in the polls, one place behind Maryland, which had played UCLA its first one-point game in over three years. And so the Pack had to re-

bound from its first defeat after 29 straight wins. No problem. With Moe Rivers and Stoddard now in the starting lineup. State beat Georgia by 34 and then took the Sugar Bowl Classic and Big Four Tournament on consecutive weekends

The Wolfpack was off and running again. The regular season ended with the Wolfpack at 24-1, setting up one of the greatest ACC Tournaments ever. The Wolfpack beat Virginia by 21 points for the right to face Maryland, a great team that State had beaten five-straight times over the two-year period.

The read to Greensbore Everyone has heard of the Terps-Wolfpack '74 ACC final. It has been called the best college game ever played, and that is a claim no one can dispute. State trailed most of the game, often

(See "State," page 10)



Tuesday - Support the Pack Night Wear Red for 25¢ Coors **Games on Video Tape**

Valvano makes niche in State's rich hoopball tradition, send

Being a Final Four team can be a boon to any college basketball program, whether large or miniscule. State and the three teams that join the Pack this weekend in Albu-querque, N.M. have already started benefitting from the successes they have enjoyed so far this season.

Recruiting is the first thing that can be helped. Although State has already signed three players for the 1983-84 season, the Wolfpack no doubt has a jump now on anybody else it wants to complete its roster for next fall or the next.

For State head basketball coach Jim Valvano, however, making it into the national

any coach that has coached at State since 1965 or that will ever coach here in the future has lived and worked in the shadow of Everett Case.

Case set the standard for basketball at State and indeed in the ACC. All the coaches that have succeeded the Wolfpack legend have added to the rich tradition that Case began here in 1946. Press Maravich added one ACC banner to the 'House that Case Built' and Norm Sloan added three. The thing that Valvano gained most from his team's recent success was the ACC title and a

feeling of being "at home". "When we show the kids around the campus we always show them the bansemifinals the meaning runs always show them the ban-a little deeper. Valvano and ners that Coach Case won,"

Valvano said. "Now we can show them around and say, See that 1983 banner? That's ours.' We always show the highlight film from the 1974 State-Maryland game to the kids in camp. Now we can show them highlights from us coming from six down to beat Carolina in the Tournament.'

The State coach gained entrance into the Wolfpack Club of Coaches by taking his first ACC title, but he can secure a lifetime membership with two more wins this season. Even if he falls short of that goal, he has no doubt made a mark on Wolfpack basketball lore that will last for years.

State's fellow Final Four participants are just part of WILLIAM TERRY

KELLEY

Sideline Insights

an elite party that shares the national limelight for at least a week each spring about this time. The talk being bantied around the nation for the past week largely concerns the four teams left and who will make it to the Final Two and finally who the national champ will be.

I have my own feelings about the four teams left in the race. I picked five of the Final Eight correctly and will



Sports Edito venture a couple more

guesses before the season closes

HOUSTON - The Cougars have Akeem 'The Dream' Olajuwon at center but I have been most impressed with Clyde Drexler and Larry Micheaux, as well. The Cougars biggest offen-sive weapon is the dunk. Cougar coach Guy Lewis is a veteran of NCAA play and visited the Final Four just for







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GO PACK

April 1, 1983 / Technician Final Four Basketball Special /

nds Destiny Team in search of another national title banner

	T/	

Record - 24-10 National ranking - No. 14 Coach Jim Valvano Number of Final Four Appearances - two National titles - one

LOUISVILLE

Record — 32-3 National ranking — No. 2 Coach Denny Crum Final Four appearances — five National titles — two Record vs. State — 7-7

the scenery last year. At 61 years of age, experience is on his side.

North Carolina took care of the slammin' Cats last year in short order. The Cougars, though, have come a long way this season. An early season loss to Virginia without Ralph Sampson in the lineup Record – 24.9 . National ranking – No. 15 Coach Hugh Durham Number of Final Four Appearances National titles – none – none Record vs. State – 7.7 HOUSTON

GEORGIA

Record - 30-2 National ranking - No. 1 Coach Guy Lewis Number of Final Four appearances - four National titles - none Record vs. State - 0.0

made the Cougs look bad but that is only one of their two losses. Look for Louisville to try to gain an advantage by controlling the tempo. If the Cards can do that, they will have a good shot.

LOUISVILLE - Denny Crum is one of the premier coaches in college basketball. His record of 295-75 is remarkable and getting No. 296 Saturday is certainly not as unthinkable as I have heard some say its. / Rodney McCray was

Rodney McCray was around when Darrell Griffith led the Cards to the 1980 title and he has since has brother Scooter join him in the lineup. The Cards are making their third trip in four years to the Final Four. That type of experience is bound to pay off somewhere.

The Cougars have a height advantage on the Cards, but Louisville may have the jump on Houston. The quick Cards can press and a few turnovers at crucial times could stack the deck in favor of the Bluegrass Brigade. MONDAY'S CHILD:

MONDAY'S CHILD: Louisville.

GEORGIA - People down in Dawg Country had hardly said goodbye to Herschel Walker before they found out they had something to cheer them up. With Dominique Wilkins departed south to Atlanta and on Ted Turner's payroll, the Bulldogs kicked hardship in the knee and started playing ball. The Dawgs have been tak-

The Dawgs have been taking the ball to the Bank, er Banks, as in James Banks as of late. Joining him is Georgia's tallest starter Terry Fair at 6-7 but the Peach State doesn't have this much speed in the contraband lockup at the Atlanta Police Department.

State will be depending, like Lousiville, on controlling the tempo against the Buldogs. Georgia will be giving up some height but that was not a problem against either of the last two Georgia victims, North Carolina and St. John's. Despite a 24-9 slate, this team could smoke the field.

STATE — The 'Team of Destiny' once again goes up against another team on a

roll. This time the Pack is pitted against the Bulldogs and not the Runnin' Utes. The 'Dawgs will run the Pack, however, if State doesn't control the tempo, but State has the backcourt personnel to do that.

The Pack's height should give them an advantage on the boards, but only if they box out well and are aggresive. If any team is going into the tournament with confidence it is the Pack. They know they can win. Any team with that kind of gleam in their eye is something to be reekoned with.

MONDAY'S TWIN -STATE, by the hair of their chiny chin chin.

Who'll be giving up the title a year from now? Well, the Pack owes the Cards a little something from last December. I'll go out on a heart-swayed limb and say State.





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McQueen stands tall underneath

by Tom DeSchriver Sports Writer

Heroes abound as State prepares to face Georgia in the semifinals of the NCAA tournament, but none stand taller than center Cozell McQueen.

At the start of the season, Mc-Queen was looked upon to play defense and rebound.

Throughout the season "Co" has done that and in tournament play has even gotten in on the last second heroics that have caused State students to turn from mild-mannered engineers and farmers into nervous wrecks.

Against Pepperdine in the first round of the NCAAs, Mc-Queen grabbed a missed Dereck Whittenberg free throw and, falling backwards, flipped the ball through the hoop, sending the game into overtime No. 2 and Pack fans into delirium on the other side of the country.

In a tournament that has the In a tournament that has the entire nation asking "Who are those guys in red telling all the jokes after they win?" McQueen made a big play in the West Regional Championship game against Virginia without even touching the ball.

Down by a point with 12 seconds remaining, Virginia's Tim Mullen gunned a wide-open 15-footer that bounced straight up and appeared headed for Virginia's Ralph Sampson.

At 7.4. Sampson would have had few problems jamming the missed shot through the hoop and sending the Wahoos to the Promised Land (Albuquerque). except Ralph never got the ball

McQueen placed a bodycheck on the next NBA "franchise" that had NHL scouts trying to teach McQueen how to skate.

With Sampson in the third row, the ball landed in Othell Wilson's hands, and Wilson hit nothing but oxygen molecules as

time expired. The last second finishes and The last second finishes the celebrations in the brickyard came about because of one of the darkest moments in State Dereck basketball, Whitenburg's broken foot, ac-cording to McQueen. "We found out how good we were without Whit," he said.

Then when he came back, we put it all together.

put it all together." McQueen thinks that the return of Whitehburg was the missing link to a great team. "We had more outside firepower with the return of Whitehburg," McQueen said. "That was the big turnaround."

After a 8-6 season in ACC play, the streak, which has had sportwriters thinking up nicknames for the Pack faster than Jesse Helms votes down legislation, began in the opening round of the ACC tournament against Wake Forest when the Pack squeezed out a one-point win.

Right then, the Wolfpack faithful should have hoarded toilet paper, beer and Rolaids. "It really built our confidence

when we beat Wake Forest," Mc-Queen said. "Then we said we're gonna go get (North) Carolina.

"We've been playing good ball lately," McQueen said, making the classic understatement.

While the Bennettsville, S.C., native's scoring has not been consistently in double figures, the inside game is one of the big reasons the Pack will be playing basketball in April for the first time

"At the beginning of the year it was either Lo (Lorenzo Charles) or me that had to score," McQueen said. "Lo's scoring now. He's making his shot, and he's making his power move

McQueen and Charles are just sophomores, and the attention

and hype that surrounds the Final Four doesn't concern Mc-Queen "It's gonna be a little different," McQueen said, "but it's not gonna be any different than playing a non-conference

tourney.

at the start of the tournament and is now on a roll. And Me Queen knows what conference the Bulldog's are in.

"They're a great team," Mc-Queen said of the Dawgs. "We respect everybody we play. It's hard to say one team is better than another."

comes first to McQueen's mind. "The biggest win so far was definitely the Virginia win," Mc-Queen said. "The one for the ACC championship"

McQueen may change his mind rather quickly if the Pack has two goodies left in its bag of



Staff photo by Greg Hatem Cozell McQueen's crucial plays have enabled State to play the game of survival so far in the NCAA

month, the win over Virginia

ACC championship

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Battle travelled west to earn name back east

by Todd McGee Sports Writer

Rocky Mount, N.C. has made some major contributions to Atlantic Coast Conference basketball. Players like Butk Williams and Charles Pittman, both whom played at Maryland, and North Carolina's Phil Ford grew up honing their skills on the playgrounds of Rocky Mount.

The paygrounds of ROCKY mount. This years from that area – freshman guard George McLain and junior college transfer Alvin Battle. McLain contracted spinal meningitis over Christmas, which kept him out of the lineup for a number of games and hampered his progress this been a consistent force in the Wolfpack lineup all season.

Three years ago, the odds of Battle playing collegiate basketball seemed remote at best. He was heavily recruited in high school, but two knee operations during his senior season drove away most of the big-time recruiters. Battle, though, still believed he could play ACC caliber ball.

Calleer ball. Determined to prove the recruiters wrong, Battle traveled West to play in the tough California Juco leagues to work himself back into shape. After his final season at Merced Junior College, Battle was named to many Juco all-America teams and was once again the subject of heavy recruiting wars. After two years on the West Coast, thoug Battle decided it was time to come back home. He cited his main reason for coming to State.

"Primarily to play in the ACC and be close to home," he said. Battle's up-tempo game also fit in well with the ACC's new rules.

As with any newcomer in the tough ACC, there were adjustments for Alvin to make, some of which he is still making. Teammate Thurl Bairey, however, feels Alvin has almost completed the changes.

"Alvin has had an up and down season, but he's coming on really strong," he said. "He was like a



Staff photo by Clayton Brinkie Aivin Battle has battled his way from adversity this season.

freshman when he came in, but he's made the necessary adjustments."

Battle, like everyone else on the Wolfpack squad, has had to make a career full of adjustments this season. Dereck Whittenburg's injury and subsequent return, along with the emergence of Lorenzo Charles at the power forward spot, has caused Battle to search for his role on the team. Coach Jim Valvano thinks Alvin has finally found his role and is becoming comfortable with it.

"Alvin is very important to us," he said. "He comes in and plays good defense, gets a rebound, and goes to the basket and draws a foul. He does all these things well"

these things well." From this description, one might think that Alvin is a garbage-type player, but Lorenzo Charles. Alvins' sparring partner in practice, doesn't see it that way. "Alvin's an offensive threat. He shoots the jump shot well and is tough to stop inside." Charles said.

As the starting forward, Charles feels that Battle's presence helps him out in practice.

"I think his presence has helped me," he said. "I need someone to push me, and Alvin does that. He is pretty tough. We really go against each other in practice."

Charles also feels that Battle's contributions are not left on the practice floor.

"His coming in off the bench and scoring has really helped us," Charles said. Battle sees his job much the same as Charles and Valvano do.

Battle sees his job much the same as Charles and Valvano do. "My role right now is to play good defense and score whenever possible," he said. With Charles' emergence in-

whenever possible, he said. With Charles' emergence inside, Battle's playing time has diminished somewhat. But Batthe thinks this makes the three or four minute rests he gives Charles a couple of times a game more important.

"It is really important because Lorenzo works hard on the boards and needs a spell," he said.

Battle has played in all but three of the Pack's games this season, averaging 3.0 points and 2.2 rebounds per contest. His quickness and leaping ability have enabled him to come up with eight blocked shots and 12 steals through the Nevada Las-Vegas game, most of which have com at key times.

'f here is any one thing about Ba: e that really stands out, though, it is his play against Ralph Sampson and Virginia. He simply loves the challenge of playing against probably the greatest player in the game. One of Battle's best games of the season came against the 'Hoos in the finals of the ACC Tourna-

ment. In 19 minutes, he scored six points, including a dunk over Ralph, grabbed three rebounds and blocked one of Ralph's shots. Alvin is at a loss to explain his success against the Cavaliers.

"I just like to play them," he said. "It seems like I play hard against Ralph."

This trait has not gone unnoticed by Battle's teammates. Bailey said that "Alvin really likes to play against Virginia." while Charles added that "He plays well against Raiph."

Now that the Pack has conquered Virginia and the rest of the West Regional field, it must turn its attention to the upcoming semifinal game with Georgia. The Dawgs have a small but quick team, the type of the team that Battle is best against. Bailey explained what Battle's role will be against the Buldogs.

"It really depends on the situation." the 6-11 forward said. "If we fall behind and have to play man, Alvin will play an important role for us. Our biggest concern, though, is getting a lead on them so we can play zone." If the Pack gets a lead, Bailey

If the Pack gets a lead, Bailey expects Battle to play the same role he has been playing lately, that of a backup to Charles.

With three senior starters on this season's team, Battle expects to see more playing time next year.

next year. "If I keep playing hard, I think I'll start," Battle commented before practice recently. "But if I don't start, I won't worry about it. I'll just go out and do my best."

Doing his best is something Battle has always done, but he's especially happy he's doing it here at State.

"Yeah, I'm very glad I came now," he said. "The final four makes it a whole lot better." But, he added that it would have been worth it even if State hadn't made it to the 'Big Dance.'





Have superstitions carried Cardiac Pack this far?

by Tom Carrigan Editorial Editor

While Jim Valvano thinks the main reason the Pack has been main reason the rack mass been winning every game lately is the confidence of the team, many of State fans have a different reason for the victory surge. Almost all Pack fans have a few of their own superstitions that they feel are the winning secret.

"I have three pom poms that I took to the ACC tournament, and I have carried them here. I'm wearing the same clothes and the same earrings that I wore to the tournament," said Lee Anne Moeller at the Western Regionals finals in Ogden, Utah.

Moeller has had a lot of pracsuperstitions. He husband, Mark, who now works for the Wolfpack Club, was an active member of State's 1974 championship team. It seems that Mark isn't that Mark isn't as superstitious as his wife.

"I don't really do anything superstitions," he says. "I wear my Wolfpack stuff, but I wear them to all of the games.

Sarah Bass, whose husband also works for the Wolfpack club, is more superstitious than most.

"When we came here today, we walked here the same way, wore the same clothes and are sitting in the same seats," Bass said at halftime of the State Virginia game in Ogden. One of the oldest State fans

would have to be Fannie May Bell who at 83 is still active in the Wolfpack Club. Bell has a special gray suit that she wore to the last regular season game bet-ween State and North Carolina this year and wore the same suit to all of the ACC Tournament games. She didn't go to the games in Corvailis or Ogden, saying she was saving up to go to Albuquerque, N.M. You can bet that she will be wearing the same suit when the Pack takes the hardwood Saturday.

Superstitious doings are not exclusive to fans at the game either. Some students who have been watching the games from their rooms have developed their own set of superstitious actions.

One set of guys in Tucker Dorm never lets one member of its group see the end of a close game. It seems that during the UNC game in the ACC Tourney, one student left a bar with one minute left in regulation because he thought State had no chance of winning.

He left early again during the State-Virginia game in the finals of the ACC Tourney. When the State Pepperdine game went in-to overtime he left a third time without telling his friends. When the State-UNLV game was get-ting close near the end, all of his friends made him leave the

The Clod

room, and he had to listen to the final seconds of the game on the radio

He suffered the same fate dur-ing the final seconds of the State-Virginia game in the Regional finals. All of his friends have told him that while he is home for Easter he had better leave the room if State and Georgia are in a close game

The girls in one suite in Carroll makes one of the girls take a shower with five minutes left in each game because it worked during the ACC Tourney.

Not only do fans have special

things to do before and during a game, coach Jim Valvano has on-ly a few suits that he wears to tournament games. After the State Virginia in Ogden, Valvano said he was confu

"I wore my Virginia suit to the Utah game," he said. "Fm wear-ing my Carolina suit now. Fm all confused. I don't know what Fill wear in the finals." be said. "I'm wear-

Even Technician Sports Editor Terry Kelley has his own special way of drawing lines in his play-by-play notebook. Kelley started the tradition in the ACC Tourney and doesn't wan't to

play dead]

break any good luck spell. He even consults with some of the *Technician* photographers to fi-qure out which suit will be the luckiest one for each game. The cheerleaders say they are

equally superstitious. It seems they wear the same make-up and use the same routines for every game

With State's recent flood of close wins, it seems certain that something besides good, hard-nosed basketball has been going for the Cardiac Pack.

Who knows? Maybe Jim Valvano stuck a horseshoe over his door.

B. Griffin

PACK

5



State wins over Terps, Bruins, eld in Reynolds Coliseum that

(Continued from page 5)

by double-figure margins, and the Terps, playing a great game, shot over 60 percent for the game. The only turnover Maryland's great guard John Lucas committed in the game came in the overtime period and the Wolfpack the posses gave sion that would ultimately give it the lead for keeps. The final was 103-100. Towe's two free throws cinched it for State.

You just can't win 32 games in a row against conference teams," Sloan said afterwards, realizing that is exactly what the Wolfpack had done. "You just can't keep doing what these guys do The Eastern Regionals were

Going up to block a shot in the first half against Pittsburgh, Thompson flipped over team-mate Phil Spence's shoulder, fell to the floor and lay motionless. The Coliseum fell to an eery hush as Thompson was attended to by the team's trainers, and

> alive That was the quietest I've ever heard the Coliseum," said Wolfpack announcer Wally Ausley. "Of course, when David came back in the second half, that was the loudest I've ever heard the Coliseum."

> many people really weren't sure whether Thompson was even

year, and after Thompson almost

lifetime into its fans and itself.

ingle-handedly downed a fine Providence team, the Wolfpack proceeded to put the scare of a the Coliseum to a thunderous ovation. State won by 28, but concern for Thompson outweigh-ed all considerations about the outcome of the game.

"I thought David had broken his neck," Towe said. "After he got hurt, I just went through the motions."

The motions got the Wolfpack what fans all across the state wanted most - a rematch with UCLA. Thompson came back healthy, but the game was anything but healthy for fans with nervous disorders or heart conditions. It was tied at the half, tied at the end of regulation and tied at the end of the first overtime.

That's not to say that it was basket-for-basket. UCLA jumped out to a 10-point lead to open the second half, but the Pack fought back. Even more incredible, the Bruins took a sevenpoint lead at the beginning of the second overtime, but State mounted a furious comeback to win 80-77, sending the state of North Carolina into pandemonium.

REFE

Two nights later, the olfpack anti-climactically beat Al McGuire's Marquette Warriors for the national champion-ship, and it was over. An incredible two-year run of thrilling basketball magic.

"I told this team before the season it could be one of the greatest college teams of all time," Sloan said. "They've earned everything they've gotten. Nobody's had a tougher two years than this team."

That's tradition. It may or may not help State Saturday night. But I'd rather have some on my side. It can't hurt.





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Preparation, communication key CBS' success

OGDEN, Utah - The recent death of artificial heart-recipient Barney Clark makes one realize that everything is not as simple as it may appear. Many things are taken for granted - for example, watching a televised basketball game. Yet, one would be amazed' at how the CBS television crew operates when broadcasting live NCAA basketball action.

Much of the behind-the-scene work in producing a live broad cast of an NCAA game by CBS remains unnoticed by the viewer at home. March 26th's Western Regional final between State and Virginia was seen by millions of people across the country.

Although the game was played on Saturday, the production crew arrived here on Monday – giving them plenty of time to prepare for Thursday night's semi-finals.

This particular crew was composed of production people and technicians who had worked earlier on other NCAA Tournament games in Corvallis, Ore. and Boise, Idaho.

The production crew consisted of Producer Ric LaCivita, Director Larry Cavolina, Associate Producer Joan Vitrano and Broadcast Associate Scott Johnson. As is the case with most of CBS Sports' broadcasts, the production crew came from New York.

On the other hand, the technicians hailed from Los Angeles. There were approximately 25 technicians working in highly specialized and diversified roles for CBS in Ogden. Surprisingly, no local talent was used for this production. Usually the network will ask the host school to provide certain persons for miscellaneous functions.

The television crew is reflected by the on-camera talent. For the State-Virginia game, Dick Stockton and Steve Grote were the announcers. The broadcasters are given most of the responsibility and credit for keeping a game's audience interested.

Obviously, their role is important, but Johnson thinks the announcers' contribution may be overemphasized.

"Believe it or not, our broadcasts are not geared for the folks at home, but for the guys in bars who can't hear the game. That's why we use graphics," Johnson said.

Johnson does believe in establishing a rapport with the audience, though: "I think Al McGuire, Billy Packer and Dick Enberg were great. Al and Billy were like two guys in a bar arguing over the game. Billy would say something and then Al would scream 'Billy, are you watching the same game!? "

For last Saturday's 1 p.m. (MST) game, the crew arrived at Dee Events Center on the campus of Weber State somewhere between 8 and 9 a.m. Most of the crew's preparations had been completed the day before. For the most part, only last-minute checks on equipment and some





fine tuning in style were necessary.

The key to a successful live broadcast is preparation and communication. It is important that everything be just right. This is for a number of reasons, foremost of which is the fact that in a live broadcast anything can happen and all precautions must be made to ensure that it doesn't.

Secondly, there is a tremendous amount of competition among the networks. Before CBS's national coverage of the North Carolina-James Madison NCAA game in Greensboro, the producer of that game, Rick Sharp, spoke to the crew about the importance of the day's game in terms of national recognition.

"Last year we (CBS) won an Emmy Award for Best Live Coverage of a Sporting Event for our coverage of the final game of the NCAA. This game will kick off our coverage again this year. NBC isn't ready to just give us the NCAA. We'll have to earn it," Sharp said. The communica-

tion among the crew must be thorough and continuous.

CBS installed approximately 40 phones in Dee Events Center to ensure this open communication. Most of the communication is linked to the production truck, which houses the production staff.

It is when the game's announcers are before the cameras at a game's start or during halftime that the communication among the crew reaches its peak. While the announcers discuss an aspect of the game at halftime, the producer is feeding the playby-play man information, the associate producer is counting down the time remaining before the next commercial and the director is describing to the wants while telling the video switcher which shot to take.

Meanwhile, in another truck, the broadcast associate is getting the first-half statistics from the press room and converting these figures into graphics. The Broadcast Assistant then tells the producer he has some statistics on a monitor for the director to air.

It is also at halftime when CBS airs its Shot Chart. This chart if lustrates each team's shot selection for the first half. This was the job I had when I worked for CBS Sports on several NCAA games this season. With this position came a seat on press row and the opportunity to rub elbows with the production crew and anonuncers. Despite the fact that the crew's finished product is witnessed by millions of Americans and that theirs is an extremely lucrative business, the CBS team remains friendly as well as professional.

Monday night's NCAA Tournament Championship game will be seen in over 25 million homes. Advertisers will pay top dolar to reach these homes. What the viewer wants to see is basketball, however, and that's what CBS Sports will give you.





State finds road to Albuquerque long, fun

by William Terry Kelley Sports Editor

The road to Albuquerque has not been particularly easy, but it has been a fun one.

Four weeks ago the Pack was marred in a despondent mood after having lost to Maryland in a chance to possibly lock up an NCAA bid and grab third place in the ACC. Only two days later State had changed that dreary mood with a 41-point shellacking of Wake Forest.

Everyone seemed to know that the Deamon Deacs would come back a little perturbed at the Wolfpack's punishing treat-ment of them in Raleigh. So. the Deacs gave the Pack all it could handle in a 71-70 loss in the first round of the ACC Tournament.

The rest of that three-day stint in Atlanta is still emblazon ed in every ACC fans' mind. The six-point overtime comeback against North Carolina and the three-point win in the championship game have become part of the highlight films for most everybody now. State head basketball coach Jim Valvano still didn't see his team in the Final Four after that though.

"We knew if we won the first round and had a good showing in the second that we would have a good shot at an NCAA bid." Valvano said. "But after we won 'alright, now we'll go out and go to the Final Four.' We just approached each game with the attitude that we would work hard. We didn't talk about winning."

As the road to Albuquerque became shorter, State's hard work kept paying off though. The Pack was so close to being out of the whole thing though in the first round against Pepper-dine, but unlikely heroes seem to spring up at the most opportune times. Cozell McQueen was the man that put the winning shot in at that point.

Next time out against Nevada as Vegas, it was Thurl Bailey that sank the winning basket and then against Utah, Dereck Whittenburg kept the show alive.

The Utah game was maybe just what the doctor had ordered. A 19-point win was enough to settle the nerves which had been toyed with too often over first two post-season weeks. The Pack was incredible from the outside in that game. Valvano gives credit to the inside, however, for making that possible

The development of Lorenzo Charles has opened up our out-side shots," Valvano said. "Lorenzo is getting better at taking the ball inside and then finding someone open on the perimeter."

The next game was, of course, for the West Regional title. Ralph Sampson had been blessed with a restful game the last time out by collecting his fourth foul early in the second half and Virginia was able to hold on and win

It was Whittenburg again, that blasted in the intercontinental baskets again to counteract



Wolfpack upset Virginia Sunday.

the Virginia giant attack. Whit owed the Cavs something, anyhow At a press conference the day before. before, Virginia coach Terry Holland said, "The best defense

against Whittenburg is to break his foot like we did in the second half of the first game, after he had scored 27 first-half points." Fortunately for State, Holland's game-plan didn't work

and the Wolfpack had topped the last mountain on the way to New Mexico. Now the Pack comes to a wide turn in the road. What is around the other side only time will tell.

photo by Clayton Brinkley







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