

Technician

Wolfpack Basketball '79-80

Technician Sports Special

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Sloan's goal: winning the ACC

by Bryan Black
Sports Editor

He's expected to win all the time in a game in which perpetual victories are virtually impossible.

Yet he thrives on it—the pressure, the anxiety, the disappointment, the exhilaration, the anticipation, the anguish and the delirium.

Through it all, though, he's said time and time again he wouldn't want to do anything else. He loves it. The reason—he's got it all in perspective.

"When you're in a conference, your first goal is to try to win the conference," State head coach Norm Sloan, in his 14th year as the Wolfpack's mentor, and 28th as a head basketball coach, said the other day. "After that, you just take it from there and hope for the best."

And if anyone would know about things beyond a conference title, Sloan would. He's been there—the NCAA championship in 1974—something that's been beneficial to his career, but something State fans are and have been expecting him to duplicate: a request which is easy to ask but hard to grant, unless that person is some sort of genie or magician.

"I know how easy it is to get there, and I know how difficult it is to get there," he said, speaking of the NCAA finals. "To set a goal of winning the national championship is really unrealistic. Things have to fall right into place for you to win it. You have to beat a lot of good teams to get there. We beat the top seven teams in the country when we won the national championship."

The unpredictability of the whole situation is probably the main reason Sloan doesn't like to make prognostications about his team. Instead, he'd rather just take his team and assess it for what it is—a club with veteran leadership with a lot of potential.

"I'm quite pleased with the conditioning, the attitude and the overall effort of this ball club," Sloan said. "All the returning veterans stayed all summer and worked on conditioning. They worked harder in the offseason than any team I've had. They really put themselves through quite a vigorous program."

Perhaps all the hard work stems back to last season, one in which the Wolfpack came up just ever so short on more than what would seem to be its fairly allotted number of times. The final tally from '78-'79 showed State at 18-12, but of the 12 defeats, three

were by a solitary point, one of those in double overtime, one was by a lone field goal and four others came by respective three, four, five and six point margins.

With such heartbreaking decisions as those, maybe the State squad decided that little extra bit of conditioning, that extra bit of dedication would pay off, sliding those decisive last-second points onto the Pack's side of the scoreboard. But does Sloan see his squad as one that cannot be denied post-season play this season?

"If we don't have a good year and come in last in the conference, I can't see how we'll be playing anywhere in the post-season," he said, further citing the overall balance of the ACC and the country as a whole for reasons for not being able to make such predictions until a coach takes his team on the floor. "I didn't see how that could happen to the team we had last year, but it did."

"We had a good basketball team last year. We lost some close games, but we beat eight teams that ended up in post-season play. The expanded NCAA and NIT fields increase the chances of being in post-season play, but by no means would I say that it's a certainty that we'll be somewhere in those fields. You just don't know about those kinds of things until you take your team onto the basketball floor and see exactly what it can do."

While all that may seem pessimistic, in truth, it's not. Sloan has been through all this before, this pre-season talk. He knows what it's worth—he's ready to test his team because he likes the squad he's got this year. No, he won't make predictions, but does he ever have affinity for the Wolfpack of '79-80.

"There are some special things about this ball club," the silver-haired, 53-year-old said with a star-gazing look in his eyes. "Number one, this team has absolutely committed itself to conditioning. This is the finest conditioned team I've had since I've been here."

"Secondly, this team has a certain personality to it. These guys are just delightful to work with. As a team, they get along so well—with sort of a collective sense of humor at times. I'd just have to say that this team has all the talent and qualities to have an outstanding year."

"A lot of times a coach can look at his team before the season starts and know down inside that his team doesn't really have a chance. But this team has a



Wolfpack head coach Norm Sloan has a special feeling for this year's team, but isn't making any predictions.

chance to be as good as any team we've ever had here."

So Sloan is indeed optimistic. But rather than setting a goal for his club, he cites ways in which the Pack must be improved over last season if it expects to attain the national prominence it lacked this year.

"As far as specific goals for the team, we need to be improved on the boards. We didn't think our rebounding was near strong enough last year. We need to improve our defense, too. I think what will help us there is our depth. Our depth situation has been that we just haven't had any for a while."

"But I think this year that we're going to have more depth than we've had for quite some time. We're hopefully going to use 10 players a great deal. I don't believe in platooning, but if I did I could do it with this team. Really we've got two good basketball teams."

He named his starting unit...

• Clyde Austin, possibly the top point-guard in the ACC.

• Hawkeye Whitney, the flamboyant small forward who has the ability to control a game all by himself.

• Kenny Matthews, the big guard who can put an opponent away in a hurry with his downtown bombs.

• Art Jones, the big forward who has shown glimpses of

brilliance with his snake-like inside moves.

• Craig Watts, the 6-11 center who so desperately wants to prove to people that he's much better than his past performances have indicated.

But Sloan doesn't stop with those five.

"Our starting lineup is pretty much set," he said "but we've got some guys who've been looking awfully good."

• Sidney Lowe, the freshman point-guard from DeMatha who's slated for lots of playing time which could also allow Austin to move to big guard on occasion.

• Derek Whittenburg, the other freshman guard from DeMatha who showed in the annual Red-White scrimmage that with his jumping and shooting abilities, he may be a star of the future.

• Thurl Bailey, the 6-11 freshman center who's ready to play now if Watts doesn't show improvement over last season.

• Donnie Perkins, the 6-3 super leaper who can swing from guard to forward and produce at either spot.

• Scott Parzych, the rugged, big forward who is hoping to establish himself after an injury-laden freshman season.

In Thurl, Sidney and Derek, we've got some freshmen who are ready to play right away," Sloan said. "Donnie Perkins is vastly improved. He's been going

against Hawkeye in practice, and it's really helped Hawkeye because Donnie's been giving him the best competition he's seen since he's been here.

"And Scott Parzych has been looking great. With two units like those, we've been getting excellent competition during scrimmages. When we scrimmage, there's not a decisive weakness on either ball club."

Sloan also has four others on which he can call, most notably a young center who is rapidly approaching 7-5 named Chuck Nevitt.

"Chuck's going to play some, but not much," Sloan explained. "He doesn't have the stamina to handle long periods of playing time. Chuck's definitely improved, and his presence gives us another dimension. It's not realistic to expect a lot out of him this year, but I think he's really coming fast though."

State has another pair of guards, freshman Phil Weber, who could also see action at the point, and transfer Max Perry, a sophomore who won't be eligible until the second semester.

"Max is in a tough situation," Sloan said of his transfer from Oklahoma. "It's going to be difficult for him to break in in the middle of the season."

Rounding out the Wolfpack squad is the only non-scholarship player on the team, 6-4 sophomore Emmett Lay.

So what's going to make this group click, cause the team to dominate weaker teams, give the squad that boost in the close games and allow the Pack to excel against the high-caliber ball clubs?

Sloan has just two seniors on this year's team, and he sees them as his team's guiding forces.

"We've got excellent leadership in Clyde Austin and Hawkeye Whitney. Those two guys are just super individuals. They both have a truly human sense of what the whole thing is all about."

"They're both excellent leaders, and they complement each other so well in that respect. They are directly responsible for the team making the effort toward conditioning its like it has."

And where's that put the Wolfpack as far as the ACC is concerned?

"I hope we don't have one team at the top," Sloan said. "I hope it's like last year where we have a couple of teams going for a tie."

"That is unless, of course, we can run away with it," he added with a smile and a sly glimmer in his eye.

This bad little kid turned into a star

by Andrea Cole
Features Editor

Hawkeye Whitney was what you might call one of those bad little kids. He didn't have any use for school then, but instead roamed the halls, picking fights here and there wherever he could find them. And then he found basketball—or would it be too cliché to say basketball found him.

His was a classic case. There was the junior high coach who spotted young talent that had bypassed the budding stage and was about to burst forth. There were the usual cat and mouse games of coach after player and adolescent player being cool. There was the harried Whitney cornered by an insistent coach spouting encouragements to join the school team.

And finally, after a bit of subtle persuasion, there was molded a gung-ho basketball kid, who probably didn't even have his permanent teeth yet, ready to

give up his heart, his soul and probably his kid brother—all for basketball.

Of course, for Hawkeye Whitney the dilemma wouldn't have been whether or not to give up his kid brother for basketball; it would have been just a problem of choosing which one. He had enough brothers and sisters, for heaven's sakes—twelve of them.

"Yeah, I'm from a large family," Whitney said. So nobody can really blame him when he stumbles a bit trying to name them all from the oldest "38-39 or something like that,"—to the youngest "17-18, or something like that.

"Jessie, Al, Delois, Debra, Dippy, Denise, Wanda... Lord, I'm just gonna name them," Whitney said. "I don't know in what order. Let's see if I missed any girls." He named a couple more, counting on his fingers—even though God only gave him 10. "I guess

that's it. I don't know. I may have left out some."

He's sixth—now wait a minute—10th on the list.

"You see my father was married twice. But my mother and father have been married 22 years. I have two fine parents. As each day goes by, I can say I'm more and more proud of where I came from."

They live in Washington, D.C. and watch their son play in person whenever possible. "They watch me on TV a lot," Whitney said.

He didn't start his basketball career in junior high. Whitney's been playing since he was about six. "Oh, Lord, let's see. About 16 years," he said he's been playing. "It's something I love to do."

He played a lot of street ball in alleys. But he made the adjustment quickly from what he calls alleyball or rec-ball to organized ball. "In street ball, you go ahead and fight it out and then keep playing ball," he said. And Whitney also had to make other adjustments.

To get to the sweet pulp of a juicy orange, you have to peel and peel. Your fingernails get gunked up and your eyes are

sprayed a couple of good times with peel juice. But you keep on peeling because you want the reward—tasty, honeyed orange nectar.

Whitney knew if he didn't bring his grades up in junior high he was going to end up with peels and no orange. So the grades came up, and he was challenged by his junior high coach to apply to DeMatha, a Catholic high school which had the No. 1 basketball team in the country.

"Are you crazy?" was Whitney's reply. "I'm not going to anybody's Catholic high school." But he mellowed a bit, deciding he didn't have anything to lose, took the entrance exam and was accepted.

To add to the confusion of a large family, Whitney now not only had additional "brothers" to deal with, but more "fathers" as well.

"We had regular teachers, but it was only natural to call them brother or father (as they had taken their vows). We always had a priest to go with us to the games."

He said grades were something you had to do. "They didn't tolerate bad grades. Naturally, you're going to study hard," he said. "There's no way around it. I had to apply myself there."

Whitney had to learn to discipline himself in school and in basketball as well. "I've spent a lot of time playing." But there are times when he's not playing basketball, believe it or not.

"I can cook," Whitney said. "I'll tell you what; I can outcook a lot of women. I like to cook. I



State coach Norm Sloan says his star 6-5 forward Hawkeye Whitney can do it all.

cook hamburgers, chicken, roast spaghetti."

He likes to listen to music, all types—go somewhere quiet, sit down and relax. And he likes to spend time with the fellows. He said it just depends on what kind of mood he's in.

"I like to go out to clubs and have fun every now and then. But that's an atmosphere that I have to stay out of because of who I am," Whitney said.

"Downtown drinking is an image I shouldn't have. If you are in the eyes of the people, they'll criticize. You have to use your mind and judgment about the places you go."

Whitney spends a lot of his extra time with kids. He's majoring in vocational industrial education, and "I would like to use it," he said. "I would like to go back home and teach the younger kids a trade—like bricklaying or electronics or how to rebuild an engine. A lot of kids need a trade."

"Here (in Raleigh) I just mainly work with kids like holding clinics. I held a clinic at Dorothea Dix (Hospital), and I work at the blind school (Morehead School for the Blind). It's a lot of fun. I like anything involved with kids."

But most of the time, he's got his mind on Wolfpack basketball.

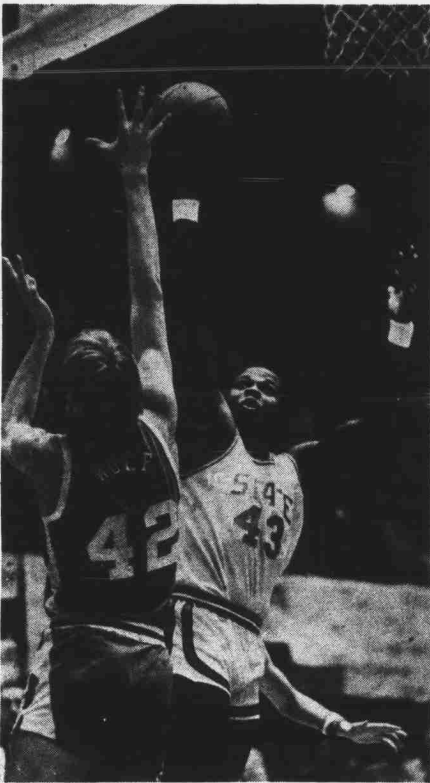
In his fourth year at State he's now a seasoned athlete—the difference between a rookie's apprehension and insecurity and a veteran's confidence and assertiveness. He was named All-ACC last year after leading the Pack in scoring and finishing third in the conference with a 19-point average. He hasn't mellowed as a senior; his senses are heightened.

There's less hesitation in turning loose the ball. He doesn't mince movements. There's control, hindsight and foresight. He's developed a basketball seventh sense. It's a 1-2-3 step and swoosh.

The past and present coaching encouragement has paid off.

The "get up, Hawk; get up" has shaped a discipline in Whitney on and off the court. "I've matured a lot. I've grown up," he said. "I go out and play the game the way I know how to play. I come prepared to play."

And he's not being choosy about where he goes after graduation. "Once I'm out, I'm going to play pro ball. I don't care where they send me. I just love the game."



Hawkeye Whitney puts one up over North Carolina's Jeff Wolf. (Staff photo by Chris Seward)

154-pound Austin feels just like a heavyweight when he's on the court

by Andrea Cole
Features Editor

It was early in the morning. There came a pounding at the door and a sleepy Clyde Austin roused himself to answer the knock. He went bare-chested to the door having had no time to dress.

The unwelcome visitor looked past the lean, 154-pound frame and asked to speak to Clyde.

"I'm Clyde Austin," the 6-3 point-guard informed the intruder.

"Man! You're Clyde?" he replied in amazement. "You don't look like you weigh enough to be Clyde Austin. I'll bump you around the court."

"You just wait 'til we get on the court," Austin said, glaring at the stranger who was soon to be his opponent in an upcoming game. Austin didn't forget that experience.

"Some people weigh 200 and don't use their strength," the senior said. "I feel like I weigh 200 pounds. I don't. But I feel like it. A lot of people don't think I weigh enough."

"Dog, I just tell myself. 'Take that ball in there. I just tell my mind. That has a lot to do with my game.'"

Off the court, his size might be misleading. On the court, he's "Clyde the Glide," so named because of a seeming ability to walk on air.

"It's just God-given ability," he said.

When he laces his tennis shoes—instant transformation. With smooth, deceptive moves,

he slides by a sweating opponent, slipping out of reach like a red snapper evading the steely jaws of a hungry predator.

And then he smiles. Austin smiles.

"I keep my smile," he said. "That's me. If somebody saw me, and I wasn't smiling, they'd know something was wrong."

And there's gold at the end of the rainbow—a golden tooth, that is—just because he always wanted one.

He used to unwrap the gold paper which covered his favorite peanut butter and milk chocolate candy bar and then encase his front tooth with it. He said to himself, "That looks good."

So he saved his money, and in the ninth grade he had his front tooth "goldenized." Mind you, there was nothing wrong with the tooth. And it doesn't come out. No way is he going to be "looking like Leon Spinks," he said.

The man who holds the career record at State for assists is one of those people who've always known what they wanted out of life—and Austin wanted basketball. He was about 11 when he started playing serious ball for the city summer league in Richmond, Va. They lost every game in the regular season. But his team went on to win all the playoff games. They were the champs.

"I've still got my picture. It was the first trophy I ever won," Austin said. It was the first of 75-100 more to come.

From day one, basketball was his game. It seemed like he couldn't miss a basket.

"From the first shot I took on the basketball court, it went in. Whenever I went on the basketball court, it went in."

He played basketball year-round on city playgrounds and at school, avoiding a kind of Richmond ghetto life which was prevalent in an area he describes as a "little Washington D.C." It was a pretty much do-it-your-own-way life.

"It was you. If you went to jail—it was you. When you're in the street, you are definitely on your own," Austin said. "It (street life) is staying out a lot. It's being in situations and knowing what not to do—not stealing, not robbing."

Austin's friends kept a watch on him, kept him out of trouble. He said they wanted to see him make it in basketball.

And though he said his mother never tried to control his life, she also greatly influenced his decisions. She didn't have to say a word. If he knew what she wanted, he would try to please her, he said.

After he came to State, Austin's mother had a stroke which left her unable to speak. She knows what's going on though, he said.

The last words she spoke to her son were, "Go back to school." She is now in a Raleigh nursing home, and Austin visits her every possible weekend.

He went back to school but with problems. His youngest brothers were living in Richmond, and Austin was constantly slipping off on the weekends to check on them.

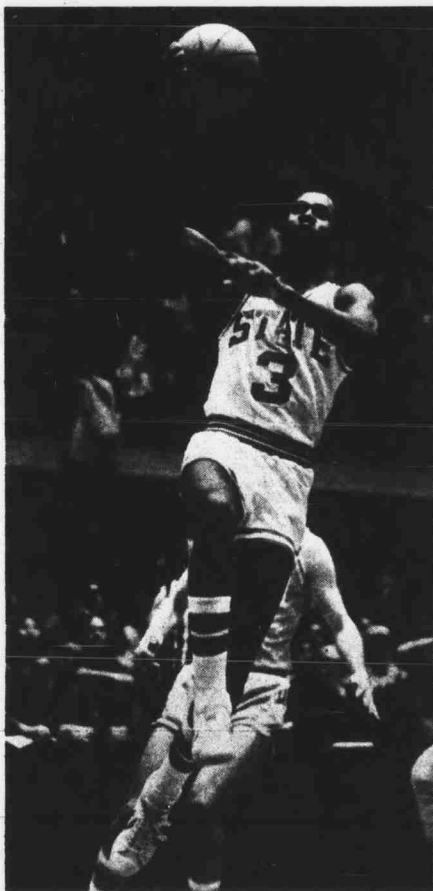
"I was worried about them, but I've got them with me now." They moved to Raleigh in June, and Austin is now able to see them easily and often.

Austin has a total of 12 siblings—seven brothers and five sisters. And he can name them all—in sequence going from top to bottom. Most of his family are now raising their own children.

He was playing some mean basketball before most his own age had given up Matchbox cars. He wasn't thinking about fire trucks and police cars. He was formulating a plan; he wanted to be a professional basketball player.

He played before a maximum crowd of 17,000 before he even graduated from Richmond's Maggie Walker High School. But when he came to State, he wasn't quite ready to settle down to the rigorous discipline college basketball requires.

"When I came here, I was so wild. I wasn't disciplined. It was



Clyde "The Glide" Austin soars toward the hoop. (Staff photo by Chris Seward)

only through coach (Norm) Sloan that I disciplined myself.

"The first time I missed breakfast, coach Sloan made me get up at 5:30 (a.m.)," Austin said. "He (Sloan) was mad. When he told me, it was just the expression on his face. Right then I was kind of scared. I thought I was all right."

Sloan got Austin's attention all right, and Austin calmed down and set his mind on his game. He even stuck with the habit of getting up at 5:30 a.m. during the summer. It was just part of his schedule, he said.

He doesn't have much of a social life during the season now. He just plays basketball 'and more basketball.

"As far as discipline goes, I used to like to go out a lot. When I got out of practice, I was ready to do something else. Now, it's back to the room."

During the off-season, he's got his favorite pastime, second of course to basketball. He likes the beach, and he likes to travel.

"You can get away from everything (at the beach)," he said. "Everybody looks like they don't have any problems."

He says he just likes to walk

on the sand. He doesn't really know how to fish, because he hasn't had time to learn. He's been in the gym.

He's done some travelling. He went to Alaska to play basketball last season in the Sea Wolf Classic but it was mighty cold there, and all he really saw were the mountains. Again, he was on the basketball court—winning the tournament's most valuable player award.

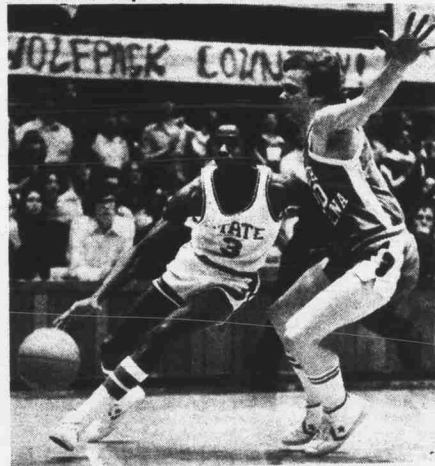
Basketball can demand year-round attention, but Austin's not complaining. He wants to win this year, and he can already feel the pressure building up, he said. He's looking toward an NCAA championship.

"We will play as one, and when you play as one, you win," he said.

When he graduates from State, he'd like to play for the NBA's Houston Rockets. He will be career-oriented for a while, then maybe raise a family, he said.

And someday he said he'd like to live in the countryside, out there with a couple of fireplaces and some leaves and a little relaxation.

And at the thought of that—he smiled.



Clyde Austin drives around North Carolina's Dave Colecott. (Staff photo by Chris Seward)

Matthews and Jones set to start

by Stu Hall
Sports Writer

He wears No. 34 for State's basketball team, yet he seems to go unnoticed while on the court, that is until he goes on another one of his scoring binges. Off the court he's the same way, but his presence is always felt, especially when he laughs that deep laugh of his.

Some nights his shots are as hot as a firecracker; other nights they're as cold as ice. He's been called "Mr. Consistency" or a "streak-shooter," depending on what kind of night he's had.

This so-called "mystery man" is Kenny Matthews.

"I keep a low profile because I want to be known as Kenny Matthews the student-athlete and not just Kenny Matthews the basketball player," the 6-4 junior guard said. "They (the media) call me both 'Mr. Consistency' or a 'streak shooter.' I don't worry about that. If I miss three in a row, then I'll try to make the next three."

Matthews had to play behind Clyde Austin and former State star Tony Warren his first two years, contributing to his "mystery man" image.

"Having to play behind Tony my freshman year really didn't bother me that much, but last year it got to me, plus the fact that I had to play both the point-guard and the second guard position made it hard to adjust to at times," Matthews said.

The adverse year Matthews went through last season, trying to play both positions, should help improve his game this season.

"Playing two positions was hard last year, but I think it will help me become a better ballplayer," Matthews said. "In practice last year I would only spend time practicing one position, and in game situations I had to play both, so that was hard adjusting to. It helped me to share some of the responsibility in running the team."

"Kenny is one of the most gifted players in the conference," State head coach Norm Sloan said. "He has played at a disadvantage, splitting time at both the point and the second guard spot, but he should be better this season concentrating on just one spot."

Controlling the second guard position at Dunbar High School in northeast Washington, D.C., Matthews enjoyed a successful prep career. His junior year, he was a member of the nation's best high school basketball team, and in his senior year, he reaped 24.9 points and 10.5 rebounds per game.

"My junior year we went 29-0 and were No. 1 in the nation. We beat Hawkeye's (Whitney) team (DeMatha) twice, and we had to go through Clyde's team (Maggie Walker) once to win the national title. The next year we went 18-5, and I had a pretty good year," Matthews said.

When Matthews was a youngster, his parents were always looking out for his best in-



Six-foot, seven-inch junior Art Jones will be starting at big forward for the Wolfpack this season.

terests, no different than any other child.

"When I was a little kid, I used to go out and play basketball, and my parents would ask me when I was going to be home and tell me not to get hurt. Finally I got tired of them saying that every day. I told them I was tired of them saying that, so the very next day I came back with both my ankles twisted," Matthews said. "My parents were and are still looking out for my best interests."

Matthews started playing hoops when he was the ripe old age of eight.

"I always liked basketball; my brother helped me a lot. I really started seeing my shot develop around the age of 11 or 12," Matthews said.

He came to State and the ACC because of the competition.

"I came to State because they had what I wanted to study (vocational education) and because it was close to home," Matthews said.

Another reason Matthews came to State was because of former DeMatha High School star Hawkeye Whitney.

"He was known as a big star in the D.C. area, and I looked at the squad and thought I could fit in," Matthews said.

Matthews, a bona fide star at Dunbar who's still looking for big success at State, seeks improvement in his game and has set his goals high for the team.

"I would like to be known as an all-around player. I want to know everything there is to know about my position," Matthews said. "I think we can go all the way this year, all the way to the NCAA's. Last year bothered me. We were tied for last with Wake Forest; the thing that got us down though was that we worked hard and we would lose by a point or two. This year we stayed here, and we have conditioned. We're not going to let the same thing happen this year."

Another Wolfpack player who



State fans will see this a lot this year—junior guard Kenny Matthews shooting from the outside. (Staff photo by Lynn McNeill)

has had the same trying experience his first two years at State is junior Art Jones, who at 6-7 will be starting opposite Hawkeye Whitney at forward.

"Sitting on the bench last year bothered me just a little bit," Jones said. "Coming off the bench is just not the same as starting; it takes some getting used to. You seem to lose yourself sitting on the bench. It has its advantages also. You get to see what the other team's weakness is, and you can go right for it when you go in. Let's say there was an opening on the baseline all the time. I would go in and tell Clyde to look for me down on the baseline."

"Art is a gifted athlete. He has always been that," Sloan said. "I know he has worked hard in the off-season to improve his play. He did not play last season up to his potential. He can be as good as he wants to be."

Jones, who weighs only 181 pounds, makes up for his small frame by being quicker than most players.

"I'd really like to play the small forward position," he said. "If I was the big forward, I would be under the basket more, and my build isn't ready for that right now. I'm quicker than most of these big strong forwards, so that's where I make up for it."

Last year was quite a learning process for Jones, who enjoyed the same kind of high school success Matthews did.

"Last year everything was going wrong. We started out the year so enthusiastic," Jones said. "Everything just fell apart after that. It was tough for me; I sometimes wondered if I shouldn't have been in there, but when I really thought about it I knew coach Sloan was making the right move."

Truly a team player, Jones sees himself as a possible All-America sometime in the next two years.

"I would like to make All-America and be ACC champs and win the NCAA," Jones said. "I have to work on playing the game. I need to get a little more greasier for the game. I become too nonchalant about things."

After starting 14 games in his freshman year and then being relegated to the bench last season, Jones, out of Hampton High in Virginia, feels he can get back into the role of starting again.

"My freshman year I started the ACC season and played in 14 games," Jones said. "I think that will help me this year. I have a better feel for the game, but there will be more pressure on me than if I were coming off the bench."

After having been recruited by such notable schools as Notre Dame, Michigan and Michigan State, Jones decided to come to State.

"One of the reasons I came to State was because it was real close to home, only four hours away," Jones said. "Also, everybody was leaving my freshman year, and I thought it would be a good chance for me to start with a new group of players."

"There was something about Digger Phelps (head coach at Notre Dame) I didn't like. I had questions about the man."

With a vigorous off-season weight program Jones hopes to be a more physical ballplayer this year in the ACC.

"You look at Hawkeye and (Duke's) Eugene Banks and they

already have developed their physiques. I worked on weights during the off-season, and it really helped me a lot. I still am growing, and I think I'll get stronger the longer I work on the weight program. I don't want to get real big, and I don't think I have to put on any more weight that would slow down the one advantage I have, and that is my quickness," Jones said.

While he wants to add a few pounds for strength reasons, the number game he really wants to play is with his stats. Matthews goes along with that as well.

The duo is the new element in State's starting lineup, having replaced the departed Warren and Tiny Pinder. While Matthews need not worry a great deal about increasing his rebounding average, he'd like nothing better than seeing his point outwork out to something near 20 points a game.

More than anything else, however, is the simple notion that the "low-key duo" wants to be part of a team that wins big. With Matthews popping from the outside, Jones would like to see himself getting double figures in both points and rebounds in close to the bucket.

For their careers at State, Jones has averaged five points and three rebounds per game, while Matthews has gotten nine points per outing. With their increased playing time, doubling those numbers is certainly feasible for the pair of incoming starters that likes to let its actions speak, rather than words.

The Technician Basketball Special is published once yearly by the Technician as a supplement to the regular newspaper. In addition to writers, other Technician staff members contributing to this supplement include: Karen Barefoot, Martin Ericson, Cara Flesher, John Flesher, Dianne Gullion, Lynn McNeill, Donnie Robbins and Steve Wilson.

Bryan Black, Technician Sports Editor

Pivot trio must come through

by Tom Reimers
Sports Writer

"We're looking for more of an inside game this year."

Seven foot-four inch Wolfpack center Chuck Nevitt could be a candidate for understater of the year with that comment, but State fans and coaches would certainly welcome some added production from the pivot in 1979-79.

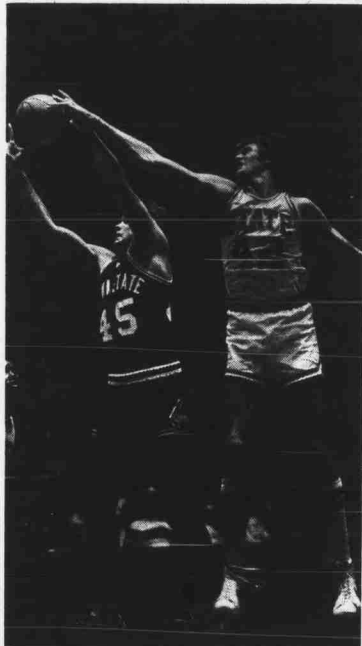
Production from the pivot? That's something that hasn't been seen in Pack country for quite a while, not since the departure of Tommy Burleson in 1974. The now-departed 7-2 Glenn Sudhop never materialized, and his fate no doubt left many a person wondering if State would ever again get strong play in the middle. But it appears that the situation may finally turn around this year.

Reasons for this new optimism are three-fold.

Craig Watts, the 6-11 junior from South Easton, Mass. returns to his starting position (which he won from Sudhop last year) with the increased weight and strength that results from a hard summer's work. Recruited by over 500 schools, Watts has the ability to be a good college center, according to State coach Norm Sloan. If the electrical engineering major can cut down on fouling, he no doubt has the capability to dramatically increase his 4.6 points and 4.5 rebounds per game averages of a year ago.

If Watts does not get off to a good start early in the season, he could lose his job to talented freshman Thurl Bailey. A 6-11 defensive gem from Seat Pleasant, Md., Bailey also brings quite impressive offensive statistics to the Pack.

Though he was not used as a primary offensive weapon in high school, Bailey still managed to average 20 points, 19.6 rebounds and six blocked shots per game. He was also named as a member of the East squad at the prestigious Dapper Dan Tourney.



Six-eleven junior Craig Watts wants to prove he is the rightful starter. (Staff photo by Steve Wilson)

The third hope for State is the crowd-pleasing Nevitt. Lacking the stamina to stay in a game for any extended period of time, the sophomore 200-pounder nevertheless brings an air of excitement whenever he enters a contest. With his height and reach, Nevitt is a factor.

Sloan thinks the trio has the potential to give State its best center play since Burleson, but his optimism is guarded at this point in the year.

"I sure hope it is (improved)," Sloan said. "We think it is, but there's no way of knowing until we go up against outside competition.

"Watts is improved," the veteran coach continued. "And, Chuck is getting better. It's unrealistic to expect too much out of him. In time, Thurl's going to be a great player—he's a great athlete. But I don't know when that time is going to be."

Sloan is pleased to have three centers on the squad. While he doesn't expect Nevitt to put in a lot of time in any given game, he indicated that both Watts and Bailey would see extensive action.

"With our system, we really need two centers. We get up and down the court pretty good, and we ask our centers to do the same. They can't keep going that way for an entire game."

One advantage of having three centers is that each one must practice against the others. Watts, Bailey and Nevitt agree that this type of situation brings out the best in each person's game.

"Definitely," Watts said when asked if the practice situation has helped his game. "We go head to head for about 10 to 15 minutes before practice every day. You can't improve unless you have someone good to practice against."

"It really helps during the game," Nevitt added. "I'd rather have three centers."

"We help each other," Bailey said.

Though having three pivot men is good for practice situations, each player is also acutely

aware that he is on the spot to play well under game conditions or risk giving way to one of the others.

"You've gotta produce or someone will take your place," Watts said.

Bailey, showing the most confidence of the group, predicted that "whichever one plays, we're gonna be good."

Despite the competitive atmosphere that surrounds the trio, Watts, Bailey and Nevitt said they maintain a close relationship.

"We're just like one big happy family," Watts joked.

It just may take a family effort from the Pack giants if State is to improve on last year's 18-12 finish. Sloan will especially be looking for extra help against conference teams, since the hoopsters managed only a 3-9 mark in the ACC.

Not only is Mike Gminski back at Duke, but Virginia has added standout Ralph Sampson to its already potent attack. Four-year men Jeff Wolf and Rich Yonakor return to give UNC veteran strength, and Buck Williams, highly recruited by State two years ago, shifts from forward to center at Maryland. Wake Forest and Clemson can also throw plenty of bulk into the middle. The conference could be its strongest ever at center in 1979.

If State intends to challenge for the ACC title this year, Sloan will have to get the improved play at center he is hoping for. Between the offensive skills of Watts, the shot blocking and defensive efforts (and improving offense) of Bailey, and the inspiration of Nevitt, a solid inside game could emerge.

A strong pivot performance by this hopeful trio would do much to alter the thinking of those who believe that the Wolfpack will never again get production in the middle.

Whatever happens this year, the lean years at center appear over at State.



Seven-four sophomore Chuck Nevitt wants to show he can do more than dunk.



Six-eleven freshman Thurl Bailey wants to show what he's got. (Staff photo by Lynn McNeill)



Max Perry



Derek Whittenburg



Thurl Bailey



Sidney Lowe



Phil Weber

5 newcomers provide depth

by Bryan Black
Sports Editor
and
Sta Hall
Sports Writer

None of them are tabbed for starting positions, but State head coach Norm Sloan knows full well if his team is to reap any glory this year, a crop of freshmen is going to play a vital role in that success.

"I don't have any qualms about starting freshmen," Sloan pointed out, "but if the freshman and upperclassman are at the same level of play, then I'd probably go with the upperclassman to start and play, mainly because the freshman is untested in certain situations."

However, Sloan has three freshmen in particular this year—namely 6-11 Thurl Bailey and guards Sidney Lowe and Derek Whittenburg—who are causing the State mentor to wonder just how untested freshmen are.

"How did someone say it?" Sloan said, further evaluating the freshman basketball player's plight. "If a dog's gonna bite you then he will as a puppy. I feel the same about freshmen basketball players."

He's counting on Bailey, Whittenburg and Lowe to show their teeth right away, as all three are expected to see large portions of playing time in reserve roles in spelling State's starters. In fact, it's quite possible Sloan may be using the trio as the squad's sixth, seventh and eighth men.

Holding their bites in reserve, mainly because there are just not enough minutes to go around, are freshman point-guard Phil Weber and transfer guard Max Perry. While Weber must con-

tend with Clyde Austin and Lowe for playing time, Perry won't be vying for court time until the second semester because he transferred in the middle of last year from Oklahoma.

Sloan desperately wants to see his play in pivot improved over last year. Craig Watts, the returning starter, averaged just five points and five rebounds per game. Sloan desires double figures in both categories, and if Watts falters, Bailey just could be Sloan's man.

"State needed some help at center, and I feel I can help out there," the 205-pounder from Seat Pleasant, Md. said in assessing his reasons for joining the Wolfpack. "I'm hoping that my quickness is good enough that I can play center or big forward, wherever I can help the team the most."

"I think it's going to take some time for me to adjust to college ball, but I'm looking forward to the whole deal. I just want to be part of a winning club."

Sloan smiles broadly at the thought of the potential Bailey possesses.

"Thurl is a great athlete. He should help us immediately. He has good shot blocking instincts and quick feet. He should get better and better and better...there's no telling how good he's going to be. He's a very smart student and athlete and very competitive in everything he does."

The conscientious young man is very involved with his school work. Politics appeal to him, so much so that he was president of the student body at Bladensburg High School.

"When I was choosing a school, I looked at it from both the

basketball and academic standpoint," Bailey said. "Academics are very important to me. I'm majoring in political science."

While Bailey is expected to give immediate help inside, Lowe and Whittenburg, the Dematha duo, give the Pack extreme flexibility.

Lowe can go in at the point, allowing Austin to slide to the wing-guard spot. Kenny Matthews can then occupy the other wing, giving State an outside shooting attack that would melt almost any zone.

Whittenburg can give Matthews direct relief at the second guard position, but the added dimension he gives the Wolfpack is an even stronger outside shooting attack as well as jumping ability that almost goes unmatched. He's a cousin of David Thompson, and he's got a set of springs to prove it.

"To give an example of Derek's jumping ability," said Morgan Wooten, his former coach at Dematha, "he beat Duke's Gene Banks and Maryland's Albert King in a slam-dunk contest in the Capital Center."

While Banks stands 6-7 and King measures 6-6, diminutive Derek is every bit six feet and one-half inch. But dunks are something Whittenburg need not worry a lot about. He hit 70 percent of his outside shots during his senior year at DeMatha.

"Derek's a great shooter," Sloan said of the engineering major. "He's a super leaper and a great overall personality. He's one of the best athletes we have on the squad."

Another former DeMatha great, Hawkeye Whitney, had a great influence on Whittenburg,

aside from the fact that his cousin was the greatest player in State basketball history.

"When I was in the 10th grade I started following State real close because of Hawk," Whittenburg said. "I finally got to come down here and play largely because of Hawkeye."

Lowe had similar feelings about joining Whitney at State, but the pair also had notions of sticking together when they left high school.

"Derek and I thought it would be nice to go to the same school and Hawkeye had a lot to do with us coming down here," Lowe explained. "I had always liked State since the ninth grade. I also thought I'd have a good chance of playing coming here."

At DeMatha last year, Whittenburg pumped in 20 points a game. Often, his scores were the result of Lowe assists, a statistic Lowe built to an average of 10 a game.

"Morgan Wooten says he's the best post-guard he's had at DeMatha," Sloan said of the business management major. "He's the very unselfish type. He makes the game go. He's not flashy, just steady. He's a fine shooter and plays good defense. He's like a coach on the floor."

"He has a great personality and a positive attitude. He isn't your average freshman. He exudes confidence."

State's other freshman guard, Weber, comes from Long Island Lutheran High in New York. Like Lowe, Weber is a big assist man, averaging 10 a game during his senior season. He piled up enough of them to break St. John's star Reggie Carter's record for assists in a season at Lutheran.

He realizes he's going to have a tough time finding playing time this season.

"I figure this year I'll pretty much pay my dues," the pre-med major said, "but next year, I'll be ready to go after a lot more playing time."

Sloan sees a valuable reserve in Weber.

"Phil's a very intelligent player," Sloan said. "He's an excellent shooter whose overall game has just developed recently. He's gone from almost zero to excellent in the past couple of years and should help us at the point."

Transfer Perry gives the Wolfpack more than adequate depth at the guard positions. He lettered while playing in a reserve role for Oklahoma his freshman season.

The business management major would like to be a head basketball coach one day. He sees his role this season much the same as Weber sees his.

"If I'm playing well, I think I'll get to play some when I become eligible," Perry said. "Even if I don't play that much this year, I'm not going to let it bother me. I'm aiming more toward next year, they if I don't play, I'll think about worrying."

Sloan is happy with the added depth Perry gives his guard corps, but doesn't see the 6-1 sophomore fitting in this season.

"Max is a good point guard, a steady player," Sloan assessed. "He has a solid all-around game. However, not being able to start until the second semester will make it hard on him."

With the talent Sloan has in these five newcomers, the bite he likes to see puppies take just might get taken.

Heels look like team to beat in ACC, State's depth to shove Pack into 2nd

A couple of years ago, the guy who put out this special couldn't decide who to pick where in the ACC. He drew the teams' names from a trash can and wrote his prediction in that order. Last year, the fellow who wrote about the ACC took a stab at it and didn't do too bad. His worst mistake was picking the Wolfpack to finish second.

Or should that be the Wolfpack's worst mistake was not living up to this publication's previous sports editor's prediction. Whatever the case, this will be another brave attempt at deciphering that crazy, mixed-up world that is ACC basketball.

What will be attempted here is a breakdown of the ACC in the order that this picker feels the conference will finish, excluding that wild tournament of course, and then State's non-league opponents will be looked at in a degree of difficulty order, from toughest to easiest.

Here goes for the ACC:

1. North Carolina

While this may turn heads in Raleigh, how can one pick against Dean Smith? The Tar Heel head man always comes up with a championship ball club. If Carolina isn't as good this season as most expect the Heels to be, State will have an early shot to prove it.

The Wolfpack opens its season this Friday at 9 p.m. in the Big Four tournament at Greensboro against UNC. The game won't count toward the ACC standings, but it could give an indication of what is to come, as will Saturday's championship and consolation games.

Both Smith and State coach Norm Sloan are opposed to the Big Four coming so early in the season.

"We probably shouldn't be opening the season with the Big Four," Sloan said. "It's not right. There's too much pressure on all the teams involved. It can have a devastating effect on the team that comes out of and two. I know because we came out of there like that one year."

"As far as the tournament goes, I like the Big Four. I like anything the fans are interested in, but if it were held the first week in January it would be a lot better."

What makes the Tar Heels such an imposing team for State's opener is the veterans on their club. Their only serious loss was Dudley Bradley, an irreplaceable defensive specialist. However, back are Mike Okoren, Al Wood, Dave Colcott, Jimmy Black, Jeff Wolf and Rich Yonaker.

Add a pair of outstanding freshmen, James Worthing and Jimmy Braddock, and Carolina looks awfully tough. The Heels could win as many as 12 ACC contests.

Black on

by Bryan Black
Sports Editor

the Pack

2. STATE

Depth, Hawkeye Whitney and Clyde Austin are the keys to pushing the Wolfpack to this height. To get here, though, State is going to have to sweep Georgia Tech, Clemson and Wake Forest. Splits with Carolina, Duke, Virginia and Maryland would give the Pack a 10-4 conference mark, which ought to be just about good enough to earn this spot.

3. Duke

Jim Spanarkel was a key player in the Blue Devils' attack over the past several seasons. But now that he's gone, people in Durham seem to have forgotten he was ever there. What they see is an amazing sophomore in Vince Taylor joining the likes of Mike Gminski and Gene Banks.

Point-guard Bob Bender is said by the Dukies to work better with Taylor than he did with Spanarkel. The Devils' fifth starter, forward Kenny Dennard, is good for muscle underneath but not much else. Where the Blue Devils are really lacking, however, is on the bench.

Really, they have none, or not one that has proven itself. Foul trouble could doom Duke on more than one occasion this season.

For one, though, Taylor has made of believer out of Sloan. "I think Taylor will more than replace Spanarkel," Sloan said. Duke's strength lies with its starting five. The feeling here is Duke will miss Spanarkel's leadership more than it realizes right now. The Devils should win eight to 10 conference games.

4. Virginia

Ever since the Pan-Am Games, a lot of the Ralph Sampson hulahalo has died down. That can only help the 7-4 freshman superstar by taking some of the pressure off of him.

Cavalier coach Terry Holland can't help but to have his finest team, at least in terms of talent. One thing's for sure, Holland can rest assured Sampson will get plenty of chances on the offensive board with old-high school buddies Jeff Lamp and Lee Raker firing away.

Unfortunately for Virginia's opponents, the relatively few that Lamp and Raker miss are likely to be Sampson's initiation into ACC basketball. The worst thing for Cav foes, though, is those shots are just as likely to be Sampson's initiation into the ACC scoring column.

Like Duke, Virginia's biggest weakness is its bench. Just like the Devils' Bill Foster, Holland

will be forced to go with untested newcomers in some clutch situations when fouls plague his team. Nevertheless, Virginia could win as many as 10 league games.

5. Maryland

Without a doubt, Maryland could quite possibly have its most unified team in a while this season—not most talented, most unified. Yes, there just may be enough basketballs to go around in Terrapin country this year.

With Buck Williams at center, the Terps have a leader of superb quality around which they can rally the talents of such spectacular scorers as Ernest "Wolfpack killer" Graham and Albert King.

At guard, Maryland coach Lefty Driesell can choose from Greg Manning, Reggie Jackson and Dutch Morley. And for a change, Driesell doesn't have to worry about too many other players on the bench getting upset because they're not getting enough playing time.

This also means Maryland is another team without depth—but in this case, it may be a blessing in disguise. In years past, what has hurt the Terps as much as anything else is dissension—playing time, one player shooting too much and so forth.

This season Driesell can pretty much stick with the six aforementioned players and maybe two or three others in earning eight or nine ACC wins.

6. Clemson

The Tigers should be ready to

Nov. 30	Big Four Tournament, vs. UNC
Dec. 1	Big Four Tournament
Dec. 6	Appalachian State
Dec. 8	St. Augustine's
Dec. 15	Athletes in Action
Dec. 17	Nevada-Reno
Dec. 19	Campbell
Dec. 29	Georgia Tech
Dec. 31	Dartmouth
Jan. 2	East Carolina
Jan. 5	Towson State
Jan. 10	Maryland
Jan. 12	Virginia
Jan. 16	UNC-Chapel Hill
Jan. 19	Duke
Jan. 23	Maryland
Jan. 28	Virginia
Jan. 29	Clemson
Feb. 1	North-South Doubleheaders, vs. Furman
Feb. 2	North-South Doubleheaders, vs. The Citadel
Feb. 6	Georgia Tech
Feb. 9	Notre Dame
Feb. 11	Wake Forest
Feb. 13	Duke
Feb. 16	Clemson
Feb. 20	UNC-Chapel Hill
Feb. 23	Wake Forest
Feb. 25, 29	Mar. 1 ACC Tournament

play the role of the spoiler this season. Thinking of winning the ACC is unrealistic for Clemson as the Tigs are aiming for the future with five freshmen and six sophomores on their hefty 17-man roster.

The only real star Clemson has is Raleigh native Billy Williams. Other than that Clemson must look inside to three players who go 6-10—Larry Nance, Horace Wyatt and John Campbell.

Losing to Clemson could prove fatal in the contenders' race for the crown, but beating the top dogs is something the Tigers will no doubt take delight in. Clemson could win anywhere from four to eight games in the conference.

7. Wake Forest

The Deacons have their four whiz kids back—Alvis Rogers, Guy Morgan, Mike Helms and Jim Johnstone—but the quartet of sophomores may find itself without senior guard and floor-leader Frank Johnson.

He's being bothered by a serious foot injury and there has been some talk in Winston-Salem about red-shirting him and bringing him back with the four others when they are juniors, which would be a smart move seeing as how many of the league's top players will be leaving after this season, possibly making the Deacs the team to beat in '80-81.

Without Johnson or with a partly-healthy Johnson, Wake Forest will find the going very rough in the ACC this season. The Demon Deacons can't really expect to win but four to six conference titles.

8. Georgia Tech

With Sammy Drummer and Tico Brown, the Yellow Jackets could have competed fairly successfully in the ACC last season. But that pair is gone for Tech's first year in the conference and no one is looking for the Jackets to cause much of a stir.

They return just one double-digit scorer from last year, 6-7 Lenny Horton, who hit for 13 points per game. That won't be enough to stay with the best basketball conference, team for team, in the nation. Tech will be lucky to upset anybody in its rookie campaign.

As for the rest of State's schedule:

1. **Notre Dame** is undeniably the toughest team State has on its non-conference schedule. The Fighting Irish are again picked high into the top 10 in the nation by nearly every poll. A passel of highly-regarded recruits only compound the problems Tracy Jackson, Orlando Woolridge, Kelly Tripucka, Rich Branning and Bill Hanzik can cause the opposition. State lost to the Irish by one point in Reynolds Coliseum last year and this one's in South Bend, Ind. It should be just as close.

2. **Athletes in Action** is a Christian team composed of former NCAA stars. AIA is ranked seventh in the world and should give State just about all it can handle. The game won't count in the overall standings, so essentially it's an exhibition. Sloan only wishes it came before the Big Four. That way it would give the Pack some real game experience before facing Carolina Friday.

3. **Furman** is coming off a 20-9 season. The Paladins return Southern Conference player of the year Jonathon Moore for his senior season, as well as backcourt magician Mel Daniel. State should be favored when it meets Furman in the North-South Doubleheaders in Charlotte.

4. **Nevada-Reno** is a run and gun team like its infamous neighbor Nevada-Las Vegas. The Wolfpack can open its jets for this Wolf Pack and expect a high-scoring affair on its mid-December trip out west.

5. **Appalachian State** is another Southern Conference team State won't be able to look past. The Mountaineers won't be as good as last year's 23-6 mark, but even though they lost three starters from last year, the Apps will give State a good contest after State returns from the Big Four.

6. **The Citadel** is yet another Southern Conference team the Wolfpack will have to deal with in the North-South Doubleheaders. The Bulldogs return most of last year's 20-7 team and are another opponent State won't walk over.

7. **Davidson** has lost gunnin' John Gerdy, but former State assistant Eddie Biedenbach has his four other starters back. If Biedenbach can teach his Wildcats to play some defense, Davidson could be better than its 8-19 record of last year.

8. **East Carolina** is hurting. Slapped with probation and dissension on his team, first-year coach Dave Odum more than has his hands full. State will roll over the Pirates.

9. **Towson State** was a top-notch Division II team for many years that is moving up to Division I for the first year. The Tigers are optimistic, but don't figure to be quite in State's league at this point.

10. **St. Augustine's** is another team that isn't in the Wolfpack's class. The Raleigh school was added when Boston College decided it wanted off State's schedule. This one will be a blow-out State students can enjoy just before exams start.

If one cares to add up all these predictions, what's being talked about here is the Wolfpack having something like a 20-6 record going into the ACC Tournament—and there is no way of knowing what's going to happen from that point on.

Wolfpack Women '79-80

Home season opens tonight

by Gary Hanrahan
Sports Writer

"We'll take them one at a time... one at a time... one at a time..."

In conversations with State's women's basketball team's head coach Kay Yow and team captain Ronnie Laughlin, the phrase is repeated over and over. Sure, every coach talks about the need to keep from looking ahead, to resist the temptation to get up for the Tennessee's, UCLA's and ODU's too early. But for the nationally fifth-ranked Wolfpack, "playing them one at a time" is more than just a hollow cliché. Failure to do so last year is thought by many to have contributed to momentary lapses of intensity, which could have possibly slowed the team's development through the course of the season. In other words, it might be said that the Pack reached a plateau, then stopped.

Yow indicated she would like to prevent that from happening again this year.

"It has to go one game at a time," she said in previewing the team's chances for success this season. "I don't think there's

anything you can overlook, or you set yourself up for the real possibility of defeat. We can't overlook the weaker teams, because these are stepping stones for the rest of the season."

In keeping with this philosophy, Yow elaborated at length on what she expects from tonight's home-opener against 19th-ranked Mississippi before turning her attention to previewing the entire season.

"Van Chancellor (Mississippi's head coach) has done a really great job there. He had a good recruiting year. They were building, but they're at a solid point now.

"When they come here, they will already have five games under their belt. So they may realistically be 4-1 and ranked 19th in the country, but we would like to show them some things they haven't already seen. We're hoping to show them the greatest team effort they've run up against so far.

"Mississippi will have been on the road, and I hope they'll show a little wear, but when you're playing another ranked team—we're No. 6—you're in

business for moving up in the poll fast."

Yow is very satisfied with the progress the team has made in practice, and has been particularly pleased with that of the four incoming freshmen.

"In scrimmages, they've really been playing as a team. They've been aware of the open person defensively, when a player's been beaten, they've been help-

ing out until their teammate could recover.

"I think team play, unity and hustle can make you a far superior team than you might be," Yow said.

But with a look at the roster, State already looks far superior to most of the teams it will face this season.

• Connie Rogers, sophomore, point-guard.

• Connie will play at the No. 1

guard position," Yow said. "She is a very versatile player, and she'll also see time at the wing position. When Angie Armstrong goes in at point-guard, Connie will perform at a wing position.

"She has great ball-handling ability and court know-how, and as a freshman last year, she has really improved. One year of playing made a big difference. As

(Continued on page 9)

Laughlin: she's a leader

by Gary Hanrahan
Sports Writer

She led State's women's basketball team in free throws with 99 last season. She was second on the team in field goal percentage with a .580 mark. She was fourth highest in total points scored (427) and in average points per game (13.3).

The list of her accomplishments goes on. She holds the school record for best free throw percentage in one season with an 86.77 percent in 1978, her first year at State. After only two years of play, she is the fifth leading scorer in the history of State's women's basketball with 735 career points.

On the other end of the floor, she blocked 21 shots last year to place her as the third-highest player in that category, and on both ends of the floor she hauled down rebounds. Her season total of 207 was fourth-highest on the team.

As the figures suggest, Ronnie Laughlin is unquestionably one of State's most versatile athletes. But when talking about her talent, she modestly downplays her strengths and concentrates on her weaknesses. "I don't know," she said with a shrug when asked what makes her game so impressive. "But I'd like for my strong point to be defense. That needs a lot of work."

"I need to improve on boxing out, and I really need to work on fighting over screens. Boxing out on the weak side and getting into position for rebounds—these are the things that I really need to do."

Laughlin has an engaging personality; she smiles come easily as she talks. Her likeability and the leadership potential she demonstrated last year might be the reason her teammates elected her team captain for the year.

"If I get to practice and see everybody sort of 'blah,' there might be a rah-rah thing there," Laughlin said of her role as captain. "But if people have a problem, I'd want for them to be able to talk to me.

"I guess it's like being sort of a

team leader. I'll be like a liaison between players and coaches, and you know, I'll just try to help keep things running smooth."

Though the Pack finished with 27-7 overall record and was ranked 11th-nationally at season's end, a runner-up finish to Maryland in the ACC and a third-place finish in the AIAW Region II tournament proved that running smooth was sometimes not enough. Laughlin described how more physical teams such as Tennessee and South Carolina were able to handily defeat State through sheer strength.

"We were beat a lot of times by bigger teams that were on a different weight program. Like South Carolina, they just out-muscled us. We just weren't as strong.

"This year, we're already stronger as a team. We've been working with free weights instead of Nautilus. Everybody can see the difference in how much stronger we are."

Laughlin said besides an inability to compete with some of the stronger teams, inconsistency also hurt State in its drive to the hoped-for national championship last year.

"Last year we did some good things, but they just didn't come at the right time. We had our ups and downs. We'd hit a peak, and then we sort of fell short of it."

"We need to have a good game every game; that's what it'll boil down to. We need to get our defense up to par. We can't afford any weak links defensively or we can get beat. We need two things, good defense and we need to play as a team."

Last season State finished first in the nation in field goal percentage at 53 percent. Offense was a definite strength for the team, and Laughlin thinks it will remain so this year.

"We have the people who can shoot," Laughlin said. "Some other coaches in the ACC have said our offense is so good, but we probably need to work on our defense.

"Everybody has been concentrating on defense because we have the offense. We can't afford any mental breakdowns. We've

been working on trying to dominate whoever it is, we're defending and making them do what we want them to do. If we do that we'll have a really good season and get to the nationals."

Should State achieve a high national ranking, Laughlin is likely to be considered a top prospect in the draft of the Women's Basketball Association, a fledgling professional league that is just now starting to flap its wings.

"The WBA, that's looking really good," Laughlin said. "I'll take until after the Olympics for it to really start getting on its feet, because most players would like to keep their amateur status for the Olympics and then think about going pro.

"Yeah, I think about it a lot. I'm sort of looking forward to grad school, but I'll keep an eye on it to see how it's doing.

"I don't really know what I'd do unless a scout comes and approaches me about it. Then, I'll just have to wait until after the season."

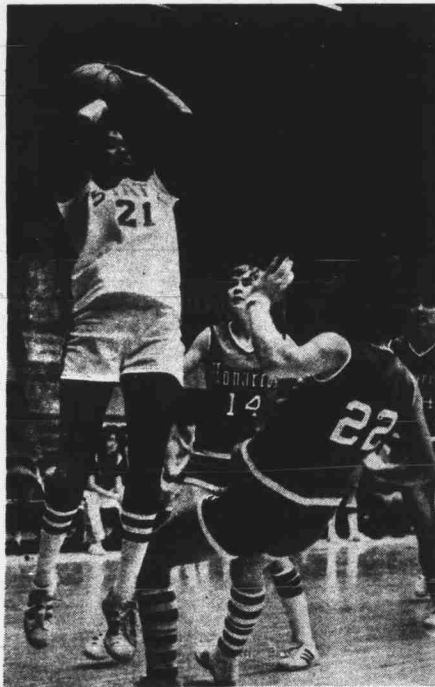
The season, of course, is Laughlin's primary concern right now.

"We had a team meeting earlier, and we decided to play each game one at a time. It's important that we play each game to win each game, but if we lose a game, that'll be behind us. We'll just have to learn from those mistakes and then continue.

"It's really difficult to play a weaker team, because in your mind you know you're better. We'll have to go at it like we go at ODU and UCLA—a straight, continual level. We looked ahead last year and made a lot of silly errors. If we concentrate on playing one team and getting up for that team mentally, it'll be a whole lot easier for us."

Should all go according to plan, the team's efforts could possibly reach fruition at the national championships to be held this year at Central Michigan University.

"Everybody's really ready for the season," Laughlin added. "Last season we lacked one part of the puzzle. Now the coaches and the team know what it is, and hopefully we can fit that part of the puzzle in, in Michigan."



Starting forward Ronnie Laughlin returns for her senior season.

Yow assesses talent on her ball club

(Continued from page 8)

a sophomore, she is playing with a lot of confidence."

• Ginger Rouse, junior, second guard position.

"She is one of our best assist persons. We like to see her with her scoring and assists, and we're hoping she can help us on the boards. There'll be a number of times when we'll be sending four people to the boards. Ginger has world team experience, so she'll be playing with a lot of confidence."

• Trudi Lacey, junior, small forward.

"Trudi played with Athletics in Action this year, and this kind of international experience, along with Ginger's, gives them three-and-a-half years worth of experience instead of just three. We're looking to Trudi for points and a lot of rebounds. That position (small forward) is involved in every phase of the game, so we're counting on her for scoring, rebounding and getting the ball up against the press."

• Ronnie Laughlin, senior, power forward.

"We want to increase the number of rebounds from this position. We want a lot of rebounds from our players, but at the same time we want to keep it down from other teams at this position. We don't have to have as many points from that posi-



State head coach Kay Yow's team was ranked fifth in the nation heading into this season.

tion, but we need physical defense there. That would complement our team most of all."

• Genia Beasley, senior, center.

"Genia made the Kodak All-America team two years ago. We're counting on points from Genia; we'd also like to see an increase in the number of rebounds, because I think she can get more. In our scrimmages, her defense and her hustle have improved a lot from this point last

year. A real key will be how strongly she can defend inside."

• Angie Armstrong, freshman, guard, and Caren Truske, freshman, guard.

Angie's assists are quickness and speed, and her ability to penetrate. She is an excellent ball-handler. Her main weakness is in making the adjustment from high school to college play. She gives us good strength at the point-guard position.

"Caren is third at that posi-

tion. She is a true point-guard, and we have not had true point-guards at that position. Her strengths and weaknesses complement each other.

"Being freshmen, they need time to get into the system. But you can't beat their enthusiasm."

• Sherry Lawson, freshman, forward.

"She has good speed and quickness, like Angie. She was named to a couple of high school All-America teams. She has an unusually high vertical jump, excellent body control, and a knack for passing to and seeing the open person."

• Connie Creasman, freshman, forward.

"She's the most physical player we've ever recruited. Because of her strength, we felt from the beginning that she could help us on the boards and defensively inside. She's a very intelligent player, and reads situations on the court well."

June Doby, senior, center.

"June's come a long way. In games where we face a lot of height, she will see more playing time. She has improved tremendously since her freshman year. I know that she'll see playing time, because we need her depth inside."

• Kelia Coffey, senior, guard. Kelia's first year, that was the first year that we gave scholarships. She has a lot of competi-

tion. We have great strength at the wing position, and at No. 2 (guard) and No. 3 (small forward); we have more strength there than at any other position. She provides more quality depth.

• Beth Fielden, junior, guard.

"She will see playing time. Right now, she is playing her best ball. She has improved as a defensive player and worked very hard. We're looking to her for depth and the experience she brings to the game."

Yow went on to describe what the team goals are for this season, her fifth as head coach.

"We just want to take our whole schedule game by game. We're a nationally-ranked team, and we have a chance to win a national championship."

"We'd like to repeat for the fifth straight year as state champs. We'd really like to win the ACC; we've dropped it two straight years, and let's face it, we blew it both times. So we'd all really like to win the ACC."

"We've never won the Region II tournament," Yow continued. "And that's a goal. Region II is loaded with schools like Tennessee and South Carolina."

"But if we lost, we've still got a shot at the national championship. And ultimately, that's what everybody's striving for."

Starting time for tonight's game, will be 7:30 p.m. in Reynolds Coliseum.

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She's gentle off the floor, terror on it

by Lorry Romans
Sports Writer

It would probably come as a big surprise to those opponents Genia Beasley has intimidated under the boards that the 6-2, 156-pound senior is actually a very gentle person—off the court. She loves kittens, babies and soft music.

On the court, well, that's a different story. Averaging 19 points and 10 rebounds during her career at State, Beasley is noted for her cool demeanor and serious expression during a game.

"People sometimes tell me I look really mean on the court," she said. "That's probably true. Basketball is a serious business to me; there's nothing to smile about. It's a job, and you go out and do it. You're trying to achieve something. It's fun, but it's not funny."

Born and reared in Benson, Beasley traces her quiet nature to her upbringing.

"Benson is a small town. Everybody knows everybody else, and we live out in the country. Things are kind of slow and peaceful—chickens in the backyard, cows and horses in the pasture. And the people are that way, too. Nobody says 'thank-you' or 'you're welcome'; it's just understood."

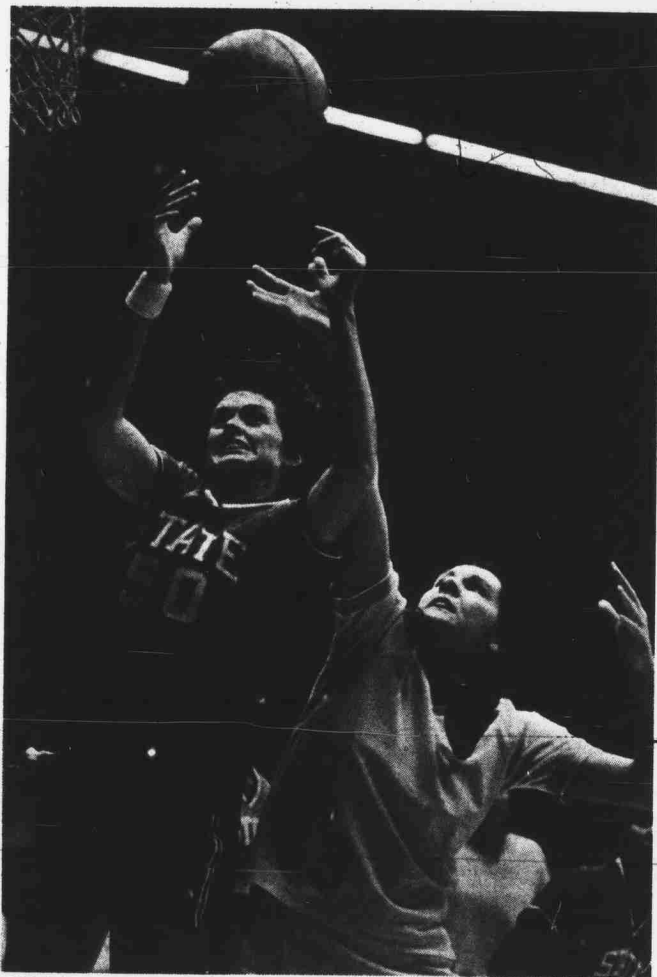
So the small-town girl comes to the big city and experiences culture shock.

"It took me a long time to get used to State," she admitted. "Everybody made fun of my accent, and there was so much happening all the time. I missed, and still do miss being able to just go out in the woods and sit and think. But I think I have finally adjusted myself to it."

She attended South Johnston High School and collected a slew of honors including all-conference four years and all-state three years. She also led her team to the 1974 state championship. But it wasn't he height that made Beasley the highly-recruited player that she was; it was the fact that she was an all-around player who could shoot as accurately from the outside as the inside.

"When I first started playing basketball I had a two-handed set shot," the 1978 Kodak All-America recalled. "But when I began attending basketball summer camps, the coaches made me change my shot to a one-handed, soft jumper. And I have practiced with the guys a lot, so that has forced me to shoot from the outside, too."

It was that same shooting form



All-America center Genia Beasley is the Wolfpack's all-time leading scorer going into her senior year. (Staff photo by Steve Wilson)

that prompted reknowned former Marquette coach Al McGuire to comment Beasley had the best "pure shot" he'd seen of any player, man or woman.

When it came time to choose a college, Beasley picked State for a number of reasons, but there was a main one.

"I wanted to play under coach (Kay) Yow," she said. "I had met her at basketball camp, and I really liked her coaching methods."

After almost eight years of intensive play, how does the two-time All-ACC performer feel about the sport that has put her through school and made her a modern-day heroine among junior high and high school girls and boys?

"To be honest, I get tired of it," she admitted. "But then when I don't play, I miss it. The best thing I like about basketball is that it has given me a chance to travel and meet new people. My closest friends are associated with sports."

"And I have to say my No. 1

fan is my mom. She kept me going when I was discouraged or disgusted. She supported me all through high school and college. She even came to Mexico this past summer to see me in the World University Games (in which Beasley won a gold medal along with the rest of the U.S. team)."

Although basketball and school—she's a pre-med major—keep Beasley busy almost all year long, when she does get some free time she likes to spend it sitting in her rocking chair and listening to music, preferably Johnny Mathis, Kenny Loggins or Carole King, if she is feeling mellow. If she is feeling rowdy, then any kind of disco music will do, and it's hard to keep her from dancing.

She also enjoys spending time with her friends.

"I look for two things in a friend, Beasley says, "honesty and sincerity. And I love to cook for my friends, especially breakfast; I make great waffles."

Since this is her final year at

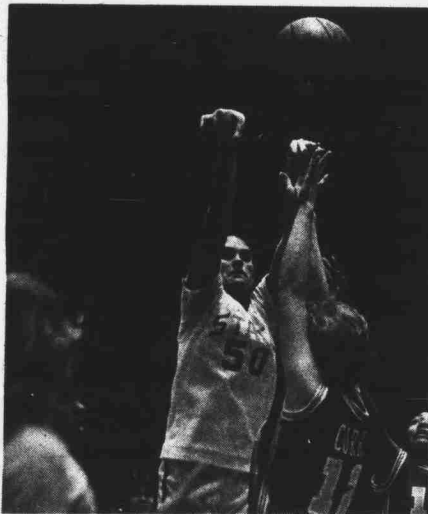
State, she has begun thinking about her future.

"Once I get my degree, I'd like to play pro basketball for awhile. And if I don't get into med school, then I would like to get a job working with animals. Although I love kids, I don't think I'd make a good coach. Eventually, I'd like to raise a family, a cat, a dog and a horse. Maybe three cats."

Looking to the season ahead, a season that features such tough competition as the U.S.S.R., Mississippi State, Old Dominion, Maryland, Tennessee and Penn State, Beasley's not worried.

"I'm going to have a good time this season and not let anybody get to me. I'm especially looking forward to the ACC Tournament and playing ODU again because we are going to beat them."

Cocky? No, just the kind of supreme confidence that it takes to compete for a national title, expressed by a player who has the talent to back up what she says, as any of her coaches are quick to point out.



Genia Beasley passes inside to a teammate. (Staff photo by Steve Wilson)

'Tough' recruiting year reaps jewels

by Tom Reimers
Sports Writer

"When you're recruiting in a year when the starting lineup is pretty set, it's tough."

With the likes of Genia Beasley, Trudi Lacey, Ginger Rouse, Ronnie Laughlin and Connie Rogers returning from last year's 27-7 club, one would think that Pack women's basketball coach Kay Yow's words would have proven to be especially true this past recruiting season.

However, a freshman crop that includes two All-America selections, as well as two other all-state performers, must certainly be considered an excellent group to carry on the winning tradition that has been established by Yow in just a short period of time at State.

Heading the talent-laden list of newcomers is Parade Magazine first team All-America pick Connie Creamsan, a six-footer from Fletcher. Also named to the Converse National High School Girls Basketball All-America Top 10 Team, Creamsan is expected to give the Wolfpack added punch under the boards.

Early season injuries to both knees have held the physical and mathematical sciences major back so far, but Yow will be counting on her for needed defense and board muscle when she returns to full strength.

Another Parade Magazine All-America, third-team selection Sherry Lawson, gives State tremendous quickness at the wing positions behind Lacey and Rouse. Lawson's athletic skills are not only limited to the hardwood. She was named all-conference in track and softball in addition to reaping her numerous basketball honors at High Point's Allen Jay High School.

The Pack's other two freshmen, Angie Armstrong and Caren Truske, are both point-guards. Armstrong, from Rocky Mount, broke the North Carolina East-West All-Star game scoring record with a 33-point effort last summer. Like Lawson, she was also all-conference in softball and track.

The only non-North Carolinian among the group, Truske is a member of State's softball team in addition to giving Yow strong defense on the court. She hails from Columbus, Ohio.

Because of the number of returning veterans on the squad, Yow does not see any of the newcomers opening the season in starting roles. Nevertheless, she is expecting great contributions from this group in terms of depth and support.

"I really like their attitude," Yow said. "I like their understanding about their role on the team. They could have gone to a lot of schools and been (immediate) starters. We have a lot of experience coming back. But they're willing to work at things. Of course, their eventual goal is to be a starter."

"I feel better about having them than anybody," the fifth-year coach continued. "Their coachability, willingness to learn and work motivates me. It's a

great help to our team that we were able to have this kind of people coming into our program."

Since the days when senior sensation Genia Beasley first arrived on campus, State's women's team has taken a quick rise to national prominence. Yow no longer finds herself trying to build a winning program, but rather keeping one going. Likewise, she notes that the circumstances a freshman enters into are now also much different than in some past years.

"There wasn't that much pressure on Genia when she entered the program. She didn't have to earn a starting position."

"Just now we're beginning to build a little tradition," Yow added. "People expect a lot more because of where the program is. But, with the situation we have now (five veteran starters), they're not under pressure to

produce immediately. They can move into their roles. I like not putting them under that pressure all at once."

For the present, Yow sees one major hurdle that the freshmen must clear.

"The biggest thing is the transition from high school to college," Yow said. "They all saw and heard a lot about our veterans, but they were all a little surprised when they actually went on the court with them. Things they used in high school were no longer effective. When you're going up against potential All-America candidates, you just don't hold 'em."

"I have confidence in them," Yow emphasized. "I know what they can do."

"And they're helping the veterans, too," the Pack coach added. "Take Sherry Lawson. Ginger and Trudi are two of the best wings in the country, but

they must get quicker to contain her. She'll bring us more speed and quickness. They'll all help each other."

One trait common to all Kay Yow teams is a tremendous unity, and the 1977 North Carolina Coach of the Year considers this year's group to be her closest ever. She attributes much of this unity to the overall attitude of the freshmen.

"Our unity, our ability to work together, I'm counting on more than anything. That can be the difference," Yow said.

"How concerned and considerate they can be to one another has much more effect on the final outcome than individual effort. I believe that with all my heart."

Though none of the freshmen will be starting at the beginning of the season, Yow does not rule out the possibility that a starting

role could be earned by one of the group.

"They know they'll see playing time," Yow said. "And it's my job to find the five players that complement each other the best."

"The best teams are not always with the five best players. The five players that you put out on the court who play the best together will give you your best team. Trying to find the combination that really clicks is the key."

Yow is also quick to point out all four of the girls knew they wanted to come to State, and she sees this as nothing but an asset.

"There wasn't any hard sell job or anything like that," Yow said. "For the last four years they've read about N.C. State. To be a part of that program is really an honor for them."

"When you've got pride in what you're a part of, the chance for success is really increased."

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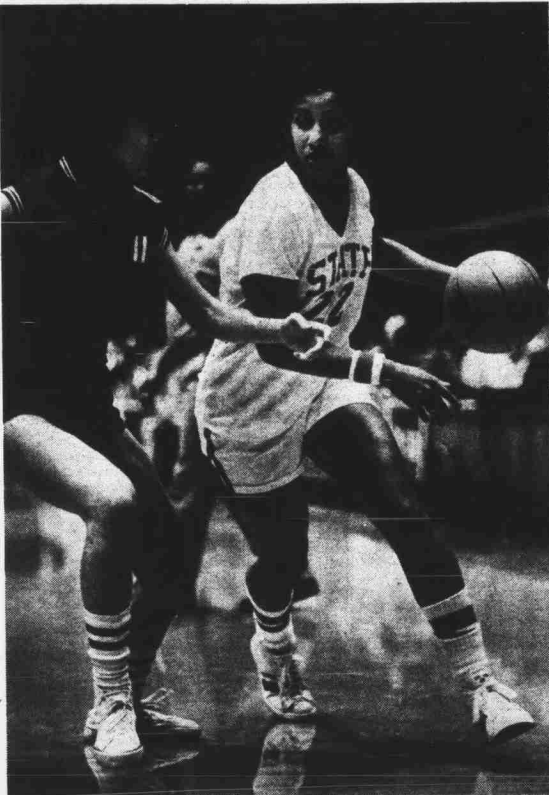


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All-America candidate Trudi Lacey was the Pack's most valuable player last year as a sophomore.



Ginger Rouse, also an All-America candidate, was State's second leading scorer last season as a sophomore.

This twosome plays like twins

by R.M. Browning
Sports Writer

State women's basketball stars Ginger Rouse and Trudi Lacey have a lot in common.

They are about the same size. They are both juniors hailing from successful high school programs in Virginia. They enjoy many of the same off-court activities. They both played international ball this summer. And they both play an important role in the success of the Wolfpack women's basketball program.

"I remember back to my first year here," Lacey recalled, commenting on her unique similarities with Rouse." Coach (Kay) Yow used to always call me Ginger and call Ginger Trudi."

Although Yow now recognizes who is who, it is still difficult for her to talk about one without referring to the other.

"Ginger and Trudi work very well together," Yow said. "They work together a lot in practice because they have the ability to push each other to their limits. And that is how they improve. They are both versatile in all phases of the game. They are a stabilizing factor on the court.

They each hold down one side of the court, and they do a great job of setting each other up for scoring opportunities.

"They both have great attitudes, and they are working to improve their weaknesses. They are taking great strides to become the best they can be."

State assistant coach Nora Lynn Finch echoes this sentiment.

"Ginger and Trudi are very much improved players," Finch said. "They are both physically stronger and more confident. They are exciting players who are fun to watch play."

Rouse came to State in 1977 from Fairfax, Va. where she led Robinson High School to an undefeated season and a state championship. Last summer, Rouse played in the World University Games with teammate Genia Beasley. The team, which Yow assisted in coaching, beat the heavily favored Russian team and came away with the gold medal.

"That was a big thrill for me," Rouse said. "It was great. Not just the basketball, but being with those girls and competing

on that level. Coach Yow did a super job of organizing everybody in the short time we had."

Although Rouse was the second leading scorer on last year's team, her contributions included much more than her pure shooting ability. Besides her 14.4 point average and her 56.4 percent shooting, she dished out 110 assists and collected 125 rebounds. And she did all of this despite the fact that she played most of the season with a back injury.

The praise of her play comes not only from her own coaches, but even from the opposition. Jennifer Alley, head coach at UNC-Chapel Hill, called Rouse "one of the most prolific and versatile players I've ever seen."

Although it is easy to get others to talk about her, it is not so easy to get Rouse to talk about herself and her personal goals:

"My personal goals will come with the team goals," she said shyly. "I just want to be the best I can be."

And the team goals? "Well, the nationals are definitely in our sights," she

beamed. "But we have to do it one game at a time."

Lacey also came to State in 1977. At Clifton Forge High School she averaged 30.9 points, 17.7 rebounds and 10.6 assists per game. Last year at State, she averaged 14 points and nine rebounds per game and had 109 assists. Last summer, Lacey played on the Athletes in Action team which went undefeated.

"My experiences in international ball were different from my past experiences. I was on a Christian team, and we had many more spiritual experiences. We were supposed to tour Russia, Czechoslovakia and Poland. But because we were a Christian team, we weren't allowed in those countries. So we played in Italy and Yugoslavia."

Like Rouse, Lacey sees this year's team as a great one.

"We should make it to nationals," Lacey assessed. "We have great personnel, and the team is close-knit and gets along well together. If we can stay close through the season, that will be a big plus."

Yow has been impressed with Lacey's pre-season performance.

"Trudi is playing stronger than ever," Yow said. "She is strong going to the boards. And on the offensive boards, she is not only getting the rebound, but she is putting it back up for the score. That is something she didn't do that well in the past."

Yow sees great improvement in both Lacey and Rouse and has high hopes for them this season.

"Both Ginger and Trudi have matured a lot since last year,"

Yow said. "Both are shooting well. They are taking advantage of opportunities to penetrate. They are doing a better job of passing to the open person. Their movement away from the ball is better. Their defense has improved. They are now giving good man and a half defense, playing help to another player when it's needed. And they have the game in perspective."

Although Rouse and Lacey already have a great deal in common, they hope to someday share one other common characteristic. They both want to play on a national champion Wolfpack women's team.

With players of their caliber, that's not an unrealistic goal for the Wolfpack to have.