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[preview]

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basketball preview

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letter

from the editor

(Aaron Morrison)

Well here it is—the ESPN2 of basketball tabs.

We give you a new look this season. I hope you like it—I know I do.

Try not to get dizzy as you whirl through the world that is the 1995-96 Technician Basketball Preview.

I have to admit, I was just a little bit skeptical of giving this job to a graphic designer. But it turned out great.

In my tenure at Technician I have never really taken part in actually putting together a tab.

J.P. Giglio and Hunter Morris took care of the football tab this fall, while I handled the regular drudgery of the sports page. But I couldn't get off the hook this time.

So this is it, my last hurrah. I'm outta here in December and this is my last chance to do something decent.

The experience has been nothing short of, well let's see, how can I put this—hell.

Don't get me wrong, I had a lot of fun too. I got to do some things I will never do again. I doubt many people get a chance to crawl around on the catwalk in Reynolds Coliseum and watch Ishua Benjamin slam dunk from 75 feet directly below.

I was disappointed that I didn't get a chance to eat breakfast with coach Robinson and his wife like I did last year (although the rest of my staff did). For reservations with coach Robinson you can call Case Athletic Center Dining at... I probably shouldn't give that out in public.

Anyway, I am pleased with the result. I think. It's still about five hours before deadline, so this thing might not even run.

But if it does, I would like to thank the following people: First and foremost, I would like to thank both of the basketball teams. My staff and I seemed to pester one of the teams everyday, either before or after practice and probably even during a few times.

Special thanks to Jen, Chasity, Todd and Osh for their help with the cover photos. Even though only two of them made it to the front.

Thanks are also in order for Joan von Thron and Wendi McLendon of the Sports Information office. Each of them had at least seven voice-mail messages per day from me alone. Thanks for answering them all.

My staff really came through in the clutch. I gave them a short amount of time to get a lot done, and surprisingly it got done.

Another special thank you goes out to those two crazy Jersey kids. Mike and J.P. have done a lot for me. Sure, they made me sweat a few times, but they always got the job done.

Thanks to the Technician photo department. I also gave them little time to do a lot. And they did it. Thanks for all your help, Trixie.

Andy Tucker and Marc Kawanishi made the all-swoosh team for their clutch scans of the color photos. Thanks fellas. You knew I had to thank Hunter Morris in here somewhere. Well, here it is. Hunter's neverending advice was invaluable even though he didn't take an active part in this tab. In case you don't know, Big Game is a legend around here.

Cara Carpenter, the tab designer, worked many long hours and survived working with me, Mike and J.P. That's no small feat. And she did a great job to boot.

Bruce, didn't tell you all along that this would work out just fine? Thanks bud.

Well, here it is.

It's got flare, it's got flash—it's sparkalicious.

Enjoy.

Aaron Morrison
Sports Editor

Technician

North Carolina State University's Newspaper since 1920

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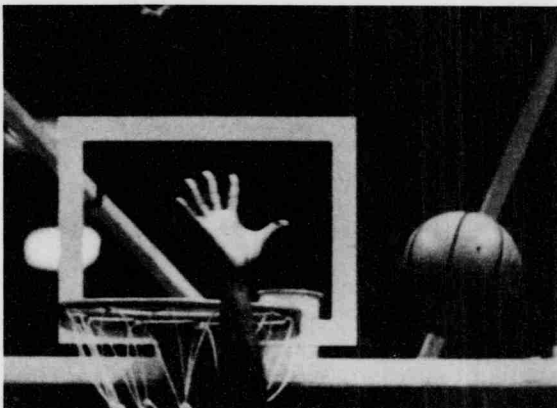
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technician file photograph

cover photography.

[top] Jennifer Howard fires from outside the new colored three-point area. photo credit, Tripp Flythe

[bottom] Ishua Benjamin will be hanging from the rim a lot this season. photo credit, Hide Terada

additional note.

Vital Stats are based on last season's averages

Howard Leads On and Off the Court

Michael Preston, assistant sports editor

In her career at N.C. State, Jennifer Howard has established herself as one of the best point guards in the conference.

And she's only starting her junior season.

"The way I look at it is, my timetable is running out. I've got two more years and if I'm going to do anything, it's really time to do it now," Howard said. "I probably put more pressure on myself than anyone, but I only have two more years and I have to make the most of it."

But Howard's numbers and accomplishments in her first two seasons in Raleigh rival what some players do in a career.

She only missed nine free throws resulting in a 93 percent success rate from the charity stripe, which led the nation. She averaged 15 points a game. She established a school record by hitting 40 straight foul shots and then set another by hitting 66 three-pointers.

All as a freshman.

Last year, after leading the Wolfpack to the Sweet 16 in the NCAA Tournament, she was named to the ACC's second-team all-conference squad. Her play in the Big Show earned her a spot on the Midwest Regional all-tournament team. Plus, the Phi Beta Kappa member earned a spot on the GTE Academic All-American third team.

This without mentioning she was third in the nation in three-point percentage at 47 percent (82-174) and was No. 19 in three-pointers made per game at 2.6.

And she played in the U.S. State's Olympic Festival in Denver.

"The whole experience out there was actually pretty frustrating," Howard said. "Our team was 0-4, we didn't get to play all together and it was just a frustrating situation, but it all helped us in the long run."

The long run will be the upcoming season, one which many expect to be a successful one for State and Howard.

The media named her to the pre-season All-ACC second team, but she was just five votes shy of first team honors.

More importantly to Howard is the fact that the Wolfpack was picked to finish second in the conference.

"In a way it's nice because last year it was hard to get any kind of respect and to finally get into the Top 25," Howard said. "I think it's good for the team because we need to learn how to handle pressure for when we get to the tournament."

Pressure is nothing new to the point guard because chances are she's in the game when it matters. In Howard's 58 career starts in Wolfpack red, she has averaged over 38 minutes per game. As an example of her endurance, she played every minute in the overtime win against Penn State at last year's tournament.

"This year, Kenyatta [Williams] will be able to come in and give me a break," Howard said. "It's also been good being able to go against her in practice."

Maybe the most important aspect of Howard's game this year will be how well she steps up and asserts herself as one of the leaders on the team. With Marled Davis as the only returning senior added to the losses of Tammy Gibson and Kollen Kreul, she may be forced to take on the role.

"I think there's a lot of leadership built into the point guard position anyway, so I'd like to be able to handle it more than last year," Howard said. "I want to be in control when I need to be and I don't want to have to look to other people."

And the best way for Howard to gauge how far she's come will occur on Nov. 19 when the U.S. National team makes a visit to campus to play the Wolfpack Women. She knows it will be a good opportunity and quite a challenge.

"I want to get prepared for it beforehand and I don't want us to go in there with our heads down thinking, 'Well, we're going to get killed,' sort of like playing Florida State in football," Howard said. "Anything can happen."

And even if Howard pulls off the miracle with a three from the corner and then hitting the ensuing foul shot, it is only an

exhibition game. There are bigger goals for this season, and not all of them are personal ones.

"I just want our team to have a great season this year. I want us to better than we did last year," Howard said. "I want Coach Yow to win the games and get the kind of respect she deserves, because I don't think she's gotten it."

MINUTES	POINTS	ASSISTS	TOURNOURS	STEALS	REBOUNDS	FGA	FGM	FTG	FTA	FTM	FT%
38	13	3.6	0.8	2.9	25.9	11.3	4.4	11.4	9.1	7.9	

vital stats. Jennifer Howard #14



[both] technician file photographs

Phi Beta Fuller

Aaron Morrison, sports editor

Todd Fuller has done it all for three years at N.C. State.

He has quietly become one of the top players in the toughest conference in the nation—and he carries a 3.96 GPA.

In the past, his combination of consistent play and outstanding grades seemed to be his trademark. But Fuller's consistent play turned into great play last season and earned him a spot on the All-ACC second team. His grades remain the same, but they really can't get much better.

"He's the same in basketball as he is in the classroom," State head coach Les Robinson said. "He gets the maximum out of what he's got."

"You can't say enough about his work ethic," Steve Norton, Fuller's protege, said. "He's the epitome of a student-athlete." In 1992, Fuller started his career at N.C. State as a lanky, buzz-headed kid. He had the all-American, choir-boy appearance and the raw, fundamental skills. His high school coach was former North Carolina Tar Heel and Philadelphia 76er star, Bobby Jones.

Todd Fuller was full of potential.

Everyone knew how well he could perform in the classroom—Fuller earned inclusion in State's first chapter of Phi Beta Kappa last year, and he was the only non-senior named to the CoSIDA Academic All-American team. Some people even thought he would make a pretty good center in the ACC.

But a great center?

Only a few thought he could be one of the best.

"When Todd was a freshman, I was asked how good he could be. And I consistently said he would be as good as he could be," Robinson said. "That might not sound very profound, but if you asked any coach in the ACC how many players they had coached that became as good as they could be, I don't think many of them would name many players."

Although you couldn't tell it from his grades, lately Fuller has started to concentrate a little more on basketball. He has less than 12 hours left to meet his graduation requirements, so he will be taking a lighter load during the spring semester.

With the lighter load, Fuller can concentrate on achieving his dream. No, not winning a Rhodes Scholarship or solving the world's pollution problem—the NBA.

He sees that his life-long dream of playing in the NBA is now within his grasp, and he wants to make it come true. He says he wants to give it a shot while he still can.

"I've been blessed with a good body and a good mind, and the body is usually the one that fades first," Fuller said. "But, I'm not going to rule out future educational opportunities."

Now that many of the ACC's premier centers, like Joe Smith, Rasheed Wallace and Cherokee Parks, have left for the NBA, Fuller has an opportunity to stand apart from the rest of the competition in the conference.

But even though last year was the year of the super centers in the ACC, Fuller held his own and made a name for himself. He was the league's tenth best scorer (16.5), sixth best rebounder (8.4) and he was seventh in field goal percentage (51.9) and third in free throw percentage (84.1).

But despite the impressive numbers, most of the pressure has been deflected away from Fuller and on to a tall kid from the Virgin Islands—Wake Forest's Tim Duncan.

The head-to-head matchups between Fuller and Duncan have turned into some classics.

Last season, Fuller recorded a double double (16 points, 11 rebounds) in the first meeting in Raleigh and in the second matchup at Wake Forest, he had a career-high 30 points.

While Duncan and the Demon Deacons won the ACC Championship last season, State continued to struggle—

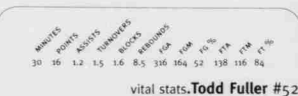
Fuller did not.

Despite the past disappointing seasons for the team, Fuller continues to improve every year and produce individually for the Pack. In the '94-'95 season he led the team in rebounds and blocks. He has been State's scoring leader the last two years.

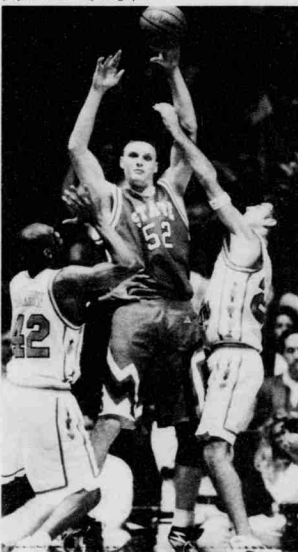
"Each season is a new start," Fuller said. "You have to forget everything from previous seasons, the bad things and the good things, and start at ground zero. I look at every game as an opportunity to show that we are an improving basketball team."

Fuller has taken care of his end of the deal when it came to improving. When Robinson signed Fuller, he was supposed to help the academically ailing program.

He's done more than just that. He's done it all.



[all] technician file photographs



Osh Simply Being Osh Melvin

J.P. Giglio assistant sports editor

The lights were out at Reynolds Coliseum and the spotlight was on the floor for the announcement of the starting lineups.

On the bench, Ishua Benjamin found himself holding a clipboard and dressed in a shirt and tie.

A step up from the test-pattern geometric uniforms but not the attire Benjamin wanted to be wearing at game time.

But due to his academic suspension by coach Les Robinson last May, the sophomore guard will be wearing his share of khaki pants and ties on the court for the beginning of the season.

Benjamin's suspension was not handed down from the NCAA or a violation of university policy but by Robinson for "not taking his academic responsibilities seriously."

Benjamin would rather not have modelled his wardrobe on game day but his return is not under his control.

"I've taken care of the things I was supposed to," the All-ACC

freshman said. "It's still up in the air. All of that's up to Coach Robinson, but I would guess that I would be back for the UNC-Asheville game."

Not being in the lineup right away could be a blessing in disguise for the sophomore guard from Concord. Robinson thinks the time away will take some of the pressure off of Benjamin.

"Ishua went from knowing what it's like to be a hero to a chump," Robinson said. "As a result he quit going to class and began to get into behavioral problems. He has learned from it and the team is not resting on his shoulders."

The pressure mounted because of the monster start the 6'5" guard had to open his career. In his first game, Benjamin poured in a career-

high 29 points while only missing two of 13 shots.

But there were a lot of peaks and valleys in Benjamin's season between the first game and the suspension in May.

The ACC, which produced eight first-round picks in the NBA draft last year, proved to be a night-in-and-night-out challenge for Benjamin.

He managed to average 14.0 points and led the team in assists but he felt that the combination of athletics and academics got to be a little too much for him to handle.

"I was using school for the wrong reasons," Benjamin said in June.

"Not being there right away, will help me get my coursework done. It will take a lot of pressure off me."

"I'm not going to have to worry about taking a test the next day and wondering about who I have to guard the next day."

The toughest assignment Benjamin faced on the court was after the win over No. 1 North Carolina against Virginia.

"We thought our season was made with that one win," Benjamin said. "Then I faced Cory Alexander [Cavaliers senior point guard] and he reminded me that I was still a freshman and pointed out my weaknesses."

Alexander's mind games worked on Benjamin who finished the game with 11 points on 5-17 shooting from the floor.

But Benjamin finished up the season in the same fashion as he began by scoring 26 points and five steals.

But even after the high expectations last seasons and the savior label entering school, Benjamin has not shied away from the pressure.

"It's part of the job. I knew it when I signed with this college," Benjamin said. "I was trying to do too much. I have to let things come to me."

This season Robinson feels the team has added depth which should help Benjamin progress to the next

[continued on page 22]

Aaron Morrison sports editor



technician file photograph

MINUTES	POINTS	ASSISTS	TOURNOVERS	REBOUNDS	FOUL	FT %	FT	FT %
28	16	1.1	3.0	1.0	7.0	345	208	60

vital stats.Chasity Melvin #44

Chasity Melvin's stats from last season look like those of a seasoned veteran, maybe even a red-shirt senior.

But instead, they came from a rookie—ACC Rookie of the Year to be exact.

Melvin, a 6'3" center, had a record setting freshman year.

On her way to leading N.C. State in scoring (16.4) and rebounding (7.0), she set Wolfpack freshman records in scoring total, field goals made, field goals attempted and free throws attempted.

On conference and national scales, her first-year numbers are even more impressive.

She ranked first in the ACC in field goal percentage and sixth in scoring average. Her field goal percentage was good enough to be 13th in the nation last year.

But all that was last year. What will she do this year? Can she handle the pressure?

Her teammates think pressure will not be a problem for her this year.

"I think she knows a lot of teams will be keying more on her, but I also think she knows she's gonna have a little more help in Peace (Shepard)," point guard Jennifer Howard said. "She's done a good job so far in practice. She knows when to kick it out and when to go up with it."

Melvin says having some outside threats like Howard and Nicole

Mitchell will help her mobility inside and allow for some easier, not easy, shots.

Muriel Davis, State's only senior this season, thinks Melvin's ability and skill will take care of the pressure question.

"I've seen her play against guys. I've seen her play against bigger girls," Davis said. "I don't think she will have any problems."

State coach Kay Yow says Melvin probably felt the pressure a lot more last season. A year ago, Melvin got plenty of playing time when sophomore Peace Shepard went down with an ACL injury.

Shepard was expected to play a major role in the middle but she had to sit out the entire season. Melvin had to step up as a freshman and contribute from the center spot.

"When Chasity was thrown into that key position, it really scared her to death," Yow said. "She felt a lot of pressure. But we didn't really place that on her, she placed that on herself."

Perhaps the most pressure Melvin will face this season will come from other teams defensively. She will probably find herself surrounded by two or even three players a lot this season.

Melvin is trying to broaden her game in hopes of deflecting some of the defensive pressure.

"I've been working on my [continued on page 22]



technician file photograph

Davis is Golden in the Lane

Curtis Marshall

Aaron Morrison, sports editor

Muriel Davis has a reputation of being a tough and fearless rebounder.

At the power forward position, her physical and scrappy play around the glass would be her trademark if she didn't have a lead weight with an "M" inscribed on it. But she's not your average power forward when it comes to height.

She's not an overpowering figure at 6'1", but she looks intimidating. She hails from Dallas, Tex., home of another power forward, Larry Johnson of the Charlotte Hornets. He, too, is a little smaller than others who play his position.

Because of her height, or lack thereof, Davis must work a little harder in the paint according to her teammates. That's where her toughness comes into play.

"She's a small power forward, so when we go up against big teams, she always plays strong no matter who she's going up against," center Chasity Melvin said.

Davis had to make the tough adjustment from dominating in high school, to working hard in college.

"In high school, it was so easy, because in the conference I played in I was the tallest one," Davis said. "Once I got to college I realized I had to play harder. I don't let the bigger girls intimidate me; I just try to go hard on the inside and get rebounds."

In addition to her toughness, Davis adds a lot of strength and fundamentals to her game.

"She is really strong," Melvin said. "And she boxes out really well inside."

Melvin also said Davis' toughness is contagious.

"She's looked up to as always working hard inside," Melvin said. "She just brings that courage to the rest of the team, to play hard, no matter what."

Davis' leadership will be key for the Pack this year. She is the only senior on the squad. But that doesn't bother her. She says there are some other, younger players, like Jennifer Howard and Lineki Webb, who are looked up to also.

Davis says her role is not to intimidate her younger teammates or worry about the age differences, she just wants to bring everyone together.

MINUTES	POINTS	ASSISTS	REBOUNDS	BLOCKS	PERCENTAGE	FGM	FGA	FTM	FTA
15	5.4	0.7	1.7	0.5	39	125	67	54	71
								33	47

vital stats. Muriel Davis #34

"I don't try to make it seem like I'm much older than everyone else," Davis said. "I don't try to act like I'm better than anyone just because I'm older. I just try to fit in."

But just because she tries to fit in, doesn't mean she's small, friendly rivalries have not formed at practice.

"Constance looks at me and tries to do better than me," Davis said. "She sees some of the things I do, like boxing out. She's short also. She tells me that I'm her rival."

While her basketball persona is a tough one, Davis is quiet and soft spoken off the floor.

Her sophomore year, her most productive season, Davis averaged seven rebounds and eight points per contest. She also shot 55 percent from the floor. Davis' career field goal percentage is just over 50 percent.

Then last year when Rookie of the Year, Chasity Melvin, made her

(continued on page 22)



Matt Lail, staff writer

Curtis Marshall has some unfinished business to take care of.

The senior guard missed all of last season due to a laceration of his right wrist. And although he has yet to reach 100 percent recovery, he says he's ready to take on whatever the upcoming season has to throw at him.

"I would say I'm anywhere from 90 to 95 percent recovered, and my strength is all back," Marshall said. "I'm feeling great."

But more importantly he's determined to provide key senior leadership that seemed to be lacking last season.

"I'll be a leader on the court," Marshall said. "I'm sure I'll be called upon to do some scoring, play some good defense, and basically just help the team win. I think we have the nucleus, and we have the attitude to do the things that Wolfpack basketball is known for."

In the time that he missed, Marshall could only sit and watch as freshman Ishua Benjamin came into town and stole the point guard position. No problem, Marshall says, as it gives him a chance to play at his natural position of shooting guard.

"I'm just willing to do anything

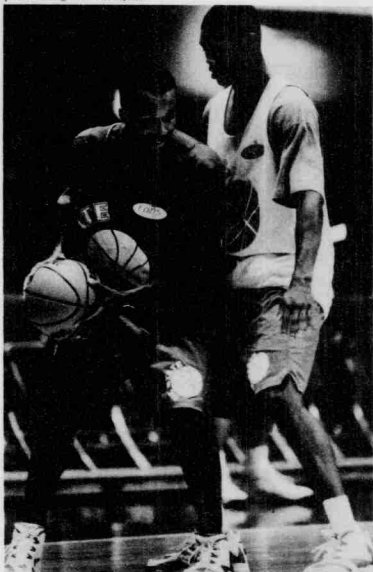
(continued on page 22)

MINUTES	POINTS	ASSISTS	REBOUNDS	BLOCKS	PERCENTAGE	FGM	FGA	FTM	FTA

curtis marshall was red-shirted for the 1994,1995 season

vital stats. Curtis Marshall #11

photo credit: Hide Terada/staff



Umeki Marcus Webb Wilson

Matt Lail, staff writer

After advancing to the Sweet Sixteen last season, expectations are high for the N.C. State women's basketball team. One important cog in that victorious machine is guard Umeki Webb.

The 5'11" junior started all but one game last season (the start was due to Senior Day), and averaged 10.4 points per game to go along with 71 steals—good enough for fourth best in the conference.

But like her cousin Spud, Umeki is a team player who realizes that the unit comes before personal achievements, and wants to do all she can to help the Wolfpack win.

"I'm very excited about this season. I think we have a good year and we should have a really good season this year," Webb said.

The Pack looks to return to the Sweet 16 and hopefully the Final

Four. And Webb states that these are important goals for the team this year.

"Our goal for the whole is to win the ACC Championship and make it to the Final Four in Charlotte," Webb said.

And Webb is no stranger when it comes to contributing come tournament-time. She stepped it up a level last year during the NCAA Tournament, averaging 18 points and 5.3 rebounds, to go along with 3.3 steals in the three games. But Webb feels that of the team as a whole is capable of great things come March.

"Hopefully, (our goals) will come through," Webb said. "We're capable, we have the team to be ACC Champions and to make it to the Final Four, we just have to [continued on page 22]

Matt Lail, staff writer

Marcus Wilson may be one of the most surprising players in the ACC.

Despite his towering 6-8 frame, the senior forward has a very serene presence about him.

Whether it's his soft voice or droopy eyelids, he comes across as being anything but exciting.

But as soon as he heads to the scorer's table to check into a game, the crowd seems to come alive, anxious for him to sky above the rest for one of his back-door shots. And even after leaving the home fans exhausted and wanting more, he heads back up the floor just as calm and stoic, as he was before entering the game.

"When I get in, I'm just looking to play," Wilson said. "I just try to do whatever I can. It makes me feel good (to excite the crowd), but my career here has been up-and-down. This year I'm just planning to have fun."

But with that fun comes responsibility. As for Wilson, he understands that people are not only expecting a lot from the Wolfpack as a team, but will be looking to the seniors for some key leadership.

"My part is more leading by example," Wilson said. "Todd (Fuller) and Curtis (Marshall) are hard workers as well. We just need to keep morale up, and when we're down, try to stay confident."

But don't think for one second that Wilson's calm composure takes away from his concentration on the court.

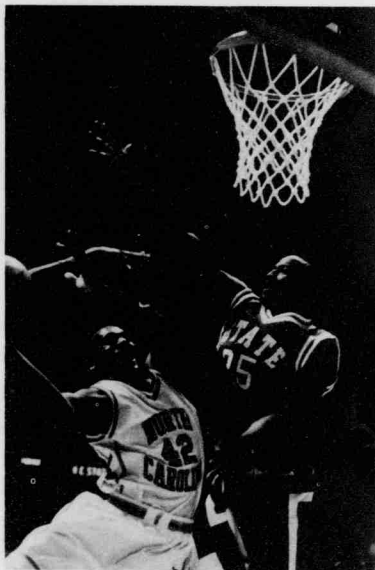
"Marcus brings such intensity," senior guard Curtis Marshall said. "He plays with a lot of emotion."

That intensity led Wilson to play in all but one game last season. In those games, Wilson managed to average 4.5 points per game, as well as 2.4 rebounds, playing around 14 minutes a session.

Wilson played especially well in the latter part of the season, scoring 14 at home versus Duke, and then hit five of nine shots from the floor and contributed two blocks as State beat Florida State at home 86-77. He scored in double figures five times during the season.

But Wilson is looking to improve. Still considered an emerging talent, Wilson has hit the weights and the court in the offseason, and has added some bulk to his lanky frame.

"He's matured a lot," Marshall said. "He's taken his game to a whole new level. He's doing what



technician file photograph

MINUTES	POINTS	ASSISTS	REBOUNDS	STEALS	BLOCKS	FG%	FT%
29	10	3.2	3.1	2.3	5.4	27.8	129

vital stats. Umeki Webb #21

technician file photograph



the coaches want him to be doing. He's doing a good job."

Taking that game to another level will be a key to the Pack's success.

"I think we can be a winner," Wilson said. "We have to keep that click between us, keep the defense going as well as the offense. If the offense is down, we have to do it on defense, and just try to keep it going."

"I don't think there are any weak points."

Definitely not a weak point for Wilson last season was defense, earning three steals in four different games, one of them against Kansas.

Wilson has played a supporting role in his three years at State, but he looks forward to great things in the upcoming season. A projected pre-season starter for the first time in his career, Wilson knows that he has to keep his emotion, intensity and concentration together to successfully participate in a winning season. But more importantly,

Wilson has kept it all in perspective.

"I plan to have fun this year," Wilson said. "And just let it roll."

MINUTES	POINTS	ASSISTS	REBOUNDS	STEALS	BLOCKS	FG%	FT%
14	4.5	0.3	0.8	0.3	2.4	130	53

vital stats. Marcus Wilson #25

Hyatt Knows What It Takes

J.P. Giglio, assistant sports editor

Maybe the Brady kids were right on when they sang, "When it's time to change you've got to rearrange."

Maybe Jeremy Hyatt took the Brady's a step better when he assessed the team's outlook for the upcoming season.

"It's time for a change and this is where I see our turning point," the junior guard said. "This year there is a whole new attitude. There is a whole new environment."

"We want to get on the winning side."

Hyatt has done his best to get the Pack on the winning side. His unselfish attitude and ability to give the team 100 percent night in and night out has been the exception at N.C. State for the last four seasons.

Hyatt became a fixture in the starting lineup last season after

forward Bryant Feggins was declared academically ineligible.

At 6'6", he utilized his height and defensive skills to adjust to the forward position. He played his freshman year at point guard.

He improved his game statistically in every facet from his freshman year with the increased playing time.

Hyatt will still be splitting his time between the forward and guard position for coach Les Robinson, but this year Hyatt knows one thing for sure: He'll be on the court.

"I have a more permanent role this year," Hyatt said. "My playing time will be more consistent."

Proving he is worth the increased role on the team, Hyatt developed into the team's most

(continued on page 22)

MINUTES	POINTS	ASSISTS	REBOUNDS	STEALS	TURNOVERS	FOULS	FO %	FTA	FT %		
24	5.8	2.5	1.7	1.2	4.0	129	52	40	31	20	65

vital stats, **Jeremy Hyatt #20**



technician file photograph

Nicole Mitchell

J.P. Giglio, assistant sports editor

Nicole Mitchell is excited.

And why shouldn't she be? After finishing up last season playing her best basketball in a

Wolfpack uniform, Mitchell has reason to be excited.

After fighting a nagging ankle injury during the regular season, Mitchell proved her worth to the team at the Big Show.

First, in the ACC Tournament the junior guard from Vienna, Va. averaged eight points and two rebounds.

But Mitchell didn't stop there. In the second round of the NCAA tournament, she chipped in seven points in 24 minutes in the upset over No. 2 Penn State.

Mitchell downplayed her role in the post-season, but she did think the team learned something from it.

"It was a shot in the arm for us," Mitchell said. "We have the experience now and we have more talent off the bench."

After coming off the bench in her first two years, Mitchell will step into the starting role. She will be

filling the void left by All-ACC guard Tammy Gibson. But just because she will be playing the leading guard, coach Kay Yow doesn't expect her to duplicate the numbers of Gibson, who averaged 14.5 points per game.

"Not one person is going to score like Tammy," Yow said. "Nicole Mitchell is versatile. She has three-point range, she can penetrate and she can pull up and hit the jumper."

But Mitchell doesn't plan on playing Gibson's game. She is going to play her own game.

"I don't feel that I have to fill Tammy's shoes," Mitchell said. "Whatever I am able to do to help the team, I'll do."

And after Mitchell helps the team, she is not afraid to let you know about it either. After a three-pointer or when she draws a charge, Mitchell has been known to do a little celebrating. Nothing compared to the Miami football team, but she can pump fists with the best of them.

"It's not planned," Mitchell said. "I just have so much emotion that I have to let it out."

The show of emotion tends to get on the other team's nerves but Mitchell is not doing it to show anybody up.

"It's not meant to be negative," she said. "It's just a natural reaction. I just have fun when I play."

Mitchell knows one time when the team will have fun this year. State opens the season in Honolulu for the Wahine Classic. Included in the tournament is defending national champions Connecticut and Oregon State, a team similar to the Wolfpack.

"It was an honor to be accepted," Mitchell said. "Other years we were denied the invitation. But it will give us confidence as well as experience. We're going to know right away where we stand."

Hopefully that confidence will lead some exciting moments on the team's way back to Mitchell's favorite showcase—the Big Show.

MINUTES	POINTS	ASSISTS	REBOUNDS	STEALS	TURNOVERS	FOULS	FO %	FTA	FT %		
12	2.8	0.7	1.1	0.5	2.0	59	22	37	25	17	68

vital stats, **Nicole Mitchell #11**



photo credit_Aner Barriola

C.C. is Back with Confidence



Michael Preston, assistant sports editor

When C.C. Harrison arrived at N.C. State, he was expected to work wonders before he even stepped on the court.

Between him and point guard Ishua Benjamin, several recruiting experts predicted that the two could mirror the sensational '80s tandem of Chris Cochiam and Rodney Monroe. Harrison knows that this won't be the year for a reincarnation of one of the best backcourts in State history, but it will come.

"I knew for a fact coming in that we'd have a little comparison to Fire and Ice," Harrison said. "Maybe we can get a little something going our junior years."

Despite his limited playing time his freshman season, he was still able to make an impact when he entered the game. His turnovers-to-assists ratio was the best on the team and one of the best in the conference (25-13).

"I wanted to do the best I could in the limited time that I had. I wanted

to be strong with the ball, handle it well and just make good decisions," Harrison said. "I did and hopefully that will carry over to this year."

"This season he's going to be looked on a little more than last. His offensive production was minimal to say the least. His 3.8 points a game indicated that he may have been too cautious with the ball."

And although his numbers didn't resemble the 20 points he put up in high school, it was enough to warrant praise from the top of the ladder.

"C.C. is a great young man whose working extremely hard and he's really doing well on and off the court," coach Les Robinson said. "He's a very cautious player, very solid with the basketball, and he's worked on his game as far as his shot."

However, not only has Harrison worked on his shot in the off-season, but he's also received added

incentive from Robinson and his staff.

"The coaches and I talked during the summer and they'd like me to shoot the ball more," he said. "They've got confidence in my shot and they've given me confidence, so I'm just going to go out and take the open shot."

But Harrison is going to have to wait four games until he can do that. Because he didn't pass enough of his course load, 75 percent is required by the NCAA. Despite his 2.77 grade point average, he was suspended for the beginning of the season.

"It's disappointing because I let some people down and I let myself down," Harrison said. "I'm just looking to get these four games behind me and start contributing to the team."

And when he does contribute, he thinks that this year could be more successful than some people are

(continued on page 23)

MINUTES	POINTS	ASSISTS	TOURNERS	STEALS	REBOUNDS	FGA	FG%	FTA	FT%	
16	3.8	1.0	0.5	1.0	1.3	10.4	39	13	10	77

vital stats. C.C. Harrison #23

technician file photograph

Rosalyn McLendon

Beth Herman, staff writer

Fans of N.C. State women's basketball can be glad that 6'2" sophomore Rosalyn McLendon played volleyball only to keep in shape for her main focus, basketball.

McLendon was Most Valuable Player in both sports during her high school career—but basketball was her first love.

"My dad and brother both played, so naturally I got involved in playing," McLendon said.

She is a power forward with fine tuned post moves and a 15-foot jump shot.

McLendon graduated from Richmond Senior High in Rockingham, NC. As well as being MVP, she was also named Female Athlete of the Year following her senior year. She was selected to the all-conference and all-tournament teams her junior and senior years. She averaged 19.5 points and 11.7 rebounds per game in the 1993-94 season. She

also lettered in volleyball, softball and track in high school.

McLendon is optimistic about the upcoming season with the Wolfpack.

"I feel positive about my game this year. I want to help the team anyway that I can," McLendon said. "I'd like to work on my ball-handling and defensive skills and contribute as much as possible."

McLendon is a very strong believer in giving one's all to the game, a characteristic of most successful athletes.

"Always have confidence, even when you're down—no matter what kind of day you're having," McLendon said. "There is no excuse for giving less than your best."

McLendon believes that attitude has a lot to do with performance on the court.

"I always try to be in a good state of mind because it helps the other players maintain a good mental state," she said. "I also tell the

freshmen to keep their heads up because I remember what it was like to be in their shoes."

McLendon feels that her athletic experience here has been enhanced by the positive interaction among the girls on the team.

"We have excellent team support," she said. "We all hang out together and treat each other like sisters and I'm convinced that this helps our game."

Like most athletes, McLendon can't imagine what her life would be like if she hadn't gotten involved in sports.

"Basketball gives you a sense of time management and helps you set

your priorities straight," she said.

"Sometimes I come home from practice and I'm so tired that I don't even want to eat, but you have to force yourself to do the things that you have to do."

McLendon readily admits that finding time for sports, school, sleep and socializing can make for a hectic schedule.

"I have a lot of respect for Coach Yow because she understands that we have other things to think about besides basketball," she said.

"Coach is like a mother away from home for a lot of us. She is a very classy lady."



photo credit: Aner Barriola/staff

MINUTES	POINTS	ASSISTS	TOURNERS	STEALS	REBOUNDS	FGA	FG%	FTA	FT%	
3.8	1.0	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.8	13	3	23	10	40

vital stats. Rosalyn McLendon #23

Comeback Kids

Al Pinkins

Peace Shepard

Chris Quady, staff writer

Two players.

Same injury.

Coming off of ACL injuries, both Peace Shepard and Al Pinkins hope to make big contributions to their respective teams this season.

Peace Shepard, a 6'2" sophomore center, spent nine months rehabilitating her knee and is ready to pick up where she left off.

In her freshman season, Shepard gave the Pack some valuable production.

She saw action in 11 games. In those 11 games, she averaged 8.1 points and 4.9 rebounds.

She hit 37 of 52 field goals for a 71.2 percent average from the field, the best for any State freshman.

Last season's ACC Rookie of the Year, Chastity Melvin hit 60 percent from the field. Of course Melvin took more shots and saw more action in her first year. But coach Yow hopes Shepard can bounce back and have those numbers with more playing time.

"I'm counting on Peace to return to the form she displayed her freshman year," coach Kay Yow said. "I need her to solidify the middle behind Chastity."

A natural athlete, Shepard not only runs the floor well but also has great hands and is an exceptional rebounder according to Yow.

Shepard provides more than a break for Melvin. She provides another center for Melvin to practice against. Last season, State was missing another big body inside, so all of Melvin's work against other tall players had to come in game situations.

"Peace has really been coming along in practice," Melvin said. "She kind of reminds me of myself last year."

"She can help me play better post defense. That helps me out a lot. When I get into a game I will have worked on playing against someone that's taller. I will have worked on getting around her in practice."

Shepard's talent is not questionable, but the health of her knee is. Will she be able to play every night this season for the Pack?

"Right now the knee is at about 90 percent," Shepard said.

"But she's not letting it bother her. 'People are always asking me why I don't wear a brace,' Shepard said. "It's because I don't even want to think about the knee. It's fine."

Without the knee as a concern, Shepard can focus on helping to accomplish the team's primary goal this season—finishing first in the ACC.

Similarly, Al Pinkins has worked extremely hard on his road to recovery and may prove to do big things for the Pack this year.

Plagued with knee injuries throughout his career, the 6'7" senior forward is both strong in the paint and possesses a nice touch from the perimeter.

A junior college transfer, Pinkins played only five minutes for the Pack before being injured last season against UNC-Asheville.

However, as a freshman at Chipola Junior College, Pinkins was healthy and demonstrated the kind of numbers he can post. He

averaged 18.5 points and 6.5 rebounds per game.

He began his sophomore year at Chipola where he left off his freshman year. He averaged 15.7 points and 9.3 rebounds per game, but a knee injury slowed his production the rest of the season. In 1994 he was named by Blue Chip Illustrated to the junior college Dream Team.

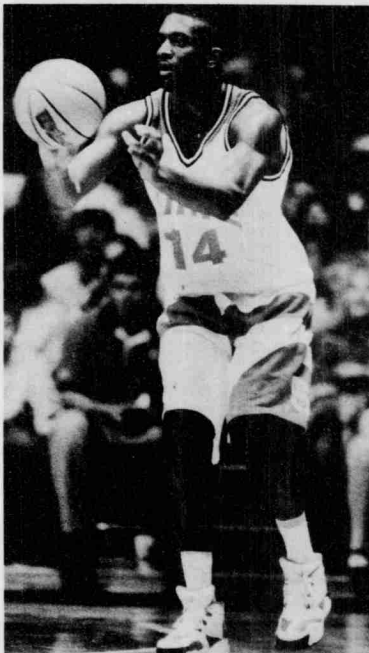
He also led Chipola to the Panhandle Conference title his freshman season.

Pinkins is versatile and should be able to provide some strength and rebounding in the paint, but at the same time he has a soft shooting touch from the perimeter.

After almost a year of rehabilitation, his knee still isn't completely 100 percent but Pinkins thinks that as the season progresses, so will he. "I have expectations to live up to," Pinkins said. "That's just something that I have to work toward. Hopefully towards the end of the season, my knee will fully recover."

Should Pinkins' knee hold up this season, he could be the missing link in the Wolfpack offense. State has needed another scorer and with Pinkins providing some size at the power forward spot, he could give the Pack another double-digit scorer.

Peace Shepard and Al Pinkins are both determined to make an impact this season. And based on their determination to recover from their injuries thus far, there isn't much that stands in their way.



MINUTES POINTS ASSISTS REBOUNDS BLOCKS STEALS
 peace shepard was red-shirted for the 1994-95 season

vital stats. **Peace Shepard #30**

MINUTES POINTS ASSISTS REBOUNDS BLOCKS STEALS
 al pinkins missed all but one game last year due to injury

vital stats. **Al Pinkins #14**

[top] photo credit: Jason Cole/Staff
 [bottom] photo credit: Hide Terada/Staff

the Road to Lesboro

Michael Preston, assistant sports editor

The legend that was "Lesboro".

The night before big games, the magical tent town that lined East Dunn Avenue used to be filled to capacity with fans and students for good reason.

Robinson became the only coach in ACC history to win 20 games his first year in the conference and earned a trip to the Big Dance. Since then, things have snowballed for the worse. Actually, it's been more like an avalanche. One that's buried the tents in the process.

"The Triangle is the greatest basketball area in America, that's why it's great to coach here," Robinson said. "If you coach in the greatest area with the great enthusiasm then you have to take the criticism and second guessing with it. 'I'd rather have that than apathy.'"

In addition to the constant losing, Robinson has dealt with everything thrown at him for the past four years. From the suicide of Tony Robinson to numerous bouts with academic ineligibility, it looked like it all might finally be getting to the eternal optimist.

A year ago, he publicly declared that if he didn't turn things around in Raleigh, he would step aside and let someone else take over the reins.

"There are other things I could do and have had the opportunities to do, but I'm doing it because I love doing it," Robinson said. "If I didn't, I would go into another area or administration which I enjoy, but not like coaching."

And as hot as it's been in the kitchen that is William Neal Reynolds Coliseum over the years, Robinson has taken the heat.

"By virtue of what we've had to go through here, I'm going to get the ultimate satisfaction," he said. "I don't know of any job in the Triangle that has been under any more scrutiny than mine."

He is also aware of the problems, both present and past. When he arrived at State, he was almost immediately hit with recruiting restrictions along with tougher, university sanctioned academic standards. The same standards that basically cost the Pack standout Chuck Kornegay (now at Villanova) and almost point guard Ishua Benjamin (presently suspended).

"Some kids tend to be more academically oriented than others and it's our job to do as good a job as we can in the selection process and try to motivate as best we can," Robinson said. "I think we have and I think we've made a lot of headway."

"Everybody we've recruited is on course to graduate in five years."

But getting the academics in order was not the only reason athletics director Todd Turner hired him. N.C. State's basketball program was in turmoil, with rumors and allegations running rampant through the media, many problems which led to thin recruiting classes and even thinner lineups.

"I have a philosophy that I've used for three years. I don't tell people about my problems," Robinson said. "Because half of the people don't care about them and the other half are happy you have them."

He says that he thinks people may have forgotten about the obstacles he, his staff and the team have had to overcome as far as recruiting goes, but he doesn't bring it up. Robinson said that he tells his players not to blame officials when they lose a game, and he tries to practice the same philosophy.

"I'm at peace with myself because I understand why we are where we are and why this is taking the time that it has and I can live with that," Robinson said. "I know that I've tried to do the right things and I can see some of it paying off."

And Robinson is well aware of the fact that students and alumni want to see wins. He acknowledged all the problems and the numerous bouts with academics, but offers no excuses for the team's 42-71 since 1992.

"Say you're a fan and you've been in a town for three years, you're sick of hearing all that other stuff," Robinson said. "They're probably saying 'Let's get on with it,' and I understand that."

But despite the record over the years, Robinson said that this year will be no different from years past. Through the recruiting problems and the academic misfortunes, Robinson said that he will always feel pressure to win and that's something he enjoys.

"If there's ever a point in my career when I don't feel pressure to succeed, I will honestly think it's time to get into another area," Robinson said. "It's part of the growing process, and this one has just been extremely long and complicated."

Hopefully, the road to recovery for Robinson and the Wolfpack basketball team will end where it began: Lesboro.



"I have a philosophy that I've used for three years. I don't tell people about my problems...

Because half of the people don't care about them and the other half are happy you have them."

north carolina state university[63-82]
east tennessee state [8-70]
the citadel[132-162]

virtual stats. **Les Robinson** coach[mens]

[top] + [bottom] photo credit: Hide Terada/staff



How Now Coach Yow?

J.P. Giglio, assistant sports editor

Kay Yow and Bobby Knight are two of the greatest coaches in college basketball.

When they've been in the game for a combined 50 years, they're bound to have some things in common.

They both have been with the same school for an eternity, are among the Top 10 winningest coaches in their respective sports and they both have coached the United States Olympic team to a gold medal.

Sure, Yow and Knight statistically have a lot in common but how they produce those numbers is totally different.

It's safe to say in 24 years of coaching college basketball, Kay Yow has never thrown a chair onto the floor or berated an NCAA official on national television.

In fact, Yow doesn't even berate her own players.

"She never yells," junior guard Nicole Mitchell said. "I've asked players from eight to ten years ago and they've never heard her yell."

But that doesn't mean there haven't been times when the coach has wanted to yell. After winning the ACC Championship in the 1990-1991 season, State went into a three year skid which they did not make the NCAA Tournament. In the '93-'94 campaign Yow suffered only the second losing season in her career.

"We had three seasons that weren't up to par with the standards we had set in the past," Yow said. "But it's not just one thing that turns a team around, it's a combination of things."

Two such things are recruiting and injuries. The two can be mutually exclusive of each other at times. Suffer through injuries to key players and the team is not going to win games. If the team doesn't win any games, the top players aren't exactly going to be knocking at your door.

Unfortunately for Yow, during the '93-'94 year, State lost its only returning starter, All-ACC guard Tammy Gibson, to an ACL injury. Then last year forward Peace Shepard suffered the same injury.

To compound the injury problems, from the '88-'89 season, Yow had four different recruiting coordinators. Three of which now hold head coaching positions at other Division I-A programs, including Karen Freeman, the head coach at Wake Forest.

"Recruiting is a key," Yow said. "No matter how hard the players try or good the coaches are, there is a certain level of talent that you need."

"The past couple of years we have brought in the type of talent that can compete at the national level."

But something happened last year at Reynolds Coliseum. In what was supposed to be a rebuilding year, the Wolfpack women won 21 games and returned to the Big Dance.

Due in large part to the emergence of ACC Rookie of the Year Chasity Melvin in the post and the backcourt combination of Tammy Gibson and Jennifer Howard the Pack advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament.

With the nucleus of that team back, Yow is excited about making a run at a trip to Charlotte, the site of this year's Final Four.

The national semi-final is one of the few achievements that has eluded her in her illustrious career.

"The Final Four is particularly enticing because it is in our state," Yow said. "We strive for the ACC Championship and to reach the Final Four. If we do it, we get it done. If we don't, we have to face the results."

But Yow is cautious about predicting where this team could end up in March.

The loss of senior starters Gibson and Kelleen Kreul have left a void in the experience department.

"Along with talent you also need experience. It takes awhile because if you lose your balance along the way, you just can't get it back instantly."

State will try to find the balance with the addition of three new freshmen and extended roles from juniors Umeki Webb and Nicole Mitchell.

Yow will find out in November how much experience counts when the team travels to Hawaii for the Wahine Classic.

In the first round, the Pack will face Oregon State, a team ranked in the Top 15 in a number of preseason polls. In the second round, the probable opponent for the Wolfpack would be Connecticut, the defending national champions.

"We could have a number of games that could go either way," Yow said. "We have to pull out more of those than not."

With Yow on the bench, don't be surprised if State does not pull out more of those games than not.

And if it doesn't, you won't hear any screaming.

north carolina state university {431-173}
elon college {57-19}

vital stats. Kay Yow COACH {women's}

{top} + {bottom} photo credit: Aner Barriola/Staff



Players Provide Depth

Jason Sutton Geoff Richards Bill Kretzer

Michael Todd, staff writer

As members of the N.C. State men's basketball team, Bill Kretzer, Geoff Richards and Jason Sutton know they are not going to see the same amount of playing time as the starters do.

But they also know they can play in the ACC.

All they need is a chance to show it. Kretzer, a 6-9 forward from Greensboro, joined the Pack in 1993. After redshirting his first year, Kretzer has played in 22 games over the past two years. Last season, Kretzer averaged over two points and almost two rebounds per game. He scored six points and hauled down six rebounds against Winthrop, both career highs.

This season will be Kretzer's fourth at State. The experience he has in the State system will be useful when he's on the court.

"I know how to run the offense and keep everything moving,"

Kretzer said. "Also, I can come off the bench and help out for a limited amount of time, and help back up Todd [Fuller]."

Although he doesn't see as much playing time as he would like, Kretzer knows his place on this team.

"It's tough," Kretzer said. "It's a role you have got to accept, work hard, and try to chance it."

"You have to learn your role.

My role the last couple of years has been to perform in practice more than in games. So that's what I try to do."

For Richards, his collegiate basketball career didn't begin with the Wolfpack. The junior from Charlotte, N.C. played his first two years at Appalachian State where he saw some playing time.

Richards injured the ACL in his right leg during his freshman year with the Mountaineers. The ensuing surgery forced him to miss most of the season. In his sophomore season, Richards played in 17 games, averaging four minutes per contest.

Adjusting to State on the court was a big step up for Richards.

"The players are completely different," Richards said. "Athletically, they're a whole lot better. The competition is at a different level."

After transferring to State and sitting out the 1993-94 season due

to NCAA rules, Richards played in nine games last year. He scored five points against Winthrop, and had six rebounds in the season-opener against Prairie View A&M.

But Richards knows that most of his playing time will come without an audience watching.

"I'll see most of my action during practice," Richards said. "You hope that you can get in a situation where you'll be able to contribute during a game."

"Everybody wants to play, but they are only five guys playing at a time, and when you have so many good players, that's the way it works out."

Sutton, a 6-3 shooting guard, could be looked upon to supply another threat from beyond the three-point line. Despite limited playing time, Sutton has made almost 35 percent of his three-point attempts.

Last year, Sutton scored a career-high of eight points against Howard.

He also had four rebounds and four assists against Winthrop.

Sutton has dedicated himself to make his game better this year.

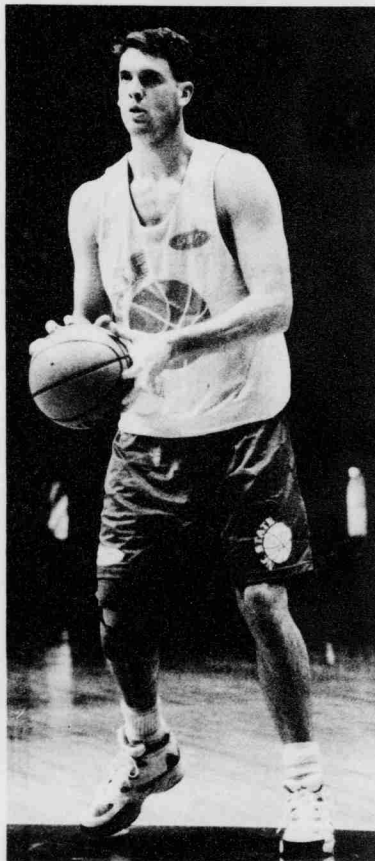
"I came in this year with a little more positive attitude," Sutton said. "I've tried to work harder in practice than I did the first couple of years here."

Sutton will get the chance to show how much his hard work has improved himself on the court.

With both Ishua Benjamin and C.C. Harrison sitting out the first couple of games this year, Sutton looks to show that he can play full-time.

"People have me down as a career reserve," Sutton said. "That doesn't mean anything to me. They're just words put on paper."

"With some guys ineligible for the first couple of games, it gives me the chance to play a little bit and show some people that I can play some quality minutes."



[clockwise from top] photo credit...
[1. B. Kretzer + 2. G. Richards] Peter Schmetz/staff
[3. Jason Sutton] Hide Terada/staff

Making the Starters Better

Tami O'Connell

Constance Poteat

Michael Todd staff writer

On the N.C. State women's basketball team, the focus is always on the players who contribute the most in the box score.

Lost in the shuffle are the players who see most of their playing time during practice.

Making the starters better is what guards Tami O'Connell and Constance Poteat are all about.

Both players push the starters to the next level during practice.

"A lot of times, they're on defense against our first team," head coach Kay Yow said, "and

they really work hard and give them a challenge."

O'Connell joined the team in 1993 as a walk-on. The 5'8" junior from Wilmington, N.C. has played in 22 games during her two years with the Pack.

O'Connell uses her work ethic and attitude to set an example for the team.

"I see myself as a positive role model who comes to practice everyday and works hard to make the team better," O'Connell said. As she continues to work hard,

O'Connell has made herself and the team better.

"Tami has worked hard during the off-season every said," Yow said. "She's in the best condition, and her strength training is the best it has ever been.

"She continues to improve in all phases of the game. She works hard in practice and gives a tremendous effort."

But O'Connell almost didn't get the chance to play for the Wolfpack.

During her junior year at Hogard High School in Wilmington, N.C., she suffered an injury to her ACL,

forcing her to miss the entire season. But she bounced back in her senior season to lead Hogard High School to a top-five finish in the state. Also, O'Connell was named

Most Improved Player of the year and earned a spot on the third-team all-state team during her final year.

During the time she was sidelined, O'Connell was able to get her life in order.

"It taught me so many things on and off the court," O'Connell said.

"I see myself as a positive role model who comes to practice everyday and works hard to make the team better"

Tami O'Connell

"Now that I look back on it, I'm almost glad it happened. It definitely turned my life around.

"Even though I don't have the scholarship, I'm happy here and glad everything happened the way it did."

Poteat, a 5'8" sophomore from Cedar Grove, N.C., played in 11 games last year. The hardest part of last season for Poteat was getting adjusted to playing in college.

"Coming in from high school, the ACC was a big change," Poteat said. "The defense has been the biggest difference. The defense is so much harder."

Last year, Poteat appeared tentative on offense as she adjusted to the defense.

But this year, she has become a better and more confident shooter. Also, she is more physical in her play and has improved her defensive skills.

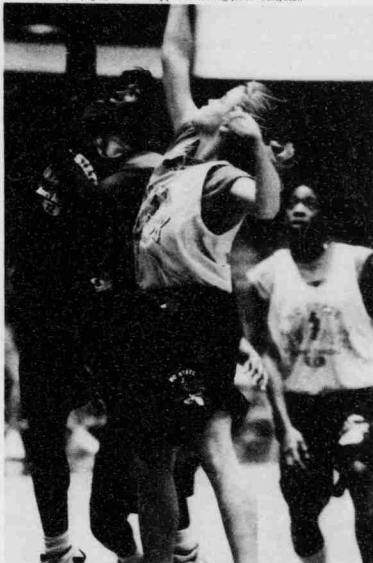
Poteat feels that she can use her new skills when she gets on the court. "Hopefully, I can just get in, give everybody a rest, and get a couple of rebounds, a couple of points," Poteat said. "Just to give the team momentum off the bench."

But, Poteat also understands that personal achievement means nothing if the team isn't successful.

"I don't have any individual goals," Poteat said. "We're a team. We want to win. We want to go to the Final Four. But we're going to take it one day and one practice at a time."



[left, C. Poteat] + [right, T. O'Connell] photo credit: Jason Cole/staff



the Future of Pack Basketball

Ivan Wagner
Steve Norton

Luke Buffum
Danny Strong

David Honea, staff writer

The N.C. State men's basketball roster includes four new faces this season. Among them are one expected starter as well as players who will provide important depth.

Junior college transfer Danny Strong is listed in State's preseason starting lineup. Strong, a 6'6" power forward, comes to State from Spartanburg Methodist College, where he earned first-team JUCO All-America honors last year.

Strong led Spartanburg Methodist to a 74-2 record and a berth in the national finals, leading the team in scoring and rebounding. He says he is ready for the less prominent role he will hold for the Wolfpack.

"The most important place I will contribute will be helping on defense, especially rebounding," Strong said. "I think I can give a little bit of scoring, too, but I won't have to be the first option like I was."

Strong comes in as a junior, but with only one month of practice he is like a freshman in the Wolfpack system. State coach Les Robinson says Strong should continue to make big strides during the season.

"Danny is still learning to fit in with our system," Robinson said. "If you asked how comfortable he is with it, he'd probably be about five out of ten right now, but he was only about a two last month. By the time the ACC schedule comes around I think he'll really be into his rhythm."

Backup center Steve Norton, a 6'11" sophomore, is also expected to contribute immediately. Norton played for Furman during the 1993-94 season, starting six games and averaging two points and two rebounds a game, before transferring to State.

Norton red-shirted last year, as required by the NCAA. He did practice with the team, working against All-ACC center Todd Fuller. He says that practice will help him fill his expected role this season, giving Fuller some much needed rest.

"It's a real job, working against Todd," Norton said. "But I get better every day because of it. Last year I didn't have the skills to play at this level, so this year of practice has been good for me."

Robinson is counting on Norton in a position where State has been lacking for two years. In the past, Robinson has been forced to play Fuller more than he would like or replace him with a much smaller player.

"Last year we had no one to put in there when Todd was tired or

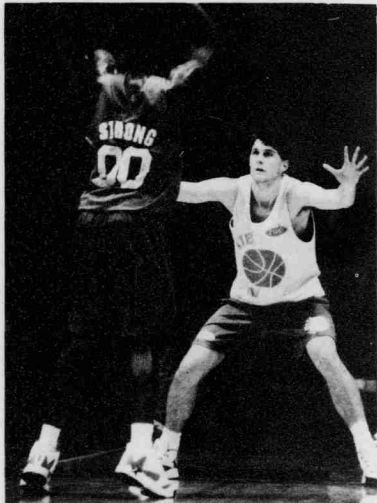
got some foul problems," Robinson said. "Steve gives us the big, strong body we need to take some of the pressure off Todd to play every minute. We will also use him at times with Todd in a double-post setup."

Although Norton will primarily be called upon for defensive and rebounding contributions, Robinson said he was developing offensively and could be a major factor for the Wolfpack down the road.

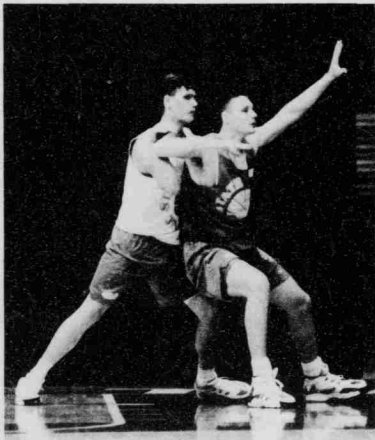
"Steve is about where Todd was at the start of his sophomore year," Robinson said. "He's learning how to use his size and developing the skills to go with it."

Freshman guard Ivan Wagner was a surprise signing for the Wolfpack in the spring, and was initially not expected to contribute much this season. But the early season suspensions of guards Isha Benjamin and C.C. Harrison will give him an extra opportunity to gain experience. He took full advantage of that in State's first exhibition game against the Charlotte Royals, scoring 19 points and handing out four

[continued on page 22]



[clockwise from top] photo credits:
[1. I. Wagner] Hide Terada/staff
[2. L. Buffum + 3. S. Norton] Peter Schmeih/staff
[4. Danny Strong] Hide Terada/staff



New Faces might Shine this Season

Kenyatta Williams LySchale Jones Tasha Newman

David Honea, staff writer

Three standout freshmen give N.C. State women's coach Kay Yow one of the ACC's best recruiting classes, and could help determine if the team can improve on last year's NCAA Sweet 16 finish.

Shooting guard LySchale Jones should make her presence felt immediately in the Wolfpack lineup. Jones was the New Jersey player of the year last year at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School in Newark, averaging 26 points and 13 rebounds a game. She was rated the number seven player in the country by the Blue Star Scouting Index.

"We are counting on LySchale to be part of the rotation on the perimeter," Yow said. "She is a very talented scorer, and we need her to come in off the bench and give us that."

"Right now LySchale lacks experience, and she needs to be stronger and better conditioned to handle playing full-time. But other than that she has everything it takes to be a great player."

Jones has a good outside shot, although she is still working to improve her ability from three-point range. Yow says Jones will

rely more on her quickness this year to penetrate and score.

"I'm looking to contribute right away," Jones said. "I feel a little bit of pressure, but I'm not worried. In high school I had to be the scorer and create things on my own, but here I can work in the system and there's really not as much pressure on me to do it all."

Kenyatta Williams, a point guard from Metairie, Louisiana, is already the quickest player on the N.C. State squad. Williams averaged 22 points and 6.3 steals a game as a senior, when she was an all-state selection. She will probably work more exclusively in a play-making role for the Wolfpack.

"I had to do a lot of the scoring in high school, but I really like assists better," Williams said. "I'll enjoy being on a team with a lot of scorers because it will give me a lot of opportunities."

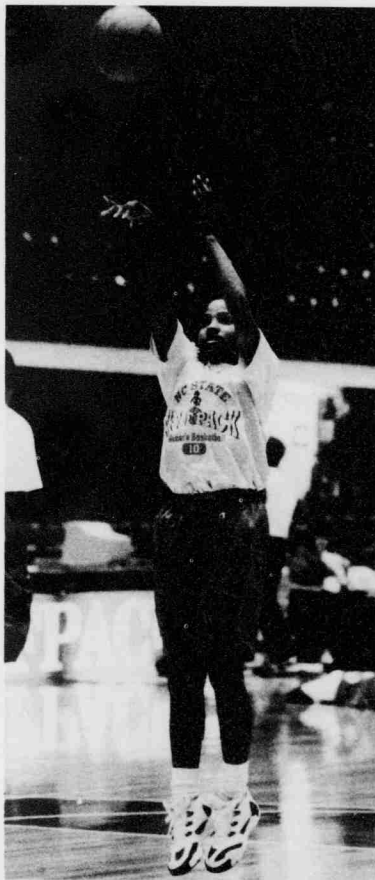
"Kenyatta is a very hard worker and has shown a lot of consistency, which is what you want at her position," Yow said. "With her quickness and hustle she can especially help apply more pressure on defense."

Although junior Jennifer Howard has started every game at point the last two years, Yow still says Williams will play an important role. She should take some of the playmaking burden off of Howard, who has average 38 minutes a game in her college career.

"We really need to get Jen some more rest, so she can be at her best at the end of games, and Kenyatta will let us do that," Yow said. "We could also use them both at the same time, which would let us get Jen even more shooting opportunities."

[continued on page 22]

[left to right] photo credits: [1. K. Williams +2. L. Jones] Aner Barriola/Staff [3. T. Newman] Jason Cole/Staff



wolfpack men's team

Aaron Morrison, sports editor

Men's basketball at N.C. State has seen it all.

The Wolfpack has seen the glory years and the gloomy years—most recently, the gloomy ones.

But the Pack has shown signs of a resurgence and this could be the year to make an impact and perhaps save Les Robinson's job.

The ACC appears to be down a little this season. Many freshmen will see lots of playing time across the board in the conference. In this year of rookies, the Pack is one of the few veteran teams.

State has five seniors and four juniors this season. Throw in Ishua Benjamin, who should play like a junior this season after averaging nearly 31 minutes per game last year, and the Pack appears to be oozing with experience.

Leading the way for the seniors will be Todd Fuller.

Fuller has emerged as one of the premier centers and players in the conference and the nation. Some magazines have called him the eighth best center in the country.

He averaged 16.5 points and 8.5 rebounds per game last season. His points per game is up from 11.8 points his sophomore season and 5.2 his freshman year.

Fuller and Wake Forest's Tim Duncan should own the paint in the conference this season.

Another key for State will of course be the play of sophomore Ishua Benjamin. Benjamin will not be allowed to play in any games until after the fall semester is over.

He saw a lot of action last season against some of the best point

guards in the nation, Tyus Edney, Cory Alexander and Travis Best to name a few.

Benjamin averaged 14 points and 4.5 assists per game in his first year and was the leading vote getter for the ACC all-rookie team.

For State to be successful, Fuller and Benjamin will have to do a lot, but even more important for the Pack will be the role players. Players like Jeremy Hyatt, Curtis Marshall and Marcus Wilson will have to step up and produce for the Pack.

Last season only three players averaged double figures in points (Fuller, Benjamin and Lakista McCuller). The closest other player was Ricky Daniels with 6.8 points per game.

State must have a consistent third and fourth scorer and a surprise

here and there in order to break back into contention in the ACC. Hyatt, Marshall and Wilson could be those players. Perhaps some of the new faces like senior Al Pinkins or junior Danny Strong can produce this season. That would be an added bonus.

In the past, the Pack has not had many good players. But now, State finally has some quality talent at every position, so Robinson will likely not have an excuse this season. His coaching ability will now be under the microscope, not his players.



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previews

women's team

Michael Preston, assistant sports editor

This may be the year a new addition will be made to the rafters in Reynolds Coliseum. And once again, it could come courtesy of the N.C. State women's basketball team.

Coming off a trip to the Sweet Sixteen and returning three starters from the team that led them there is reason to be optimistic. The media selected the Wolfpack to finish second in the conference this season and several publications have State as high as the top 10 in the nation.

Leading the attack will be the ACC's Rookie of the Year, Chastity Melvin. To go along with her five double doubles, Melvin led the team in scoring (16.4) and rebounding (7.0). In the process, she set the N.C. State freshman scoring record with 508 points.

Whether or not Melvin will suffer the dreaded sophomore jinx (read: Mark Davis) may be the biggest concern. She can count on more help down low this year since sophomore Peace Shepard has recovered from ACL surgery and is back.

Shepard was expected to contribute last year until she went down with the injury. Now, coach Kay Yow will expect Shepard to spell Melvin off the bench and help in the paint. In 11 games in 1994, Shepard averaged 5.4 boards and 8.1 points.

The other integral part of the picture will be point guard Jennifer Howard. The junior finished third in the nation in three-point percent-age (47) and ranked No. 19 in

three-pointers made per game (2.6). Howard will be looked to produce from the point again this season, combining with Melvin to form one of the best high-low combinations in the conference.

Marlee Davis is the only senior on this year's team and will be looked to for leadership, as well. The power forward from Texas was primarily used as the sixth player off the bench, but will start right away this year. During the NCAA's, Davis came to life and averaged 7.7 points and 7.0 rebounds, so pressure is nothing new to her.

Uneki Webb is the other returning starter that helped the Wolfpack women to the Cinderella run in the tournament.

Webb, who averaged 10.4 points per game last year, is going to be relied on to pick up where Tammy Gibson left off. She finished second on the Pack with 5.4 rebounds and is arguably the most athletic player Yow has.

Nicole Mitchell will start the season at the off-guard and will also have to play like she's capable. Her freshman year she recorded double figures in scoring seven times and started 24 of 26 games. Mitchell was hampered for most of last year with an ankle injury, but appears to be fully recovered.

As previously stated, Shepard will be counted on off the bench. Two of the incoming freshman will also contribute right away.

New Jersey native, LySchale Jones, a third-team high school All-American, was impressive in her first appearance in an exhibition game. She had no turnovers and seven points in her first game. Kenyatta Williams, another freshman, will be expected to come in and run the point while Howard takes a breather.

Welcome Cinderella back to the ball and don't expect the clock to strike midnight this time.

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J.P. Giglio, assistant sports editor

Youth springs eternal hope.

After winning 11 NCAA tournament games, sending four first-round picks in the NBA draft, the ACC will depend on youth to continue its reputation as the nation's best conference.

It will be difficult to top such a banner season, but with a strong contingency of underclassmen and one of the best freshman classes in the country, the ACC will be anything but mediocre.

"We lost a lot of good players, but we still have the same coaches"

N.C. State sophomore guard Ishua Benjamin said. "The coaches are the masterminds behind the whole league. If the coaches had left then I would say that the league is down."

The ACC stock has boomed in the past decade with Duke and North Carolina combining for 10 trips to the Final Four and three championships.

"We need to look to the future," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said in a July press conference. "I think there are some things we need to rebuild. The extremes that we were in for nine years, to now have the other extreme. We need to find a balance."

Krzyzewski was talking about his team, but he may as well have been

talking about the conference.

Only time will tell if the ACC can replace three players of the caliber of Maryland's Joe Smith and North Carolina's super sophomore Rasheed Wallace and Jerry Stackhouse.

One coach who should be damaged most by the early departures looks at things differently.

"Some of you might say, 'Maybe these sophomores aren't ready,'" North Carolina coach Dean Smith said after Stackhouse decided to enter the draft after his sophomore season. "If any student here had the opportunity for \$12 million for sure in the next three years, you have to consider it."

Despite losing three of the top five players chosen in the draft, the league will boast some of the best young talent in the country.

Georgia Tech coach Bobby Cremins has mined the New York City playground once again for a point guard. This time he landed Stephen Marbury, a 6'1" freshman from Abraham Lincoln High School in the Bronx.

"I've had some great New Yorkers," Cremins said. "Kenny Anderson came in and we knew he could play right away. I expect Stephen to do the same."

Down the road in Chapel Hill, coach Dean Smith has done it again. Say what you want about the man, but he can recruit. Florida schoolboy Vince Carter is his best freshman this year. Junior guard Jeff McInnis had some high praise for Carter. He said you couldn't compare his game to Stackhouse's style but they did have one thing in common.

"He can jump just as high as Stack," McInnis said. "Jerry was stronger than Vince, but Vince can knock down the three."

That can't be good news for those people counting this year to be a down year for the Tar Heels.

Up in College Park, Md. coach Gary Williams hailed in some freshman talent of his own. Wingman Laron Profit, who has been called the next Jalen Rose, and backcourt mate Terrell Stokes from Simon Gatz should pick up some of the scoring slack left by Smith.

As for returning underclassmen, there isn't a better player in the country than Wake Forest's Tim Duncan. Potential, that is the word that comes to mind when you mention Duncan's game.

According to a number of pro scouts, if he had decided to skip his final two seasons of eligibility, he

would have been the first player taken in the draft. He has only played organized basketball since the ninth grade, and at 19 his body has not fully matured yet.

He is the only returning first team All-ACC performer. Last season, the St. Croix native averaged 16.8 points and 12.5 rebounds per game. With Wallace and Smith in the NBA, those numbers could double.

Virginia's backcourt should keep coach Jeff Jones from punching anymore blackboards. The Cavs sport the best one-two guard punch in the league. Junior point man Harold Deane earned his stripes at the ACC tournament two years ago earning a spot on the first team all-tournament.

Before the season, he said he wanted to become the "toughest, smartest, and most relentless guard" to play at Virginia. His clutch NCAA play an defensive skills have put him well on his way to reaching those goals. As a sophomore he led the team in assists, averaged 16.0 points, while playing close to 35 minutes per game.

His running mate sophomore Curtis Staples is lethal from the outside the three-point arc. Staples drained 103 threes while shooting at a 42.2% clip. Staples' lightning

quick release allows him to pull the trigger from anywhere.


Right behind the Wahoons tandem will be North Carolina's Jeff McInnis and Dante Calabria. Calabria was second in the nation in three-point field goal percentage at 54%. The senior two-guard averaged 10.8 points per contest while helping on the glass with 4.8 boards a game.

McInnis returns for his junior year after leading the squad in assists and dropping in 12.3 points. The 6'4" point man was second on the team in steals to Stackhouse.


The conference finished in a four-way tie last year between Wake Forest, North Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland. All four teams advanced to the Sweet Sixteen and the Tar Heel went to Seattle for the Final Four.

There are no bad teams in the ACC. The outlook for this season has three to five teams contending for the top spot. There is no clear cut favorite, and as is every year, nobody will run away with the country's most coveted conference crown. Look for the line between the bottom and the top half of the league to become fuzzy.


Here's a look at the way Technician predicted the ACC this season.

1) Maryland 30 points  Maryland has too much experience. The Terrapins return four starters and the sixth man from last year. The core players (Earee Hipp, Johnny Rhodes, Duane Simpkins, and Keith Booth) that resurrected the Terrys from the ashes of NCAA probation will have to fly their final mission without their leader, Joe Smith.

Look for freshman help off the bench and the veteran backcourt to play well enough to put Gary Williams in the driver's seat for the beginning of the season.

2) Virginia 24 points  With Junior Burroughs now a Boston Celtic's uniform the middle is susceptible for the Cavs. It isn't pretty but coach Jeff Jones wins games.


The Wahoons advanced to the Final Eight last year, every year this team seems to peak at the end of the season. Don't look for too much early but to all the Caesars' of the ACC, beware the Ides of March.

3) North Carolina 20 points  Smith has won at least 21 games, 24 years in a row. In the spring that streak

looked to be in trouble but Carter will add some scoring punch to the lineup. And fellow freshman Antawn Jamison should bolster the post game.


But the loss of Stackhouse, Wallace, and Donald Williams may be too much to overcome. The prevailing theory is that Smith coaches better without the big names. Losing big names is one thing but Smith has never relied on two freshmen to start.

He had to have the equivalent to a root canal to pull Stackhouse and Wallace off the bench in their freshman seasons. But you don't win 800 plus games by not learning from your mistakes.


4) Wake Forest 18 points  In each of the past five seasons the Demon Deacons have been picked to finish now higher than third. Each year coach Dave Odom proves the experts wrong. But with the loss of All-American guard Randolph Childers, the heart and soul of the team, it will be tough to duplicate last season's success.

The exhibition has not been kind to the Deacs either. So in following Technician Sports rule number one, never take the chic pick, the Deacs are fourth.

On the other hand, with the return of three starters, and if Duncan can continue to make strides, don't bet against Odom.

5) Georgia Tech 16 points  The past two seasons coach Bobby Cremins huddle has burst at NCAA tournament time. This year, the Yellow Jackets will make off the bubble.


The Ramblin' Wreck will have to rely on the backcourt combo of senior Drew Barry and freshman wonderguard Stephen Marbury from New York City. The inside play of forward Matt Harpring could be the only thing in the middle this year for the Jackets but Marbury is supposed to be that good. It won't matter.


6) N.C. State 11 points  It's now or never for coach Les Robinson. The beleaguered coach has stated in May that he would step down if the program doesn't perform up to expectations. He has since backed down from that statement, but don't be fooled. State must win now.

The Wolfpack return three starters and have the troops waiting in the wings for reinforcements. Senior Todd

Fuller should be able to carry State back to respectability.

He should receive help from All-Rookie performer Ishua Benjamin. Benjamin has been suspended by Robinson for academic reasons. His return to action is contingent on his performance in the classroom. The Pack will need Benjamin's play making and 14.0 points a game.


7) Duke 10 points  The Blue Devils return Jeff Capel, Trajan Langdon, Ricky Perry, and more importantly coach Krzyzewski. The Cameron Craziess suffered through a losing season. If the Devils are to return to the "big dance," 6'10" freshman center Taymon Domzaliski will have to fill the shoes of Ferry, Laettner, and Parks.

8) Clemson 5 points  Coach Rick Barnes has implemented a Big East style of play in Death Valley that has gotten the attention of the rest of the league. The Tigers won five games last year with no player taller than 6'7".

Even though, Ike Iruher, his tallest player from a year ago won't be playing,

Barnes came away with the best recruiting class in the conference.

Rookie of the year Greg Buckner, and his 12.0 points a game, is also back for Barnes.

9) Florida State 4 points  The Seminole will build around the duo of guard James Collins and center Cory Louis. The loss of captain Bob Surra to the NBA could be a blessing in disguise for coach Pat Kennedy. Although Surra was Mr. Everything for the Noles, the offense may run smoother with a inside-outside flow with Collins and Louis.

Preview

women's teams

Aaron Morrison, sports editor • Michael Preston, assistant sports editor • J.P. Giglio, assistant sports editor

Snubbed.

That's how the ACC felt last year after only four teams were invited to the NCAA tournament. So what did the four teams that made the Big Dance do?

Virginia, North Carolina, N.C. State advanced to the Sweet 16 and the fourth, Duke, lost in the most exciting game of the tournament to Alabama in quadruple overtime.

The Cavaliers were the farthest of the quartet by making it to the Great Eight. The ACC combined for a 8-4 record.

But according to N.C. State coach Kay Yow, a repeat of last year's rejection is not likely to repeat.

"I think there should be five or more teams in the NCAA's this year," Yow said. "The most important thing is for us to compete well outside the league."

The teams in the Triangle will be given the chance to do just that. State plays its first game of the season against Pac-10 power Oregon State down in Hawaii. It's second round opponent could possibly be

the defending national champions, Connecticut. The Wolfpack's non-conference slate also includes a perennial Top 5 team in Vanderbilt.

As for coach Gail Goetsenkos and her Duke team, the Devils are in the pre-season women's NIT along with a mid-season match-up with a Seton Hall team, which lost to North Carolina in the second round of the tournament last year.

Speaking of the Tar Heels, Sylvia Hatchell's young squad will be tested right away against Connecticut in the Central Fidelity Tournament in Richmond, Va. The site of their 1994 national championship.

Not very far from Richmond, over in Charlottesville, Virginia will have as difficult a non-conference schedule in the country. The defending regular-season ACC champions will face Tennessee, Georgia and Vanderbilt.

Virginia Debbie Ryan didn't even try to get off the ground in the country with such an ambitious line-up.

"Everyone says it's their 'toughest

schedule ever,'" Ryan said at Operation Basketball. "But Tennessee, UGa and Vandy, that's three of the Top 5."

After the Cavaliers went undefeated last year in the league maybe they needed to test their skills around the country.

One team that gave the Cavaliers more than a test was Duke. The Blue Devils shocked the Wahoons in the semi-finals of the ACC tournament with an 83-82 win in overtime.

The Devils came back from a 22-point second half deficit, to send the game into overtime on a three-pointer by guard Kira Orr. Orr hit another shot at the buzzer in overtime to give the Blue Devils a trip to the finals.

With Orr returning and three other starters, the Devils should be right back in the chase of Virginia. Goetsenkos believes that the league is at all-time high.

"The conference is the best it's ever been," Goetsenkos said. "Virginia is the team to beat but beyond that it's anybody's season."

Carolina might have a tough time making a return trip to the NCAA tournament with the loss Charlotte Smith to graduation and Marion Jones to an injury.

But the Tar Heels appear to be the only with many key losses.

The Pack lost Tammy Gibson to graduation, but with returners Jennifer Howard, Umekei Webb and Chastity Melvin, State should not really miss her.

Virginia won the conference last year and became the first team to ever go 16-0 in the ACC (men's or women's). And, unbelievably, they have every starter back this season.

Wendy Palmer was the early candidate for ACC Player of the Year, but tendinitis in her knee may prevent her from having the stellar season most people predicted she would. Other than though, the Cavaliers look stronger than ever.

Duke also returns most starters from last season, four to be exact: Ali Day, Jennifer Scamion, Tysh Hall and Orr. With that kind of experience, the Blue Devils might

make a run at the title this season. Wake Forest as some returning starters.

If coach Karen Freeman can keep center Tracy Connor healthy this season, the Deacs could win plenty of games and turn the ailing program around.

Connor was plagued by stress fracture in her foot and a chronic knee injury. In her freshman season, her only fully healthy season, Connor averaged 20.6 points and 11.3 rebounds per game.

She only played in 14 games last season, but when she played she scored 16 points and grabbed nine rebounds per game.

Last season Virginia took the crown, now here are Technician's predictions for this season.

1] N.C. State 30 points (3)

We're homers, so what?

The Pack will be strong this year. Melvin could make Player of the Year and the supporting cast is one of the best ever. Howard and Mitchell in the backcourt will open up the lane for Melvin and Davis and the Pack has some depth this season.

Plus, coach Yow is a wizard and that's all we're going to say about that.

2] Virginia 24

The Cavs are most people's choice for No. 1, but they might be missing potential Player of the Year, Wendy Palmer. The other four returning starters are good, but Palmer averaged 17 points for UVA last season. That's a good chunk of the scoring. Certainly the Wahoons have good coaching and good players, but without Palmer, State takes over the reins.

3] Duke 20

The Blue Devils have four returning starters from last season. And one of them is Ali Day. Day averaged 16 points and seven rebounds for coach Goetsenkos last season at the center position. The Devils went 10-6 in the conference last year and had that quadruple-overtime showdown with Alabama in the NCAA tournament.

4] North Carolina 18

See you in Atlanta, Marion Jones. Jones is red-shirting this season so she can concentrate on her blossoming track career and a shot at the Olympics. Gone too is Charlotte Smith, who won't be hitting any more game-winning shots. Left for coach Sylvia Hatchell is a starting line-up that may consist of three freshmen. One is Chancell Wright, pre-season Rookie of the Year.

5] Georgia Tech 16

The most entertaining coach in the ACC is Agnes Brenetto and this year she has her work cut out for her. Kisha Ford returns for another year of stellar play. The 5'11" guard is a pre-season All-ACC selection and is going to have to play as such if the Jackets are to move up in the conference. Two other returning starters, Kathy Dorch and Carla Munson, will need to produce, as well.

6] Clemson 12

The Lady Tigers start four starters from last year's 9-7 team that finished fifth in the conference. Stephanie Ridgeway and Laura Connell each averaged more than 12 points and five rebounds a game. Unfortunately, the one starter they did lose was All-ACC first teamer Tara Saunooke, who all but carried the team last year.

7] Wake Forest 7

Former N.C. State assistant coach Karen Freeman at least has Troutman's own Gretchen Hollifield, who put up numbers you wouldn't believe. Last season, Hollifield averaged 40.3 minutes per game, 13.3 points, 8.1 boards, and 2.3 assists per game. Tracy Connor, who sits the bench with injuries more than she's on the court, is the missing link. She averaged 16.4 points and 9.0 boards when healthy. After those two, skill, and lack thereof, becomes a factor.

8] Maryland 6

What conference is the Terps? Headed by coach Chris Weller, owner of 401 career victories, will rely heavily on returning point guard Lillian Purvis if she wants to reach 410. Purvis averaged 8.4 points per game last year and will be dishing heavily to Stephanie Cross, who averaged 11.5 points and 6.1 boards a game as a freshman.

9] Florida State 5

Rumor has it that some people would be surprised if this team actually won a conference game this season. The Lady Notes are coming off a 3-13 conference record and return three starters from that team. Whether that is good or bad will be determined if coach Marynell Meadors gets win number 488. She has 487 presently.

technician

pre-season All-ACC picks

women.

team.
wendy Palmer UVA
chastity Melvin NCSU
ali Day Duke
jennifer Howard NCSU
tracy Connor WFU

player of the year
wendy Palmer UVA

rookie of the year
chancell Wright UNC

men.

team.
tim Duncan WFU
todd Fuller NCSU
harold Deane UVA
johnny Rhodes Maryland
drew Barry GaTech

player of the year
tim Duncan WFU

rookie of the year
stephon Marbury GaTech

Osh

[continued from page 6]

level. Robinson commented on the adjustment to college life for his star point guard and the situation he came into.

"It's hard for a freshman to come in and be the man. He had a tough year but you have to put it in perspective," Robinson said. "He didn't have the benefit of playing behind an all-star candidate like Toby Bailey at UCLA. He played without any pressure of people knowing who he was. Look, what he did in the NCAA championship game."

Robinson indicated that he is on track to return to the court after the completion of the fall semester. Robinson hopes Benjamin's academic suspension has put college life into perspective for him.

With a season of maturity under his belt, he can only get better. He has always looked good on the court, but he hopes that he will be remembered for his play and not his freshman sense.

Melvin

[continued from page 6]

outside shot," Melvin said. "Coach Yow has been working with me on finding the open person. When I get double and triple teamed I have to be able to look outside and be strong with the ball."

Pressure for individual awards may be off Melvin. Most fingers are pointing toward Wendy Palmer for ACC Player of the Year. But an early-season injury to Palmer has left her status questionable. So Melvin could be a late bet for the honor.

"I don't think she's too worried about individual awards," Davis said. "She's more interested in doing things for the team."

According to Howard, on the court Melvin has a one-track mind, and it doesn't include individual thinking.

"She is such a competitive player that when she gets out on the court all she wants to do is win, no matter what," Howard said.

Yow: "When the game starts, she just competes."

women shine

[continued from page 17]

Six foot forward Tasha Newman is the third member of the Wolfpack freshman class.

Newman scored 23 points and had 15 rebounds per game as a senior at Abilene (Tx) High School.

"Tasha is strong and can run the floor very well," Yow said. "She will be in the battle for the fourth inside position, behind our two starters and Peace Shepard off the bench. We really need that person, whoever it turns out to be, to give us depth."

Davis

[continued from page 7]

Wolfpack debut, Davis' production in both points and rebounds dropped off a little. Last year she averaged four rebounds and five points per game.

But Davis says Melvin has helped her game more than hurt it. "Since Chastity is so tall, it's good practice for me," Davis said. "I have a hard time shooting over taller people. So I worked hard on my inside game this summer, so I can be ready for her and the season."

In the Pack's trip to the NCAA tournament last season, Davis really picked up her game. Davis came off the bench and averaged eight points and seven rebounds in the tournament.

For her efforts during the '95 season, Davis earned the Wolfpack's Most-Improved-Player award.

men's future

[continued from page 16]

assist.

Wagner earned first-team all-state honors in Texas playing for San Antonio Roosevelt, where she started at shooting guard. However, at 6'11" he will probably have to move to the point to make an impact at the college level. Wagner is working now to make that transition.

"Right now I'm still trying to get comfortable with this role," Wagner said. "I'm used to the shooting guard, so I'm having to adjust that, and to the competition too. Going from Texas high school to the ACC is like going up five levels at once."

A nationally ranked high jumper (he cleared 7 feet 3 1/2 inches in the spring), Wagner could make his biggest impression on defense, where his quickness and explosiveness will pay off.

Red-shirt freshman Luke Buffum also joins the State lineup. Buffum was a walk-on for the Wolfpack last year, when he redshirted but practiced with the team.

Buffum, a 6'8" forward, excelled at Beverly Hills High in California, where he averaged 26 points and nine rebounds per game as a senior. In addition to his size, he brings a good outside shooting touch to the Wolfpack bench.

Although Yow said Newman is very talented, she is the least developed of the three freshmen in terms of basketball skills. Newman sees this year's practice and playing time as a chance to build for the future.

"This year really is a chance for development, to go against bigger and better players," Newman said. "I don't know yet exactly what my role will be, but I hope to use it as a learning experience."

Marshall Webb

[continued from page 7]

to help the team win," Marshall said. "Whether that's scoring, or distributing the ball, I'll do it."

Marshall has been consistent in his three years at State. During his sophomore and junior seasons he was the Pack's second leading scorer, averaging 10.7 points per game. And in the 1993-94 season he led the Pack in the dirty-work categories, leading the team in assists, steals and free-throw percentage, while winding-up second in three-point field goals.

During that same season, Marshall was instrumental in preserving State's five conference wins, when he went an impressive 24-of-28 from the charity stripe during those games.

But it's what he has yet to do, not what he has done, that weighs on the mind of Marshall.

"I think we can finish in the upper echelon of the ACC, and we can get back to the NCAA

Tournament," Marshall said. "We just have to play together and keep a winning attitude no matter what happens. Keep up the team concept and play good defense, and we'll be competitive."

Marshall's perseverance has done more than make a good story, it's given other players a reason to step up their play. After all, only Les Robinson has logged more hours for the Red and White than Marshall, so if anything, the team wants to send Marshall out a winner.

"Curtis, being a second-year senior, is going to bring a lot of experience," said fellow senior forward Marcus Wilson. "He'll be able to handle the ball under pressure and in shooting. So he'll provide the leadership role that we need."

This season looks to be one that will be highlighted by Benjamin's slashing moves to the basket, or Todd Fuller's quest at being Everybody's All-American Everything. But to Curtis Marshall, it's a chance to finish what he came here to do—be a winner. After all, he's waited a while to get back on the court. And he feels he's more than ready to get back into the thick of things.

"I'm just excited. I haven't played a game in two years," Marshall said.

"It feels good to be back."

[continued from page 8]

get it together."

But first on the agenda is the regular season and the re-vamped ACC. Every team, with the possible exception of North Carolina, is looking to be somewhat improved this season. But Webb feels that the Wolfpack is as good, if not better, than all the other conference teams. As for the rest of the nation, Webb says just wait and see.

"Last year was our transition year," Webb said. "We proved that we can play with the best schools, and now we are one of the best schools."

"We'll just have to prove that we can't beat the best schools."

As much of a team player as Webb is, it's hard to deny any impact she makes when she gets in the ballgame. To go along with her scoring, rebound and steal averages, she should be noted for several other statistics.

She managed to lead State in rebounding five times and assists eight times during the season. And she churned out tournament-time numbers twice during the regular season, earning double-doubles versus eventual NCAA champion Connecticut, and then against arch-rival Carolina. She finished the season as the Pack's No. 2 rebounder, and reached double-figures scoring on 17 separate occasions.

"These numbers led Webb to her second stint on the U.S. Olympic Festival South team. This year she had the privilege of playing alongside fellow Wolfpack players Jennifer Howard, Chastity Melvin and transfer Kristen Gillespie.

That experience, plus the freshmen on the team, should help provide a strong nucleus for the 1995-96 season.

"We have three good freshmen who can come on the bench and contribute," Webb said. "Then we have Jenn (Howard) and Chastity (Melvin) back, as well as Muriel (Davis) and myself, so I think we should have a very good season. If we don't, it will be very disappointing."

No matter how the season turns out for the Pack, one thing for certain is that Umeki Webb will be anything but disappointing.

"I feel good to be back."

Hyatt

[continued from page 9]

versatile player last year.

He chipped in 5.8 points per game, contributed on the glass with 4.0 rebounds, and finished second on the team with 70 assists.

He continued to earn his label as defensive specialist by finishing second on the team with 33 steals.

Heading into this year, Hyatt is looking to add to his offensive repertoire to compliment his defensive game.

"I want to win my numbers," the Jacksonville, Fla. native said. "I know I can shoot the ball. My confidence is rising every day."

One thing that Hyatt would like to see rise is the win total. After being picked to finish eighth by the media at Operation Basketball, Hyatt would like to think the writers for thinking so lowly of the team.

"I take that as an insult," he said. "It gives us momentum heading into the season to prove everybody wrong. It takes a lot of pressure off us. The media isn't expecting us to do too much."

"But we know what we can do." But disrespect from the media is nothing new for Hyatt. Besides being a member of the media's favorite whipping post, the basketball team, Hyatt was involved in a tussle with five football players which led to a media frenzy.

"The whole thing was blown out of proportion," Hyatt said. "It was a freak accident that I wasn't even involved in, but ended up being involved in it."

"There are no bad feelings between me and any of the football players."

With the off-season turmoil behind him and a permanent role on the team, Hyatt is ready to make headlines for the right reasons.

C.C.

[continued from page 10]

giving them credit. Harrison said that the team is farther along at this point than it was at the same time last year.

"We want to change the program around this year," he said. "Get some wins under our belts, finish top four in the conference and get a bid to the NCAA's."

FOLLOW THE

wolfpack THIS WINTER WITH technician sports

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Appt. or walk-in



2906 Hillsborough St. across from Hardee's

Wolfpack Roster

Men

1995.1996

Women

#	NAME	POS	HGT	WGT	CLASS	HOMETOWN	#	NAME	POS	HGT	CLASS	HOMETOWN
05	Ishua Benjamin	G	6'5"	180	So.	Concord	34	Muriel Davis	5'10"	G	Fr.	Dallas, TX
45	Luke Buffum	F	6'6"	195	R-Jr.	Beverly Hills, CA	14	Jennifer Howard	5'7"	G	Jr.	Newton
52	Todd Fuller	C	6'1"	255	St.	Charlotte	00	LySchale Jones	5'10"	G	Fr.	Newark, NJ
23	Clint Harrison	G	6'4"	180	So.	Reidsville	23	Rosalyn McLendon	6'2"	F	So.	Rockingham
20	Jeremy Hyatt	G	6'6"	190	Jr.	Jacksonville, FL	44	Chasity Melvin	6'3"	F	So.	Roseboro
54	Bill Kretzer	F	6'9"	230	R-Jr.	Greensboro	10	Kenyatta Williams	5'5"	G	Fr.	Metairie, LA
11	Curtis Marshall	G	5'11"	175	R-Sr.	Omaha, NE	11	Nicole Mitchell	5'7"	G	Jr.	Vienna, VA
50	Steve Norton	C	6'11"	250	R-So.	Asheville	31	Tami O'Connell	5'7"	G	Jr.	Wilmington
14	Al Pinkins	F	6'6"	220	R-Sr.	Camilla, GA	32	Constance Poteat	5'8"	G	So.	Cedar Grove
31	Geoff Richards	F	6'8"	205	R-Sr.	Charlotte	30	Peace Shepard	6'2"	F	Jr.	Swansboro
00	Danny Strong	F	6'8"	205	R-Sr.	Great Falls, SC	21	Umeki Webb	5'10"	G/F	Jr.	Dallas, TX
10	Jason Sutton	G	6'3"	180	Jr.	Fayetteville						
04	Ivan Wagner	G	6'1"	185	Fr.	San Antonio, TX						
25	Marcus Wilson	F	6'8"	190	St.	Monroe						

Head Coach: Les Robinson [NCSU '65]
 Associate Coach: Al Daniel [Furman '79]
 Assistant Coach: Eddie Bjeldenbach [NCSU '68]
 Director of Sports Medicine: Charlie Rozanski [Salem State '80]

Head Coach: Kay Yow [21st season]
 Associate Coach: Stephanie Glance [Rollins '86]
 Assistant Coach: Robin Pate [NCSU '91]
 Assistant Coach: Jen Price [Taylor '92]



Game Schedule.Men

November

Wed 8 North Carolina AAU [EXHIBITION] 7:30pm
 Wed 15 Australian National Team [EXHIBITION] 7:30pm
 Sat 25 VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE 7:30pm
 Mon 27 WINTHROP 7:30pm
 Thurs 3 WOFFORD 7:30pm

December

Sat 9 @ Davidson 3:30pm
 Wed 20 UNC-ASHEVILLE 7:30pm
 Sat 23 @ Cal. Poly SLO 10:00am
 28-30 Rainbow Classic @ Honolulu, HA
 Thurs Massachusetts 11:50pm [ESPN]
 Fri USC or Michigan [TBA] [ESPN2]
 Sat Syracuse, Illinois, Hawaii, or Rhode Island [TBA] [ESPN]

January

Tue 2 @ WESTERN CAROLINA 7:30pm
 Thur 4 @ North Carolina* 8:00pm [RAYCOM]
 Sat 6 @ Virginia* 1:30pm [RAYCOM/ESPN2]
 Tue 9 BOSTON UNIVERSITY 7:30pm
 Sat 13 FLORIDA STATE* 12:00pm [RAYCOM/ESPN2]
 Mon 15 @ Central Florida 7:30pm [SUNSHINE*]
 Thurs 18 DUKE* 8:00pm [RAYCOM]
 Sat 20 @ Maryland* 12:00pm [RAYCOM/ESPN2]
 Wed 24 GEORGIA TECH* 7:30pm
 Sat 27 @ Clemson* 12:00pm [ESPN]
 Wed 31 @ Wake Forest* 7:00pm [ESPN]

February

Sat 3 NORTH CAROLINA* 9:00pm [RAYCOM]
 Thurs 8 VIRGINIA* 7:00pm [ESPN]
 Sun 11 7-1b Shoot-Out @ Phoenix, AZ 1:30pm [ABC]
 NC State vs Arizona State 3:30pm
 Cincinnati vs Arizona 7:00pm
 Wed 14 @ Florida State* @ Duke* 12:00pm [RAYCOM/ESPN2]
 Sat 17 MARYLAND* 9:00pm [ESPN]
 Thur 22 @ Georgia Tech* 1:00pm [RAYCOM/ESPN2]
 Sun 25 CLEMSON* 7:30pm
 Wed 28
 March
 Sat 2 WAKE FOREST* 1:30pm [RAYCOM]
 ACC Tournament @ Greensboro [RAYCOM/ESPN]

Game Schedule.Women

November

Sat 15 Hungary [EXHIBITION] 7:00pm
 Sun 19 USA National Team [EXHIBITION] 7:00pm
 Wahine Classic @ Honolulu, HA [Washington St, Oregon St, Conn., N. Arizona, Hawaii, Baylor, Fairfield]
 Fri 24 [TBA]
 Sat 25 [TBA]
 Sun 26 [TBA]

December

Sat 2 @ East Carolina 3:00pm
 Charleston Southern 7:00pm
 @ Western Kentucky 7:00pm
 North Carolina A&T Big Four Classic @ Greensboro Coliseum [Duke, UNC, NCSU, WFL, Auburn, Georgetown, Syracuse, Kentucky]
 Fri 29 NCSU vs Syracuse 7:00pm
 Sat 30 NCSU vs Kentucky 7:00pm

January

Tue 2 @ Maryland* 7:30pm
 Thur 4 DUKE* 7:00pm
 Tue 9 @ Florida State* 7:00pm
 Fri 12 @ Virginia* 7:30pm [ESPN2]
 Mon 15 GEORGIA TECH* 7:00pm [HTS]
 Wed 17 NORTH CAROLINA* 7:00pm #
 Sat 20 @ Clemson* 7:30pm
 Tue 23 @ Wake Forest* 7:00pm #
 Sat 27 MARYLAND* 2:00pm #

February

Fri 2 @ Duke* 7:00pm
 Sun 4 Vanderbilt @ Charlotte 1:30pm [ABC]
 Wed 7 VIRGINIA* 7:00pm #
 Sun 11 FLORIDA STATE* 2:00pm #
 Wed 14 @ Georgia Tech* 7:00pm
 Sun 18 @ North Carolina* 2:00pm [HTS]
 Wed 21 CLEMSON* 7:00pm
 Sun 25 WAKE FOREST* 2:00pm #
 March
 Fri-Sun 3 ACC Championship @ Rock Hill, SC 7:00pm
 Sat NCAA Championship @ Charlotte, NC 7:00pm

BOLD CAPS = home matches, * = ACC matches, # = WKFTV40.
 † = Regional Sports Networks [Home Team Sports, SportSouth, SunShine]