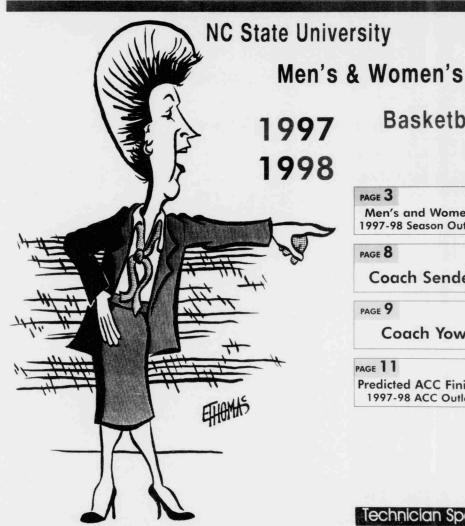
TECHNICIAN SPORTS BASKETBALL PREVIEW



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Predicted ACC Finishes 1997-98 ACC Outlook

Technician Sports

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• Florida State and Georgia Tech



• Maryland and UNC-Chapel Hill



Wake Forest and Virginia



TECHNICIAN

Student National State Chicersity

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EDITOR IN CHIEF

Terry H. Bennett

MANAGING EDITOR

Nicole Bowman

GENERAL MANAGER

Dawn Wotapka

K. Gaffney - Tab Editor Assistant Tab Editor - Tim Hunter Hide Terada - Photography Editor Copy Desk Chief - Stephanie Bullock Farrah Cooley - Design Editor - Charles Mangin Alian Hart - Cover Design

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1997-98 Season Outlook



A fighting chance

■ The members of the Wolfpack women's basketball team have a lot to prove this season, but as far as they are concerned, it doesn't seem to be a problem.

K. Gaffney

Play basketball in one of the best conferences in the nation, with only two starters returning from a team that wasn't terribly deep to begin with?

No problem.

The Wolfpack women's basketball team has a tough road a head in the ACC this season, facing off against top national competitors like UNC-Chapel Hill, Virginia, and Duke, but Pack Coach Kay Yow's team looks ready for the challenge.

Preseason predictions put State in the middle of the ACC, somewhere that the Wolfpack isn't used to being, and doesn't intend to stay. Weighing heavily on the hearts and minds of Pack fans and critics alike was how to replace what the Pack had lost.

At the top of the list of concerns was current WNBA player Umeki Webb, who joined the Phoenix Mercury after the finish-

Pack. Webb was the team's third Melvin could play, it offered leading scorer and led the team in assists and steals, playing just about every position for Yow and the Wolfpack. Webb is now a student assistant with the team, while finishing her degree at State in the off-season.

Also missing from the roster are guards Jennifer Howard and Katie Smrcka-Duffy. A large part of the Pack's three-point arsenal last season, Howard graduated in May with 4.0 GPA in communication and Smrcka-Duffy transferred to Georgetown.

Leading the State return are senior Chasity Melvin and junior guard LySchale Jones.

Melvin joins UNC-Chapel Hill's Tracy Reid as the only two returning members of the conference's first team of 1996-97

Melvin posted numbers of 16.1 points and 8.7 rebounds per game last season, while playing 30+ minutes every game

Jones, who came into her own last season after seeing limited court time her freshman year, averaged 8.4 points and four rebounds per game, and was third on the team in steals, picking up

But Thursday's game against Denamo, Russia, did more than show Pack fans that Iones and

reassurance that the criticism of this year's team should at least be put on hold until the ACC schedule rolls around

The Pack newcomers gave strong showings, with freshman Monica Bates and Tynesha Lewis stepping up despite having to handle the nerves of playing their first game in Wolfpack Red.

Summer Erb, a 6'6" inch transfer from Purdue showed her versatility, stepping out on top of the key to sink the Pack's first basket of the game

Kenyatta Williams and Kristen Gillespie also look to offer Yow options at the point.

But according to Yow, State's success will all have to start on defense if the Pack is going to get it done this year.

"I want to have a defense that can ignite the offense," Yow said after the game. "It has to start on that end.

Apparently, the freshmen are already well versed in what it will take on their part.

"They told me that if I was hustling I couldn't be wrong," Lewis said. "So I decided just to hus-

If they have it their way, the Wolfpack women might be hustling to the top of the ACC.



The Wolfpack women will have to prove early that they can rebuild after losing three starters from last season.

N.C. State University

Location Raleigh Founded 1887 **Enrollment** 27537 Nickname Wolfpack

Red, White Arena Reynolds Coliseum (12400)

Men

Coach Herb Sendel Career 80-41 (.661) at State 17 15 96:97 17 15 ACC Titles 10 NCAA Appearances 14

Women

Career 527 214 (.682) at State 470-195 196197 19 12 ACC Titles 4 NCAA Appearances 12

The Pack is back



The State men's squad features nine underclassmen, including six freshman.

State men bring high hopes and expectations into the 1997-98 season.

Ryan Kellogg

March 17, 1997, the ride ended. Little did Wolfpack fans know last season that a first-year coach and a squad of basketball players that no one believed in would go so far.

The 1996-97 team was able to make misty-eyed believers out of those old enough to remember the Cardiac Pack of yore and new faithful out of those young enough to confuse David Thompson with

The Pack's late-season heroics in last year's ACC tournament stunned all the critics and naysayers. The crowds during the NIT tournament in Reynolds Coliseum swelled to levels unseen since the days of Jim Valvano. The Pack was truly back.

This year's team will be hard pressed to continue the momentum of late last season. With a returning group of six veterans and a core of recruits ready for action. Coach Herb Sendek will be striving to

blend the team into a cohesive group.

"Our challenge will be to bring our young players along as quickly as possible, at the same time exer cising patience. It's a process. It takes time. You can't skip steps in that process," Sendek noted

Leading the veterans will be senior co-captains Ishua Benjamin and C.C. Harrison.

Both have played exceedingly well under Sendek's new system. Harrison was named last year's most improved player in the ACC, a title he most certainly earned.

Harrison went from averaging 5.8 points a game his sophomore year to an impressive 15.7 points a game his junior year, good enough for sixth in the conference. The ACC Sports Journal named Harrison "the league's best one-on-one player." The 6-foot-4-inch guard should continue to be an integral part of the veteran leadership on the court.

While Harrison provides the offense, Benjamin is the main man on defense.

"Ishua has proven himself to be one of the better defenders, not only in our conference, but in the country," Sendek said.

For proof one needs look no further than his 47 steals last season. Benjamin's career total is 131, which is ninth in State history. Benjamin will be looked upon to step up his offensive production this season, a prospect that will be easier with his move to a more natural wing position.

Behind the senior co-captains are four underclassmen who will need to step up their own performance.

Standing as the lone junior on the team is 6-foot-8-inch forward Luke Buffum, Buffum had a critical role last season after Damon Thornton injured his hip. Buffum was able to provide a stiff defensive game in the post-season and deliver some crurial plays, the most notable being his two key free throws to clinch the Maryland game during the ACC tournament.

Sendek will look for Buffum to continue to play his role of man behind the curtain, providing an important, if often unglamorous,

Rounding out the Pack's experi-

See MEN, Page 6 >



1997-98 Pack Seniors

Chasity Melvin takes on a not-so-new role

Senior Chasity Melvin has a new role on this year's Wolfpack Women's basketball

K. Gaffney

Chasity Melvin never had to be a leader

Now, with the Wolfpack women's basketball team returning just two starters, and Melvin being the only senior of the two, the 6'3" post will be the most-looked at player on Coach Kay Yow's roster.

"In the past, I always had someone above me to act as the leader of the team, Melvin said in a recent interview. "But now I am the one who has to be the leader."

Melvin may not be used to the solo spotlight, but this season is not the first time that the media's glow has shown down on her, and if past performance is any indication, it looks like she can handle her new

At 6 foot 3 inches, it is hard to miss the powerful center, on or off the court. It is not physical appearance that sets Melvin apart, but rather her presence.

Melvin made an impact on the Wolfpack in her first season

The 1995 ACC Rookie of the Year, Melvin posted better numbers in her fresh man campaign than did Tracy Reid.

All-time Trena Trice Wolfpack Andrea Stinson 1st team Sharon Manning All-ACC Rhonda Mapp Chasity Melvin women

Stephanie Cross and Jeanette Davis, now veteran members of the ACC's Class of

Melvin started all but six games her freshman year and has been a staple for the Wolfpack ever since, averaging 16.3 points per game over the three seasons, Melvin has also been consistent.

66 N Tow I am the one who has to be the leader."

> - Chasity Melvin, N.C. State Senior

Not only has Melvin averaged 16+ points per game in all three seasons, but her improvement has been consistent as well. In the 1996-97 campaign, Melvin was

1996-97 Season Highlights

- . Third team All-ACC in 1997
- · Started all 31 games for the Wolfpack
- · Basketball Times Honorable Mention

· Kodak and AP All-American Candidate 10 double-doubles

· scored 1,000th point in the first game of

second only to Reid, the eventual Player of the Year, with 10 double-doubles

This season, Yow is looking for Melvin to step up as far as her time on the court. This year's Wolfpack team has only Melvin and LySchale Jones returning as starters, with senior post player Peace Shepard and Kristen Gillespie having started a combined six games last season, but like the rest of the her teammates, never earning a regular spot.

The Pack lost three starters from the 1996-97 squad that wasn't especially deep to begin with. They were three of the top scorers for State last year, and until Yow and the Pack find a regular rotation, Melvin will be looked to for points and for playing time.

"I was pleased with the level that Chasity played at for so long tonight," Yow said after the Pack's first exhibition game of the season last Thursday against Denamo, Russia. Melvin played 37 minutes in the game, totaling game highs with 21 points and 11 rehounds

But for Melvin, it's just another year, and that has Wolfpack fans hoping that "just another year" will bring "just another" 16 points and eight rebounds per game.

And if the preseason has been any indication, Melvin shouldn't have much of a problem living up to those expectations. In Sunday's final pre-season tune-up, Melvin scored an effortless team-high 26

points, playing just 25 minutes against the all-star team from Soprani, Hungary. Melvin may have seen limited action, but hit 10 of 11 shots from the floor and was six of ten from the free throw line.

In the Pack's first exhibtion game, Melvin led the team with her first double-double of the season, scoring 21 points and adding 11 rebounds- not to mention taking on the job of mentoring freshman Tynesha Lewis.

"I was real nervous before the game," Lewis said in the post-game press conference. "Chasity really helped me get ready to play today.

Maybe being a leader won't be such a differnt role for Melvin



CAREER **STATISTICS**

G - GS	92-86
Minutes	2735
FG-Pct.	.582
3P-Pct.	.000
FT-Pct.	.571
Reb.	715
Avg.	7.8
PF-D	32345
A	116
TO	269
S	110
BS	128
TP	1497
Avg.	16.3

Chasity Melvin is the only senior of the two returning starters to the 1997-98 Wolfpack women's team

Melvin is the second leading returning scorer in the ACC, topped only by Tracy Reid of UNC Chapel Hill, the 1997 ACC Player of the Year.



Last dance for Harrison and Benjamin



C.C. Harrison (above) and Ishua Benjamin (No.5 below) were integral parts of last season's run to the ACC Tournament title game, and are the only two seniors on this year's squad. On a team that features eight under-classman, State Coach Herb Sendek will look to the senior duo this season to lead the State team. Fan favorites in Reynolds Collsuem, the two look to live up the expectations of Pack faithful and lead State to a title



■ Seniors C.C. Harrison and Ishua Benjamin will don their Wolfpack uniforms for one final go-round this season.

James Curle

Great Expectations.

To different people, this phrase can have very different meanings.

Talk to an English professor on campus and odds are that he or she will launch into a discussion on Charles Dickens' legendary work by the same title.

Talk to either C.C. Harrison or Ishua Benjamin, and you'll hear decidedly different tales.

Take Harrison, for instance.

A relatively unknown recruit when he came into the league as a freshman, Harrison ultimately provided the offensive backbone for the Wolfpack last year. His role became even more critical as the end of the season drew to a close, following the loss of center Damon Thornton to a hip injury. Thornton's absence left State with basically a five-guard setup, possesing no strength underneath as they entered the marquis event of the season, the ACC tournament.

But by using a cut-and-slash type of offense, State both wore down and out-gunned the best teams in the conference en route to the championship game.

"Last year, we had to do whatever we could to win." Harrison said.

Leading that type of offense was Harrison, breaking down his opponent on the way to the basket.

His performance last spring was strong enough to garner him first-team All-Tournament honors and most of the press following State's improbable post-season run.

But that was last season, and as coach Herb Sendek has stated many times during the off-season, the makeup of this team will be considerably different.

There's no denying, however, that Harrison will once again be called upon to provide the role of backbone for this young Wolfpack team.

"I'm just going to go out and try to help my team win,"
Harrison said. "If I get five points, four assists and we
win, then I'll be happy with that. I'm just going to do
whatever it takes to win."

The expectations heaped upon Benjamin's shoulders are great as well, but perhaps aren't as high as they were following his freshman campaign.

In his first ever game as a member of the Wolfpack in 1994, Benjamin scored 29 points,

which still remains his career best. He started every game that season for the Pack, and the future of State's backcourt looks very bright.

But over the next two years, Benjamin never quite fulfilled the promise that his first game seemed to forecast. He only started nine games his sophomore season, and his points-per-game average dropped more than five points from the year before.

The past two seasons have seen Benjamin become more of a defense-oriented player. He collected 77 defensive rebounds last year, posted his second-highest number of steals (47) and was consequently

CAREER STATISTICS

-		17113	1103
Harr	ison	Benja	min
G-GS	83-43	G-GS	86-67
Minutes	2002	Minutes	2553
FG-Pct.	.446	FG-Pct.	.384
3P-Pct.	.375	3P-Pct.	.324
FT-Pct.	.715	FT-Pct.	.707
OffDef.	65-133	OffDef.	70-165
Reb.	198	Reb.	235
Avg.	2.4	Avg.	2.7
A	102	A	315
то	89	TO	254
Blk.	7	Blk.	9
S	90	S	131
Pts.	714	Pts.	901
Avg.	8.6	Avg.	10.5

named to the ACC's all-defensive team by the Raleigh News & Observer.

But undoubtedly Pack fans are still hoping for Benjamin to display that same type of explosive scoring he showed as a freshman at some time this season. While that may be unreasonable considering his heightened role as a defender. Benjamin, nevertheless, has a lot expected from him.

"Coming out of high school, especially my freshman year, I was looked at more for scoring," Benjamin said. "It seems like whenever coach Sendek came in, my role just changed,"

So Harrison and Benjamin find themselves at the helm of a young Wolfpack basketball team, and will have to draw on what they have learned over the past three years to help the Pack return to last year's form.

"We know that the fans are expecting us to have a good season this year," Harrison said, "and we're expecting the same things. But we just have to take it one day at a time, keep getting better, because it's not going to happen overnight."

"It seems like everybody on N.C. State's campus, as well as Raleigh, is excited about this season," Benjamin added. "There's a lot of expectations, repeating what we did last year."

It's something State's grown to expect this year: Great Expectations.

NCSU Career Highlights

Harrison

- Held Goals: 11 vs. Florida State, 2/26/97
 Three-Pointers: 5, two times (last, Arkansas-Pine Bluff 12/31/96)
- Pree Throws: 7 vs. Georgia Tech, 3/6/97
 Rebounds: 9, two times (last, Clemson, 2/1/97)
- Assists: 5 vs. UNC Asheville, 12/20/95
 Blocks: 1, seven times (last, Florida State, 2/26/97)
- Steals: 4, four times (last, Maryland, 3/8/97)

Benjamin

- Held Goals: 11 vs. Prairie View, 11/26/94
 Three-Pointers: 7 vs. Prairie View, 11/26/94
- Pree Throws: 9 vs. Kansas, 12/10/94
- Rebounds: 10 at Central Florida, 1/15/96
 Assists: 10 vs. Radford, 11/30/94
- Blocks: 1, nine times (last, Virginia, 2/19/97)
- Steals: 6, two times (last, Fla. Atlantic, 11/22/97)





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Men

Continued from Page

enced players are three sophomores — Justin Gainey, Damon Thornton and Tim Wells. Each had impressive freshmen seasons showing that they could play with the best in the ACC.

Gainey and Thornton were both inserted into the starting lineup last year, with Gainey emerging as the Pack's premiere ball handler late last season.

"He went from someone who was relatively unsure of himself, to someone who, through the process of consistent hard work, became confident and much improved ball-handler," Sendek said of Gainey's performance over the season.

Perhaps the biggest question mark for the Pack this season lies with Thornton, Thornton, a 6foot-8-inch forward was forced to sit out the last nine games of the season with a hip injury. Since then, Thornton has undergone successful orthoscopic surgery. How long until he's able to play is largely dependent on how quickly he can rehabilitate. If last season is indicative of Thornton's ability, the sooner the better. He was the first freshman to lead the Wolfpack in rebounding with seven per game. Thornton also led the team in blocked shots with 27, and in field goal percentage (.550).

Finally, the 6-foot-7-inch Wells looks to have a breakout season. His work in the weight room has added 12 pounds and much needed strength to an athletic frame. Hopefully the additional work will equal playing time down the stretch.

Coming into the Wolfpack program are six extremely talented freshmen, who look as if they will make an immediate impact.

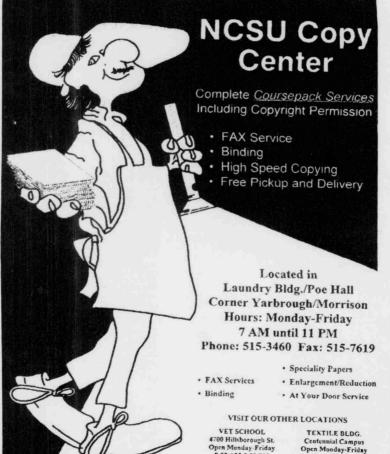
As Sendek's first recruiting class, some analysts have ranked these blue-chippers in the top 10 classes of recruits.

"All our freshmen will have to work hard to make the transition from high school basketball to the ACC, the country's premiere league," Sendek said.

How well the Pack does this season will largely depend on how quickly the freshmen adapt and how well the team jells. Early indications show the team needs more time to work the kinks out.

Still. Sendek is focused on the task at hand; one he hopes will begin with the basics and continue from there.

He said, "We're going to really have to focus on building a strong foundation. We will continue to focus on the themes that are important to us — working hard in day-tight compartments, focusing on improvement and mastering the fundamentals."



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1997-98 Pack Newcomers

A LOOK AT FRESHMEN

The new class

Ryan Kellogg

One would think the loss of three starters would spell certain doom for any athletic team, especially one like basketball.

But that wouldn't be N.C. State women basketball Head Coach Kay Yow's style. For evidence one needs only to look at her recruiting class of talented newcomers to know the future is far from dark.

The 1997-98 class of Pack rookies looks to fill the holes left by Umeki Webb, Jennifer Howard, and Katie Smrcka-Duffy, a difficult task but certainly one not out of reach.

Leading the newcomers are three true freshmen who bring to the team a variety of

skills and backgrounds. Tynesha Lewis, a 5-10 guard from Pinetops, N.C., is perhaps the Pack's best example of this incoming level of skill. During her career at Southwest Edgecombe. Tynesha averaged an impressive 18.4 points and 7.2 rebounds per game. Those stats along with 648 assists and 340 steals landed her designation as the 1997 Associated Press Women's High School Player of the Year in North Carolina. If that isn't impressive enough Tynesha also managed to take on the responsibilities of being student body

Ron Anderson

6-6, Fayetteville, North Carolina

Kenny Inge 6-8, Virginia Beach, Virginia

Ron Kelley

6-10, Emory, Texas

Monica Bates

6-2, Manchester, Tennessee Daphne Hutcherson

5-8, College Park, Georgia

senior year. Turning down offers to perenni-

al powerhouses like Tennessee and

Connecticut, Lewis ultimately chose NCSU

because of one of its most valuable assets.

"I was born and raised a Carolina fan so it

was kind of difficult (to choose State). But I

met Coach Yow and that changed every-

thing," explained Lewis, "She has all the

reasons to be big-headed like other people

are, but she's not. She's the most down-to-

Bringing additional size to the team is 6-2

forward, Monica Bates. Bates, a native of

Manchester, Tennessee also brings in pretty

hefty credentials. Her three-year career

Tennessee

steals are indeed impres-

sive. In 1996 she was

named Class AAA

Tennessee Player of the

Year and in 1997 the

Association's Player of the

Year. Like Lewis, Monica

turned down other strong

programs like Kentucky,

Florida, Mississippi State,

Rounding out the fresh-

man class is Daphne

Hutcherson, a 5-8 point guard from College Park,

Georgia. During her career

at Woodward Academy,

Hutcherson was the epito-

me of on-court leadership.

Her team won back-toback 5-A state champi-

onships in 1995 and 1996

and amassed a 111-7

record during her four

years. Those achievements are coupled with 1,251

points, 410 rebounds, 617 steals, and 509 assists.

Along with the Pack's

muchheralded recruits are

a couple of players whose

Clemson, and Texas.

Ole

Coaches

earth person I've met.

Ryan "Archie" Miller 5-9. Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania

Rouldra Thomas 6-7 Natchez, Mississippi

Cornelius Williams 6-11. Fort McClellan, Alabama

Tynesha Lewis 5-10, Pinetops, North Carolina

Linda Pshigoda 6-2, Perryton, Texas

ACC Rookie of the Year

1977 Hawkeye Whitney Chasity Melvin 1997 Katie Smrcka-Duffy Six Pack

A six-man freshman class in 1997-98 ranks as one of Pack's best ever. Tim Hunter and Jonathan Noel

Head Coach Herb Sendek continues to impress the starved fans of Wolfpack basketball.

Sendek and his staff will bring six new faces to the 1997-98 team, all nationally recognized coming out of high school. This class has been ranked in the top five by many publications, and ranks behind only the fabled Duke class in the ACC.

With a lack of height and depth, a few of these freshmen will have to contribute immediately.

"I don't think there is anyone on this team who isn't looking forward to the competition in the ACC," said point guard Ryan Miller.

The large class is headlined by two talented swing players by the name of Ron Anderson and Kenny Inge. This duo comes to N.C. State from Hargrave Military Academy, the same prep school in Virginia that produced current star Damon Thornton. The two played together their senior year as fifth year

Inge was the first to sign with the Pack, who took notice of Anderson on a trip to see Kenny. Inge, a 6-8 freshman from Virginia Beach, played with Thornton for one year, and was rated as the second best fifth year prep player in the nation.

"Damon being there had a lot to do with Kenny's choice, but he made up his own mind," said Hargrave coach Scott Shepherd. "He wanted to

know what was the situation for him and he saw a lot of opportunity at N.C. State."

Although Inge is a power forward and will play mostly in the post, he has improved his perimeter play and outside shooting.

Ron Anderson also played at Fayetteville 71st, whom he led to a 26-4 record as a senior.

Anderson will add depth at the shooting guard where he plays primarily, and could also see some time at small forward. Ranked as the sixth-best fifth-year prep player in the 1997. Anderson can hit the three and has the ability to take the ball to the basket.

"Everybody's anxious to show what we got," said Anderson, as the team prepares for Sendek's second year as coach of the Wolfpack. "We are looking forward to the season."

Ron Kelley adds an inside pres-ence to a Wolfpack team, which was reduced to a five guard lineup after Thornton's departure with an hip injury last year. With the status of Thornton on this year's team uncertain as his hip slowly heals. Kelley could see significant play-

The 6-10, 230 lb. center from Raines High School in Emory, Texas was ranked as the No. 37 freshman coming out of high school by Clark Francis.

Topping out at 6-11 and 265 pounds, Cornelius Williams is by far the biggest recruit in this class.

See MFRESH, Page 10 >



Monica Bates is just one of the new faces on Coach Kay Yow's 1997-98 squad.

impact will be new, but whose presence on the team is not. Summer Erb and Linda Pshigoda are a

See WFRESH, Page 10



Kenny Inge, a 6'8" forward is just one of the Pack's six new players.

Questions & Answers

M.C. State men's basketball Coach Herb Sendek fields some frequently asked questions about the upcoming season.

James Curle

Here is what Coach Sendek had to say to about the upcoming season, the new team and the ACC.

Q: After the success of the team last year in the ACC Tournament, along with the strength of the incoming freshman class, a lot of people have really high expectations of the team this year. Do you think they're reasonable?

A: Well, it's hard to measure what's reasonable. We certainly take the expectations as a compliment, but we have no control over what others perceive to be this team's potential. Our focus, instead, must be to work very hard, striving to constantly and consistently improve. If you look at the composition of our team, you immediately notice that six of our 10 healthy bodies in the freshman class. We have a very young, relatively inexperienced team, and I don't know that there's any substitute for experience in college basketball. So, we're going to be more than challenged to meet some of those expectations. but once again, all we can focus on is the task at

Q: How strong is the ACC this year? Is it stronger than it was last year?

A: I think the ACC potentially is even stronger than it was last year. Obviously we lose a marquis player in Tim Duncan, but more or less, the better players have returned. I think each team, if you went around the circuit in early fall, would think that they've improved themselves from last year, which is pretty hard to believe because Mike Krzyzewski said of all his years in the league, last year was the

Q: I'm sure you've heard this question quite a bit this year: What's the situation on Damon Thornton? A: Damon continues to progress. We plan to increase his level of activity sometime this week. The final decision regarding his status for this season has not yet been made. We're optimistic about his ability to return, but the window remains cracked that he'll need a medical red shirt this year. Whenever he does come back, it's obviously going to take some time before he's "in the groove," and regained his basketball conditioning.

O: What did he do, as far as rehab is concerned. over the off-season?

A: He had surgery this fall on his hip and he's gone through a rigorous rehabilitation program. He's also gradually increased his level of activity but has not yet rejoined our team for practice.

Q: Are there any other injuries on the team? A: Tim Wells has a stress fracture, and he has not

practiced with us yet. We anticipate he'll be able to return sometime near the middle of November. Cornelius Williams had a stress fracture that kept him sidelined during our preseason workouts, but he has now returned to practice and is doing well.

Q: Could you give a brief rundown on the new freshmen on the team?

A: Archie Miller is a point guard from Pittsburgh, Pa. He's about 5-9, an excellent outside shooter. Rouldra Thomas and Ron Anderson join us from Natchez, Miss., and Fayetteville, N.C., respectively. Both are good, athletic players. Kenny Inge, a 6-7 forward from the Virginia Beach, Va., area, is another very athletic player. Then Cornelius Williams and Ron Kelley, from Jacksonville, Ala., and Emory, Texas, respectively, are two big bodies, frontcourttype players that we were able to add to our team.

Q: Now that you have more size underneath, do you think that will affect your game plan any?

A: Well, it really will because last year we played five guards. We'll have to put Cornelius and Ron and our other frontcourt players in a position where they could be comfortable and successful.

Q: Do you think having big players underneath will help open up more opportunities on the perime-

A: Sure. It's just like running and passing in football. The better you are at one, the more it tends to



Sendek led the Wolfpack to a 17-15 record and the ACC Tournament championship game last season.

open up the other. So, if you can work your inside and outside game together and they compliment each other, they both tend to benefit.

Q: Do you think either Kelley or Williams will see playing time right away?

A: I don't know to what extent each player will play; that's still yet to be determined. We've only practiced for a week. But somebody's going to have to play the frontcourt, and in Damon's absence you're really looking at putting a spotlight on that freshmen class.

Q: Last year, defense was the trademark of Wolfpack basketball. Do you think that same type of defense will be prominent this season?

A: It still remains to be seen how well this team plays defense. Last year's team became a good defensive squad. This team has a lot to learn and has a ways to go before we're a good defensive unit. I think the cliché is that good defense wins, but I think a more accurate statement is that good balance wins. You can be a great defensive team, but if you're a bad offensive team, it's hard to win. You need to be pretty good on both ends of the court to compete at this level. Certainly good defense is critical, but so is good offense.

Q: Finally, if you had one thing you could say to the Wolfpack fans out there, what would it be?

A: I would say "Thank you" for their tremendous support - their loyal, steadfast following. I think that means a great deal to our baskethall team

Coaching Record

Overall: 80-41 (.661), 4 years N.C. State (17-15)

1997. 17-15

Miami University (63-26)

In just one year at State, Sendek has already become a favorite among Wolfpack fans.

Headed for history by Kim Gaffney

With 500+ wins, Kay Yow has established herself as one of the premier coaches in the nation.

Coach Yow has been with the Wolfpack for 22 years, racking up more than 15 seasons with 20 or more wins, and has led the State women to 12 NCAA Tournament appearances and four ACC championships.

Yow is one of the top five active women's coaches in the nation, ranked

Kay Yow has had just two losing seasons in her 22 years with the Wolfpack.

among the likes of C. Vivian Stinger of Rutgers and Pat Summitt. Among her many honors are Coach of the Year awards in 1977, 1988. 1989, and 1990 from various organizations. including USA

also received the Women's Basketball Coaches Association's prestigious award, the Carol Eckman Award. which is voted on by the members of the association and goes to the coach who best demonstrates sportsmanship, honesty, courage, ethical behavathlete.

WINNINGEST ACTIVE DIVISION 1 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACHES

Name/School	Seasons	Wins
1. Jody Conradt/Texas	28	697
2. Pat Summitt/Tennessee	23	625
3. Sue Gunter/Louisiana St.	27	547
4. Vivian Stringer/Rutgers	25	544
5. Kay Yow/N.C. State	26	527

Coaching Record

Overall: 527-214 (711). 26 years

N.C. State

470-195 (707), 22 years

Elon College 57-19 (750), 4 years







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Mfresh

Continued from Page

With State's absence of an established inside game, Williams and Kelly could wind up seeing some major court time this season.

Point guard Ryan "Archie" Miller joins the Pack from Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania where he played for his father, Miller is the brother of assistant coach Sean Miller, and has drawn comparisons to former Duke guard Bobby Hurley.

"I don't worry about comparisons, I am just going to try and come in and make a name for myself," Miller said, Miller was rated "Best Playmaker" in last year's senior class by recruiting guru Bok Gibbons, and should battle Justin Gainey for playing time. The 5-9, 160 Miller has stood out as a vocal leader and a hustler in practice.

Rounding out the class is late addition Rouldra Thomas. Thomas (6-7, 185) hails to State from Natchez, Mississippi where he gained national attention after a spectacular senior year.

Thomas posted season highs of 42 points and 20 rebounds in one game against Jefferson County.

The accolades and awards speak for themselves as this large class prepares for action. This class of six comprises some depth at all positions, something that has eluded the Pack in recent years. "Practice is going well, considering over half of our players were at the senior pron layers were at the senior pron layear," Sendek explained with a smirk.

Despite their lack of experience, the group will be called upon early and often. If their play in prep school and preseason practice is any indication, the Pack faithful should have plenty to look forward to.

Wfresh

Continued from Page

pair of players who have paid their time on the bench for different reasons but both are primed for a fresh start.

Erb standing at 6-6 is a noticeable presence on the court and off. As a player with Purdue, Summer averaged 3.4 points and 2.0 rebounds as a backup. Upon coming to State, Erb redshirted last season under NCAA transfer rules but thanks to her hard work in the off-season she could land a starting role this year. With her size and power, the inside game for the Pack could easily become a force to reckon with.

Standing tall in the post is the 6-2 Pshigoda from Perryton, Texas. Pshigoda has had a tough time in her Wolfpack career. After suffering a chondral fracture of the right patella in her senior year in high school, Linda has been constantly plagued with soreness in her knees.

How much time these newcom-

ers play will depend on a variety of factors, the most important being their adjustment to the college game and the amount of effort they put into it.

"The playing time is based on how hard you work. Coach Yow and the coaching staff have the red light or the green light on how much playing time I get," explained Lewis.

This class of Wolfpack newcomers looks to provide a bright future for seasons to come, a hope that all fans of the program can look forward to.



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-Kim

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Duke set to win title again

Men's 1996-97

ACC Final Standings

Team

Clemson

Wake Forest

Florida State

Georgia Tech

North Carolina

Duke

A breakdown on where the ACC should end up this season.

James Curle

If there's any one thing that can be said about the ACC this season, it's that nothing is for certain. With the highly successful teams of Duke Carolina and Clemson all returning four starters from last year, the charge to the title could be

anybody's ballgame. 9. Georgia Tech

Matt Harpring's back for Tech, but that's about it as far as seasoned talent is

concerned. Coach Bobby Cremins landed a hot recruit in Dion Glover. but unless he explodes for 20-30 points a game don't expect much from Atlanta this season.

8. Virginia

Jeff Jones will be without the services of Courtney Alexander, who transfered out of the program. That leaves Curtis Staples as the lone star in N.C. State the backcourt for the Cavaliers, and unfortunately that won't be

enough offense to carry them. But UVA's a fairly young team, and will spend this year trying to get their freshmen and sophomores up to ACC-speed.

7. Florida State

First year coach Steve Robinson inherits four starters from Pat Kennedy's squad a year ago, including forwards Corey Louis and LaMarr Greer. But the Seminoles will have to adjust quickly to Robinson's style of coaching to have any hopes of regaining the chemistry from a year ago and competing game-in and game-out.

6. Wake Forest

Guess what happens when the nation's No. 1 player graduates from your team? You fall in the preseason rankings, that's what. Tim Duncan is gone, and so are Wake Forest's chances of competing nationally. Tony Rutland is back from his knee injury, but the question remains if that will be enough to win the conference matchups

5. N.C. State

The exhibtion game loss to Marathon

Duke may be picked atop the ACC again, but don't count out the Pack.

Oil exposed the major weakness that State will have to combat all year long: inexperience. With Damon Thornton a liability, State has only three starters back from last season's squad that made the memorable

charge to the ACC Championship game. That sounds like a fair number, but Justin Gainey is but a sophomore, and the remaining two slots will have to be

filled with a pair of green, untested freshmen. 4. Maryland

Guess who also returns four starters to their squad? Yep, Gary Williams' Maryland team brings back the bulk of the team from last season. The Terrapins were ranked as high as fifth at one point last year, but several back-to-back losses knocked Maryland out of the top 10.

3. UNC

Many would argue that Antwan Jamison is the best forward in college basketball, and few can strongly argue that position. With Shammond Williams at point guard and Vince Carter

See MACC, Page 15



Tim Duncan	Wake Forest
Antawn Jamison.	.North Carolina
Keith Booth	Maryland
Trajan Langdon	Duke
Matt Harping	Georgia Tech

1997 ACC FIRST TEAM

women
Tracy Reid North Carolin
Marion Jones North Carolin
Tora Suber Virginia
Kisha Ford Georgia Tecl
Chasity Melvin N.C. State

roster, the ACC will be a battle again this season

9. Florida State

The toughest challens that the Seminoles will face is gaining respect the conference. The 'Noles posted a 0-

16 record in the conference last season.

Under Coach Sue Semran in her first season, FSU looks to avoid some of the tough times of last year's season under fiery Coach Chris Gobrecht, who lasted just

one season in the ACC The 'Noles return all five starters from

8. Wake Forest

The Demon Deacons will have to adjust to the loss of Tracy Connor, a four-year standout with the program, but look to All-ACC Rookie team member Alisha Mosely to fill in that role.

Junior starters Hedi Coleman and Cynthia Kelley also return, bringing a combined average of 20 points per game for the Deacs

7. Georgia Tech

The Yellow Jackets finished the 1996-97 season in the same spot,

All-ACC, and honorable mention All-American Kisha Ford has moved on to the New York Liberty in the WNBA.

Agnus Berenato's team looks to be led by top returning scorer Carla Munnion. Munnion averaged 15.3 points per game, but Tech will feel the pressure down under. No one on the 1996-97 squad averaged more than six rebounds per game - except Ford that is,

1997-98 looks like the rest of the ACC will be playing atch up with UNC.

ACC stacks up tough again

■ Technician didn't pick the rankings, we just give you the scoop.

K. Gaffney

One of the toughest conferences in the nation, the ACC placed

three teams in the final rankings. With a few coaching changes, and the loss of more than half of the all-conference

4	Women's	1996-
ge	ACC Final	Standi
in	Team	W
	West Continue	10

Team	W	I
North Carolina	15	
Virginia	12	4
N.C. State	9	- 1
Maryland	9	-
Duke	9	- 3
Clemson	8	- 8
Georgia Tech	7	9
Wake Forest	3	13
Florida State	0	16

The Terps were 9-7 in the ACC; one of three teams to battle for the No. 3 seed in the conference's post-season tournament. Maryland bowed out of the tournament with a 60-52 OT loss to Duke in the first

Seniors Stephanie Cross, Sonia Chase, and Kalissa Davis led the return, bringing 33 points per game back into Coach Chris Weller's lineup.

5. Clemson

The Tigers were the runners up in the ACC tournament last year, losing the championship to North Carolina. Second-team All-ACC selection Itoro

Umoh returns for her

junior campaign with Coach Jim Davis and the

Tigers.

The Pack will have to make up for its losses. Jen Howard and Umeki Webb played their final game with the Pack in Connecticut in

the NCAA tournament. The Pack will be led by senior center and All-ACC selection Chasity Melvin and starting guard LySchale Jones

3. Virginia

The Cavs are without guard Tora Suber, but will still have the advantage of playing half of their conference match-ups in

See WACC, Page 15 >





1997-98 ACC Outlook

November 10, 19

1997-98 Basketball Preview

Clemson Tigers

■ Rick Barnes looks to bring his Tigers back to national prominence.

James Curle

Clemson enjoyed a great deal of success last season, and with four of last year's starters returning, Clemson looks to be even stronger.

Heading that list of returning talent is 6-foot-4-inch forward Greg Buckner. The lone senior on the Clemson squad, Buckner is also the leading returning scorer for the Tigers. He averaged 15-6 points a game last year while hitting 48 percent of his shots from the floor. He also showed athleticism around the basket, bringing down 4.5 rebounds a game.

Another big-time player returning for the Tigers is guard Terrell McIntyre. The 5-foot-9-inch junior led Clemson in four categories last season, including number of assists (145), three-point field goals (61), number of steals (42) and free-throw shooting percentage (.797). He was also second on the team in scoring with 13.4 points a game.

Down low in the post, the Tigers bring back forward/center Harold Jamison. The 6-foot-8-inch, 250-lb, junior was Clemson's leading rebounder last year, averaging 5.7 boards a game.

Also coming back at center is junior Tom Wideman. The 6-foot-10inch, 250-pounder was second on the team behind Jamison in rebounding with 5.2 boards a game.

Coach Rick Barnes has the luxury of only losing

See CLEMSON, Page 21

■ Itoro Umoh, a junior second-team All-ACC selection, looks to lead the Clemson Tigers back to the ACC tournament final.

Chip Soucy

Jim Davis is looking for his third straight trip to the ACC Tournament Finals.

This year, Davis will be without post players Laura Cottrell and Jaci Stimson.

The duo has led the Tigers for the past four years. In 1997, Cottrell and Stimson contributed a combined 20 points and 12 rebounds per game for the Tigers. The loss of Cottrell and Stimson will potentially keep the Tigers from returning to the ACC Tournament Finals.

Leading the return for the Tigers is second-team All-ACC selection Itoro Umoh.

Umoh averaged 13 points and 5.1 rebounds per game in just her second year with the Tigers. Umoh will lead the Tigers this year from the point guard position.

"Itoro Umoh is probably our best player," Clemson Head Coach Jim Davis said. "I feel good about her at the point guard position."

Umoh helped lead the Tigers to the conference tournament finals, defending their 1996 title. The Tigers lost to ACC regular season and tournament champion UNC, led by ACC Player of the Year Tracy Reid. Umoh was named to the ACC All-Tournament first team.

See TIGERS, Page 22



The Tigers are without the duo of Cotrell and Stimson but return Itoro

Clemson University

Location Clemson, SC Founded 1889 Enrollment 16.327

Nickname Tigers
Colors Orange, purple
Arena Littlejohn Coliseum (11,020)

8

Men

Coach Rick Barnes
Career 184-120
at Clemson 56-32
'96'97-23-10
ACC Titles 0
NCAA Apperances 6

Women

Coach Jim Davis
Career 227:110
at Clemson 208:102
'96:97 19:11
ACC Titles 1
NCAA Appearances 10

Duke University

 Location
 Durham

 Founded
 1838

 Enrollment
 6.057

 Nickname
 Blue Devils

 Colors
 Royal blue, white

 Arena
 Cameron Indoor Stadium (9.314)

Men



Women

Coach Mike Krzyzewski Coach Gai Goes Ges Garee 95-53 at Dike 400-149 at Dike 95-63 '96-97 24-9 '96-97 19-11 ACC Titles 0 NCAA Appearances 21 NCAA Appearances 24

With Wojo and Langdon returning, the Blue Devils are set to take the ACC aglan.



Duke Blue Devils

■ Duke will rely on one of the nation's best backcourts and the country's best freshmen class en route to an ACC title.

James Curle

Some guys have all the luck

Just ask Mike Krzyzewski. If ever there was a team that, on paper, had the clearest shot at the conference, and quite possibly national titles, it would have to be the Blue Devils this season.

And one need look no further than the returning starters for justification.

Four of last year's starters are back with the Blue Devils this year. Heading that list is junior co-captain Trajan Langdon. Langdon started every game for Duke last year. He led the team in scoring last year with 14.3 points a game.

Part of the reason for his lofty scoring totals was his effectiveness from beyond the arc. He led the Blue Devils last year in both three-pointers attempted and three-pointers made.

As if a devastating three-point shooter isn't enough for your back court, add a scrappy defensive player who can dish the ball and you've got the perfect compliment to Langdon's perimeter game. Duke has just that in senior point guard Steve Wojciechowski.

A second-team All ACC selection last season as well as this preseason, Wojciechowski led the team in minutes played last season. Wojciechowski had a breakout season last year. After compiling only 47

See DUKE, Page 21

■ The Duke women's basketball team looks to come out of the shadows this season.

K. Gaffney

The Blue Devils were picked to finish second in the conference in the media's pre-season poll.

However, that doesn't mean that the Devils are sitting back waiting for the rest of the conference to come to them.

Duke lost its top two scorers from last year's team, but does return three starters.

Kira Orr and Ty Hall, who accounted for 34 points. Il rebounds, and 4 assists on the Blue Devils 1996-97 offense, highlight thelosses. Most importantly, the Blue Devils will be without the big-game production of Orr. Against the Wolfpack in February. Orr hit a three-pointer from well beyond the arc to send the game into overtime. The Blue Devils got the better of N.C. State in the end. 96-65

"With what we have lost, I am really unsure of where we will stand this season," said sixth-year Head Coach Gail Goestenkors, "It really depends on how well we mesh together. I don't think that we are as athletic as we were, but we are bigger and stronger, and a little more versatile."

Six-foot-4 center Payton Black also returns for the Devils. Duke's top returning scorer, Black averaged 13.7 points and 5.9 rebounds per game, and also lead the Devils in blocks.

Peppi Browne, a contender for the ACC Freshman of the Year award last season also returns, bringing

1997-98 ACC Outlook



Florida State Seminoles

■ New coach Steve Robinson inherits talented haunz

Tim Hunter

First-year Coach Steve Robinson takes over a squad that brings back four starters from a team that won 20 games and made it to the NIT championship last year.

Robinson was hired away from Tulsa after former Coach Pat Kennedy left to head up the DePaul Demons

"I have one goal for this team," Robinson explained. "That is to do the best job we can do every day, in every practice and in every game.

Robinson has established himself as a disciplinarian who makes his presence known in practice. "It's all or nothing with Coach Robinson," said

guard Kerry Thompson. "If one person makes a mistake, the whole team is running suicide sprints. Senior guard Thompson is the top returning

starter, coming off a stellar season. Thompson emerged as one of the top point guards in the conference last year, finishing second in steals and assists and fourth in assist-to-turnover ratio.

Fellow senior LaMarr Greer joins Thompson in the back court. The 6-foot-5-inch Greer averaged 7.5 points per game last year for the Seminoles, shooting 43 percent from the field.

The front court is anchored by the tandem of Randell Jackson and Corey Louis, both of whom

See FSU, Page 15 ▶

Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets

■ The FSU women's team looks for a win under new direction.

K. Gaffney

It won't take much for the Seminoles to improve on the 1996-97 season

A win would do it, but the Seminoles, under firstyear Head Coach Sue Semrau, are looking forward to a bit more

The Seminoles were 0-16 in the ACC, picking up just five wins in their 27-game schedule, and to add insult to injury, averaged just 543 fans at their 13 home games.

Needless to say, Semrau is looking forward to a more positive season this year.

Semrau may rest a bit easy, as Florida State returns all five of its starters from last season, including ACC All-Freshman selection Latavia

Coleman was FSU's leading scorer a year ago, averaging 11.5 points per game while leading the team with 6.1 rebounds per game as well.

Lysa Moorefield, Wendy Hampton and Jen Robinson each bring back to the Seminoles' offense an average of 10 points per game apiece. Moorefield was among the ACC leaders in blocks, picking up 24 in the 27-game season.

Robinson was fourth in the conference in assists, averaging 4.1 per outing, while Hampton averaged 2.1 steals per game, placing her sixth on the ACC

Sec NOLES, Page 21 >

Florida State University

Founded 1857 Enrollment 30.200

Nickname Seminioes Colors Garnet, gold

Arena Leon County Civic Center (12:500)



Men

Coach Steve Robinson Career 46-18 at Florida St. 1st year 96:97 20-12

ACC Titlee NCAA Appearances

Women

Career 1st year at Florida St. 1st year 5-22 ACC Titles NCAA Appearances



to adjust to the loss of All-ACC forward Kisha

Jonathan Noel

If Georgia Tech is to re-emerge as an ACC power.

Matt Harpring must have a great senior season.

Talk about a drop.

Two years ago the Georgia Tech men's basketball team finished 24-12, won the ACC and advanced to the Sweet 16 in the NCAA tournament

Last season, with the departures of Drew Barry and Stephon Marbury, the bottom dropped out for the Rambling Wreck, as it fell to 9-18 and finished in last place in the ACC.

Although a drop-off was to be expected when Marbury's sudden departure for the NBA left Tech in a lurch, changes were obviously needed at the end of last season.

"The whole Georgia Tech basketball was down last year," said All-ACC forward Matt Harpring. We got used to losing.

A big change was made when Cremins asked Kevin Morris and Gary Saunders to leave Georgia Tech, taking with them a combined 17 points and 43 games started

Cremins immediately hit the recruiting trails, and delivered in typical Cremins fashion with a great

Cremins signed two of the nation's best prep guards, Dion Glover and Travis Spivey.

The 6-5 Glover, a first-team All-American, brings an ability to score points that will be greatly needed at Georgia Tech.

Tech signed 6-11, 220 Alvin Jones to bring added

Munnion leads Yellow Jackets.

Tim Hunter

Most coaches in the ACC who lost over half of their scoring and rebounding from a 15-12 team would be talking about rebuilding. This is not the case for Georgia Tech Head Coach Agnus

"I think people will think that we are in a rebuilding mode. And a year ago, we were saying the same thing." Berenato said. "There is no reason for us to think we are rebuilding ... we are ready to have a

Berenato, who is in her 10th year as coach of the Yellow Jackets, must deal with the loss of three starters, one of whom was first-team All-ACC pick Kisha Ford

However, the Jackets do return three of their top four scorers and have a freshman class that is regarded as one of the best in recent history

'I'm excited about this class," Berenato exclaimed. "I think it's our best recruiting effort to

Heading the way for returners is senior small forward Carla Munnion. The 5'11" Munion brings a wealth of experience and talent to the team Munnion ranked sixth in the conference in scoring, with 15.3 points per game.

"I am looking for Carla to have the best season of her career. Carla will be the player we are looking to for leadership," Berenato explained Joining Munion in the front court will be Kenya

Georgia Tech Location Atlanta, Ga. 1885

Founded Enrollment 13,000 Nickname Yellow Jackets Colors

Old gold, royal blue Arena Memorial Coliseum (10,200)



Men

Coach Bobby Cremins Career 407-260 at Georgia Tech 307-190 96:97 ACC Titles

NCAA Appearances 10

Women

at Georgia Tech 133-124 96:97 15-12 ACC Titles 0 NCAA Appearances 1

See TECH. Page 15

See JACKETS, Page 15

NC STATE UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL ANIMATION FESTIVAL

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Animator Bill Plympton Award-Winning Filmmaker In Person at the Campus Cinema 7 pm, Wednesday, November 12

Mondo Plympton 7 pm, Wednesday, November 12 9 pm, Friday, November 14 5 pm, Saturday, November 15

Conspirators of Pleasure 9 pm, Wednesday, November 12 9 pm, Saturday, November 15

Wallace and Gromit 7 pm, Thursday, November 13 11 pm, Friday, November 14 7 pm, Saturday, November 15

The Tune 9 pm, Thursday, November 13 11 pm, Saturday, November 15

Latin American Animation From Mexico and Bolivia 7 pm, Friday, November 14 Includes:

The Five Suns: A Sacred History of Mexico 59 min., 1996, Mexico/USA En Camino/On the Move 14 min., 1997, Bolivia Paulina y el Condor/Paulina and the Condor 10 min., 1995, Bolivia "Free."

Animator James Duesing Southern Circuit Filmmaker In Person at the Campus Cinema 7 pm, Monday, November 17

THE TUNE



James Duesing LAW OF AVERAGES

James Duesing mixes humor and complex content with computer animation. His stones are a series of hyper scenes where only pertinent action is portraved. This "Theater of Images" approach plays off underground comics' sociopolitical observations. film noir, and contemporary art. Duesing's work has been exhibited and televised throughout the world. "Free."

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"Mondo Plympton" is a fantastic animated journey through the strange brain of off-the-wall animator Bill

Bill Plympton's short films have won over 50 awards worldwide, including the 1991 Pix du Jury at the Cannes Film Festival. His short film "Your Face" was nominated for an Academy Award in 1988.

In "Mondo Plympton" a cartoon Plympton guides us through his career and some bisare episodes from his life. He discusses his early years as a cartoonal and even as a career of the care

Your Face Boomtown One of Those Days 25 Ways to Quit Smoking Faded Roads The Wiseman Rush Comes to Shove

J. Lyle (excerpt) Guns on the Clackamas (excerpt)
Oregon Lottery ad
Solotiex commercial
Nosehair Plympmania Smell the Flowers How to Make Love to a Woman

Produced and Directed by Bit Plympton unning time: 80 minutes, opios mono sound

conspirators of

CONSPIRATORS OF PLEASURE, (Czech Republic) 1997, 83 min. Director, lan Sy per in this latest offering by the general Ceeh surrealist Himmoles, modern day Prague is the setting for a shaging dog story of six ordinary is somewhat every undividuals who obsessorily setting for a shaging dog story of six ordinary is somewhat every undividuals who obsessorily and painstakingly prepare their every and "Feels". Like Testidous full implicit ches; the con-cord—with the aid of the most effects array of objects, animals, devices and processes— an organizer mean of Phalanous and Henalty explosive results. This lim is a Blent of the analysis of the story of story of the story of the story of the story of story of the story of the story of stop-action and pupper animation

MACC

at small forward, Carolina has an explosive offensive attack. The weak link in the whole equation may be first-year coach Bill Guthridge. It remains to be seen if he can motivate his players when a game is on the line as adeptly as Dean did.

2. Clemson

This could be Clemson's year to finally establish itself as one of the top teams in the country. Four of the Tiger starters return. including two strong post players in Harold Jamison and Tom Wideman. Under the strong direction of Coach Rick Barnes. the Tigers should sneak up - if that's possible for a national contender - on a few teams this season

1. Duke

With one of the country's top point quards Steve

Wojciechowski, and one of the league's most explosive scorers in Trajan Langdon, Duke's backcourt is probably the strongest in the country

If the nation's best recruiting class can get into the mix of things the only problems Duke should encounter will be from intraleague play.

up for the ACC Rookie of the Year in 1997, while Hillary Howard led the team in assists.

WACC

University Hall

Monick Foote leads the Cavalier return on offense.

DeMya Walker also returns after leading the conference in blocks last season.

2. Duke

Three starters return for the Blue Devils and fifth year coach Gail Goestenkors.

Peppi Browne was the runner-

Also returning is center Peyton Black, but Duke will be without leading scorers Kira Orr and Tv

1. North Carolina

Last year's ACC Champions, in both the regular season and the tournament

The Heels will be without All-ACC Marion Jones, but return the ACC Player of the Year and Tournament MVP, Tracy Reid.

Jackets Tech

Williams at the power forward spot. The 6-foot Williams, a junior, scored 20 points or more four times last season. Williams is the only other returning starter from last year's squad.

The center position will be occupied by senior Joannah Kauffman, who led the team in blocked shots in 1997

The back court will be headed up by some potentially dangerous talent. Sophomore Danielle Donehew led the conference in three-point efficiency, shooting over 43 percent from beyond the arc. The 5-foot-7-inch shooting guard should see plenty of action this year after backing up Ford last season

With Munnion and a vast array of experience at all positions, the Jackets should give Berenato plenty to be optimistic about.

A rebuilding year? Georgia Tech sure doesn't think so.

depth in the post. T.J. Vines at 5-10 adds quickness and great passing ability to

the Tech backcourt. The team will still rely on the senior talent, Matt Harpring and Michael Maddox, however,

Maddox has been a steady force throughout his career, averaging 9.7 rebounds last year and 6.0 career rebounds. Harpring has carried the weight of the Tech program for three Harpring, a first-team All-ACC member his sophomore and junior years, does everything for a team that quickly made him a go-to guy. He has the size and skills to play in the post at power forward, or come outside and play at small forward or shooting guard

As Tech looks to rebound in 1997-98, the pressure will rest on his shoulders to return the program to prominence in what has quickly been labeled as a critical year for the Rambling Wreck.

Continued from Page 13

started for last year's team.

Jackson, a 6-foot-11-inch junior, comes into the season as one of the quickest players in the conference at the ACC's most competitive position, power forward. Jackson led the team in blocked shots with 46 and also

chipped in 11 points per game. good enough for second on the team.

Louis, a four-year starter on the front line, begins the season as one of 25 preseason candidates for the 1997-98 Wooden award, given to the national player of the year.

With the nucleus of four starters and the hard-nosed fresh style of Robinson, the Seminoles could surprise a lot of teams and perhaps make it back to the NCAA tourney, after a four-year absence.

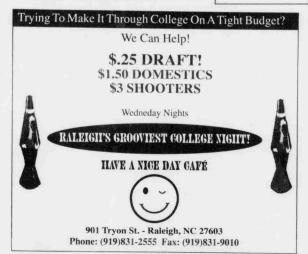
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Technician Sports







1997-98 ACC Outlook

Maryland University

Founded 1807 Enrollment 30 371

Nickname Terrapins Colors Red, white, black Cole Filed House (14,500)



Coach Gary Williams Career 350 229 at Maryland 143-101 96:97 21-11 ACC Titles 2

NCAA Appearances 14

Women

Coach Chris Welle Career 432-208 at Maryland 423-208 96:97 18-10

ACC Titles 8 NCAA Appearances 11

TECHNICIAN FEE PH The Terps will be without Keith Booth this season, but return four



The Tar Heels will have to prove themselve with out Dean Smith this season.

University of North Carolina

Dean Smith Center (21,572)

Chapel Hill, NC

1789

24463

Blue, white

Maryland Terrapins

Terps look to avenge last season.

Tim Hunter

Despite the loss of first-team All-ACC selection and current Chicago Bull Keith Booth, Coach Gary Williams comes into the season with high hopes.

We have more depth and size than we have had in years, and hopefully that will help us be a better team." Williams said.

The Terrapins are hungry not only to get in the NCAA tournament, but to win it. "Our goal is to win the national championship, and this year we have the team to do it," senior guard Sarunas Jasikevicius boldly stated.

The Terrapins return four starters from a team that was ranked as high as fifth in the nation last season. Experience is certainly a bonus for the Terps, as they feature one of the best back courts in the conference. Along with the three-point marksman Jasikevicius, starters Laron Profit and Terrell Stokes fill out the unchanged back court

Profit averaged just under 14 points per game last season, good enough for second on the team. The 6-5 junior was also second in steals, and was honored as a third-team All-ACC performer.

Stokes will call the shots at the point guard position, after a stellar '97 season. Stokes, a 6-0 junior, led Maryland in assists, and was second in minutes

Center Obinna Ekezie represents the Terrapins fourth returning starter. Ekezie, a 6-10 junior from

■ Maryland returns five key starters from a year ago, and the league top defense.

Jonathan Noel

When a team looks forward to a new season of ACC basketball, this is one thing that makes coach-

The University of Maryland women's basketball team returns five players with starting experience from last year's team which went 18-10 last year. and with a 9-7 record, finished third in the conference. Their performance earned them their 11th trip to the NCAA tournament, where they lost in the first round to Purdue.

Seniors Sonia Chase, Stephanie Cross and Kalisa Davis entered the program in 1994 in one the nation's best recruiting classes, and now comprise the heart of the Maryland lineup.

With Chase, Cross and Davis anchoring a strong frontcourt, sophomore Tiffany Brown and red-shirt junior Kelley Gibson return in Maryland's backcourt. Another love of coaches everywhere is a great defense. The 'Terrapins return the league's top ranked scoring defense, allowing only 55.6 points per game

Coach Chris Weller returns for her 23rd season at Maryland, where she has compiled 432 wins.

Weller points to the improvement of point guard Tiffany Brown during the off-season as a key factor in this year's team. Brown ran the team during her freshman year, averaging 8.6 points a game.

North Carolina Tar Heels

■ With a Final Four team from a year ago almost wholly intact. Dean Smith could soon be a thing of the past.

Jon Noel

Despite the hopes and dreams of Carolina bashers everywhere, this is not exactly a team on the ropes.

Yes, the legend has retired; but the dream lives on. The UNC-Chapel Hill men's basketball team that won the ACC tournament and advanced to the Final Four last March could be even better despite the loss of the winningest coach in NCAA history. Dean Smith

Longtime assistant Bill Guthridge brings back six key returnees from a rotation that won the last 16 games last year before a loss to eventual NCAA champion Arizona in the Final Four.

After another year together, the team believes it could be even better.

"Everybody has really gone out of their way to work hard on their weaknesses and try to make that a positive thing for the team," junior forward Vince Carter said.

Carter and Antawn Jamison are the leaders of a front court that regularly dominated opponents on the boards last year. Defensive leader Ademola Okulaja and the oft-transferred Makhtar Ndiaye will look to play larger roles in the frontcourt this

One of the keys to Carolina's great run in the postseason was the emergence of its backcourt as a

■ The UNC-Chapel Hill women are looking to repeat their 1997 ACC championship season.

Melissa Harris

The UNC-Chapel Hill women's basketball team is expected to be just as strong this year as they were

But can they do it?

The UNC team finished first in the ACC last year with a 15-1 record.

Late in the season, they lost against the Wolfpack women 84-77 in Reynolds Coliseum. The Tar Heel returning members is led senior

Tracy Reid and 1997 ACC Coach of the Year Sylvia Hatchell.

Tracy Reid should be a strong force for the Heels this season. Reid has proven herself as a very effective forward for the team.

Reid led the conference last year in rebounds (10.1) and scoring (20.8). Holding 16 double-doubles last year, she was conference best for the '96-97 season, earning ACC Player of the Year honors. Reid was also honored as a member of first-team

All-ACC and All-Tournament teams. Last season, Reid tied the school record for points in a single game when she scored 41 points against

Junior Jessica Gaspar will also continue on in her third year with the Tar Heels

Despite a tear in her anterior cruciate ligament, which prevented her playing through the comple-

Men

Location

Founded

Colors

Enrollment

Coach Bill Gutheridge Career 1st year at UNC 1st year 96:97 28-7 ACC THIS TA NCAA Appearances 29

Women

Coach Sulvia Hatchell Career 486 198 at UNC 213-118 96:97 29 3 ACC Tring 4 NCAA Appearances 10



Monick Foote (13) and DeMya Walker will take over the Cavs offense after Tora Suber left UVA for the WNBA.

Virginia Cavaliers

The Cavaliers look to fill their point guard position.

Ryan Dickerson

The University of Virginia Cavaliers varsity men's basketball team Coach Jeff Jones has two lingering concerns for this basketball season: who will fill the point guard position, and where will he get the scoring output of last season.

Virginia advanced to the first round of the NCAA West Regional after posting a sub-.500 record in the conference. The Wahoos went 18-13 in 1996-97 and 7-9 in the ACC, ending up in sixth place.

UVa's returning leading scorer is 6 foot-3 inch. honorable mention All-ACC shooting guard Curtis Staples, who averaged 13.9 points a game last sea-

This year, Jones will have to place unproven players at the point guard position. Last season, Harold Deane and 6-foot-7-inch swingman Jamal Robinson filled the position. Among the current contenders are Willie Dersch, who played a shooting guard/small forward last year, and two true freshmen guards - 5-foot-11-inch Donald Hand or 6-foot-2-inch Chezley Watson.

The front court will be the Cavaliers' strength, despite losing Courtney Alexander, who led the ACC in the three-point goal percentage. He transferred to Fresno State University

Six-foot-9-inch sophomore Colin Ducharme and 6-foot-8-inch senior Norman Nolan return down low for Jones and the Cavaliers. Ducharme turned in a surprising performance as a

freshman last year, earning honorable mention as part of the conference's All-Freshman Team. Nolan, also received honorable mention on the All-Conference Team, led the Cavs in rebounding

See UVAM, Page 20

Once again, Debbie Ryan's team looks to give tough competition to whoever is looking for a championship on the women's side of the ACC.

K.Gaffney

No matter who wins, there has seemingly been one constant in the ACC championship race in the past few years.

While the Cavaliers haven't won a conference title since their 1993 106-103 triple overtime win off the Maryland Terrapins, they have been to the semi-finals of the conference tournament every year since 1984. Under Head Coach Debbie Ryan, the Cavs have taken the title three times in six appearances in the championship game.

The 1997-98 season looks to be no different for the Cavaliers.

Returning to lead the Cavaliers are seniors Monick Foote and Mimi McKinney.

Foote received votes for conference Player of the Year in 1996-97, while McKinney's performance against the Blue Devils in the Tournament semifinals earned her a spot on the All-ACC Tournament second team.

Foote, who is the Wahoos' top returning scorer, was also named as an honorable mention All-American for Virginia, who finished the year

ranked No. 12 in the AP poll. Foote averaged 14 points and 5.4 rebounds while posting the team's third best assist mark from the

forward position. McKinney has fourth in scoring on the Cav roster in at the end of the 1997 season, which for Virginia ended with a 91-69 loss to Stanford in the NCAA

Also returning is 1997-98 All-American candidate DeMya Walker. A junior out of Mt. Holly.

See UVAW, Page 20 >

University of Virginia

Charlottesville, Va. Founded 1810 Enrollment 18 300 Nickname

Cavaliers Colors Orange, blue Arena University Hall (8,500)

Coach Jeff Jones

Career 135-85

at Virginia 135-85

ACC Titles 1

NCAA Appearances 14

'96'97 18-13

Men

VIRGINIA

Women

Coach Debble Ryan Career 462-155 at Virginia 462 155 96:97 23-8 ACC Titles NCAA Appearances 14

Wake Forest Demon Deacons

Wake will be reeling from the loss of the country's top player.

James Curle

For a guy who lost last season's No. 1 college player, Coach Dave Odom isn't dwelling on the matter too much

"Tim Duncan is gone," Odom said. "We had made peace with that back in the spring. Now what we want to do is try to replace him as a team.

That will be a tough task, indeed. Duncan finished his sto ried career with the Demon Deacons having recorded 1,570 rebounds and 2,117 points, as well as becoming the ACC career leader in total blocked shots. He led all ACC players with 29 double-doubles last season, and recorded 87 over the span of his

Pretty heady numbers, and those kinds of figures will be

To complicate matters, minus the other two post players in Ricky Peral and Sean Allen.

See WFUM, Page 23



Can WFU win sans Duncan?

An eighth place ACC finish has the Deacons wanting more.

Chip Soucy

After an eighth place finish in the 1996-97 ACC regular season Head Coach Charlene Curtis and the women Demon Deacons looks to improve their hardcourt performance this season.

This year the Deacons return three starters from last season, but lose starters Tracy Connor and Lindsay Seawright to gradu-

Connor saw action in 27 games and started in 24 while averaging 12.9 points and 7.4 rebounds a contest. Seawright Started all 28 games she played in and averaged 6.4 points and 6.3 rebounds

Wake also lost seniors Stacey Hawes RaeAnna Mulholland, Mulholland aver-

aged 10.2 points while pulling down 7.3 rebounds a game. Hawes scored 4.9 points a contest and averaged a meager 0.8 rebounds

Sophomore Alisha Mosley leads the group after being selected to the ACC All-Freshman team last year. Mosley averaged seven points and 2.2 rebounds in her first year as a Deacon.

Also returning for the Deacs are juniors Cynthia Kelley and Heidi

See DEACONS, Page 19 >

Wake Forest University Location Winston-Salem, N.C.

Founded 1834 Enrollment

Nickname Colors Old gold, black Arena



Men

Coach Dave Odom Career 204-121 at Wake Forest 166-79 96:97 24-7 ACC Titles NCAA Appearances 13

Women

Coach Charlene Curtis Career 1st year at Wake Forest 1st year 96:97 12-16 ACC Titles NCAA Appearances



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NUMERICAL ROSTERS

Women

No.	Name	Ht.	Pos.	CI.	High School	Hometown
00	LySchale Jones	5-10	G/F	Je	Lady Good Counsel	Newark, N.J.
3	Summer Erb	6-6	C	SoT	Lakewood/Purdue Univ.	Lakewood, Ohio
5	Nailah Wallace	6-0	F/G	So.	Woodrow Wilson	Camden, NJ.
10	Kenyatta Williams	55	PG	Jr.	Grace King	Metairie, La.
20.	Tynesha Lewis	5-10	G/F	Fr.	Southwest Edgecombe	Pinetops, N.C.
21:	Daphne Hutcherson	5-8	PG	Fr	Woodward Academy	College Park, Ga.
23	Rosalyn McLendon	6-2	F	Sr.	Richmond County	Rockingham, N.C.
24	Kristen Gillespie	5-11	PG	Jr.	Maclay/Auburn	Tallahassee, Fla.
25	Monica Bates	6-2	F	Fr.	Coffee County	Manchester, Tenn
30	Peace Shepard	63	C	Sr.	Swansboro	Hubert, N.C.
32	Constance Poteat	5.9	F/G	Sr.	Orange	Cedar Grove, N.C.
44	Chastity Melvin	63	E/C	Sr.	Lakewood	Roseboro, N.C.
50	Linda Pshigoda	6-2	F	R-Fr.	Perryton	Perryton, Texas
	annua i singoua			De Kal	1411/1100	25(11)

Men

No.	Name	Ht.	Pos.	Cl.	High School	Hometown
3	Damon Thornton	6-8	F	So.	Atlantic Shores Christian	Norfolk, Va.
5	Ishua Benjamin	6-4	G	Sr.	Concord	Concord, N.C.
	Ryan "Archie" Miller	5.9	G	Fr.	Blackhawk	Beaver Falls, Penn.
12	Justin Gamey	6-0	G	So.	Greensboro Day	High Point, N.C.
15	Ron Anderson	6-6	6.	Fr.	71st/Hargrave Military	Fayetteville, N.C.
	Kenny Inge	6-8	F	Fr	Atlantic Shores Christian/	Virginia Beach, Va.
					Hargrave Military	
22	Rouldra Thomas	67	F	Fr.	Natchez	Natchez, Miss
23	C.C. Harrison	6-4	.G	Sr.	Reidsville	Reidsville, N.C.
25	Tim Wells	6-7	- E	So	Carver	Winston-Salem, N.C.
33	Cornelius Williams	6-11	C	Fr	Jacksonville	Ft. McClellan, Ala.
40	Ron Kelley	6-10	C	Fr	Rains	Emory, Texas
45	Luke Buffurn	6-8	F	R-Jr.	Beverly Hills	Beverly Hils, Cal.

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eacons

Coleman. Kelley averaged 8.2 points and 4 rehounds in her sophomore campaign. Coleman returns to the Deacs after averaging 10.2 points and 2.3 rebounds a contest. Coleman was the Deacons leading scorer last sea-

"Heidi is going to have to con-tinue scoring for us." Curtis said," we're going to try to create some shots for her

Coleman will be a key for the Deacons this year at the guard position. Coleman will provide good ball handling skills a well

as contributing a priceless leader ship ability

The Deacons did not fair well in the last years ACC tournament, only winning against a winless Florida State team 70-59. They lost the second game against, the eventual tournament champions, UNC-Chapel Hill 60-86. The Lady Deacs have a lot of work to do if the expect to contend this year for a NCAA birth. Wake will have to overcome a poor season a year ago and a young team with five fresh-

The Deacons look to improve on last year but will have to remain patient in ACC play. They have a solid team but have a lot to do if they hope to climb the ladder to the top of the conference

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-	January 8	Clemson
2	January 11	Virginia
Baske	January 15	Maryland
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00	January 22	UNC-Chapel H
	January 25	Florida State
97	January 30	Wake Forest
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February 26
March 1

Men's Basketball Schedul

Georgia
Princeton/Texas
Princeton/Texas
Wofford
North Texas
Penn State
Georgia Tech
Maryland-Baltimore Coun
Sam Houston State
South Carolina State
Hampton
Morehead State
Florida State
Duke
Maryland
Memphis
Virginia
UNC-Chapel Hill
Georgia Tech
Florida State
Clemson
Wake Forest
Duke
Maryland
Norfolk State
Virginia
UNC-Chapel Hill
Clemson
Wake Forest

7:30 p.m. TBA 7 p.m. 2 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 1:30 p.m. 9 p.m. 12 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 1:30 p.m. 7 p.m. 1 p.m. 7 p.m. 4 p.m. 9 p.m. 3:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 7 p.m. 4 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 3:45 p.m.

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last year with 7.4 per game as well as 11.3 points per game. The Cavaliers have one of the

deepest front courts in the conference, with three players standing over 6 foot 10 inches coming off of the bench, including 7 foot-4-inch junior Chase Metheney.

N.J., Walker was third on the team in scoring last seasons, averaging 13.7 points, and led the team with 7.5 rebounds

Walker also led the conference with 2.5 blocks per game.

Among the biggest losses in the conference, let alone on the Cavalier team itself was guard Tora Suber.

One of three 1997 ACC graduates to play in the inaugural season of the WNBA, Suber lead the Cavalier offense in points and assists, while also coming through at the other end with her pesky style of defense.

Technician Fun Fact

The Bell Tower was designed in 1919, but wasn't completed until 1949. It is a monument honoring the alumni who died in World War I.



leader chart.

The Seminoles finished out the 1996-97 season at the bottom of eight of 12 offensive categories, but ranked No.5 in the conference in Turnover Margin. Florida State caused its opponents to commit an average of 20.6 turnovers to their 19.

steals in his first two years combined, he exploded for 82 thefts last alone, leading the ACC

But the fun doesn't stop there for Coach K. He has also compiled what many experts consider the best freshmen class in the country for this upcoming season.

But as the Pack proved last year, no matter where you start or where you finish, anything can happen in the ACC

Devils

with her seven points and four rebounds per game.

Junior Hillary Howard, who led the ACC in assists last season also returns for the Devils.

Howard was fourth on the team in scoring in 1996-97, averaging 8.5 points per game.

Starting in the backcourt with Howard will be Nicole Erickson. The 5-foot-6 guard had a shoulder operation in the off-season, but will be ready to play this November.

ed from Page 12

one of these four starters at the end of this season, and with what these four have seen in the past two years, both this season and next should be quite exciting for the Tigers.

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major force.

The steady leader in the backcourt was Shammond Williams, a 6-3 shooting guard who finished among the ACC leaders in five categories.

The rise of sophomore point guard Ed Cota coincided with the rise of Carolina. As Cota calmed down and took control of the team, a 12-6 Carolina team soon began to fire back at the critics and played with poise uncommon for a team with a frosh at the point.

Carolina brings in a large and strong freshman class, adding depth in both the perimeter and the post.

With an ideal mix of talent and chemistry, the Heels appear a strong contender for the ACC

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Terps

Nigeria, shot 52 percent from the field last season.

6-8 forward Rodney Elliot will help in filling the large gap left by the departure of Booth. Elliot saw action in all of Maryland's games last year, finishing fourth on the team in scoring.

Tigers

Continued from Page 12

Also returning for the Tigers is 1996-97 starter Jeanette Davis. Davis, a 6-foot-2-inch senior from Greenville, Tenn., averaged 6.6 points per game and 5.1 rebounds per game. Davis' expe

rience will be key to the Lady Tigers this year.

"Jeanette Davis is the most consistent player we have," Jim Davis said. "She can play any position on the team.

This year's senior class will have to step up this year for the Tigers. Davis, Davis and Thomas will have to lead by example, and their experience will key to the Tigers' success.

MarvW

Gibson returns from her second knee injury in three years which cut short last season for her. An excellent all-around player with versatility, Gibson has the ability to score a lot of points for the

"We will be small in the post, but still have a big lineup," said Weller.

With three seniors in the frontcourt, Maryland is able to utilize their quickness and physical play against larger teams

Chase plays in the post, but has demonstrated the ability to run the court as a guard.

Cross was the team's leading scorer, with 11.9 points per game and gets on the boards well. Davis was voted the team's

"Most Improved Player" last season, averaging 10.9 points a game-playing center for the

Backing them up is the tallest woman ever to play basketball at Maryland, 6-foot-8-inch Branka Bogunovic, and red-shirt junior Rachel Cimmier who adds good height and shooting touch off the bench

Meghan McIntyre was the biggest name of Coach Weller's recruiting class. A 6-1 forward, McIntyre was ranked among the top 60 players in the nation.

Antonieta Gabriel transferred in from the University of D.C. and Michelle Miller adds depth to the backcourt as a walk-on

While Carolina, Virginia, and Duke have gotten the most press during the pre-season, a veteran Maryland team could sneak high into the conference standings with a team any coach would

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tion of the season, she was picked for the Second-team All-ACC tournament

UNC Coach Hatchell and her teammates honored her fiery style with the Hutsle Award for her fearless play.

The ACC rookie of the year for 1995-96 season is returning to the Heels this year.

Chanel Wright, a junior, has been described as a "highly underrated player who creates shots with her athleticism and grace and slashing through defenders." She finished behind Gaspar on the team with her 35.1 percent accuracy with threepointers.

The Tar Heels are also looking forward to using the talents of four new freshmen, all of who will take the court in the guard position

LaQuanda Barksdale hails from Winston-Salem. Through her four years of basketball in high

school, she was not a guard, but a center instead. Juana Brown was one of the

nation's top five recruits. Brown hails from Memphis, Tenn. and was named Tennessee Player of the Year in 1997.

Leah Sharp, also Tennessee, helped her high school attain the state championship her senior year. Sharp was named MVP for that tournament.

Nikki Teasly, from Maryland, is considered the number one women's basketball recruit in the nation by Blue Star magazine. She held the title of Gatorade Player of the Year for Maryland during her sophomore, junior and senior years in high school.

The UNC Tar Heels are going to feel a major loss this year as Marion Jones will not be returning to the court. Jones was the ACC Most Valuable Player for the 1996-97 season. She decided not to return to the basketball court this year and to spend her time focusing on her track career. Jones is now considered the "Fastest Woman in the World" since she sped her way to the fastest time in the 100 meter run

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Peral provided a double threat for the Deacons with his range from the corner. He hit on 20 of his 53 three pointer attempts, more than any frontcourt player on the team.

Allen averaged 16 minutes a game of playing time, and provided four points of scoring while pulling down three rebounds a game.

What Odom and the Deacs will have this winter is an experienced backcourt. Both of the starting guards return from last year in Tony Rutland and Jerry Braswell.

Rutland was the second-leading scorer for Wake a year ago, pouring in 11.7 points a game. He didn't see much action during the postseason due to a sidelining knee injury, but he has fully recovered and should be 100 percent come the regular season.

Braswell also contributed consistently last season, adding just over nine points a game. He led the team in free-throw percentage (.804) and three-point accuracy (.415).

"Our two guards, Tony and Jerry, mentally and physically are back to playing basketball as they did as sophomores," Odom said of his backcourt. "I think both of them had good years last year - neither had a great year. People think they had a down year; I prefer to think of it as a down month. They did not play well the last month of the season. and they'd be the first to tell you

Getting Rutland and Braswell back to their old form will be crucial if Wake is to have any chance of making it to the postseason.

Also expect the play of 7-foot-1-inch Loren Woods to factor in to the success of the Deacs; a good year from him and the Deacs have something going, a bad year and there might not be any strength in the post to hold Wake together.

Look for the N.C. State men's basketball team on Tuesday, November 11 at 7:30 p.m. on ESPN2 in the Coaches v. Cancer Ikon Classic from the Meadowlands in N.J.

And then again on Wednesday at 7 p.m. or 9 p.m. for the second day of the Tournament.

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