

Technician Sports

1001 October 22, 1996

Herb Sendek

The
new
leader
of the
Pack

Howard & Webb

The seniors lead the
Wolfpack Women

Strong & Benjamin

The backcourt revival

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From the Editor

This is the sixth tab that I've worked on and the fourth that I've edited. I can honestly say, I didn't think this one was going to make it.

If it wasn't for a number of people, it wouldn't have. I hate how these things always end up as a giant laundry list of thank-yous.

In the end all you really care about, or should, is the basketball team. This year's will be unlike any other. There will definitely be surprises.

Each time I speak to Coach Sendek I just get the feeling that he has this secret weapon up his sleeve.

Anyway, back to giving thanks. Let's start with Mike Cuales. Mike did a good job of making the cover what I wanted it to look like.

Woody Wallace again did a marvelous job in designing the preview.

There wouldn't be a tab without

K. Gaffney. Chung, as she is known as in the Orient, wrote countless stories that were not assigned to her.

Don't be surprised if it is she writing one of these lengthy verbose rants in the near future.

I can't forget James M. Lail and Michael Preston. You might be a Sendek Rednek if you like his preview.

It's funny how positive Mike can be when he wants to.

Well, this is it. If you don't like this one, well, I've had four cracks at it, I'll never get it right.

Seriously, both basketball teams will surprise you this year. Be young, have fun and take advantage of Reynolds Coliseum while you can.

ENJOY,

J.P. GIGLIO
PREVIEW EDITOR



JASON COLE/STAFF

The season tips off (sorry) tonight against Florida Atlantic.

Technician

North Carolina State University's
Student Newspaper Since 1920

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ON THE COVER: Herb Sendek (duh) on the new court. Photos take by Hide Terada and Salvador Farfan III. Designed by Woody Wallace and Mike Cuales.

Starting over begins today

J.P. Giglio

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■ Owls and losses and revenge — Oh my!

The schedule-makers couldn't have known. Just keep telling yourself that.

Tonight, just in case you've been sequestered for the last six months, is

the official beginning of the Herb Sendek Era of N.C. State basketball.

Here is the irony of all ironies, this puts Alanis Morissette's spoon dilemma to shame: In what could be the paramount symbol of futility during Les Robinson's six year of coaching, in 1994 State lost to Florida Atlantic, at Reynolds Coliseum, 75-71.

Not only was that the first season the Owls fielded a varsity squad, but they were ranked a whopping No. 302 out of, you guessed it, 302 Div. 1-A teams by the Sagarin computer ratings.

Three seasons later, Florida Atlantic returns to the scene of the crime, with a new coach and a new cast of characters. Not many Wolfpack fans expect a sequel.

But there is little else to expect

from this year's men's basketball team. To say they are an enigma would be an understatement. To say things have changed since that forgettable February night wouldn't do justice to the situation.

A new coach, a new floor and new uniforms are three to name a few. Early signings of the nation's best high school players are another.

But that's still a year away. Most

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Location	Raleigh
Founded	1887
Enrollment	27,537
Nickname	Wolfpack
Colors	Red, White
Arena	Reynolds Coliseum (12,400)
MEN	
Coach	Herb Sendek (Carnegie-Mellon)
Career at State	63-26, 4 years
'95-'96	first
NCAA Titles	15-16 Overall, 3-13 ACC (9th)
Final Four	2 (74, '83)
NCAA Appearances	3
	17 (27-16)
WOMEN	
Coach	Kay Yow (ECU)
Career at State	508-202, 25 years
'95-'96	451-182, 21 years
	20-10, 10-6 ACC (3rd)

fans are cautiously optimistic about this season. There is no player in the starting lineup over 6'8". Forgive my penchant for seeing the glass half-full, but so what?

See GIGLIO, Page 8 ▶

Holy Yow, they're good

■ Because any list of 10 has become so cliched, here are seven essentials you need to know about the N.C. State women's basketball team.

BY KEVIN BREWER
Special to Technician

1. Center Chasity Melvin has renewed her commitment to the game.

The 6'3" center has flirted with becoming great in the past with Rookie of the Year honors as a freshman and sporadic greatness as a sophomore. But as a junior, look for Melvin to have a breakout year.

Melvin described last season as frustrating. So she started the off-season by playing in a Raleigh summer league.

"It kept me excited about basketball," Melvin said. "It made realize how much I really love the game."

Melvin, one of best post players in the ACC, also hit 1,000 three-

“We lose her enthusiasm. But that doesn't mean there aren't other people who can give us that.”

—Kay Yow,
on losing Nicole Mitchell

pointers during the summer at the encouragement of Coach Kay Yow. In the team's new motion offense, Melvin won't be in the post exclusively, making it harder on teams to guard her.

Finally, Melvin said she is practicing and playing hard every day, "instead of just whenever we need it."

2. State will be a different team with Kristen Gillespie.

Gillespie, a transfer from Auburn, was scheduled to be the team's new



SAVILVOR FAYFAN III/STATE

Coach Sendek is ready to figure out the ACC first hand.

point guard. But the 5'11" sophomore has been out with a torn ligament in her left elbow.

So far, Jennifer Howard has played the point, and the Wolfpack hasn't cut down on its turnovers from last season.

With Gillespie, State gets more height and athleticism at the position. She can give opposing perimeter players trouble on defense and see over them on offense. She could play as early as Saturday against George Mason, but it could be at late as the end of the month. This also means that ...

3. Howard will be moving to shooting guard.

The 5'6" senior co-captain has been one of the best shooters in the nation over the past three seasons, but she's also been stuck running State's offense at the same time.

Not any more. Howard could break the ACC record for three-pointers as early as

Saturday. She is five long bombs from breaking the mark set by Clemson's Tara Saunooke. Howard is already the conference's most accurate three-point shooter ever with a .440 percentage through Wednesday.

And she isn't the only co-captain changing positions either.

4. Umeki Webb will be moving to power forward.

The 6'0" senior led the team in rebounding and assists last season from the small forward spot. This season, Yow is trying to put her rebounding ability and post moves closer to basket without sacrificing her passing and perimeter defense — which was among the best in the nation.

"It lets me get down and be a stronger rebounder," Webb said. "I could be at the high post, and I'll be posting up more. But it won't take away any of my strengths."

See TB, Page 5 ▶



HERB SENDEK

Not your garden variety Herb

■ Coach Sendek's quick start has Wolfpack fans ready for a return to the big-time.

BY J.P. GIGLIO
Preview Editor

If nothing else, Herb Sendek is impressive.

There weren't too many fans, Wolfpack or otherwise, who heard of Sendek before he was hired as the 17th head coach of the men's basketball team on April 17.

Sure, his *vitae* includes coaching with Rick Pitino, recruiting Jamal Mashburn and leading Miami (Ohio) to a first-round upset of Arizona in the 1995 NCAA Tournament.

In less than six months, Sendek has done more than his share to become a household name. He upheld his reputation as a top-notch recruiter with the commitments of five prep players in the Top 100.

He replaced the quasi-Ronald McDonald court in Reynolds Coliseum with a vanilla-plain surface.

While he was at it, the *nouveau* Erector-set uniforms followed the floor back to basics. Whoever said that Rome wasn't built in a day, forgot to tell Sendek.

"We want to be consistently simple and sharp," Sendek said.

If nothing else, Herb Sendek is a true student of the game of basketball.

At Miami, he compiled a 63-26 record in three seasons. All of which the Redskins participated in the post-season.

His winning percentage at the Division I-A level is a lofty .708. He picked up Mid-American Conference Coach of the Year for his efforts. Sports Illustrated also recognized Sendek as one of the Top 10 recruiters in the country.

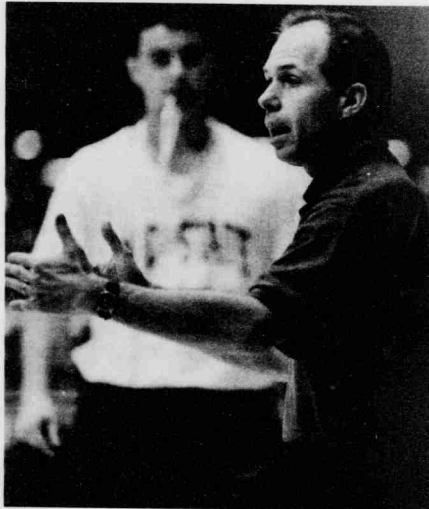
His whirlwind recruiting this summer has been nothing short of spectacular. The top players across the country are returning their attention to Raleigh.

He doesn't take the credit for the success, however. And from what we know of Sendek, that shouldn't surprise anyone.

"We understand to effectively recruit, we need the help of everyone involved," Sendek said. "Our entire coaching staff this year, did as good a job as any four coaches could do in recruiting."

If nothing else, Herb Sendek is different.

Seventeen years ago, when Jim Valvano was hired, he instantly



PETER SCHMIDT (ABC/2), SANDY/OK FARRAS III/STAFF
Coach Sendek has rolled up his sleeves in practice. (Below) His wife and his daughter join him at Reynolds in April.

became a national character. His trip

to the wrong Greenville, the one-liners and of course, the smile.

Robinson entered under extremely different circumstances, but is a character in his own right. Less flamboyant, but nevertheless a likeable guy.

Sendek is like neither one of his predecessors. It's not a flate, either. There's no law that dictates the coach has to be the life of the party.

Certainly Marco Harrison or Ivan Wagner could attest to Sendek's seriousness.

If nothing else, Herb Sendek wants to win.

Putting Wolfpack basketball back on the map is his primary concern. That takes winning basketball games. Sendek knows that he wasn't hired to lose.

"It is important to live in day-tight compartments," Sendek said. "The journey itself is the reward."

Sendek's journey has just begun, if it ends as fantastically as it has begun. Herb Sendek, if nothing else, will be a legend.



Fourth and final turn for co-captains

■ Jennifer Howard and Umeki Webb look to return to the NCAA Tournament for the third straight year.

BY K. GAFFNEY
Staff Writer

Senior leadership, you ask? That's one concept that the N.C. State women's basketball team won't have to worry about this season.

Jennifer Howard and Umeki Webb have been at the center of the Wolfpack Women's basketball team since they came to State.

As freshmen, both had immediate impact on the State squad.

Howard was the 1994 MVP, leading the team in scoring, led the nation in free throw percentage, while breaking two rookie records at

State.

Webb started in 20 of the Wolfpack's 27 games, and led the team in steals and rebounds.

Now 1996, in the midst of their final year, they now look to finish out their storied careers at State atop the ACC.

Last season, Webb ranked in the top ten in the conference in four different categories. Webb's totals of 231 rebounds, 139 assists and 59 steals were also tops on the Wolfpack squad.

Howard is no stranger to ACC honors. The senior guard has been named to the second team All-ACC for the past two seasons, and in her outstanding freshman campaign, she was part of the conference All-Freshman team.

In just three seasons, Howard has amassed the ACC's leading career three-point field goal percentage, this

after leading the league for the past two seasons in all three point categories.

Howard is also the Wolfpack's career leader in three-point shots made, and needs just 15 more treys to take over the top spot on the conference career lists.

Webb and Howard take their leadership off of the court as well. This will be the second year with the duo acting as the team's captains.

The State seniors are also looking beyond the ACC, specifically to the post-season.

"I really feel like we are starting where we left off two years ago as opposed to last year," said Howard after the Wolfpack's 79-50 drubbing of Appalachian State in the first round of the Women's National Invitational Tournament.

"Last season was so disappointing, the way we left the tournament,"

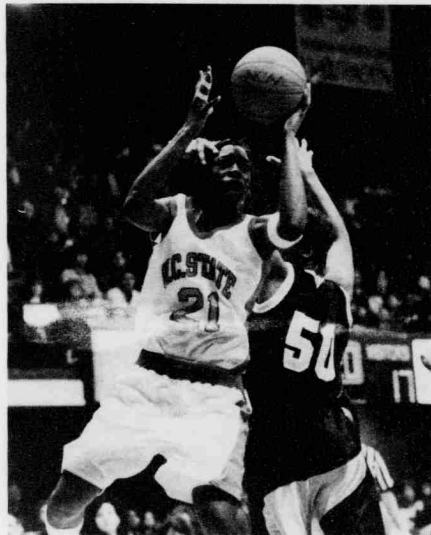


TECHNICIAN FILE PHOTO

Jennifer Howard won't have to worry about playing the point.

continued Howard. "We don't want to do that again.

With Howard and Webb leading the Wolfpack both on and off of the court, that might not be a problem for State.



TECHNICIAN FILE PHOTO

Umeki Webb's versatility has been her strength. The senior ranked in the Top 10 in the ACC in points, rebounds and assists. Just don't call her "World Wide".

Ten

Continued from Page 3

5. Freshman Katie Smrcka-Duffy is just what the Wolfpack needed.

Teams had a simple perimeter scouting report last year: Stop Howard, and you stop the outside game. That's where Smrcka-Duffy comes in.

The jump-shot prodigy scored 28 points and grabbed 13 rebounds in her college debut against Appalachian State. Although she's had a hard time repeating since then, Smrcka-Duffy gives Howard a Tammy Gibson-type complement — and that will give opposing defenses a lot of trouble.

6. Nicole Mitchell is gone.

The shooting guard scored a career-high 18 points against Alabama in the second round of the NCAA Tournament last season. A few months later, she called it quits. Mitchell will graduate next month and plans to marry former Pack tennis player Merritt Laxen.

"We lose her experience," Yow said. "We lose her enthusiasm. But that doesn't mean there aren't other people who can give us that."

A similar player on this year's team is reserve guard Constance Poteat.

"It lets me get down and be a stronger rebounder,"

— Umeki Webb,
State co-captain

The 5-9 junior can play tenacious defense and rebound from the perimeter — just like Mitchell. Now, taking the always brutal charge is the next step.

7. This will be State's — or any other team's — best chance to take Virginia's place at the top.

The Cavaliers compiled an 86-8 ACC record on its way to winning every regular season title since 1990, when the Wolfpack took the prize. This season, five teams have a legitimate shot at first place, including all three Triangle squads.

One of the keys for State will be to end its 13-game losing streak against the Cavaliers, preferably on Jan. 11 in Raleigh. That homecourt advantage will be another factor in winning the conference.

Another will be the clutch shooting of Melvin, Howard and Smrcka-Duffy along with the play of reserves Peace Shepard, LySchale Jones, Kenyatta Williams and Poteat.



FRONTCOURT

Quick is as quick does

Al Pinkins (right) hopes to be with the Pack come January. His knees could hinder him from playing extensively in the first semester.

TECHNICIAN FILE PHOTO



■ **Depth in backcourt will have to compensate for lack of height.**

BY **TIM HUNTER AND K. GAFFNEY**
Staff Writers

With returning starters Jeremy Hyatt and Clint Harrison, as well as veterans Ishua Benjamin and Jason Sutton, the Wolfpack has a talented mix that is as experienced as any in the ACC.

Add in heralded freshman

Justin Gaaney, and first year head coach Herb Sendek has reason to be confident about the Wolfpack's backcourt this season.

"The coaches expect a lot from us this season, and we as a team want to fulfill those expectations," said Harrison.

Hyatt, a versatile 6'5" senior, leads the way for the Pack, although he will see time at forward this year.

C.C. Harrison brings added experience to the backcourt, having started over half of the

games last season at the two-guard, averaging just under six points a game. The 6'4" junior from Reidsville, N.C. is a deft shooter and a solid ball handler.

Some strengths of the backcourt include the State's "quickness, defense, hustle, and helping each other out," Harrison pointed out.

Junior Ishua Benjamin (Concord, N.C.), a defensive specialist and superb passer, brings two years of varsity experience.

See PACK, Page 7 ▶

Melvin & Peace take it to post

■ **The Wolfpack have depth in the frontcourt.**

BY **K. GAFFNEY**
Staff Writer

Return the team's best offensive player, the team's best defensive player, and you've got a front court that will strike fear into the hearts of the opponent.

Returning starters Chasity Melvin and Umeki Webb are joined by two junior forwards on the blocks for Coach Kay Yow and the 1996-97 Wolfpack.

Melvin, awarded top offensive honors by her teammates last year, has led the team in scoring for the past two seasons. She has also led the team in rebounds, averaging 7.0 in 1995 and 7.7, along with Webb in 1996.

The 6'3" forward quickly established respect as one of the Atlantic Coast Conference's top inside players. Melvin took home the 1995 ACC Rookie of the Year honors, as well as being named to the second team All-ACC last season.

After just two seasons at State, Melvin's career scoring average places her fifth all-time, among the likes of Wolfpack great Andrea Stinson and Genia Beasley.

"Chasity has a much stronger work ethic this year than last year."

— Kay Yow,
head coach

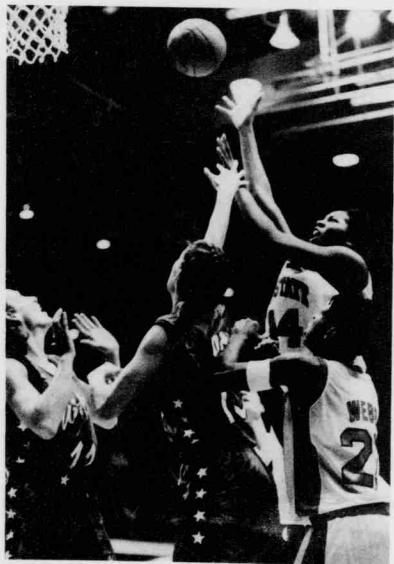
Despite all of that, Melvin looks even better this season according to the coaching staff.

"Chasity has a much stronger work ethic this year than last year," Coach Yow said.

Webb returns as last season's MVP, and was given to nod as the top defensive player by her Pack teammates.

Webb played a major role both offensively and defensively for the Pack, in the 1995-96 season, leading the team in rebounds, assists, and steals. She ranks in the top fifteen all-time at State in four categories, including career scoring average, as her 11.0 average over three seasons places her 13th all time.

Peace Shepard also looks to be a force in the paint for the Pack. The 6'2" forward played in 29 of the Wolfpack's 30 games last season,



TECHNICIAN FILE PHOTO

Chasity Melvin (44) has been up against the best.

averaging 5.3 points per game, after sitting out the previous season recovering from an ACL injury.

Shepard has proved herself to be a force inside so far this year. She came off of the bench against Appalachian State in the first round of the Women's National Invitational tournament to score nine points. Her performance, which also included four rebounds and a block, earned her a starting role in the semifinals

against Louisiana Tech.

Rosalyn McLendon also looks to be coming off of the bench for the Pack. In 23 games last season, McLendon scored in double figures twice.

State will also be awaiting the return of freshman Linda Pshigoda, who currently is sitting out due to knee injuries. The 6'2" post player is day to day, but hopes to be back as soon as possible.

Three marks the spot for Strong



JASON COLE/STAFF

Three, three, three, three and how about another... three.

■ Danny Strong brings more than usual to the court this year.

BY MICHAEL PRESTON
Staff Writer

As each new season arrives, the slate starts clean. No dismal shooting performances, no gut-wrenching losses, no missed chances.

And being a senior, every chance to hit the three, every chance to grab the board, every chance to make your university a winner is just that much more special.

In the case of N.C. State forward Danny Strong, he's brought a little more to his final season than just optimism.

"You just go out and play as hard as you can, and it can be difficult, but we have to make the adjustment."

—Danny Strong, State forward

He still has the fracture healing in his thumb," new Coach Herb Sendek said of Strong's recovering. "One day, Danny had a cold, the runs, a blister on his foot the size of a golf ball and a growth problem.

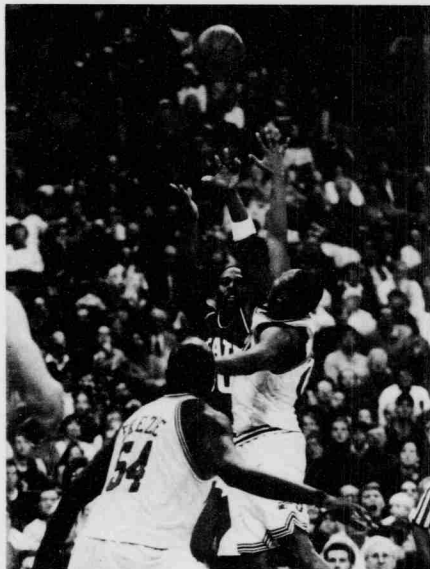
"Other than that, he's doing fine."

However, with the loss of first-round pick Todd Fuller to the Golden State Warriors, "fine" may not be enough to carry the Pack this season. With only perennial role player Steve Norton over 6'9", Strong's responsibilities suddenly shift from primary three-point threat to primary rebounding terror.

Despite the fact that he finished third on the team in rebounds last year behind Fuller and Al Pinkins, who bears the burden won't fall to him alone.

"It's totally different with everyone being on the same page, being really big into teamwork," Strong said.

Last season, with the game plan instituted by former Coach Les Robinson, the strategy was to fire at will. Often times, Strong would put up monster numbers, which include a 31-point explosion against Georgia Tech and a 26-point performance at Maryland.



JASON COLE/STAFF

Danny Strong had one of his best games at Maryland.

As a result, more than half of Strong's field goals came from behind 19'9". He finished the year as the team leader in three-pointers and three-point attempts, with 47 and 118, respectively.

This year, the pace of the game may not change as much, but the

instead of one main weapon, there could very well be five of them on the floor.

"It will be up-tempo," Strong said. "You just go out and play as hard as you can, and it can be difficult, but

See STRONG Page 8 >

Pack

Continued from Page 6

rience to the Pack. The second returning scorer from last year's squad with 8.9 points per contest, the 6'5" Benjamin has shown flashes of brilliance in his two years at State.

Three-point marksman Jason Sutton comes into the season with three years of experience under his belt. A solid point guard with deadly range from beyond the arc, Sutton

(6'3", Fayetteville, N.C.) was second in three-point percentage behind forward Danny Strong last season.

Finally, freshman point guard Justin Gainey (6'0, 176, Greensboro) brings a fresh face to the Pack. Gainey has shown considerable promise in N.C. State's exhibition games, and will play an important role at the point guard position, sharing time with Benjamin.

"Justin is playing beyond his years, he controls the point well when he is on the floor," Harrison said.

"This team is more defense orient-

ed than in the past, and defense wins ballgames."

With depth and experience, the back court, along with Sendek, has reason to be optimistic about the '96-'97 season.

The frontcourt's first obstacle will be filling in for the loss of last year's ACC leading scorer Todd Fuller.

Leading the Pack's frontcourt attack will be seniors Al Pinkins and Jeremy Hyatt.

Pinkins averaged 7.5 points and 4.8 rebounds in 31 contests for the Pack last year. Pinkins was last sea-

son's second leading rebounder behind Fuller.

State's height will come from red-shirt-junior Steve Norton and junior Luke Buffum.

Buffum, a 6'8" sophomore, and Norton, a 6'11" junior, both saw limited action in 1995-96.

Norton suffered an early season knee injury, and could see action as early as tonight, but is unlikely until the Wake Forest game in early December.

PACK HOOPS PREVIEW

Wolfpack Rosters

MEN

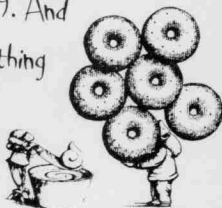
No.	Name pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class	Hometown
00	Danny Strong, F	6'6"	227	Senior	Great Falls, SC
3	Damon Thornton, C	6'8"	227	Freshman	Norfolk, Va.
5	Ishua Benjamin, G	6'4"	194	Junior	Concord
10	Jason Sulton, G	6'3"	180	Senior	Fayetteville
12	Justin Gidney, G	6'0"	174	Freshman	Greensboro
14	Al Pinkins, F	6'6"	227	R-Senior	Camilla, Ga.
20	Jeremy Hyatt, F	6'6"	201	Senior	Jacksonville, Fla.
23	Clint Harrison, G	6'4"	194	Junior	Reidsville
25	Tim Wells, F	6'8"	196	Freshman	Winston-Salem
32	Andre McCullom, F	6'6"	210	Freshman	Whitewater
45	Luke Buffam, F	6'8"	219	R-Sophomore	Beverly Hills, Calif.
50	Steve Norton	6'11"	246	R-Junior	Ashville

WOMEN

No.	Name pos.	Ht.	Class	Hometown
00	LyShale Jones, G	5'10"	Sophomore	Newark, NJ
5	Nailah Wallace, G	6'0"	Freshman	Camden, NJ
10	Kenyatta Williams, G	5'5"	Sophomore	Melrose, La.
14	Jennifer Howard, G	5'6"	Senior	Newton
21	Umeki Webb, F	5'10"	Senior	Dallas, Texas
23	Rosally McLendon, F	6'2"	Junior	Rockingham
24	Kristen Gillespie, G	5'11"	Sophomore	Tallahassee, Fla.
30	Peace Shepard, F	6'2"	Junior	Swansboro
31	Tami O'Connell, G	5'7"	Senior	Wilmington
32	Constance Potocz, G	5'8"	Junior	Cedar Grove
44	Chastity Malvin, C	6'3"	Junior	Roselboro
50	Linda Pshigoda, F	6'2"	Freshman	Perryton, Texas

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CARY: 122 S.W. Maynard Rd • Preston Business Center, 4212 Cary Pkwy

DURHAM: 626 North Street • Commons at University Place (1831 MLK Parkway at University Drive)

CHAPEL HILL: 104 W. Franklin St • Eastgate Shopping Center

OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

Strong

Continued from Page 7

we have to make the adjustment.

"The whole team is a threat."

Regardless of the optimism

around State's campus this

season, others aren't quite as sure.

Despite the fact that Sendek

stepped in to take the reins

from Robinson, the critics feel

the Pack's lack of depth and size

will haunt them throughout what

can be a brutal ACC season.

There is a difference, and it's a

noticeable one, at that.

"Coach Robinson was more

laid back, and Coach Sendek is

more intense," Strong said. "I

can tell by how we're working

out [we've improved].

"I hear things, but I don't pay

much attention to them."

One thing to pay attention to is

Danny Strong.

Giglio

Continued from Page 3

Last year, State had an All-

ACC center in Todd Fuller. The

6'10" big man led the league in

scoring (20.9) and was second in

rebounding (9.9). All while the

Pack won a grand total of four

ACC games.

That's not to blame Fuller for

the losses, but to show that

height is not always what it's

cracked up to be.

"We're not an excessively

deep team, an obviously not a

real big team," Sendek said.

"That's been well documented.

"But we have to play with

whom we have and take advan-

tage of our strengths."

In the same season State lost

to Florida Atlantic, it played

arguably its best game against

No. 1 ranked North Carolina.

That Tar Heels team had four

seven-footers (Eric Montross,

Kevin Salvadori, Rasheed

Wallace, Serge Zwicker). Fuller

got in foul trouble, but a smaller,

quicker line-up held the Heels in

check. State took the lead in that

game. State took the lead in that

game. State took the lead in that

game. State took the lead in that

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ing Robinson's reign. All indica-

tions point to this year as a sea-

son full of similar hard fought

contests.

"Our goals are, in a nut shell,

to do our best and keep improv-

ing," Sendek said. "When you

get right down to it, when I look

the guys on our team in the eye,

No matter how bad they want to

win the game, if every one of us

looked each other in the eye and

know we have given everything

we have to give. That's all we

can do."

A number of comparisons

have been made to Kick Barnes'

first season at Clemson. With no

player taller than 6'7", the

Tigers were picked to finish last

in the ACC.

"That's part of the fanfare.

There maybe some similarities,

and differences," Sendek said.

"We're not taking the actual

time to do a case study of that,

but that kind of interest is what

makes the ACC great."

Clemson ended up winning an

improbable five conference

games and going to the post-sea-

son NIT.

Sendek, who was an assistant

under Barnes at Providence,

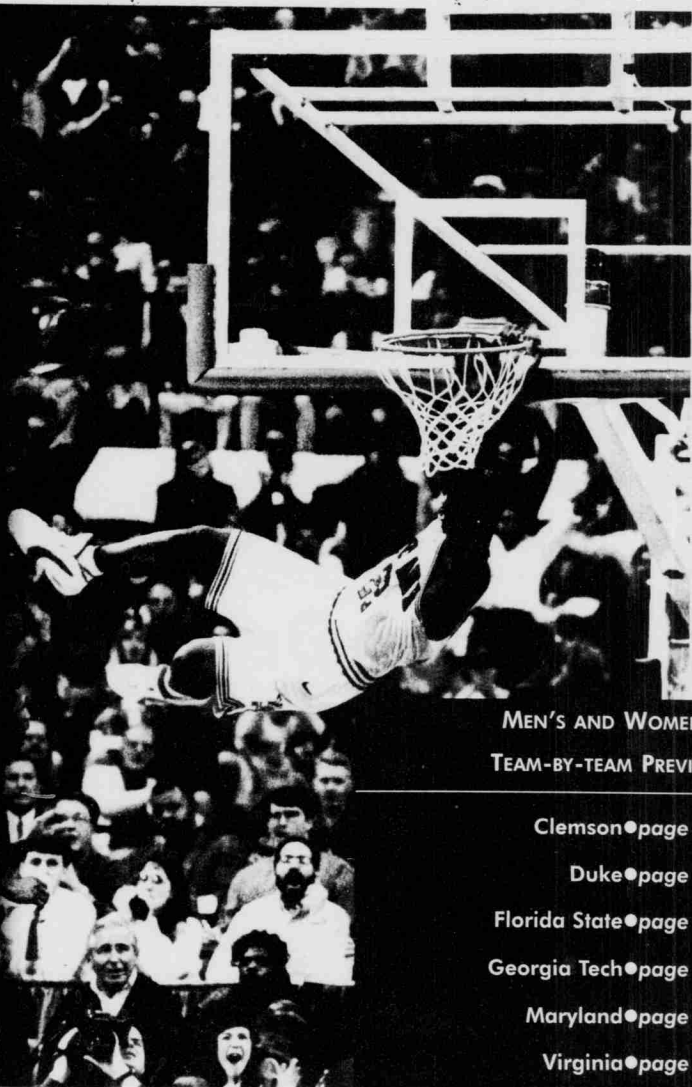
doesn't mind the comparisons to

his friend. He probably wouldn't

mind his success either.

Technician Sports: We got the Pack covered.

ACC '96 - '97



TECHNICIAN SPORTS

NOVEMBER 22, 1996

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TEAM-BY-TEAM PREVIEW

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TIGERS & DEVILS

Tigers mean hoops now

■ **Clemson has the potential to become a national power this year — just ask Kentucky.**

BY JASON KING
Staff Writer

There's something strange going on in Tigertown this fall — Clemson basketball fans are excited.

And for good reason. The Tigers have youth, depth and experience. No longer is Clemson designated the league's doormat, instead they are picked to finish among the league's elite.

On paper, Clemson has what looks like its best team since 1990, when it won the ACC regular season. In reality, the team needs to find a way to use its depth to improve upon last

year's sixth place finish.

"We just want to play up to our potential," Coach Rick Barnes, now in his third year at Clemson, said. "We have nine guys that have started at some point in their career. We have to figure out how to use that."

In addition to returning all six players who played every game last year, Clemson also gets back 6'7" redshirt-sophomore forward Iker Turbe, who sat out last year with a blood clot in his left shoulder.

Senior guard Merl Code, who tore his ACL tendon in the 11th game of the season, returns as well.

Two heralded freshmen, 6'9" center Woni Mohamed and 6'6" guard Vincent Whitt, will also fit into the rotation. Mohamed was rated the nation's 10th-best high school center

See CLEMSON, Page 15 ▶

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

Location	Clemson, SC
Founded	1889
Enrollment	16,327
Nickname	Tigers
Colors	Orange, Purple
Arena	Littlejohn Coliseum (11,020)
MEN	
Coach	Rick Barnes (Lenoir-Rhyne)
Career at Clemson	181-110, 9 years
'95-'96	33-24, 2 years
NCAA Titles	18-11, 7-9 ACC (6th)
Final Four	0
NCAA Appearances	0
WOMEN	
Coach	Jim Davis (Tenn.-Westleyan)
Career at Clemson	208-99, 10 years
'95-'96	189-91, 9 years
	23-6, 9-7 ACC (4th)

■ **After a surprising ACC title, the Tigers are back for more.**

BY CHRIS BAYSDEN
Editor-in-Chief

Clemson coach Jim Davis has a dilemma. He has too many good players and not enough positions.

"My problem is finding playing time for everybody," he said. "But that's a good problem to have."

Opposing ACC coaches probably won't be feeling a lot of sympathy for Davis — particularly not after last year's ACC tournament. The Tigers entered the tourney on a three-game losing streak. They emerged from

Rock Hill, S.C. as ACC champions, spanking Duke in the final game, 71-54.

The team rode the tournament "high" into the second round of the NCAA Midwest Regionals, before finally falling to S.F. Austin in overtime.

Four starters from that team return to lead the Tigers into the 1997 campaign. Senior forward Laura Cottrell, last year's ACC Tournament MVP, is the team's top returning scorer. She averaged 10.9 points per game, while

See TIGERS, Page 15 ▶

DUKE UNIVERSITY

Location	Durham
Founded	1838
Enrollment	6,057
Nickname	Blue Devils
Colors	Royal Blue, White
Arena	Cameron Indoor Stadium (9,314)
MEN	
Coach	Mike Krzyzewski (Army)
Career at Duke	449-199, 21 years
'95-'96	376-140, 18 years
NCAA Titles	18-13, 8-8 ACC (4th)
Final Four	2 ('91, '92)
NCAA Appearances	10
	20 (56-18)
WOMEN	
Coach	Gail Goetsenkos (Sag. V. St.)
Career at Duke	76-42, 4 years
'95-'96	76-42, 4 years
	26-7, 12-4 ACC (2nd)

■ **Forget the "Fantastic Four" recruiting class, the Devils should be back this year.**

BY CHRIS BAYSDEN
Editor-in-Chief

It wasn't that long ago that Duke was annually playing for the national championship.

But after a couple of sub-par years, the Blue Devils are still trying to claw their way back into the ACC elite, let alone be the perennial NCAA power of old.

The key to this year's squad can be summed up in one word: depth. The days of All-American candidates is over, but Coach Mike Krzyzewski

Devils have depth and Kira

■ **The Blue Devils look to build upon last year's successful season.**

BY JAMES CURLE
Staff Writer

hopes he can throw enough good (not great) players onto the floor this year to counter any challenge the opposition presents.

"The depth of our team is our strength,"

Krzyzewski said. "I think we can be good, but I don't know what combination of players will make us good."

A number of returning starters from last year's 18-13 team (tied for fourth in the ACC) will figure prominently in the lineup. They include junior forward Ricky Price, senior guard Jeff Capel, sophomore forward Taymon Domzalski and senior center Greg Newton.

Junior guard Steve Wojciechowski saw substantial minutes last year and could be even more important to the team since second leading scorer and assistant leader Chris Collins was lost to graduation. Also expect sophomore guard Trajan Langdon to

Duke's women's basketball team enjoyed it's most successful season in school history last year with a record of 26-7 — a record head coach Gail Goetsenkos is eager to improve upon.

"I feel very good about how far we've come and where we are headed," Goetsenkos said. "I feel that we have the potential to have the best team ever, which is saying quite a bit considering our success over the last few seasons."

Giving credence to her statement is the fact that the Blue Devils will be returning three of last year's starters, in addition to three other highly experienced players.

Heading the list of the returning starters for the Lady Devils is Tysh

Hall. A 6'4" senior forward, Hall posted an ACC-record .655 field goal percentage en route to averaging 15.1 points per game last season. In addition to leading the team in scoring, she recorded the highest numbers in rebounding (7.0) and blocks (4.4).

"People have not seen the best of Ty Hall," Goetsenkos said. "She was perhaps the most improved player in the conference last year."

Returning at guard for Duke is 5'6" senior Kira Orr. Last year, Orr broke the school record for assists with 170, averaging 5.2 assists. She also recorded 13.2 points and 5.2 rebounds per game.

Rounding out the starting senior triumvirate for Duke is 6'0" forward Windsor Coggeshall. The Blue Devils went 15-1 when Coggeshall was in the starting lineup last season. She averaged 7.0 points and 3.1 rebounds per game, despite playing through a painful back injury.

Her back injury has not completely

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See DEVILS, Page 15 ▶



Jackets need help with ball

■ **No backcourt—no... uh, assists.**

BY JAMES CURLE
Staff Writer

Coach Bobby Cremins has the formidable task of replacing one of the nation's best backcourts.

Both Drew Barry and Stephen Marbury left to the NBA, leaving a void in the backcourt that must be filled by inexperienced players.

This task is made even harder on Cremins due to the fact that sophomore guard Gary Saunders has been ruled academically ineligible. Saunders was Georgia Tech's primary backup, and expected to contribute.

"We're very disappointed that Gary's not eligible," said Cremins. Stepping in to fill the vacancy at

guard is freshman Kevin Morris. A 5'11" point guard, Morris was rated as one of the nation's top five point-guards in the nation, and is the only true point-guard on Georgia Tech's roster.

While Cremins may have to worry about the strength of his backcourt, the situation in Georgia Tech's frontcourt is as solid as they come.

Heading the list is first-team All-ACC forward Matt Harrping. One of the most talented forwards in the ACC, Harrping finished in the top 10 in the ACC in five different statistical categories: scoring (4th), rebounding (5th), field goal percentage (3rd), free throw percentage (7th), and three point percentage (5th).

"He's one of the best players in the country," Cremins said. "You hardly

■ **Kisha Ford equals trouble for the rest of the ACC.**

BY JAMES CURLE
Staff Writer

Coach Agnus Berenato has made it very clear what her intentions are for Georgia Tech's women's basketball team this year.

"Our goal this season is to return to the NCAA Tournament," Berenato said.

With all five of last year's starters returning, Berenato feels confident in her pursuit of that goal.

"With everyone back this season and the addition of a newcomer, I feel we'll be able to place everyone back

GEORGIA TECH

Location	Atlanta, Ga.
Founded	1885
Enrollment	13,000
Nickname	Yellow Jackets
Colors	Old Gold, Royal Blue
Arena	Memorial Coliseum (10,200)
MEN	
Coach	Bobby Cremins (S. Carolina)
Career at GIT	398-242, 20 years
'95-'96	298-172, 14 years
NCAA Titles	24-12, 13-3 ACC (1st)
Final Four	0
NCAA Appearances	1
	11 (16-11)
WOMEN	
Coach	Agnus Berenato (Mt. St. Mary's)
Career at GIT	178-167, 12 years
'95-'96	118-112, 8 years
	14-12, 5-11 ACC (8th)

to their normal positions," continued Berenato. "We'll be able to substitute a one-guard for a one-guard or a center for a center."

Heading the list of returning talent is All-ACC selection Kisha Ford. A 5'11" senior, Ford led the team in rebounding last year, posting 6.4 boards per game. Ford also posted high marks in scoring, finishing the season with 16.6 points per game, good enough for second on the team. Ford will also be looked to for leadership more this season than in previous ones.

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FSU coach feeling the heat

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Location	Tallahassee, Fla.
Founded	1857
Enrollment	30,200
Nickname	Seminoles
Colors	Garnet, Gold
Arena	Leon County Civic Center (12,500)
MEN	
Coach	Pat Kennedy (Kings)
Career at FSU	306-179, 15 years
'95-'96	182-119, 10 years
NCAA Titles	13-14, 5-11 ACC (8th)
Final Four	0
NCAA Appearances	1
	9 (11-9)
WOMEN	
Coach	Chris Gobrecht (USC)
Career at FSU	327-181, 17 years
'95-'96	first year
	8-20, 2-14 ACC (9th)

■ **The Seminole look to put the tomahawk chop on their opponents this season.**

BY JAMES CURLE
Staff Writer

This year, Coach Pat Kennedy will be banking on experience when Florida State takes to the hardwood.

Returning for the Seminole in 1996-97 are all five of last year's starters, along with two key reserves.

The return of these players brings

back 82 percent of last year's scoring and 83 percent of the rebounding. In addition, the 'Noles recruiting class was ranked as one of the nation's Top 10, further enhancing the depth of the bench.

All of these factors have given Kennedy something to smile about once again.

"I really like the makeup of our team," he said. "We won't be relying on our young guys to win games anymore."

Leading the Seminole this year is 6'4" senior guard James Collins. One of the deadliest three-point shooters in the ACC, Collins averaged 2.6 three-pointers per game last year, good enough to earn third in the league honors. But Collins does not have to rely solely on the three, since he can drive to the basket with strength.

"James is ready to have an out-

■ **The Seminole hope a new coach means new results.**

BY CHRIS BAYSDEN
Editor in Chief

"What was I thinking?"

That question may go through Chris Gobrecht's mind a lot this season. Last year she was completing her 11th season as head coach of the University of Washington's women's basketball team, leading the Huskies to a 16-13 season. That was her worst since arriving in the Pac 10, where she had racked up eight seasons of 20 or more wins.

Fast forward to this year. That 16-13 season would probably look pretty good these days. Gobrecht inherits a squad that went 8-20 last year, won only two conference games and ended up in the ACC basement. And last year was the rule rather than the exception; the Seminole hadn't recorded a winning season under for-

mer Coach Marynell Meadors since 1992.

Despite the ominous signs, Gobrecht remains positive about what she's been brought in to do.

"I would not have come to Florida State just to do OK," she said. "I came because I believe it can be a power in basketball."

This year will be one of transition, with Gobrecht trying to condition players to a new mentality. She wants to build a culture for success.

"All the great programs do that," Gobrecht said. "There's a real big picture we try to keep in mind. We're moving into a whole new world."

While the team has had to do a lot of adjusting to the new coach, Gobrecht has already identified the nucleus that she hopes will lead the team to a better future.

"Our junior class is the hungriest," she said. "They're tired of losing, and it shows." All the returning starters are juniors, including key

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TERPS & CAVS

And then there was Booth

■ **Maryland plans to build its young team around senior forward Keith Booth.**

BY JASON KING
Staff Writer

Two years ago at this time, Gary Williams was feeling pretty good. He had successfully rebuilt Maryland's basketball program, and the Terps were predicted to compete with the nation's best.

Fast-forward to 1996 — Former national player of the year and would-be senior Joe Smith is playing professionally, while the quadruple threat of Johnny Rhodes, Duane Simpkins, Exree Hipp and Mario Lucas used up their four years of eligibility.

What's left is senior All-ACC forward Keith Booth. Not a bad start, but the remaining components of Maryland's team have to blend together if the Terrapins are going to stay out of the ACC cellar this year.

"We've lost four seniors that have won a lot of games for us over the last four years," Coach Williams said.

Towards the end of last season, freshman guards Laron Profit and Terrell Stokes began to show signs of leadership. Profit was often used in place of Hipp and Stokes took over as floor leader in place of Simpkins. Profit is considered to be an All-ACC candidate and a major scoring threat this year. Williams said Profit's main problem will be adjusting to playing a major role on the team.

"He has great physical tools. He

■ **The Terps hope experience is a good thing, not a 13-14 repeat.**

BY CHRIS BAYSDEAN
Editor in Chief

Every year, in every conference, there's a team that perplexes all the experts. Sometimes, that even includes the coach.

This year's Maryland Terrapins squad is that team.

"I think we're going to be a mystery," admits Terps' coach Chris Weller. "I don't know how good we can be."

First, the good news. Maryland returns seven, count them, seven starters from last year's team. The

MARYLAND UNIVERSITY

Location	College Park, Md.
Founded	1867
Enrollment	30,371
Nickname	Terrapins
Colors	Red, White, Black
Arena	Cole Field House (14,500)
MEN	
Coach	Gary Williams (Maryland)
Career at Maryland	329-218, 18 years
'95-'96	122-90, 7 years
NCAA Titles	17-13, 8-8 ACC (4th)
Final Four	0
NCAA Appearances	13 (17-13)
WOMEN	
Coach	Chris Weller (Maryland)
Career at Maryland	414-198, 21 years
'95-'96	414-198, 21 years
	13-14, 7-8 ACC (6th)

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UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Location	Charlottesville, Va.
Founded	1819
Enrollment	18,309
Nickname	Cavaliers
Colors	Orange, Blue
Arena	University Hall (8,500)
MEN	
Coach	Jeff Jones (Virginia)
Career at Virginia	329-218, 18 years
'95-'96	105-57, 7 years
NCAA Titles	14-15, 6-9 ACC (6th)
Final Four	0
NCAA Appearances	13 (17-13)
WOMEN	
Coach	Debbie Ryan (Ursinus)
Career at Virginia	439-147 18 years
'95-'96	439-147 19 years
	26-7, 13-3 ACC (1st)

■ **Virginia is coming off its first losing season under coach Jeff Jones.**

BY JASON KING
Staff Writer

Take a look at Virginia coach Jeff Jones and he looks fine — on the outside. Ask him where it hurts, though, and he'll tell you what's inside doesn't feel so good. It doesn't take a doctor to see that Jones and the Cavaliers are ailing from a condition known as "centeritis."

Still, Jones knows that hiding from his team's weaknesses won't help. The only way to get better is work the inside to get stronger — and rely on the outside to get through early

Cavs fought the law and the ...

■ **Virginia's streak of regular season championships could be in jeopardy this year.**

BY JASON KING
Staff Writer

This year is admittedly going to be a challenge for Cavalier coach Debbie Ryan. Her team is picked an unusual third in the conference.

That just goes to show the amount of success that Virginia has enjoyed through the years. Winners of six straight ACC regular season titles, the Wahoos must now face life without two-time ACC Player of the Year Wendy Palmer.

The Cavs do return three starters, though, including Naismith Award candidate Tori Suber. The 5'7" senior guard led Virginia in scoring (17.6 ppg), assists (124) and steals (74) last year, and is on several pre-season All-America first teams. Virginia's second-best player,

Monick Foote, may not play this year. Foote underwent reconstructive surgery on her right ankle last July, and many of the Cavaliers' hopes depend on her return.

"The big question for us is whether Monick is going to play or not," Ryan said. "We are very, very young in terms of experience."

The 6'0" junior was the team's third-leading scorer and rebounder (11.8 ppg, 4.5 rpg) last year and has shot 39 percent from the three-point arc for her career.

Forward/center DeMya Walker posted impressive numbers in the paint (7.6 ppg, 6.3 rpg) as a freshman, and will split time with 6'4" Tammy Gardner and 6'2" freshman Lisa Hosac.

Hosac and fellow freshman Renee Robinson, a 5'6" guard, have impressed Ryan early on.

"I can see both of them playing huge rolls this year," she said. Junior guard Mimi McKinney (4.9

on.

"Clearly, one of our strengths is our perimeter game," Jones said.

"Something that we've emphasized is the balance between the inside and outside game. It's not something you can force, but we have to have that." No matter how balanced the inside/outside game is, the backcourt play of Harold Deane and Curtis Staples will probably determine Virginia's success.

When the tandem shot the ball well last season, the Cavaliers won. In their losses, though, the combined shooting percentage of Deane and Staples was more than five points lower.

Staples said Virginia will be more successful once Deane learns to become more of a floor leader.

"This year he's going to cut back on his scoring — just to become more of a complete player," he said.

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Jamison, Reid lead Heels

■ UNC returns players and has height.

BY CHRIS BAYSDEN
Editor in Chief

Sometimes it's tempting to think of Dean Smith as the epic Greek warrior Achilles.

OK, so that's a bad pun. But the point remains — Smith just keeps winning. He's seen 35 years come and go in college basketball, and not only has he survived, he's thrived.

Last year's team is an excellent example of Smith's consistency. It had the most question marks of any squad in recent memory, with the previous year's Final Four lineup

decimated by defections to the NBA. But Smith molded a new crop of recruits into another 20-plus win squad (21-11 overall). Those youngsters are back again this year, and they have help from even newer faces.

The youth of the team and its impact hasn't escaped Smith. "It really is a freshman team in terms of introducing things," he said.

But there's a lot of talent in that youth. Antawn Jamison returns for his sophomore season after reaping All-ACC honors.

Sophomores Vince Carter and Ademola Okulaja will see plenty of time at the guard and forward positions, while junior Shammond Williams will be one of the the play-

ers trying to replace Dante Calabria and Jeff McInnis. Much-heralded freshman Ed Cota could also see time at guard.

Ironically, replacing the ball-handlers also means replacing two of Carolina's top three scorers. McInnis and Calabria accounted for over 900 of UNC's nearly 2,500 points.

Jamison, who averaged 15.1 points per game last year is one answer but there will have to be others. Carter could be one of those guys.

"I think he has really stepped up," Serge Zwikker said. Smith agreed that Carter has made progress, on both sides of the court. "He's shot well," Smith said. "He's

NORTH CAROLINA

Location	Chapel Hill
Founded	1789
Enrollment	24,463
Nickname	Tar Heels
Colors	Blue, White
Arena	Smith Center (21,572)
MEN	
Coach	Dean Smith (Kansas)
Career at UNC	851-247, 35 years
'95-'96	851-247, 35 years
NCAA Titles	21-11, 10-6 ACC (3rd)
Final Four	3 ('57, '82, '93)
NCAA Appearances	30 (68-30)
WOMEN	
Coach	Sylvia Hatchell (Car.-Newm.)
Career at UNC	457-195, 21 years
'95-'96	185-115, 10 years
	13-14, 8-8 ACC (6th)

worked hard defensively, and it's shown."

Zwikker is also a key to the team, providing two rare commodities on this squad, experience and height. Zwikker has also worked hard on his defensive skills, and Smith swears he is quicker this year.

For his part, Zwikker thinks this team is better motivated than last year's, comparing it in that respect to the 1993 team that won the NCAA title.

year with an injury.

Coach Sylvia Hatchell is upbeat about the upcoming season, and that spells trouble for ACC foes.

"This team we have right now is stronger than the team that won the National Championship in '94," Hatchell said. "I like the position our team is in right now."

The Tar Heels are picked to finish first in the league this year, in large part due to the return of Jones, a 1995 All-ACC first teamer. The 5'10" guard averaged 17.9 points as a sophomore and will play the point guard position this year.

"Marion is back and she's better than ever," Hatchell said. "Her greatest asset is her leadership abilities."

Reid, the ACC's scoring leader last year, and Wright, last year's ACC Rookie of the Year, will play the two-guard and wing forward positions. Both can put up big numbers from behind the arc — Reid averaged 19.1 ppg, while Wright poured in 13.7 ppg.

"We're much more perimeter oriented in our offense this year," Hatchell said.

The Heels' twin towers, Sheneika and Nicole Walker, will help bolster the front line. The 6'4" juniors improved in all aspects last year, and Hatchell said she expects good things from both players this year.

Freshman Melissa Johnson will play a big role in UNC's plans this year. The 6'4" center will play immediately, Hatchell said. Size is not one of the Tar Heels' advantages, though. Quickness is.



JASON COLE/STAFF

As Dean Smith has learned in the last two years, Reynolds is a tough place to play.

■ The Tar Heels back-court is good.

North Carolina will take the court this year with its own version of Lethal Weapon 3.

Georgia Tech's Dennis Scott, Brian Oliver and Kenny Anderson took the Jackets to the Final Four in 1990. Carolina hopes the trio of Tracy

Reid, Marion Jones and Chanel Wright will do the same for them this year.

Despite coming off a disappointing campaign last year, the Tar Heels return all of last year's starters plus Jones, a junior who redshirted last

BY JASON KING
Staff Writer

DEMON DEACONS

Duncan, Conner two of the best

■ Same story, different year for Wake.

BY CHRIS BAYSDEN
Editor in Chief

First there was Rodney Rogers. Then came Randolph Childress. And now Tim Duncan.

These three stars have been Wake Forest coach Dave Odum's bread and butter for the past seven seasons. They've led Wake from last in the ACC to national prominence.

They have a lot in common when it comes to accomplishments. All three have twice attained All-ACC status. Rodgers and Childress were first round selections in the NBA Draft, while Duncan figures to be the top player in this year's draft.

But neither Rodgers nor Childress could take Odum's team to the pinnacle of college basketball success — the Final Four.

Duncan just might do it. At least that's what folks in Winston Salem are hoping. Odum, while cautious as ever, realizes that he can't deny the Deacons' potential.

■ All-ACC center Tracy Conner returns one final time to lead the Deacs.

BY JAMES CURLE
Staff Writer

In the past, the Wake Forest women's basketball team has had to rely solely on the play of center Tracy Connor if they were to expect any victories. But head coach Karen Freeman feels that those days are finally over.

"Tracy Connor has always had the ability to take over a game," Freeman said. "She arrived extremely far ahead in terms of ability, but now her teammates have narrowed the gap. She doesn't have to carry us anymore, which frees her up to do what she does best."

What she does best is dominate on both offense and defense. A 6'3" senior, Connor was selected to the All-ACC first team last year, scoring 17.8 points per game. Her rebounding numbers are equally impressive, averaging 10.2 boards.

Connor's main weakness through-

"If you're going to embark on any kind of journey," Odum said. "Tim Duncan is a good place to start."

Duncan, without a doubt, is the top returning post player in the nation. Last year he averaged 19.1 points (second in the ACC) and 12.3 rebounds (first in the ACC) per game. He was also first in the conference in blocked shots with 120. Duncan is third all-time at Wake in rebounds, and 13th in the ACC. He is third in the ACC in total blocked shots.

But even with a player of Duncan's caliber, Wake's success isn't guaranteed this year.

"We know we're starting at ground zero," Odum said. "We must be better because the league is going to be better."

Duncan will have plenty of help from an experienced starting lineup. Senior forwards Sean Allen and Ricky Peral return, as does junior Tony Rutland.

The health of Rutland's knee, which was injured at the end of last season, could be the key to his sea-

son's success. She once again had knee surgery this summer, but is expected to be back up to speed when the season starts.

"Her work ethic has never dampened in spite of great adversity," Freeman said. "If she stays healthy I expect her to be the same Tracy Connor that we saw miracles from last season."

In addition to Connor, Wake Forest returns three other starters from last year's team.

Returning at the guard position is 5'7" redshirt-sophomore Heidi Coleman. In her 13 games started, she posted 5.7 points along with 2.4 assists.

"Everyone knows that Heidi will be running the team, and that enhances communication and confidence," Freeman said.

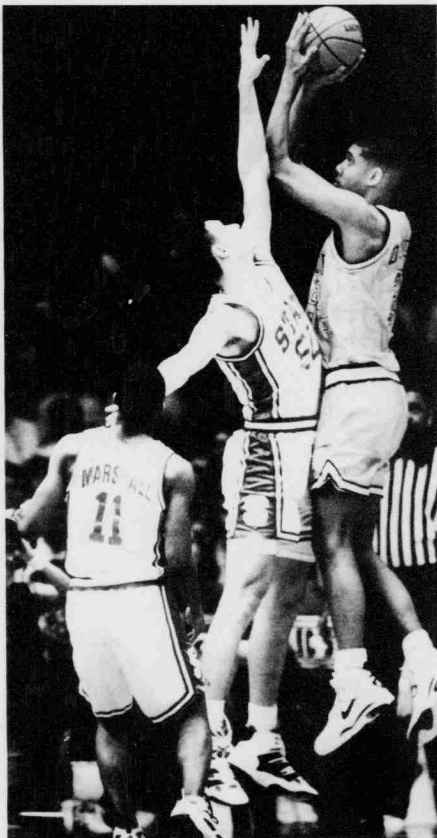
At forward, the Deacs bring back starter RaeAnna Mulholland. The 6'1" senior was second on the team last year in both points (12.5 per game) and rebounds (7.5 per game). An strong all-around player.

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See DEACS, Page 16 ▶

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

Location	Winston-Salem
Founded	1834
Enrollment	3,620
Nickname	Demon Deacons
Colors	Old Gold, Black
Arena	Joel Coliseum (14,407)
MEN	
Coch	Dave Odum (Guilford)
Career at Wake	180-114, 4 years
'95-'96	142-72, 7 years
NCAA Titles	26-6, 12-4 ACC (2nd)
Final Four	0
NCAA Appearances	14 (21-14)
WOMEN	
Coch	Karen Freeman (Canisius)
Career at Wake	46-63, 4 years
'95-'96	46-63, 4 years
	13-14, 6-10 ACC (7th)



TECHNICIAN FEE PHOTO

Tim Duncan returns for his senior year in hopes of leading Wake to the Final Four for the first time since sneakers were invented.

Clemson

Continued from Page 10

by Basketball Weekly, while Whitt was considered North Carolina's top prep player last year.

Despite the increased optimism surrounding the team this year, Barnes says the team still has far to go before it can improve on last year's 18-11

record.

"We don't think we're there," he said. "All the good things that are being said are not going to win us one game."

Code says the Tigers' defensive prowess is what makes them a legitimate threat to beat any team on a given night. Last season, Clemson held its opponents to a 63-point scoring average — second only to Wake Forest in the ACC.

"We have a team full of people

who can defend," Code said. "We can be as good as any team in this country. What it takes is being unselfish."

If Clemson's performance against defending champion Kentucky last Friday is any indication of how the Tigers will fare this year, things could be rocking in Tigertown deep into March. Clemson topped the Wildcats 79-71 in overtime during both teams' season openers on Nov. 16.

Tigers

Continued from Page 10

also collecting a team high 8.7 boards per game.

Senior forward/center Jaci Simson is back as the Tiger's presence in the middle. The 6'3" Simson has 100 blocks in her career, and averages 8.7 points per game.

"Our inside game stepped it up after midseason last year," Davis said. "I really think Jaci can step it up even more, particularly in rebounding. She does a great job being physical."

Davis wants more production out of center/forward Kerri Thomas, who was a backup last year. Thomas has a great "bas-

kethall body," according to Davis, but hasn't had the mental game she needs to be dominant.

"Kerri's biggest problem is confidence. She just needs to believe in herself."

Clemson must find a "go-to" player to replace guard Stephanie Ridgeway, last year's leading scorer. Still, Davis isn't worried because he thinks there are plenty of candidates for that position.

Despite the team's depth, Davis is preparing for a brutal season. His isn't the only team that may be better than last year.

"There's not a team in this league that's not going to be vastly improved," he said.

Duke

Continued from Page 10

get involved after missing last year due to injuries.

Duke's added depth means two

things. First, the soccer players in Durham can stick to what they do best. Secondly, Coach K hopes to employ a more up-tempo style.

"If we're not playing faster, we're not taking advantage of

our strength," he said.

Jeff Capel, the teams leading scorer last year said he thinks the team will be able to play more aggressively this year.

"We're already a better defensive team," he said.

block in achieving that goal may be their schedule.

"Our schedule is tougher than it's ever been," Goestenkers said. "But we feel like it will prepare us for the conference."

Six of Duke's 10 non-conference opponents saw post season play last year, including perennial powerhouses Vanderbilt and Old Dominion. Add to that the fact the this may be the most powerful collection of ACC opponents, and the Devils look to have their hands full in the 1996-97 season.

Devils

Continued from Page 10

healed, however, and may play a role in how much playing time she sees.

"Windsor spent the summer rehabbing and we're going to take everything day-by-day with her," Goestenkers said.

While Duke has depth, strength, and experience laying the groundwork for a successful season this year, a major road-

Tech

Continued from Page 11

notice him until the end of the game, however, when you look up at the scoreboard..."

Also returning for the Yellow Jackets is center Eddie Elisima.

Elisima, at 6'9", is the lone returning senior for Georgia Tech. As team captain, he will be expected to provide leadership and experience for the Yellow Jackets this season.

Arguably one of the most improved players in the nation last season, Elisima averaged 10.3 points and 8.1 rebounds per game last season. His 65 blocked shots are a credit to his ability to get in the air quickly and make plays, something he will be called upon for once again this year.

"Eddie's gotten more mature this year," Cremins said.

Georgia Tech's schedule last year was perhaps one of the nation's toughest, including Kentucky, Georgia, Louisville, and Temple.

Jackets

Continued from Page 11

"Kisha will have to set up into the leadership role this season for us," Berenato said. "This is her senior year, and she will have a lot of responsibilities to fulfill as one of our strongest players."

Also returning for the Yellow Jackets this year is 5'11" junior Carla Munnon. She led the team in scoring last year, averaging 17.2 points. She finished third on the team in rebounding with 5.5 rebounds.

Munnon can play a number of positions, but she will more than likely be starting at the small forward position, alongside Ford in the power forward slot.

"Both Kisha and Carla will be looked upon to be the main scorers for Georgia Tech this season," Berenato said. "With their strong supporting cast helping them, their job will be easy to accomplish and is what we are working on for them."

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Wake

Continued from Page 14

son. Last year the point guard dished out 120 assists and was the team's second leading scorer, with 11.9 points per game.

"There's no substitute for experience," Duncan said. "That's what wins games."

Maryland

Continued from Page 12

can explode," Williams said. "He has to be more consistent for us."

In his final 10 games of last season, Profit averaged 9.2 points. Stokes, who has been described as a "throwback" point guard who looks to pass first, dished out an average of 4.1 assists per game in his last 10 games.

"He has the skills to be a good point guard," Williams said.

UVa

Continued from Page 12

Jones said too much of the Cavaliers' offense last year consisted of shots created off the dribble. Virginia ranked last in the ACC in team assists (304), but Jones expects this team to have a higher assist total.

Virginia didn't shoot the ball well last season either (their .416 FG average was worst in the league). The Wahoos managed to win 12 games by playing tough defense and rebounding well.

FSU

Continued from Page 11

standing senior season," Kennedy said. "He is the consummate off-guard and has worked very hard this summer to improve his game even more."

At the other guard position will likely be junior college transfer Kerry Thompson. At 6'0", Thompson will likely be starting at point guard for the Seminoles. He was rated one of the nation's top five junior college prospects.

Deacs

Continued from Page 14

Mulholland is equally suited at the two, three, or four spots.

While Wake Forest's schedule is not the toughest in the league, it may still prove to be a challenging one. The Deacs will play several games against Pac 10 and SEC opponents, in addition to the ever-strong ACC matchups.

"Our goal is to finish in the top half of the league," she said.

Terps

Continued from Page 12

per game and earned a spot on the 1996 ACC All-Freshman team.

"I think Kelly and Stephanie are two of the best players I've coached," Weller said. "Stephanie is very flexible this year."

Other juniors who have held starting positions include Kalisa Davis, Rachel Cimmier and Sonia Chase.

Cavs

Continued from Page 12

ppg, 4.0 rpg), sophomore forward Kate Mooney (3.9 ppg, 2.0 rpg) and sophomore guard Tiffany Bower (2.8 ppg) will also play significant roles for the Wahoos. Ryan said Bower has already shown a lot of improvement over last season.

"She's so strong, it's tough to play against her," she said.

Ryan said this year's team has better natural chemistry than last year's squad, but the talent level is not as high.

Noles

Continued from Page 11

players Lysa Moorefield and Latrice McLin. Moorefield is the team's top returning scorer, averaging 7.6 points per game. Moorefield, who plays forward and center, is the Seminoles' presence in the middle, blocking 21 shots a year ago. McLin, a guard/forward, averaged seven points and 5.3 rebounds last year.

But the team will have a tough time replacing Carla Williams, last year's leader.

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Smrka-Duffy leads frosh

■ Youth will help the Pack's scoring punch.

BY K. GAFFNEY
Staff Writer

The 1996-97 Pack freshman class of Katie Smrka-Duffy, Linda Pshigoda and Nailah Wallace is looking to make a big impact on State basketball — starting now.

Smrka-Duffy has already come on strong, scoring 28 points in the Pack's season opener against Appalachian State last weekend. After her first game in a State uniform, the 5'9" guard from Sterling, Va. is already looking to the post-season.

"My goal is to be hooting and hollering with my teammates on March 31," Smrka-Duffy said. The late spring date is the Women's NCAA championships held this year in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The all-time leading scorer, boys or girls, at James Madison High School comes in as one of the top freshman in the country. Smrka-Duffy's hoop resume includes several All-Star games throughout the country in her senior season in high school, and an invitation to the USA Junior National Team trials.

Smrka-Duffy was also named Ms. Virginia in 1995 and 1996, both year in which she helped lead her high

"If I'm not playing, I just want to give them the motivational spirit."

—Linda Pshigoda, State freshman player

school team to the state finals. The Wolfpack will be looking to Wallace to help ignite the front court. A 6'0" small forward from New Jersey, Wallace scored four points for the Pack in just eight minutes of play against Appalachian.

An AAU All-American, Wallace got a taste of international competition this summer during a 10-day stint in Moscow.

Wallace helped lead Wilson High School to conference and State championship, and was a recipient of the 1995-96 Scholar Athlete Award from the Olympic National Commission.

Linda Pshigoda is unable to take to the court for the Wolfpack, due to knee injuries. She remains positive, and is looking to help out the team from the bench.

"If I'm not playing, I just want to give them the motivational spirit," Pshigoda said.



Kay Yow won't have to raise her voice at this year's freshman. TECHNICIAN FILE PHOTO

Les' best recruiting class

■ There's a new sheriff in town ... and Herb Sendek has four players he hopes will keep order.

BY JAMES M. LAIL
Staff Writer

The new regime is here. The 1996-97 N.C. State men's basketball team has sort of a new look. A new coaching staff, new uniforms, a new floor and, of course, new players. Former coach, Les Robinson, and Coach Herb Sendek joined together to form a quality freshman class that they hope will be a strong foundation for State in the present

and future. Perhaps the one freshman who will make an immediate impact is point guard Justin Gainey. The six-foot player from High Point, N.C., has started at point guard for the Pack in an exhibition game. Gainey is expected to start at the position for State throughout the regular season.

Gainey is excited about putting the practice behind and getting on with the games.

"I've held my own [in practice]," Gainey said. "I expected [the talent level] to be high, and it is."

So far, Sendek has liked what he has seen in Gainey.

"He has the potential to be a great leader," Sendek said.

Complimenting Gainey will be 6'8" forward/center Damon Thornton (Atlantic Shores Christian Academy), who started at center in the Pack's first exhibition game vs. Athletics in Action. Thornton ignited the Reynolds Coliseum crowd with a thunderous jam over an AIA player.

Along with Gainey and Thornton is 6'6" forward Andre McCullum, who played at Whiteville High School in Whiteville, N.C. The 210-pound freshman has seen limited time in the preseason, but Sendek expects to see McCullum in action.

"He's dedicated himself to conditioning, to put himself in a situation to compete at this level," Sendek said.

Completing the class is Winston-Salem Carver's Tim Wells. The 6'8" forward was fairly unheralded out of high school, but has shown signs that he can compete.

"He's been impressive in the early going," Sendek said.

Although State will be looking to four seniors to carry the load for the Pack, the freshmen may have to mature quickly to help the team succeed. But Sendek admits that with this class, like most others, young players need time to learn every facet of the game before they can be expected to perform adequately.

"We're really gonna have to do a lot of learning."

ISHUA BENJAMIN

Osh on a mission possible in '96

■ With a new coach and an old past, guard Ishua Benjamin is ready to start over.

BY JAMES M. LAIL

Sports Editor

By age 21, the average college student has not faced an abnormal amount of adversity. For N.C. State's Ishua Benjamin, he has looked adversity in the eyes—in the form of the pressure to perform—and he's stared it down.

Benjamin came to State before the 1996-'97 season as the Wolfpack's most highly-touted recruit in years. In his first game in the red and white, the guard from Concord poured in 29 points against Prairie View A&M. Needless to say, expectations were high for the young man.

After both his freshman and sophomore seasons, both disappointments for Benjamin and the Pack, the rumormongers were saying that Benjamin may be headed to Kansas to play for Roy Williams. Last season, Benjamin averaged 7.9 points a game in a mostly backup role.

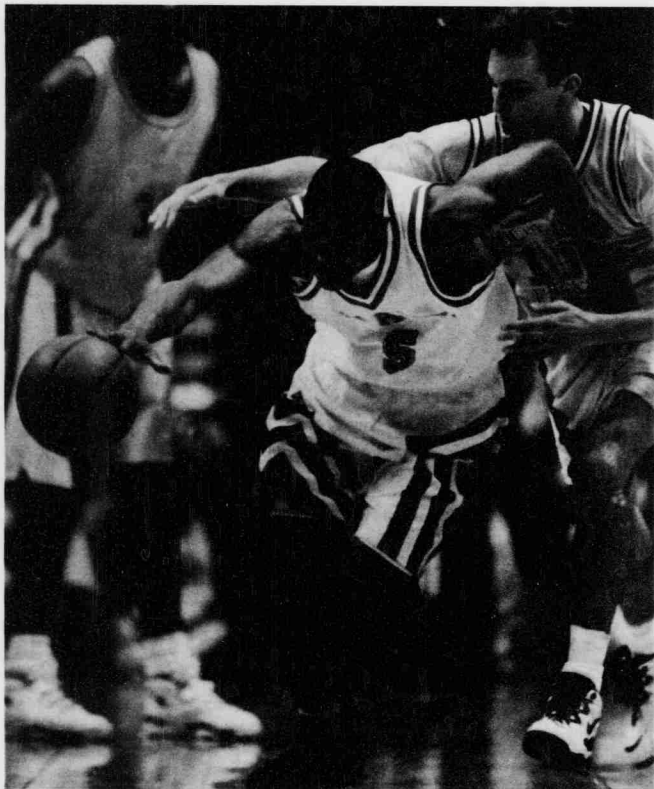
But Benjamin has come to a crossroads in his basketball life. And with new State coach Herb Sendek calling the shots in Reynolds Coliseum, Benjamin is ready to walk down a new path.

"I'm a lot more confident than last year. [Coach Sendek] helped me a lot to take everything seriously," Benjamin said. "There's no time for a break. It's time to feel a sense of urgency."

That sense of urgency may be superseded once again by Benjamin's patience. Freshman Justin Gainey may get the starting nod at the point guard position for tonight's opener against Florida Atlantic. But Benjamin understands now, more so than in the past, that the team comes first.

"Last year hurt a lot as far as confidence goes. I see [myself as] a more patient player," Benjamin said. "I see myself distributing the ball more."

Whether or not Benjamin is the team's starting point guard, the Pack's performance still weighs heavily on his performance, and Benjamin knows this. And he's ready to perform like he can, even amid



ITC/MICHAEL FINE PHOTO

Ishua Benjamin looks to bring his career full circle this year. The junior wowed the Reynolds faithful in his freshman campaign and then was relegated to bench duty last year.

extreme pressure.

"When it comes to crunch time, I want the ball more," Benjamin said. "I don't think I've had the typical college career."

"I'm just pleased now that I can block things out."

**Technician Sports:
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WHO'S IN FIRST

Can Wake win it for the third time in a row?

■ Who's going to win the ACC? We don't know.

BY MICHAEL PRESTON

Staff Writer

What basketball tab would be complete without a raving, mad egomaniac trying to convince the reading public he knows exactly what will transpire this season in the ACC? We haven't seen a publication yet that could pull it off, so decided to throw one in, too.

1. Wake Forest: Funny thing about having the national player of the year as a starter, it just makes your team so much better than everyone else's. Tim Duncan is obviously the key, assuming he doesn't get hurt somewhere along the line. However, if Tony Rutland doesn't come back as his old self, and Ricardo Peral fails to even remotely contribute, the team isn't invincible.

2. Clemson: If you beat the defending national champions, you deserve some respect. Rick Barnes' crew just might earn it this season, with its entire team from last season returning for another run. Greg Buckner will be expected to provide leadership on the floor for the young squad. Merl Code returns to add depth to an already deep backcourt.

3. North Carolina: Two words for you regarding North Carolina's upcoming season: Antawn Jamison. If this guy performs better than last year, the Heels could be downright frightening with Serge Zwikker and Makhtar Ndiaye with him up front. Bad news for Dean is that he has no point guard and the only thing more overrated than Vince Carter's defense is Vince Carter's jump shot.

4. Duke: Well, any team with an alternate color uniform is certainly a team that has more than two uniforms. With that comes a team with guards more dangerous than Bobby Hurley's driving.

Trajan Langdon, Jeff Capel, Nate James and Ricky Price will provide the outside game, giving Greg



Clemson has looked good so far this year, but at Littlejohn Coliseum, thanks to plays like this from C.C. Harrison, State knocked off the Tigers in 1995.

JASON COLE/STAFF

PACK HOOPS PREVIEW

21

Men

	<u>November</u>		Tue. 28	at Virginia	9 (Raycom)
Fri. 22	Florida Atlantic	7:30		<u>February</u>	
Mon. 25	Penn State	7:30	Sat. 1	Clemson	12 (Raycom)
Wed. 27	Lamar	7:30	Wed. 5	at Maryland	8
Sat. 30	at Memphis	8:30	Sat. 8	at Duke	8(Raycom)
	<u>December</u>		Wed. 12	North Carolina	9 (Raycom)
Tue. 3	Winthrop	7:30	Sun. 16	at Wake Forest	4 (Raycom)
Sat. 7	Wake Forest	12:30 (ESPN)	Wed.19	Virginia	7:30
Thu. 19	Central Florida	7:30	Sat. 22	Georgia Tech	12(RSN)
Sat. 21	at Kansas	8	Wed. 26	Florida State	7:30
Tue. 31	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	7:30		<u>March</u>	
	<u>January</u>		Sat. 1	Wofford	7:30
Sat. 4	at Florida State	1:30 (Raycom)	Thur-Sun. 6-9	ACC Tournament (Greensboro)	on Raycom/ESPN
Tue. 7	Texas Pan-American	7:30			
Sun. 12	Maryland	1 (Raycom/ESPN2)		Head Coach: Herb Sendek (Carnegie-Mellon '85)	
Wed. 15	at North Carolina	9 (Raycom)		0-0 at NC State (1st Year); 63-26 overall	
Sat. 18	at Clemson	12 (Raycom)		Assistant Coaches: Sean Miller (Pittsburgh '92); Larry Harris (Pittsburgh '78).	
Tue. 21	Duke	9 (Raycom)			
Sat. 25	at Georgia Tech	1:30			



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PACK HOOPS PREVIEW

Women

November

Sat. 23	George Mason
Tue. 26	East Carolina
Thur. 28	vs. Syracuse*
Fri. 29	vs. Puerto Rico*

December

Sat. 7	at Florida State
Fri. 20	S. Carolina St. ^
Sat. 21	Deleware St. ^
Sat. 28	vs. George Washington**
Sun. 29	vs. Rutgers**

January

Sun. 5	at Georgia Tech
Wed. 8	at Clemson
Sat. 11	Virginia
Wed. 15	Duke
Sat. 18	at Maryland
Thur. 23	at North Carolina
Sun. 26	Florida State
Wed. 29	Wake Forest

7	Sat. 1	at Colorado ^ ^	6
7	Wed. 5	Clemson	7
8	Sun. 9	at Virginia	5
8	Wed. 12	at Duke	7
	Sat. 15	Maryland	2
3	Mon. 17	North Carolina	7
7	Thur. 20	at Wake Forest	7:30
3	Sun. 23	Georgia Tech	12
2	Thur. 27- Mar. 2	ACC Tournament (Charlotte)	
2			

* San Juan Holiday Classic; ** ACC Big Four Classic, Greensboro; ^ Wolfpack Holiday Classic; ^ ^ ACC/Big 12 Challenge.

7:30 Head Coach: Kay Yow (East Carolina '64)
7:30 451-183 at NC State (21st Year); 508-202
7 overall
2 Assistant Coaches: Stephanie Glance, Robin Pate, Jennifer Price.

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Get ready for Sendek's Redneks

Editor's note: This column originally ran on April 19, 1996.

Michael Preston

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■ The hiring of Herb Sendek is a marketing dream.

The time we all fondly remember as the "Les Robinson Reign of Terror," is now officially over.

When Her "Who?" Sendek took the podium and shook hands with Todd "Why?" Turner, a new chapter in the book that is N.C. State basketball was opened.

I was at the press conference, Wednesday morning when a crowd of roughly 250 people hung on the 33-year-old's every word.

The last time a State coach received as much applause as Sendek, Jim Valvano was roaming the sidelines.

He said all the right things.

He talked about walking into Reynolds Coliseum for the first time and told those in attendance that he got goosebumps. Right there, with that one phrase, I was hooked.

I almost became the first officially licensed "Sendek Rednek" (except that I'm from New Jersey and the laws of nature won't permit such a thing).

Can you see the T-shirts rolling off the presses? We'd spell "redneck" without the "c" as our gimmick. Give one to everybody sitting on the sidelines at home games.

And when he walked out

on to the court, after the team, the band could play the "Imperial March" theme from Star Wars while Sendek Redneks (trademarked as we speak) chanted, "Herb, Herb, Herb."

Talk about freakin' out the Dookies. The Cameron What's-their-names couldn't do anything to top such a masterful piece of coaching supports.

Because, think about it, what in the name of all that is holy rhymes with Krzyzewski... nothing! It's a lot like orange. Nothing rhymes with orange.

Oh man, it's a marketing dream. If nobody at sports information picks up on this then somebody out there has to give it a go.

We could make Reynolds the most feared place in the nation to set foot. You want to talk about goosebumps, that'd be goosebumps.

Just as soon as he comes out and says, "I hate the University of North Carolina the way I hate the devil," I'll be ready to christen him.

So when I listened to what you had to say, after the part about the goosebumps, I have to admit, I'm cautiously optimistic about this season.

As every "Sendek Rednek" should be.

And I hate that I've been optimistic about basketball seasons for three years now and each season it just got worse. And worse. And last year it got bad, I looked back on the Florida Atlantic disaster as a highlight.

Hey wouldn't "Orange Krzyzewski's" be a great nickname for a Major League Soccer team?

Getting back to the point, Coach, please don't let us down. We aren't expecting much. Remember, we've had to deal with Les Robinson standards for the past six years.

The "Sendek Redneks"

will be there all the way. Please, coach, I beg you on behalf of all the students, fans and alumni who feel they're above such measures — don't let us down. We'll take anything. If we make it to the NCAAs and lose in the first round by 34, we'll have a parade for the team. We'll be at the airport with banners and signs.

Look for me coach. I'll be the first one with the T-shirt.



"Sendek's Redneks"



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