

**Technician**

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# NCAA Basketball Special

Technician NCAA Basketball Special

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**ON THE COVER:** Wolfpack Women coach Kay Yow cuts down the net after her team captured the ACC championship March 8rd (photo by Marshall Norton), while State seniors Lorenzo Charles, Cencil McQueen and Spud Webb embrace in the waning moments of their final outing in Reynolds Coliseum (photo by Roger Winstead).

Publication of Technician's NCAA Basketball Special would not have been possible without the assistance of Editor-in-Chief Jeffrey Bender; sports writers Tim Peeler, Marlene Hale and Todd McGee; Ad Manager David Sneed; advertising salespersons Lincoln Sokolaki, Lyn Wilson, Tim Irving, Bill Lathrop and Helen White; ad designers Alan Clegg, Karen Holland, Barbara Shuping, Art Barnes, Mike Brown, Jamie Pools, Tracy Proctor and Karen Oglesby; Graphics Editor Dennis Draughon; Production Manager Robin Cockman; Assistant Copy Editor Dawn Leonard; Assistant Photography Editor Marshall Norton and creative consultant, Roger W. Winstead.

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**Named to all-tourney team**

**Rouse keying Pack's surge**

**Marlene Hale**  
Sports Writer

How do you turn a seasonal 5.7-point scoring average into a 13-point tournament average? Just ask Wollpack coach Kay Yow how junior forward Teresa Rouse did it.

"I think she has definitely improved," Yow said of Rouse, who turned in such an average in the recent ACC tournament that State won. "There for a long time even when a shot was there, she didn't take it. She didn't look for it. Now she's looking for it and she's taking it when it's there. And that has made a difference for our team."

Rouse, a Fairfax, Va. native, has come to the forefront during the latter portion of the season and established herself as a major cog in the Wollpack train that has roared to 14 straight wins. She has pulled a mid-season 4.8 ppg. average up nearly a whole point. In the Pack's upset of then No. 2-ranked Old Dominion on Feb. 1, for instance, she fired in a career-high 16 points.

And when the ACC championship was on the line against North Carolina, Rouse was the team's top rebounder with a career-high seven boards. That performance earned her a spot on the all-tournament team, making her the second Rouse to achieve that honor.

Her sister, Wollpack standout Ginger Rouse, made the all-tourney team in 1982. Though some might think that the younger Rouse is having to fill some distinguished footsteps, Teresa thinks otherwise.

"IT WAS REALLY bad in high school," she said. "Ginger was an all-America. That made it worse. But once I got to State, it really didn't bother me. I was expected to do good but not because I was her sister."

The five-year age difference prohibited them from playing on the same team in high school, so when Ginger was red-shirted her junior year, there was a possibility of a the two playing together in college. But Teresa, encountering a

bout with mononucleosis, was red-shirted her freshman year.

Rouse returned the next two years to play guard before coach Yow moved her to the No. 4 forward position.

"Teresa is starting for us this year at No. 4 forward," Yow said of the 5-11 starter. "I think she may prefer to play No. 3. But she's done a heck of a job at No. 4. This year shows what she has accomplished at the 4 position within our system."

And perhaps because Rouse played guard, she finds it easy to get open at the top of the key for a quick two points.

ACC foes have consistently let Rouse wander out to that area and recently she's kindly obliged by burning the nets for many State baskets.

*"The madder I get, the more aggressive I play."*

— Teresa Rouse

"Most of the other players aren't used to coming so far outside to guard me," Rouse said. "I wasn't used to posting up on the inside. Maybe because I found it harder to post down low helped me go to the high position."

In contrast, on the defensive end, Rouse's inside play is her strong point.

"I think her post defense is better than her perimeter defense," Yow said. "Her defense has improved a lot. She may not be as quick, she may not be the leaper as the players she plays, but she does an excellent job positioning against the people she defends. She has the strength to keep people off the boards and the endurance to keep pushing from baseline to baseline."

WHILE THERE HAVE been improvements, Rouse contends that others can be made.

"I think I need to work on being more aggressive," she said. "The madder I get, the more aggressive I play."

Yow agrees with Rouse's designated area of development. "The

one thing I wish for Teresa is for her to become more aggressive in her play," she said. "If she becomes more aggressive, she moves from just a good player to a great player."

Rouse, however, said she does not need to improve is her mental ability to get motivated for a big game.

Just working for the title of ACC champion was enough pressure and incentive for Rouse. "The tournament was great," she said. "I felt like we were going to play Carolina all along and I really got psyched for it."

And if the Pack gets past first-round opponent St. Joseph's tonight, a rematch between No. 5 ODU and No. 12 State is a strong possibility. But that wouldn't bother Rouse.

"When we beat them, we really played a great game," she said. "Maybe they're a little afraid to play us because they know we have everything to gain and nothing to lose."



Staff photo by Roger Winstead  
Teresa Rouse's late season performance helped the Pack surge to 14 straight wins and capture the ACC tournament crown.

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# Wolfpack teams begin quest

## Women thriving on pressure

"Feeling the pressure." Ah, yes that familiar, yet descriptive cliché finds its way to the sports pages more often than a Georgetown winning box score.

But, over-used as it may be, coach Kay Yow contends pressure has been a key to her Wolfpack Women's success this season. Her players have used it positively — the only way she tries to teach it to be used.

"Athletes who learn to use pressure are the ones who excel."

### DEVIN STEELE

Executive Sports Editor



said Yow, whose team hosts St. Joseph's in the first round of the NCAA playoffs tonight in Reynolds Coliseum. "It's the very thing that can spur you on to excel and to make you do things that you thought you couldn't do — if you use it. If you don't use it right, it hurts you. You don't even accomplish the things that ordinarily you know you could do.

It all started when State, dipping to 10-5 after a loss to Tennessee on Jan. 19, dropped out of the top 20 for the first time since 1976. Though Yow insisted that slipping out of the polls did not snag the Wolfpack program, the pressure was on the players' shoulders nonetheless. We're talking pride here, that red devil still keeps the Rebels a-yellin'. And did the Pack players roll over and die? Nary one of them.

"Maybe you fall out of the top 20 and maybe you begin to feel a little bit of pressure," Yow said. "The real secret is don't panic, but learn to use that pressure."

After that setback, which the Pack endured without leading scorer Linda Page, State packed a tight snowball and has since bouldered 14 straight foes. It took only two weeks for the Wolfpack to find its way back to the polls, that feat coming when it shocked then No. 2-ranked Old Dominion.

82-71 — at the Monarch's raucous gym, mind you.

But finding its way back among the nation's finest did not settle the players' minds. In fact, the pressure burner really began to heat as the team started tacking on more wins.

State entered the ACC tournament with 11 straight wins firmly pocketed and with the possibility lurking of meeting North Carolina for a fourth time this season. For that matchup to ensue, both teams needed to knock off two opponents each, which they promptly did. Traditionally, getting to the championship game had never been a problem for the Pack. It had already reached that game six times. Yet, State only had one banner to prove it. There's more pressure, baby.

Said Yow of the situation, "In that championship game against Carolina there was a lot of pressure because people were saying, 'This is the seventh time you've been in a championship game and you've only won one out of six. And this is going to be the fourth time you've played Carolina and you've won two. It's hard to beat them three times.' So we've got all these things going around and around, and we've won 11 games in a row. It's hard to continue a streak, they said.

"Somebody even said to me this season it just seems like an impossible situation. That's a real challenge to me when somebody says that. The immediate reaction is, 'Really? That's something that I'd like to try, then.' I only hope my players can use pressure going into the playoffs."

Other than pressure, Yow said that more concrete substances, like X's and O's and individual peaks, have played a factor in her team's mid- to late-season surge. First, after reaching the low-point of its season with the loss to the Volunteers the team began to "develop an identity of its own and the chemistry began to develop."

Why? Yow cited several reasons. "Our inside game began to improve," said Yow, whose team is 24-5. "And our No. 4 and 5 players started doing better on the boards and to score more for us.

Also, our depth continued to improve and come off the bench and not hurt us at all by either helping us maintain the tempo or bringing us to greater heights.

"We just began to play together so much better. We began to stay in our offensive and defensive systems and have confidence in each other's ability.

"And," Yow added, "We became a team that didn't have depend on Linda Page as much."

Most notably, Yow handed out praise to sophomore center Trena Trice, junior forward Teresa Rouse, sophomore forward Angela Daye and sophomore guard Annemarie Treadway.

Trice began the season as a reserve, but still received good amounts of playing time. She has since worked her way into the starting lineup by giving the team more inside versatility and is now the team's second leading scorer at 14.8 ppg. and leading rebounder at 7.8 rpg.

"Trena still doesn't have that great consistency game in and game out that I'd like for a starter to have," Yow said. "But she certainly has gotten to the point where she can help us tremendously at that low-post position. We are now definitely a threat to score there."

Rouse, who starts at the big forward position, and Daye both have keyed the surge, especially in the ACC tournament.

"Angela and Teresa simply had great ACC tournaments," Yow said. "I would say they played above and beyond what they have been playing this season. They were directly responsible for the way we played in the tourney. When we got into foul trouble or other people just couldn't get it together, they gave us a lift on defense, scoring assists, just every way."

Treadway, a defensive cog, has improved greatly from last season to this season and from the start of the season to now, Yow said. "You see her now going in and hitting some crucial baskets in some big games. And you see her playing steady and very good defense on some tough offensive players."

### St. Joseph's

Philadelphia, Pa.

- Coach: Jim Foster
- Bid: At large (Atlantic 10 regular season co-champion)
- Record: 25-4
- Odds against title: 12-1
- Last appearance: First appearance
- Starters: Trish Brown (forward, 15.5 ppg., 5.3 rpg.); Terri Mohr (forward, 13.1 ppg., 3.8 rpg.); Teresa Carmichael (12.1 ppg., 8.7 rpg.); Ellen Clark (4.4 ppg., 4.5 rpg.); Jessie Dunne (guard, 5.2 ppg., 4.6 rpg.)
- Key reserves: Debbie Black (guard, 5.6 ppg., 3.8 rpg.); Janet Fonda (forward, 9.1 ppg., 2.8 rpg.); Jill Rooney (guard, 5.2 ppg., 3.3 rpg.)
- Avg. pts. for: 75.6
- Avg. pts. against: 61.7
- FG percentage: 49.2
- FT percentage: 65.7
- Common opponent: Rutgers (d. 67-59)

### State

Raleigh, N.C.

- Coach: Kay Yow
- Bid: ACC champion
- Record: 24-5
- Odds against title: 6-1
- Last in NCAA: 1984 loser to Old Dominion in East Regional first round
- Starters: Linda Page (forward, 21.8 ppg., 5.3 rpg.); Teresa Rouse (forward, 5.8 ppg., 3.8 rpg.); Trena Trice (center, 14.8 ppg., 7.6 rpg.); Robyn Mayo (guard, 7.1 ppg., 6.6 rpg.); Debbie Mulligan (guard, 6.0 ppg., 1.6 rpg.)
- Key reserves: Priscilla Adams (center, 7.8 ppg., 5.6 rpg.); Angela Daye (forward, 6.3 ppg., 4.3 rpg.); Annemarie Treadway (guard, 5.9 ppg., 2.6 rpg.)
- Avg. pts. for: 80.6
- Avg. pts. against: 66.4
- FG percentage: 50.0
- FT percentage: 73.0
- Common opponent: Rutgers (d. 110-68)

Can the Wolfpack Women, with a berth into the next weekend's Eastern Regionals at stake, keep the streak alive in tonight's 7:30 contest with St. Joseph's? Yow believes they can, but the key she said will be which team dictates the tempo.

The Philadelphia-based Hawks, 25-4, rely on a quick-paced offense and a full-court, pressure defense.

"They're a team that moves," Yow said. "If you play a man defense, they can run a great motion offense. They don't look to get the ball inside much because they don't have that type of height. But they have some great outside shooters and some excellent penetrators."

Despite being an up-tempoed team, St. Joseph's is gets most of its offense from its inside players. The Hawks, which have knocked off such formidable foes as Penn State, Rutgers and Western Kentucky, are led by forwards Trish Brown (15.5 ppg., 5.3 rpg.) and Carri Mohr (13.1 ppg., 3.8 rpg.) and center Teresa Carmichael (12.1 ppg., 8.7 rpg.).

St. Joe's is making its first appearance in the NCAA tournament, and Yow believes play-off

experience definitely weighs in the Pack's favor.

"When we played Duke in the ACC tournament, we beat them by 32," she said. "But when we played them in the regular season we beat them by just one. For us having played in the semifinals for eight years was a definite advantage. Maybe because we've been in the playoffs before and St. Joseph's hasn't will help us. It can't hurt us."

A large crowd is needed to give the women a home-court advantage as well as to draw consideration for future play-off games hosted in Raleigh.

"Hopefully, we'll have a really large crowd," Yow said. "That would be in our favor. When a crowd gets into a game that really fires the team up."

Yow said that a turn-out of 3-4,000 would be a good one.

The winner of tonight's battle will advance to the Eastern Regionals next weekend at Old Dominion. If the Wolfpack Women get past the Hawks, it could be set for a re-match with the 5th-ranked Monarchs, who open the NCAA's against Syracuse.



Trena Trice



Debbie Mulligan



Linda Page

# ists for NCAA fortunes

## Men will be 'going home'

When the masterful Thomas Wolfe expressed his "you can't go home again" theme in the book *Look Homeward, Angel*, he certainly had no idea how applicable his sentiment would be to one Jim Valvano and his Wolfpack basketball team more than half a century later.

But even though the Pack may not be able to "go home again," it certainly won't mind giving it a try. Tobacco Road and Alber-

"It would be nice to bottle what happened there two years ago and have the same happen again. But, like you find out when you go back for your class reunion, your best friend is bald and fat and that pretty little girl isn't very pretty or little anymore."

But although many things may change, others will remain constant. For starters, you can count on Valvano showing up at the "Hungry Bear" nightclub in Albuquerque to defend his now-famous title in the dance contest. Ditto for the Pack's "fifth-year mentor keeping those wielders of pad and pen busy with his ceaseless stream of one-liners.

Finally, expect to see an assemblage of players in red and white who reflect the spirit of Valvano himself — competitive, yet loose and free-spirited.

"I think it's very important for the kids to go into the tournament loose," Valvano said. "I want them to go out there and enjoy the game."

"Our team travels with our our fans and stays in the same hotel. We're consistent. We don't all of a sudden put on tuxedos, get a hotel in Colorado and ignore the press."

Senior guard Terry Gannon, who was recently named to the academic all-America team for the second straight year, is just one of many who is more than pleased to see the Wolfpack returning to familiar territory.

"It's one of my favorite cities in the world because of the memories I have there," Gannon said. "I'm sure when we practice there a lot of the memories will come back to me."

One of Gannon's recollections will undoubtedly be the unique combination of joy and sadness that hit simultaneously in that moment of victory.

"The thing I'll never forget is looking up at the clock and seeing double zero," Gannon recalls. "There's not a word to describe the feeling I had at that moment."

"There was some sadness there somehow. When you get to the top, you seem to realize that the real joy is in getting there. It may

sound crazy, but in that second, all the times I spent getting there ran through my mind. I remembered all the hours I spent in my backyard shooting alone with a basketball, and having the satisfaction that it all was worth it."

"The Pit" is likely even more memorable for Lorenzo Charles, whose "shot heard round the world" served to establish him as one of the nation's rising stars two years ago.

But although the Pack's second stint in Albuquerque this weekend will rekindle a bundle of cherished thoughts for the senior forward, Charles will also remember that the Pack is playing for the present.

"Going back there can't help but bring back what happened in '83," Charles said. "But we can't let that take away from what we have to do now. With the things we can accomplish this year, I won't be thinking about the past."

"Just because we're going back doesn't mean miracles are going to happen. We've got to make our own miracles."

And Charles seems to have a knack for doing just that.

When Wolfpack meets Wolf Pack today at 2:07 p.m. (EST), two teams who pieced together late-season winning streaks will seek to continue their recent trends.

State, which stands at 20-9 overall, finished by winning eight of its last 10 games, while Nevada-Reno enters the game with a 21-9 mark and riding an eight-game victory skein. Coach Sonny Allen's club also knocked off Nevada-Las Vegas — the West's No. 4 seed — by a 97-89 count in its season-opener.

"They remind me of a cross between Clemson and Wake Forest," Valvano said of the Big Sky champion Wolf Pack. "And that kind of team has given us trouble all year."

"Our team has a very fine line between victory and defeat," Valvano said. "I don't think we're a team that can blow anybody away, but I also don't think anybody can blow us away."

Valvano also expressed gratitude

### Nevada-Reno

- Coach: Sonny Allen
- Bid: Big Sky champion
- Record: 21-9
- Last in NCAA: 1984 loser to Washington first round
- Starters: Dwayne Randall (forward, 14.2 ppg., 8.6 rpg.), Tony Summers (forward, 12.0 ppg., 7.9 rpg.), Quintin Stephens (center, 3.3 ppg., 3.9 rpg.), Curtis High (guard, 18.0 ppg., 3.8 rpg., 6.2 app.), Tony Harden (11.7 ppg., 2.4 rpg.)
- Key reserves: Ed Porter (forward, 9.0 ppg., 4.7 rpg.), Mark Parillo (forward/guard, 7.4 ppg., 2.7 rpg.), Tony Ronzone (guard, 6.2 ppg., 1.4 rpg.)
- Avg. pts. for: 78.6
- Avg. pts. against: 74.2
- FG percentage: 47.4
- FT percentage: 65.4
- Common opponent: none

### State

- Coach: Jim Valvano
- Bid: At large (ACC co-champion)
- Last in NCAA: 1983 national champion
- Starters: Lorenzo Charles (forward, 17.8 ppg., 6.0 rpg.), Nate McMillan (forward, 8.0 ppg., 6.0 rpg., 5.6 app.), Cozell McCQueen (center, 6.7 ppg., 7.1 rpg.), Spud Webb (guard, 10.3 ppg., 5.5 app.), Ernie Myers (guard, 7.9 ppg., 2.6 rpg.)
- Key reserves: Terry Gannon (guard, 6.6 ppg., 1.5 app.), Russell Pierre (forward, 6.8 ppg., 4.5 rpg.), Bennie Bolton (forward, 2.9 ppg., 1.2 rpg.)
- Avg. pts. for: 74.0
- Avg. pts. against: 65.3
- FG percentage: 49.7
- FT percentage: 67.0
- Common opponent: none

### SCOTT KEEPER

Sports Editor



que, N.M. are a bit more than a good tractor's drive apart, yet the Wolfpack — as well as countless faithful — likely feel comfortable in either setting. Yes, historically speaking, Albuquerque has been like a home away from home for State's basketball team.

Almost two full seasons have passed since that close-knit squad of '83 became the darling of the West and eventually adopted (or was adopted by) Albuquerque. But as the saying goes, stronger is the tie that binds. And considering that the primary bond in this case is 6-7, 240-pound Lorenzo Charles, that age-old adage couldn't be more accurate.

Charles was certainly on the mark that fateful day in April two years ago when his final-second dunk propelled State to its second national championship — a 54-52 decision over high-flying Houston in "The Pit."

But as both Charles and his coach are quick to point out, this is a different season with a much different team.

"In '83, Albuquerque was the end of a journey — the fulfillment of a dream," Valvano said at a pre-NCAA tournament press conference Tuesday afternoon. "Now it represents the beginning of a journey."

in the seeding and bracket his team received.

"I just didn't want to be where Georgetown was," Valvano said. "Any bracket that Georgetown is not in is a good bracket. Their coach is big, their trainer is big — everybody they have is big."

Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of coaching at the collegiate level is the opportunity to watch players develop throughout their careers. This facet is especially important to Valvano, and this year's lot of seniors has provided its coach with plenty of satisfaction.

Since their arrival, Charles, Gannon, Cozell McCQueen and Mike Warren have helped the Pack to 87 wins. It is not so much the wins on the court that please Valvano, however, but the maturation of raw talent that occurred during the four years.

"Don't tell me we have the greatest players in the world," Valvano said. "They have just done a marvelous job of becoming good players. They weren't all-Americans, but they have become the caliber of player that can compete with anybody in the country."

"Watching guys like Co, Lo and

Terry progress has given me a lot of joy. They have made me laugh this year and they have withstood more adversity and negative vibes than any team I've ever coached. I'm really proud of this team."

That sense of pride can be traced back to early January, when the Wolfpack, which had lost freshman sensation Chris Washburn and dropped three games in a row, was mired in frustration and ridicule.

Instead of folding, however, State slowly began picking up the pieces.

"The press really felt our team was much lower than it really was," Gannon explained. "A lot of bad things were happening, and whenever anybody thought of N.C. State they thought of a team in the depths of their season."

"But we really weren't. We were happy to be at practice every day and we just kept playing basketball. That's the only way I can explain it. We didn't think about the outside distractions or having a bad record, and ultimately things fell into place. I'm really proud of the fact that we didn't let any of that distract us. We were still having fun."



Cozell McCQueen



Terry Gannon



Spud Webb

Staff photos by Roger Winstead

# McMillan: Pack's Mr. Versatility




Staff photo by Roger Winstead

"Mr. Versatility" has given the '84-'85 Pack a multi-dimensional appearance.

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**Todd McGee**  
Sports Writer

If last year's men's basketball team lacked any one thing, it was versatility. The squad was a collection of players who could each play basically only one position.

Rarely did coach Jim Valvano use the same player at more than one spot. As a result, opposing teams quickly discovered ways to shut down the one-dimensional Wolfpack, resulting in a season-ending, eight-game losing streak.

Fortunately for Valvano, he didn't have to look outside the city limits to find the antidote. For right in his own backyard was a player who possessed quickness, height, a good outside touch and, perhaps most importantly, the ability to shuttle between the two guard spots and the small forward position.

Raleigh's own Nate McMillan, a 6-6 wisp of a player, joined the Wolfpack this season after temporarily relocating in Murfreesboro, where he was toiling for Chowan Junior College. But McMillan was eager to return home, to ply his trade in the rugged ACC.

"We've got a good coaching staff. You can talk to any of them, and they'll listen to you," McMillan said, in explaining why he chose the Pack. "Plus, just to be home is nice, too."

**McMILLAN'S IMPACT** can't be overlooked. Last year, with basically the same team, State was a first-round NIT loser. This season, with the addition of McMillan, the Wolfpack is a solid NCAA contender and the third seed in the West Regional.

"I guess I helped out a little bit, but not too much," the Raleigh Enloe graduate said modestly. "My versatility is the big thing that helped the team."

McMillan's teammates concurred. "Just his presence on the court helps us a lot," said first-team all-ACC forward Lorenzo Charles. "He has a good all-around game. He can get a big steal, key rebound or a big bucket for us."

Added senior center Cozell McQueen, "(His versatility) was the only thing we were missing last year. We needed another player that could play the three, two or one positions."

When quizzed about McMillan's effectiveness, whether he was better at the one, two or three spot, Wolfpack players responded differently. Charles, for one,

believed McMillan was better off inside.

"I think he's a little bit better playing up front, because of the way he can rebound," Charles explained.

McQueen, however, prefers to see McMillan at the point, because "there's so much more he can do out there. He's a good passer and a great rebounder as a guard."

Yet senior point guard Spud Webb believes McMillan is most effective playing the second guard instead of the point.

"Playing the point was holding back a lot of things he can do," Webb said.

McMillan, though, says he doesn't care where he plays; he's just happy to be playing.

"When I came in, all I was trying to do was get a starting position, but I didn't really expect to start," he said. "It doesn't really matter where I play. I like forward, though, because you get to rebound more."

**AT CHOWAN**, McMillan averaged "triple-doubles" — double figures in scoring, rebounding and assists — and has come close to such game efforts for State. Against Cal-Santa Barbara, he scored 13 points, parceled out 14 assists and grabbed eight rebounds. Against Southern Methodist, McMillan wheeled and dealt for 13 points, 10 rebounds and six assists.

"I thought it (the adjustment to Division I basketball) would be harder," he said. "Maybe the type of talent makes me play harder. It might have brought something out of me that I didn't know I had."

As a JUCO transfer, McMillan didn't play in the NCAA tourney two years ago. As a matter of fact, he sheepishly admits that he didn't even see the Wolfpack's win over Houston in the title game.

"I didn't think they would go that far," he recalls now. "I didn't even see the championship game. I was getting ready to watch it, but I lay down on the floor in front of the TV and fell asleep. I didn't wake up until the game was over."

When asked if he would like to play in an NCAA championship game, a wide-awake McMillan said emphatically, "I'd love to."

The Pack's quest for such an accomplishment begins today against Nevada-Reno in Albuquerque, N.M. And with the addition of "Mr. Versatility," State could be well on its way.

## Good Luck Wolfpack!

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# Wolfpack won't be grounded by high altitude

Tim Peeler  
Sports Writer

Two years ago, State's campus was a mile high.

When Jimmy V and his band of "Destiny Darlings" pulled off perhaps the most unexpected win in the history of the NCAA Tournament, they raised the spirits of the entire country and elevated themselves to the ranks of Kings of the Mountain in college basketball.

Anybody who was on campus after Derek Whittenburg and Lorenzo Charles combined to dunk Phi Slamma Jamma of Houston fame knows that it was weeks before the Pack came down from that championship euphoria.

But the belief that the Pack played above themselves during that Final Four excursion to Albuquerque is not entirely unfounded.

The elevation at that particular point in New Mexico is a little over a mile above sea level, quite a difference from Raleigh's 300 feet.

So now that Coach V prepares his troops to travel back to that magical land of the Miracle of '83, the problem that such an elevation has on physical exertion looms high in the horizon.

So what's the big deal?

**THE LACK OF oxygen** due to thin air at such an altitude causes shortness of breath and brings on early fatigue, which is especially taxing on athletes trying to play with intensity.

Many players have trouble making the adjustment when they travel into the lofty areas in the West, especially when they come from the Atlantic coastal plain.

Usually, canisters of oxygen placed on the sidelines enable most players to adjust to the thin air. But even that does not always alleviate the problems.

"A couple of the Houston players had to go to the hospital," said senior Cozell McQueen of some Cougar players before the game.

In a Tuesday press conference, the veterans of the championship squad discussed the problems they had coping with that difference in elevation.

They all agreed that the mile-high atmosphere made a noticeable impact on their endurance.

"It was really hard going up and down the court," McQueen said. "I felt like an old man."

"Last time we were there I found myself getting tired a whole lot faster," said Lorenzo Charles, who said he had hoped to go to New

Mexico a couple of days earlier to get used to the different environment.

But Terry Gannon said he did not have much trouble making that adjustment, at least not in New Mexico. According to him, playing in Ogden, Utah made it easier to adjust to the Albuquerque atmosphere.

"To tell the truth, the altitude was much more of a problem in Utah than Albuquerque," he said. "No one on our team needed oxygen in Albuquerque."

"I don't know whether that was because we had played in Utah and we were used to it, or because our team just wasn't that tired. I didn't even notice it."

**ACCORDING TO MCQUEEN** and Charles, the key to adjusting to the atmosphere is hard practice in Albuquerque before the game.

"We had to really get adjusted in practice," said McQueen. "The first couple of practices we were kind of tiring. But after the first two days, I got used to it."

"I don't think it will be too much of a problem," Charles said. "We're going down a day early and get a day's practice in that type of environment."

"I think the players will be adjusted by game time."

None of them believed that State had a particular advantage in making the adjustment, despite having played in Albuquerque before.

"I don't think we'll have an advantage because, even though we know what it's like playing at that altitude, we're not getting out there any earlier than the other teams," said Gannon. "I think it's a physical thing where you have to get used to the altitude."

Charles, even though he thought his team will be slightly helped by the '83 experience, acknowledged that it would be "just a small advantage."

As a matter of fact, State's first round opponent Nevada-Reno players, who are used to such an altitude, will not need to get acclimated to the elevation.

But no matter how State's players will or will not be affected by the thin atmosphere, Wolfpack fans will surely raise their spirits come game time — and not because today's 2 p.m. opener taps off at happy hour. Pack partisans are hoping that Coach V and his high-flying squad will begin another mystical journey today that will elevate them to the pedestal they sat upon two years ago.



## DID YOU KNOW ...

•Pack men have an overall record of 18-10 in NCAA tournament play, and a 7-6 mark in NIT competition.

•Pack men will be making their 12th appearance in the NCAA tournament since 1950.

•Pack men have won two national titles — in 1974 and 1983 — making them one of only eight teams to have claimed more than one NCAA championship.

•The Wolfpack Women have been selected for the NCAA tournament each year since its formation in 1981-82.

•The Wolfpack Women have advanced to the East Regionals in two of those three appearances.

•The Wolfpack Women have never finished the season ranked lower than 16th in the final Top 20 poll.

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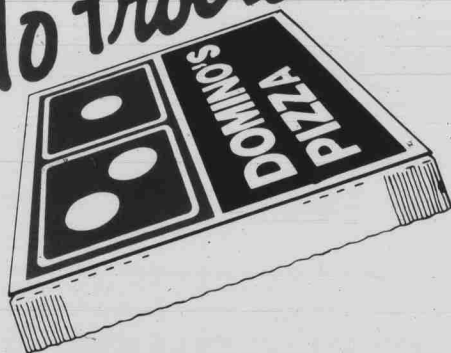
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