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T E C H N I C I A N  
2000-2001 BASKETBALL PREVIEW

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**2000-01**  
**BASKETBALL**  
**PREVIEW**

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# Ready to dance

DAMIEN WILKINS would not take the bait.

A throng of media was asking if N.C. State's men's basketball team needed to make the NCAA Tournament in order for this year to be classified a success.

"We can't look to March right now," said the 6-foot-5 small forward. "I think it's too far down the road. Our biggest thing right now is winning on the road."

It seems Wilkins and the rest of his Wolfpack players and coaches are the only ones who aren't preoccupied with State's chances of advancing to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1991. In preseason press conferences, questions pertaining to the post-season were always one of the first ones asked to Wilkins, head coach Herb Sendek, or whoever was in front of a person with a tape recorder.

"I really try to just focus on the things that we're working on in practice every day," Sendek said. "We definitely want to go the NCAA Tournament. We're working as hard as we can to be the best team we can be."

The question of the NCAA Tournament hasn't been the only off-court issue bandied about in the offseason.

First, new Athletics Director Lee Fowler extended head coach Herb Sendek's contract through 2005. Then, senior forward Damon Thornton was arrested for drunk driving. Thornton will not play until Dec. 22 at the earliest. Finally, prep star Julius Hodge committed to the Wolfpack for next season.

With State's regular season opening tonight against Penn in the CoSIDA Classic, some of those issues should recede into the background.

On the court, the main question for the 2000-01 Pack centers around the point guard position.

With Justin Gainey gone, State will turn to a rotation of Clifford Crawford and Archie Miller, with Anthony Grundy seeing the occasional spot duty.

"It'll probably be Cliff [starting], but it really doesn't matter because they're both going to play," Sendek said.

With Crawford in, the Pack could look to push the ball more than it did with the plodding Gainey.

"Playing the point, you're the key to a lot of things," Crawford said. "I think my game is a lot better in an up-tempo game. A fast pace helps me out, it helps me get into a groove."

Crawford, as a sophomore, averaged 2.2 points in 9.3 minutes per contest last season. Miller, a redshirt junior, has averaged 6.2 points and 1.1 assists per game in his career at State.

Grundy will be the team's starting two guard, though, as mentioned, he could see some time at point.

"He's certainly capable," Sendek said. "He knows the position for us. And that's an option that we have, but I think right now we're best suited with Cliff and Archie working together."

Last season, Grundy was State's go-to scorer for most of the year. In the first 24 games of the campaign, Grundy averaged 14.0 points per con-

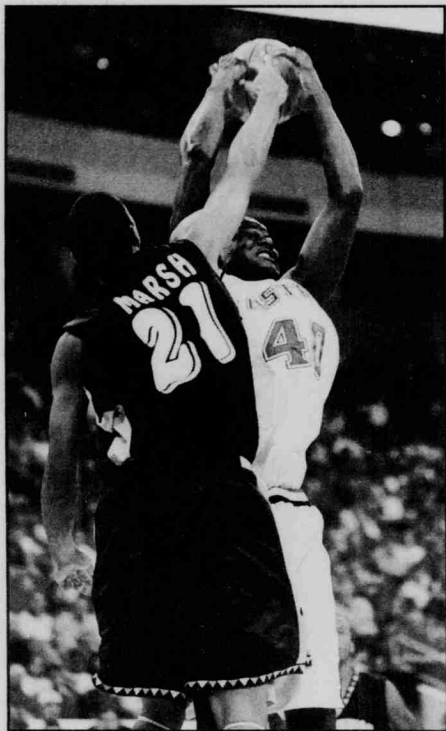
test, tops on the team. In the last nine games, however, Grundy was transparent, only averaging 8.4 points per game.

To prevent such a regression this season, Grundy added 10 pounds of muscle over the offseason and stepped up his conditioning routine.

"Anything I gain helps me," Grundy said. "I also played in the summer league, worked on shooting a little bit. That's about it."

Freshman Scooter Sherrill should also see plenty of playing time, most of it at the shooting guard position.

Sherrill was a McDonald's All-American in high school, averaging



THOMPSON FILE PHOTO

**With the absence of Damon Thornton through the first nine games of the season, other frontcourt players, including Ron Kelley, will need to pick up the slack for the Pack.**

25.2 points per contest in his senior year.

"Scooter's one of the guys you can't spend enough time with," Sendek said. "I knew he was a really good scorer; he scored a lot of points in high school. One area that I've got to be honest with you, I've been pleasantly surprised with is Scooter's shooting."

Wilkins will get the nod in the small forward spot. Wilkins had a solid season last year, although he didn't live up to the unrealistic preseason expectations, which can be difficult when one is compared to David Thompson.

In the last third of the season, however, Wilkins was the Pack's best player, averaging 14.2 points per contest over State's final 13 contests.

This year, Wilkins is one of the team's three co-captains (Kenny Inge and Miller are the other two). Wilkins is the

youngest player ever to earn such an honor for the Pack.

"The best way to way to express why we chose him for that kind of role is just the totality of his impact on our program," Sendek said. "Not only what you see on the court, but in so many ways. Just for instance being able to recruit him a year ago, how that helped legitimize ourselves with other prospects. How that helped legitimize us in the basketball world."

"To keep that thought train going, just the kind of teammate he is off the court. The kind of teammate he is. So I just think he's had a sweeping impact on our program."

Wilkins spent his offseason at home in Orlando, practicing with his father, former NBA player Gerald Wilkins. The two spent two hours a day, six days a week, working out. Sometimes

Damien won the one-on-one battles, other times he didn't. When playing wasn't enough, there were always last season's game tapes to watch.

Wilkins and his father went over every single Wolfpack game from last season, deducing ways that Damien could improve his game.

"I paid special close attention to the ACC games," Wilkins said. "We would look for stuff on the ball, off the ball. He would wonder why I wasn't looking to be more assertive."

Wilkins led the team in minutes played last season (31.9 minutes per game) so there won't be a whole lot of minutes for others at the small forward position. More than likely, the Pack will go to a three-guard look when Wilkins is out of the lineup.

Inge, a 6-foot-8 senior, will see most of his action at power forward. Over the offseason, Inge bulked up to 235 pounds, which is 20 pounds heavier than his playing weight last season. Inge also worked on his jumper, shooting 1,500 three-pointers per day over the offseason.

"Now, if they don't check me, I'm going to shoot," Inge said.

The extra weight should help Inge once the conference season starts. The power forward position is perhaps the Atlantic Coast Conference's most chal-

**Damien Wilkins will be counted on to be the leader on and off the floor for N.C. State. Wilkins is the youngest player ever to be named captain for the Pack.**

lenging position with the likes of Duke's Shane Battier, Maryland's Terence Morris and Wake Forest's Darius Songalia.

"Kenny is going to surprise some people this year," Wilkins said.

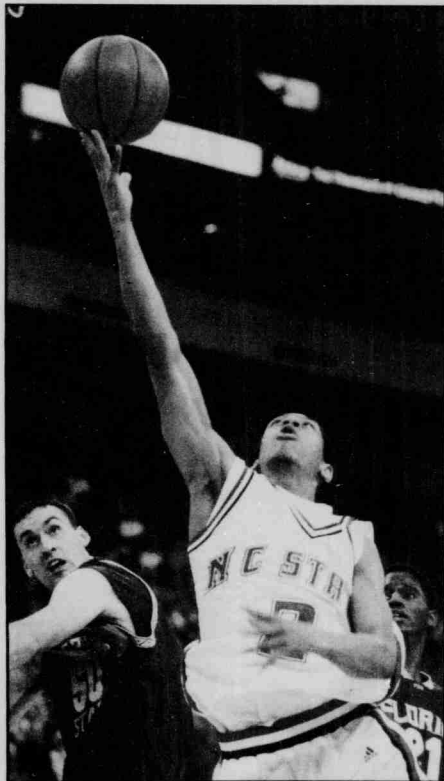
Michael Bell, a 6-foot-9 freshman from Raleigh, and Marcus Melvin, a 6-foot-6 freshman from Fayetteville, should both see some minutes backing up Inge.

Bell is known as much for his outside game as his inside presence. His slender frame (he only weighs 200 pounds) means that he will have trouble banging with the ACC's biggest. Melvin is a bit bigger (225 pounds) and was rated the number one senior prospect in North Carolina by recruiting analyst Bob Gibbons this past year.

"I think Mike Bell and Marcus Melvin are two versatile forwards who help us become a bigger team," Sendek said. "Even with their presence, I wouldn't say that we're a real big team, but they add size we haven't had in the past. And they also have a good skill level for their size and their age."

At center, State will be hobbled by the loss of Thornton, who is suspended for at least the first nine games of the season for pleading guilty to a drunken driving charge.

Senior Ron Kelley is the person most



TECHNICIAN FILE PHOTO

**Anthony Grundy added 10 to 15 pounds to his frame in the offseason. Grundy should start for the N.C. State at the shooting guard position.**

likely to pick up the slack caused by Thornton's absence. The 6-foot-9 center was hampered by injuries for a good portion of last season, but was inconsistent even when healthy. At Duke on Jan. 19, Kelley was State's leading scorer as he tallied 17 points. Just one game earlier, Kelley had only managed five points against Wake Forest.

Cornelius Williams is the Pack's other center. He has only averaged 7.9 minutes per game over his career, so he may not provide too many minutes for Sendek.

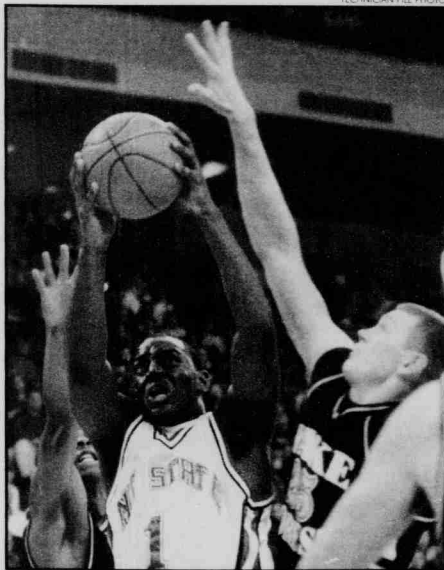
The other freshman who could see some action for State is Trey Guidry. There is also the chance, however, that both he and Will Roach could be red-

shirted for the season. Sendek said Thursday that he hadn't made a final decision regarding the two.

State's non-conference schedule is a bit more challenging than it's been in years past. The marquee matchup will be Feb. 3 when the Pack hosts Syracuse at the Entertainment and Sports Arena. Games against Fresno State, Penn St., UNC-Charlotte, Georgia and Penn could also prove difficult.

And then there's the ACC, which should be more demanding than it's been since 1995.

"I can't wait to get the season started," Sherrill said. "I've been looking forward to this."



# Inge bulks up for senior season

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WHILE MOST N.C. State students spent the summer working on or on the beach, Wolfpack senior Kenny Inge was in the gym.

Inge would set up behind the three-point arc at the beginning of the day and put up a shot. The ball would travel toward the rim and float through, untouched by anything but the net.

*Swish.*  
The manager would retrieve the ball for Inge, who would shoot again with a slightly different result.

*Clang.*  
The shot would bounce off the rim, forcing the manager to run it down and give it back to Inge. He would then calmly raise the ball over his head and snap his wrist, sending the ball skyward one more time.

*Swish.*  
That sound echoed through Reynolds Coliseum. That was the sound Inge wanted to hear. That was the reason he took 1,500 shots. Every day.

During his first three seasons at State, Inge, who is one of the Pack's three co-captains, was a consistent performer for the Pack, with career averages of 10.8 points and 6.6 rebounds per game. But the two knocks on him were his

inability to nail outside shots and his lack of size for playing in the post.

So Inge spent the summer working on both aspects of his game. He spent his days taking those 1,500 jump shots to develop a perimeter game. And he hit the weight room, adding 20 pounds to his 6-foot-8 frame.

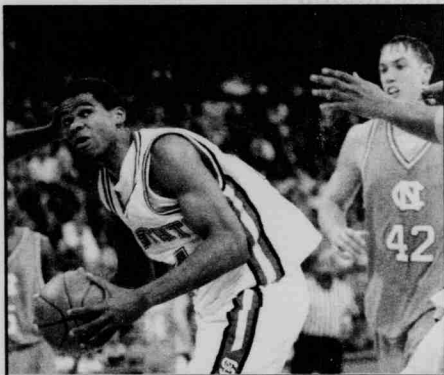
"I've been working my whole career, but I think this was the time my body chose to start developing," Inge said.

If State's two exhibition games are any indication, Inge's work over the summer will more than pay off. The

senior forward scored 21 points and grabbed 19 rebounds in the Pack's 86-82 win against Interhoop on Nov. 4. Last weekend against the California All-Stars, he poured in 25 to pace his team to a 120-87 victory.

"He has improved in every way," State head coach Herb Sendek said. "He has gone from about 198 pounds when he came in as a freshman to 240 pounds as a senior. And that body transformation, that physical transformation, has paid dividends in every area of his game."

Inge originally had no interest in coming to State. In fact, he tried hard to convince a teammate of his from



TECHNICIAN FILE PHOTO

**Forward Kenny Inge shot 1,500 three-pointers every day over the summer.**

Atlantic Shores Christian School not to play for the Pack. Damon Thornton chose to attend State, anyway.

The following year when Inge had to decide where he wanted to spend his college career, his attitude toward the State program changed.

"I was thinking of going to Wake Forest, Xavier or Nebraska," Inge said. "When I met Herb Sendek I forgot about the other three schools."

Inge made an immediate impact in his freshman season, averaging 11 points and 7.4 rebounds per game. In State's upset win that year over top-ranked North Carolina, he scored 16 points and snagged 12 boards for one of his 11 double-doubles. His play during his first year with the Pack earned him Atlantic Coast Conference All-

Freshman honors.

Over the next two seasons, Inge continued turning workmanlike efforts. Last season in State's run to the NIT Final Four, he scored 14.6 points and eight boards a contest to make the All-Tournament team.

But Inge wasn't equipped with the size or the perimeter game to become an All-ACC performer. Now that he's added those two things to his diligent work ethic, State's senior co-captain is ready to reach new heights.

"All through my ACC career, I've had to battle tooth and nail to get everything I got because I was underweight and playing as a power forward," Inge said. "Now I'll be able to throw my weight around a little bit and make other things happen."

**The 6-foot-8 senior also added nearly 25 pounds of muscle. That should allow Inge to throw his weight around in the ACC.**

TECHNICIAN FILE PHOTO



by  
**JEREMY ASHTON**  
*Sports Editor*

# Beacon of consistency

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL HAS been a beacon of consistency and success for the athletics department in the 25 years Kay Yow has overseen the program at N.C. State.

In the same way it has been the benchmark for consistency at State, Wolfpack women's basketball has been a stronghold in the upper half of the Atlantic Coast Conference.

The new season, then, brings few changes.

Picked third in the conference by Atlantic Coast Conference media, the State women's basketball team will rely on the athleticism, quickness and maturity of four returning starters to guide the team back to the NCAA tournament, where it has appeared 15 times in the event's 19-year history.

"Last year, we had a young team," Yow said. "And this year, we are still young, but our players learned a lot last year. And they will be able to share a lot of what they learned with our new players, making for a great group to coach and watch play."

The Pack graduated one player from last year's 20-9 team that ended the season in the first round of the NCAA tournament. Summer Erb, who was a first round pick of the WNBA's Charlotte Sting, averaged 16 points and 8.5 rebounds in her senior season. She was a preseason All-American and ACC player of the year candidate before a foot injury sidelined her for two months.

"To see Summer go down was hard," Yow said. "She meant so much to our team not just because she was a great player, but because she was such a great leader."

Athleticism should benefit the team, ranked in the top 20 in both the AP and ESPN/USA Today-Coaches poll, in the post and on the perimeter.

Sophomore Kaayla Chones, who started at power forward last year, can play in the four or five spot. Chones, the 6-foot-3 daughter of former NBA player Jim Chones, scored 11.4 points and collected 7.9 rebounds as a freshman, good enough to place on the ACC All-Freshman team.

When Erb went down, and Chones began to move between the forward and center positions, junior Talisha Scates broke into the starting lineup as

a post player. She averaged 4.4 points and 4.0 rebounds.

"We do have some athleticism in the post," Yow said. "Kaayla worked hard all summer and will be more physical. Plus we have great players in Talisha Scates, Christen Greene and Carisse Moody. They came off the bench and found their roles last season; they will contribute even more this year."

Moody, a 6-foot-3 junior, is a center. Her 3.0 points per game and 1.2 rebounds became more valuable when Erb was out. Moody, a 6-foot-1 sophomore, averaged 1.9 points and 1.7 rebounds in 14 games last season.

On the perimeter, athleticism combines with quickness and sharp-shooting.

But uncertainty surrounds the Pack at point guard. Sophomore guard Terah James, a returning starter, underwent surgery on a torn ACL in her right knee over the summer. She played last season with the injury, unbeknownst to people outside her teammates.

"Our most major [team] concern so far is with Terah James," Yow said. "We did surgery in the offseason because she has great potential and a future in basketball and we needed to get it taken care of. She is doing extremely well right now, and she is working hard. This makes who will play point guard our most major concern."

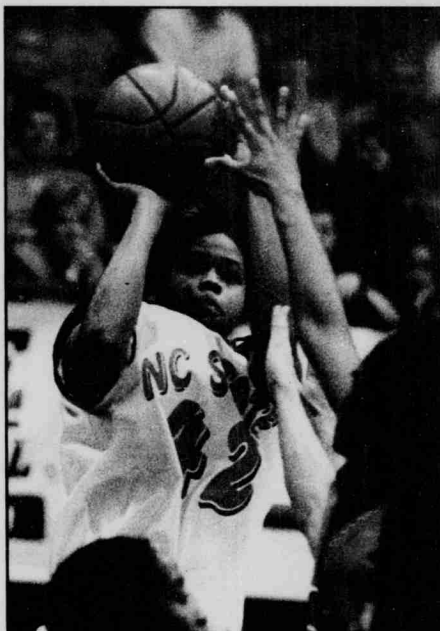
In James' absence, several players have the opportunity to take over the point.

Sophomores Ivy Gardner and Amelia Labrador are candidates for point guard. Gardner, a 5-foot-9 sophomore, came off the bench, scoring 5.9 points a year ago. Labrador, also a 5-foot-9 sophomore, saw action in several games as a freshman, too.

Quickness and sharpshooting around the perimeter will show through in the minutes senior Tynesha Lewis and sophomore Amy Simpson contribute.

Lewis, a three time All-ACC honoree and senior co-captain, scored 11.0 points last season, but suffered through a shooting slump as the season wound down. Though the experience was discouraging, Lewis knows she's a shooter and that her team counts on her for points—a lot of points.

"I will be fine, I think [shooting this season]," she said. "I just have to shoot



**While Amy Simpson will be out with an injury for roughly four weeks, N.C. State is picked to finish third in the ACC in the preseason media poll.**

more. I did a lot of shooting around this summer. And I have always shot before and after practice. I have talked to my coaches and teammates, but I'm a shooter. And if you're a shooter, you've just got to keep shooting. You can't lose confidence."

Yow agrees that Lewis can't stop shooting. And she contends that losing confidence in her shot could really hurt Lewis' ability to recover if she goes through another slump this season.

"We've done a number of things with [Tynesha] because she is a great shooter and hard worker," Yow said. "She has the preparation. She is a shooter. She is a scorer. She does both very well. Losing is something she doesn't want to do; it's something she can't do if something like that happens."

Amy Simpson averaged 8.0 points her freshman year. Alternating between the two and three positions, Simpson entered a game when State needed instant offense. There was a four-game span in January in which Simpson averaged 18.6 points, receiving ACC player of the week honors.

Her role will be the same this season

in that her teammates will rely on her scoring, but she will compete for a starting position as a sophomore.

Like Simpson, Monica Bates is versatile on the wing. A senior co-captain, Bates offers experience wherever she plays.

The two Pack freshmen have seen action in exhibition games and can impact the team immediately.

Nanna Rivers, a 5-foot-8 guard from Wilmington, can earn playing time at point guard, according to Yow. And Adesola Olanrewaju, a 6-foot-3 forward from Brooklyn, is another versatile post player.

Leadership among Yow's players comes from Bates, Lewis and Chones. Two seniors and one sophomore will lead their teammates statistically and emotionally towards "excellence together," the Pack's line for the season.

"[Chones and Lewis] are two people we are really going to count on to anchor our team this year," Yow said. "And I feel they have worked hard in the offseason and preseason along with everyone else."

by  
**ROB  
GODFREY**  
*Assistant Sports Editor*

# Head of the class

"AND NOW, STARTING at guard for your North Carolina Tar Heels. A 5-foot-10 senior from Macclesfield, North Carolina, number 20...Tyneshia Lewis!!!"

As absurd as this introduction may sound now, in 1994 this was the dream that Lewis, a diehard UNC fan during her childhood, had for herself.

"In 1994, after Charlotte Smith hit the shot to win Carolina's first national title, I always said that I was going to hit the one to give them their second," Lewis said.

Instead, Lewis followed her heart and spurned the likes of UNC, Tennessee, Connecticut, Clemson, and Wake Forest to bring her dazzling array of talents to Raleigh.

"After visiting UNC I knew it wasn't the place for me," Lewis said. "I also knew that I wanted to play for Coach

[Kay] Yow."

Once Lewis arrived in Raleigh, it didn't take long for Wolfpack fans to see that there were bright things in this young star's future. In her freshman campaign, she averaged 11.8 points, four rebounds and shot 45.5 percent from the field.

After posting such impressive numbers, Lewis earned quite a few individual accolades being named Freshman All-America and Rookie of the Year by ACC Athlete Magazine.

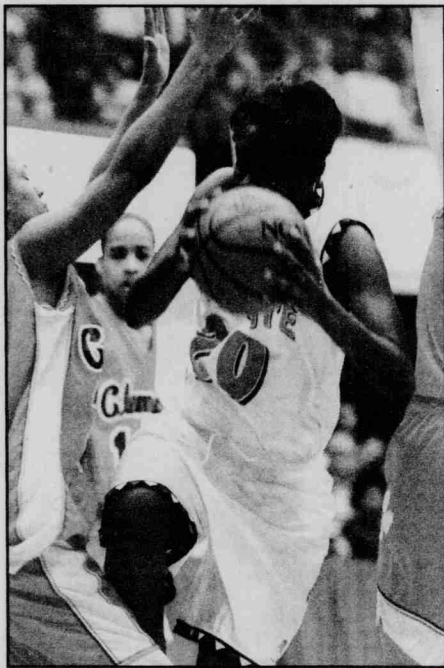
The mass of individual credit and recognition was not the highlight of her season, however, as the Pack made it to the Final Four in the NCAA Tournament.

"All of the individual awards didn't mean anything," Lewis said. "My highlight was going to the Final Four. We absolutely had a ball. It was so special to make it there as a freshman. It

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## by DAVID HOBGOOD

Staff Writer



TECHNICIAN FILE PHOTO

was funny because I told Coach Yow before the season started that we were going to make it."

After her spectacular freshman season, Lewis has yet to look back, earning second team All-ACC honors the past two seasons.

When watching Lewis play, it becomes quite obvious that although she stands only 5-feet-10, she is quite a force on the boards. In fact, Lewis has been one of the best rebounding guards, at 5.2 a game, during her career.

"At the two, you shoot a lot, so you get used to seeing the ball come off the rim," Lewis said. "Another key is I have studied my teammates and how the ball comes off the rim on their missed jumpers."

With the opening of the regular season fast approaching, Lewis has some simple expectations for the season.

"I want to have fun every day, whether it be in practice or a game," Lewis said. "I want to be consistent in all aspects of my game. And, finally, I feel that we should do very well in the ACC."

Yow has very high expectations for

Lewis in her final season with the Wolfpack.

"Tyneshia has a chance to have her best season ever," Yow said. "Our depth will help her get some needed rest this year because the wear and tear of a long season will eventually take its toll."

Yow also spoke about how one of Lewis's greatest strengths, as a person, came to hurt her last season.

"Tyneshia is a person that a lot of people call on for lots of things," Yow said. "She is a great speaker and she's the type of person who has a hard time saying 'no' to people. I feel that last year her shooting slump, midway through the season, may have come as a result from participating in too many activities."

When asked, Lewis, a very bright and heady player, as to what she felt the scouting report on herself would read, she responded with ease.

"She always plays hard so you can never sleep on her," she said. "She's always thinking and is one step ahead of you. And be sure to never, ever let her get hot."



TECHNICIAN FILE PHOTO



# Ready to star

SHE BROKE INTO the lineup last season, just a freshman, and before long Kaayla Chones was regarded as one of the Atlantic Coast Conference's best forwards.

In her second collegiate game, a Nov. 29 semi-final of N.C. State's invitational tournament, Chones posted a double-double in a 78-43 rout of Mississippi State. The next day, in the tournament final vs. UNC Greensboro, Chones blitzed the opposition and Spartans for 19 points and 10 rebounds.

Back-to-back double-doubles earned her the tournament MVP award, not to mention a great deal of attention from local media and fans. Chones received ACC rookie of the week honors for Nov. 22.

"Last season was a lot of fun," Chones said. "Then, I was finding my role and learning to play with my teammates and a lot of things went well. We just had a really great group of players and coaches."

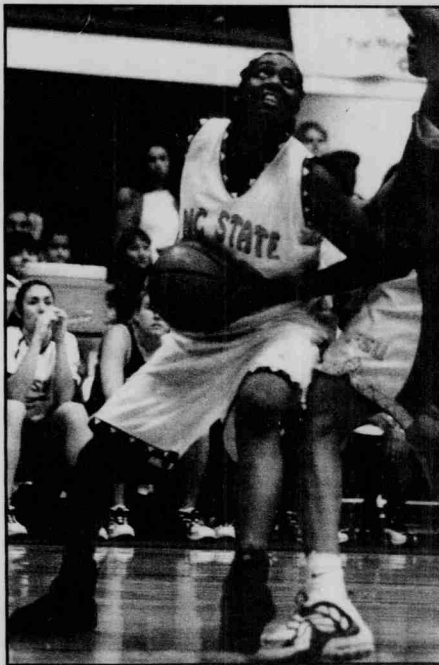
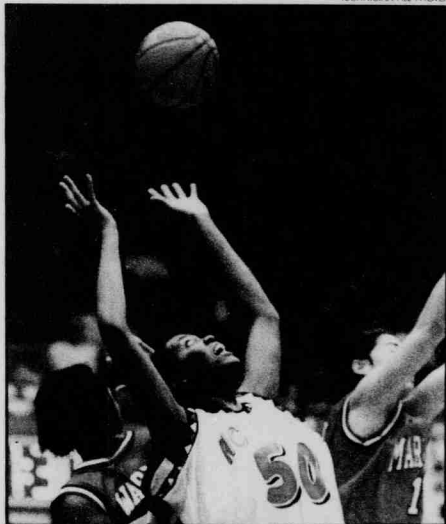
by  
**ROB GODFREY**  
*Assistant Sports Editor*

Two weeks later, Chones had another double-double, this time against Wake Forest; her 15 points and 11 rebounds helped pace the Wolfpack to a 74-54 win over the Demon Deacons.

December turned into January and wins over then-No.3 Rutgers and No.9 North Carolina vaulted the Pack into the top 10 nationally. The team was undefeated at 14-0 leading into a game with Clemson.

"I've said all along that one of the main strengths of this team is its bal-

TECHNICIAN FILE PHOTO



TECHNICIAN FILE PHOTO

ance on offense." State head coach Kay Yow said, after the North Carolina game in which Chones again reached double digits in points-scored. "We know we can give the ball to any person and that person won't hesitate to shoot."

Over the next 15 games, the Pack skidded to a 6-9 record, suffering losses to Clemson, Virginia, Texas, Tennessee and Duke. More disconcerting, Summer Erb broke her foot when she landed on the foot of UNC's LaShonda Allen in the scramble for a rebound.

The job for Chones became more difficult in that she had to step into the center position, one that she wasn't necessarily accustomed to playing.

"We hit a rough spot late last season," Yow said. "But players like Tynesha [Lewis], Monica Bates, Kaayla, everyone stepped up to keep us together and focused. That is a strength all of our players have — to step up when they need to and when their teammates need them."

State clinched an at-large NCAA tournament berth and traveled to Old Dominion for a first-round game with

Southern Methodist. In Summer Erb's first game back in almost two months, the Pack fell 64-63.

Chones ended the season having scored 11.4 points per game and 7.9 rebounds.

She begins her sophomore season amid lofty expectations. In Erb's absence, Chones responded as a leader and offensive threat, but, in the back of her mind, she knew Erb would be back eventually.

"We all hoped Summer would get back last year," Chones said. "And in some ways I guess that was comforting. That made the job somewhat easier."

This season, Chones will be splitting time between center and power forward with several players.

She is up to the challenge.

"I think we have a great team and great group that of players down low," Chones said. "Everyone worked really hard over the summer and should be ready to play wherever our coaches see us fitting in."

Chones will miss the first four to six weeks of the season with a torn quad muscle.

# Sizing up ACC

HOW DOES WOMEN'S basketball in the ACC stack up?

Like this:

**Duke (14-2)** — The Blue Devils have more firepower than any team in the conference. Senior Georgia Schweitzer returns after scoring 15.4 points last season and earning ACC Player of the Year honors.

Schweitzer's biggest challenge this season could come off the court, though. She will be charged with helping five freshmen, who make up one the nation's top freshmen classes, find team roles. Chemistry can be a problem when five freshmen used to playing have to assume reserve roles.

Blue Devils' key to winning the ACC: Leadership.

**Virginia (12-4)** — Virginia is probably more excited to have head coach Debbie Ryan back after a bout with cancer than it is to start the season. Sometimes basketball is inconsequential.

The Cavaliers boast the 2000 Rookie of the Year Schuye LaRue and first-team All-ACC player Svetlana Volnaya. So what's going to keep them from winning the conference? A point guard. All-ACC guard Renee Robinson graduated and freshman Chelsea Whitaker is injured.

Cavaliers' key to winning the ACC: A point guard.

**North Carolina (10-6)** — Sure, the Tar Heels are without National Player of the Year candidate Nikki Teasley.

Good thing they have two more.

LaQuanda Barksdale and Juana Brown are Naismith Player of the Year nominees, and they don't intend to harp on the losses of Jackie Higgins (on professional basketball) and Nikki Teasley. With Barksdale and Brown, UNC can challenge Virginia and Duke,

possibly coming out on top, if they can forget about adversity brought on by departures and look toward the conference season where they face three ranked teams.

Tar Heels' key to winning the ACC: Foresight.

**Clemson (9-7)**

— Erin Bathe leads a fast Tiger team into a new season. Head coach Jim Davis will rely on his Defensive All-American and two other returning starters, but the Tigers need more points. Last season they were eighth in the conference in scoring with 62.7 points (all games). On a more positive note, Clemson was second in the ACC in scoring defense.

Tigers' key to winning the ACC: Scoring.

**N.C. State (8-8)**

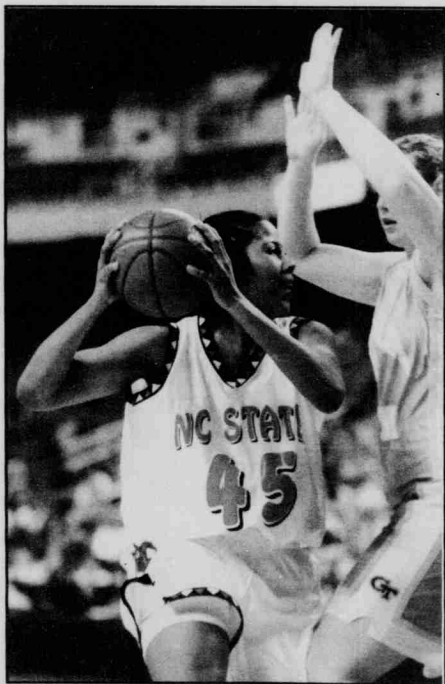
— A week ago, the Wolfpack would have been a lock for 10 conference wins. Then the injury bug infiltrated the Pack camp. Three lost starters — possibly out until January — depletes a young lineup. And although all three players can return for the start of ACC competition, it may be difficult to get them back into peak physical condition.

Wolfpack key to winning the ACC: Healing.

## Commentary



by  
**ROB GODFREY**  
Assistant Sports Editor



Talisha Scates and the Pack are picked to finish third in the ACC. Rob Godfrey, however, begs to differ because of the recent injuries and has them fifth in the conference.

**Georgia Tech (8-8)** — Niesha Butler, the 1999 ACC Rookie of the Year, medical redshirted last season after an injury in the fourth game.

Without her, the Yellow Jackets were 7-9 in the conference, beat State twice and played in the WNIT. With her and four returning starters, the Jackets should finish 500 in the ACC and make the NCAA Tournament.

Yellow Jacket key to winning the ACC: Butler.

**Maryland (6-10)** — Maryland head coach Chris Weller knows how to win. Ten years ago, she was accustomed to it. In recent years, the Terrapins have struggled inside and outside the ACC.

The Terps return four starters, which should bode well for the team. But particularly this season, life in the ACC will be cutthroat.

Terrapins' key to winning the ACC: A miracle.

**Wake Forest (4-12)** — The Demon Deacons have two senior starters, one of whom is truly a competitor, Brenda Mock Kirkpatrick. And head coach Charlene Curtis is organized.

Demon Deacons' key to winning ACC: Prayer.

**Florida State (4-12)** — Brooke Wyckoff is FSU's best player, and a huge year from her could push them towards a winning conference record. The Seminoles three returning starters have experience, and overall FSU is the oldest team in the league with seven upperclassmen out of 12 players.

Sue Semrau is a young coach with energy and a great personality.

Seminoles' key to winning the ACC: A recount.

Rob covers N.C. State women's basketball. You can reach him at [DieWhirlie@aol.com](mailto:DieWhirlie@aol.com) or 515-2411.

# ACC ready to return to its perch

WHEN THE SUBJECT is broached with Atlantic Coast Conference basketball coaches, most act indignant. Others are downright insulted.

How could the ACC — the mighty ACC — only get three teams in the NCAA Tournament the past two seasons? *Three?* Conference USA gets four teams for crying out loud. But only Duke, Maryland and North Carolina can make it from the ACC. Not since 1979 had less than four ACC teams made the "Big Dance." What in the name of Billy Packer was going on?

"We got three teams and other leagues like the Big Ten got seven," said Wake Forest head coach Dave Odom. "Come on, now, there's something wrong."

This season could be the year that order is restored to the basketball universe. The ACC has two to three legitimate national championship contenders and six teams that could make the NCAA Tournament.

In the latest Associated Press poll, five ACC teams are ranked: Duke second, Maryland sixth, North Carolina seventh, Wake Forest 18th and Virginia 25th. N.C. State was ranked nationally in more than one preseason publication.

"This year, top to bottom, it's definitely the deepest it's been [since I've been here]," said Wolfpack redshirt junior Archie Miller. "It's going to be a very tough year. Game in and game out, it's going to be hard to win for every team."

The reasons for the ACC's resurgence — and regression for that matter — can be tied to a number of factors. Chief among those is the NBA.

Many of the league's best players had been making a habit of leaving school early for the greener pastures of pro ball. This year, for the first time since

defections to the pros became routine in college ball, the ACC didn't have any impact underclassmen forgo their eligibility for the draft.

Whereas teams in other conferences had dealt with the early loss of players like Stromile Swift, Marcus Fizer, Mike Miller and Quentin Richardson, the ACC didn't have a single underclassman leave. That's in stark contrast to years past.

In 1999, William Avery, Elton Brand, Corey Maggette and Steve Francis left ACC schools early. In 1998, it was Vince Carter and Antawn Jamison. Further back, Stephon Marbury left for the pros in 1996, while Rashheed Wallace and Jerry Stackhouse bypassed their final two seasons at UNC after the 1994-1995 campaign.

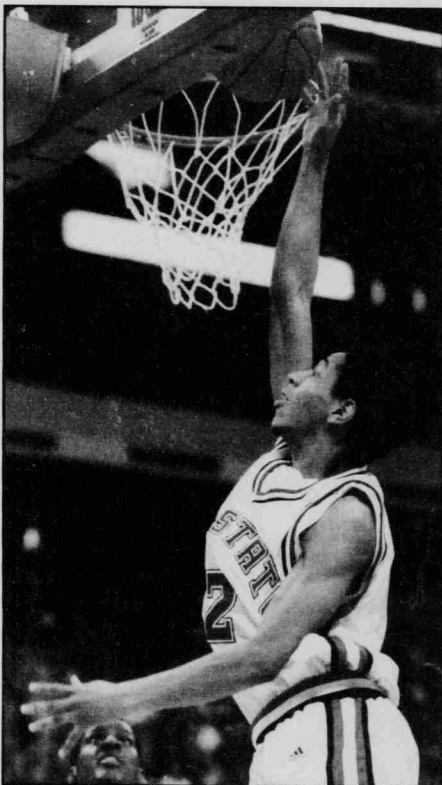
The ACC also didn't have too many dominant seniors last season. Duke's Chris Carrawell and Georgia Tech's Jason Collier were the only two conference players drafted in 2000.

"We have more returning players, and the quality of players returning is outstanding," said Florida State head coach Steve Robinson, who had three starters graduate. "We seem to be the only program that took a major hit."

The only player the Blue Devils lost from last year's team, which went 29-5, is Carrawell. Maryland didn't lose a single contributor. North Carolina will only have to replace Ed Cota. Wake

Forest, Virginia and State were all relatively unaffected by graduation, with the Pack's Justin Gamy being the most noticeable loss.

"This is the year you better have a lot of people back in our league," said Maryland head coach Gary Williams. "We're just one team with everybody back. Virginia has everybody back. Wake has everybody back. Duke lost one guy, Carolina lost one guy, State



TECHNICIAN FILE PHOTO  
**Anthony Grundy and the rest of the ACC should be reaching to old heights this season. After only getting three teams in the NCAA Tournament the last two years, as many as six teams could make it in 2001.**

lost one guy." Aside from the NBA issue, there is also the Duke factor. The Blue Devils have been so good for the past three years (46-2 in the regular season) that the ACC has appeared to be Duke and the eight runts.

"Duke has been dominant," said N.C. State head coach Herb Sendek. "If you look at their record the last couple of years, it's incredible what they've accomplished. But I also think the league has had good teams beyond that top tier."

The problem is that Duke's brilliance has obscured those teams. Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski lobbied the NCAA Tournament selection committee to let

in teams such as Wake Forest and Virginia last March, but his appeals fell on deaf ears after the committee looked at how his team bludgeoned its way through the regular season.

Other coaches, however, maintain the league hasn't really been down.

"I don't really think the league has been as down the past couple of years as has been popular to say," Sendek said. "Perhaps it wasn't as good as it had been in some other years. But I don't see that going through the league, competing against the teams."

"This year should be exceptional." That is the one point all nine coaches agree on.

# Duke looking for national title

CONSIDER THE CAREERS OF Duke senior co-captains Shane Battier and Nate James in the context of college basketball since 1985 (when the NCAA field expanded to 64 teams), and it's difficult to find players that enjoyed the success they've enjoyed — outside the four years Brian Davis and Christian Lantry played at Duke.

Battier, consensus second team All-America, was the co-national defensive player of the year and first team All-ACC as a junior, leading his team in scoring (17.4 points). He has started in 81 of 107 career games.

James was second-team All-ACC tournament and is in his second year as co-captain. He averaged 11.0 points, had 63 assists and hit 46 three-pointers.

In the four years either Battier or James (a redshirt senior) has been a part of Duke's program, the Blue Devils are 58-6 in the Atlantic Coast Conference. Both players are two-time ACC tournament champions and Final Four participants.

Ask either player and he will tell you, however, that he isn't concerned with building a personal basketball resume. The captains have one thing in mind for the 2000-2001 Blue Devils.

"We want to hang a national championship banner in Cameron Indoor Stadium," James said. "That's all I'm worried about."

Head coach Mike Krzyzewski starts his 21st campaign at Duke, losing one player from his 1999-2000 team that finished in the NCAA Sweet 16, 29-5 overall and 15-1 in the ACC. That loss, of All-American Chris Carrawell, is hard for Krzyzewski because he values close relationships with players.

But freshman Chris Dubon, national

high school player of the year, could impact the Blue Devils so heavily that he counters the loss of Carrawell, at least statistically.

"Chris is a special kid and a special player," Krzyzewski said. "He's wonderful to coach because he's no maintenance. He wants to be good in every facet of the game and he works on every facet of his game as hard as anyone, if not harder."

Probable starters for Duke besides Battier and James are Carlos Boozer, Mike Dunleavy and Jason Williams.

Boozer, a sophomore, was ACC All-Freshman last season, scoring 13.0 points per game and bagging 6.3 rebounds. He scored 24 points and blocked four shots in an overtime win vs. N.C. State Jan. 19 and scored 10 points in OT at North Carolina on Feb. 2.

Dunleavy, also a sophomore, was one of the nation's top sixth-men before missing Duke's final four regular season games with mono-nucleosis. He returned in time to earn a spot on the All-ACC tournament second team

thanks to 31 points in two games vs. Clemson and Wake Forest.

Williams, another sophomore, is a preseason All-American in several publications. He posted six double-doubles as a freshman, while he averaged 14.5 points per game.

The 2000 ACC tournament Most Valuable Player, Williams led the silver medal-winning USA Basketball World Championship team in 11 statistical categories: scoring, field goal percentage, three-point percentage, assists and seven others.

Duke is No. 2 in AP top-25 poll behind No. 1 Arizona.

THE CUPBOARD IS full for Maryland.

One season removed from a 25-8 campaign, Maryland returns every scholarship player off last year's team. Add to the mix 6-foot-10 freshman Chris Wilcox from Enloe and Tulane transfer Byron Mouton, and the Terps seem primed for a run at the ACC title.

"This is the year you better have a lot of people back in our league," said head coach Gary Williams. "We're just one team with everybody back. Virginia has everybody back, Wake has everybody back, Duke lost one guy, Carolina lost one guy, State lost one guy."

Unlike the rest of the conference, however, Maryland's starting five includes three players who have been first-team All-ACC selections: Lonny Baxter, Juan Dixon and Terence Morris.

"They all can score," Williams said. "That's what I like. They can score from different areas of the floor. It gives us versatility, which is really important. It allows other guys to get some shots, because of the way they can play."

Also returning are starters Danny Miller and Steve Blake, an All-Freshman team selection last year.

The key player for Maryland will likely be Morris. Coming off an All-ACC sophomore year, Morris didn't live up to expectations after being heralded as a preseason All-American. By the end of the season, Morris was forced to share the stage with Baxter and Dixon, who both had breakthrough seasons.

This year, the Terrapins will look for

similar production out of Baxter and Dixon. Last year, Baxter finished second in the ACC in rebounding and field-goal percentage, dazzling opponents with his combination of size and agility. Dixon led the ACC in steals and finished second in scoring in his first year as a starter.

In addition to the team's three stars, Maryland also has a deep and talented supporting cast.

The presence of Mouton gives the Terps a scoring threat off the bench. The depth in the frontcourt is as strong as any team's in the ACC, with Wilcox, Tajj Holden, and Mike Mardesich coming off the bench.

About the only question mark surrounding Maryland is its habit of folding come March. Since the arrival of head coach Gary Williams in College Park, Md., the Terrapins have not advanced past the Sweet Sixteen. Last year was the first time Maryland has reached the ACC championship game during Williams' tenure.

Despite the Terrapins' recent postseason shortcomings, many would not be surprised to see Maryland challenging for the national championship.

Picked to finish second in the ACC, the Terps have been selected as a top-five preseason team by The Associated Press.

Maryland will have a chance to show its strength early on, with games against No. 8 Illinois, No. 1 Arizona, and No. 19 Wisconsin. In addition to those games, the Terrapins should also face competition in the BB&T Classic, which features Michigan, St. John's and George Washington.

by  
**STEVE  
THOMPSON**  
*Staff Writer*

# Maryland loaded with talent

# Tar Heels begin new era

THERE IS NEW life at North Carolina this year in men's basketball.

With the retirement of former head coach Bill Guthridge, the UNC athletic director, Dick Baddour, was left with what turned out to be a lengthy and difficult process of finding a new head coach for the Tar Heels.

After being turned down by Kansas head coach Roy Williams and several other prospective coaches, Baddour ended the nationwide manhunt picking Matt Doherty as the successor to the throne of one of the most talented programs in all of college basketball.

Doherty, the former head coach of Notre Dame, will look to carry on UNC's winning traditions. So far, he has brought in a new coaching staff, getting rid of former assistants, Phil Ford, Dave Hammers and Pat Sullivan.

With Ed Cota's graduation, UNC will have a new point guard for the first time in four years. Adam Boone will probably start at the position, but Joe

Forde could slide over from shooting guard and run the point occasionally.

"It's really up in the air," said Doherty. "Do you put in someone who's the prototypical point guard and let him grow into it, or do you put your best five players on the court?"

Carolina, highlighted by 7-5 freshman Neil Fingleton, will also have a height advantage against its opponents this year. Fingleton ties former N.C. State center Chuck Nevitt as the tallest player in Atlantic Coast Conference history. As for the rest of the roster, there is no player less than six feet tall.

At seven feet, center Brendan Haywood, whose streaky play was ridiculed at the beginning of last year, will have to have a sensational senior season if the Tar Heels want to pull out wins over teams like Kentucky, Duke, and Maryland.

Already, Haywood is a candidate for national player of the year. He was named a member of the third-team All-Atlantic Coast Conference his junior year, while averaging 15.8 points, 9.6 rebounds, and 3 blocked shots a game. During the postseason, he made 59.6 percent of his shots in the Heels' five contests on the road to the Final Four.

Haywood is UNC's all-time leader in field goal percentage, converting 386 out of 587 attempts for a percentage of 65.8.

Joining Haywood in the paint will be forwards Kris Lang and Brian Bersticker.

In the backcourt will be guard Joseph Forte and swingman Jason Capel. Forte

was the first ever freshman player to lead UNC in scoring, averaging 16.7 points a game, as well as becoming the all-time leading freshman scorer for the Tar Heels with 600 points. He also led the team in steals (54) and three-point field

goals (56).

Capel on the other hand, has been a very versatile player for UNC in his career. He finished second in rebounding with 6.8 a game and averaged 12.3 points a game. At the free throw line, Capel led the team with a percentage of 80.9, well enough for second in the ACC.

BOASTING THE SECOND longest winning streak in the nation coming into this season, Wake Forest returns most of the pieces from last year's NIT championship team.

The Demon Deacons will return enigmatic scorer Robert O'Kelley and Olympic bronze medalist Darius Songaila in addition to a strong supporting cast in hopes of returning to the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1997.

Currently ranked 18th by the Associated Press, Wake was chosen to finish fourth in the Atlantic Coast Conference by the ACC sports writers. Last year, Wake finished fifth in the ACC, running its overall record to 21-14 by winning seven of its final eight games.

O'Kelley and Songaila were two of the bigger contributors during Wake's late season run, and they will be looked upon for even bigger donations to the team this year.

"We reconstructed a team that was at its very worst," said head coach Dave Odom. "That was maybe as much fun as I've had in coaching, or as much satisfaction I've had in coaching in a long time."

After being chosen as a preseason All-ACC selection last year, O'Kelley struggled through much of the season. A scorer by nature, O'Kelley struggled playing point guard for much of the season. Once relieved of his point

guard duties, O'Kelley was unable to find his touch until the NIT.

In the NIT, O'Kelley shined — leading the Deacs in scoring en route to being named MVP of the tournament. Feared for his ability to light up the scoreboard during his hot streaks, Wake will look to O'Kelley to be a more consistent threat this season.

After a solid ACC season last year, Songaila headed to Sydney where he shined in leading Lithuania during the Olympics. The experience should help Songaila, who last year Songaila lead the Deacons in scoring despite fouling out of seven games.

During the early part of the season, the Deacs will have to rely even more on its supporting cast as the team will be without several key players. Rafael Vidaurrea, who started every game for Wake last year, will be out after having arthroscopic knee surgery. Also, point guard Ervin Murray will miss many early games after coming down with a bad case of mononucleosis.

Wake's depth will help provide the team with many additional options. Craig Dawson is an instant scorer off the bench, and Broderick Hicks adds further backcourt depth. Frontcourt support will come from the trio of Antwan Scott, Josh Howard, and Josh Showmaker.

by  
**STEVE  
THOMPSON**  
*Staff Writer*

# Songaila, O'Kelley could lead Deacs to NCAAs

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# U/Va wants to take next step

# 5

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THE REBUILDING PROJECT at Virginia was supposed to take a few years to get in full swing. Head coach Pete Gillen almost had the Cavaliers back in the NCAA Tournament after two.

The Cavs concluded the 1999-2000 regular season with a 19-11 overall record, finishing in a third-place tie in the Atlantic Coast Conference with North Carolina. That apparently wasn't enough to convince the NCAA Selection Committee that U/Va was worthy of a trip to the "Big Dance." Gillen's team ended up in the NIT, instead, losing 115-111 to Georgetown in an opening-round, triple-overtime thriller.

"We're frustrated we just didn't quite make it last year," said head coach Pete Gillen.

"Hopefully that will be a little bit of a plus for us that we'll realize we need each other. Honestly, we had pretty good chemistry last year, but hopefully it will be a little bit better this year."

U/Va is primed for a run at the NCAAs this year. The top seven scorers from last year's squad have returned, giving the Cavs the depth and experience needed to make some noise in the ACC.

Senior point guard Donald Hand will lead the team into the upcoming season. The second-team All-ACC selection averaged 15 points per game and dolled out 4.3 assists a contest, the fifth-

highest total in the ACC. Hand hit 31.5 percent of his three-point attempts in 1999-2000, making him a legitimate deep threat.

Junior Chris Williams, who also made the All-ACC second team, is Hand's scoring compliment in the frontcourt. The 6-foot-7 forward led the Cavs with 15.5 points per game, putting him 10th in the league. Williams is a versatile player who can rebound and occasionally drop in a three.

Forward/center Travis Watson enters his second year with the Cavs after earning ACC All-Freshman honors. Watson should give U/Va strength in the post, after topping the team in rebounding at 8.3 boards per game and dropping in 11.4 points an outing.

Junior Adam Hall and sophomore Roger Mason should round out the starting lineup. Hall started all but two games last season and scored 10.1 points per contest. Mason played mainly off the bench during his freshman year,

contributing 7.6 points a game.

Guard Keith Friel will be one of Gillen's top reserve. The sharpshooting senior hit 41.3 percent of his three-point attempts last year.

Sophomore Majestic Mapp was supposed to get significant playing time, as well, but he is out for the year with a torn anterior cruciate ligament.

THE CLEMSON TIGERS hope that the 2000-01 season is kind to them after being plagued with injuries throughout last year.

Scholarship players, such as forwards Andrius Jurkunas and Ray Henderson, sat on the bench more than they were on the court for head coach Larry Shyatt.

Shyatt finally had all of his players back healthy at the end of January, allowing the Tigers to pull out four Atlantic Coast Conference wins, including a sweep of N.C. State.

This season, Clemson looks to be an offensive threat, returning nine lettermen and four starters, with Jurkunas its only loss from last year.

"This year, it is our goal to make our opponent concerned with more offensive threats," said Shyatt. "On a given night, I think we will be capable of having five or six double figure scorers. That was not the case last year. We must be more balanced."

Offensively for the Tigers, look no further than junior guard Will

Solomon. Solomon, who was a first team All-ACC player as a sophomore, led the ACC in points per game, averaging 20.9 in 1999-00. He was the only ACC player to score double digits in every game last year.

Solomon was the focus of opponents' defenses last season, scoring almost one-third of the Clemson offense. But Solomon wasn't a ball-hog by any means, leading the team in assists with 95 on the year.

The Tigers will get Solomon some much needed help in the paint with 7-1, center Adam Allenspach and forward's Henderson and Chucky Gilmore.

The big man, Allenspach, ranked in the top 10 in the ACC in rebounding last year with 7.2 boards a game, as well as being the Tigers' second leading scorer. Henderson and Gilmore, who combined for 7.3 points a game, saw little action last season. Shyatt will look for them to factor in big down low for Clemson this year and take some of the pressure off of Allenspach.

by  
**JUSTIN SELLERS**  
*Staff Writer*

# 7

# Tigers look for respectability

# Tech begins Hewitt era

# 8

THE GEORGIA TECH Yellow Jackets enter the 2000-2001 basketball season with a new head coach. With the departure of beloved Bobby Cremins, new coach Paul Hewitt has some pretty big shoes to fill.

The Jackets opened the exhibition season with a 21-point loss to the California All-Stars last Tuesday, the same California All-Stars that N.C. State managed to beat in a squeaker by a score of 120-87. Tech bounced back in its second and final exhibition game by beating the USDBA All-Stars Team Fokus 96-85.

Five players are returning seniors this year for the Jackets including the 6-foot-11 inside force Alvin Jones. Last season, Jones led the Atlantic Coast

Conference in blocked shots, averaging 2.5 per game and broke John Salley's record in blocked shots, averaging 2.5 per game and broke John Salley's school record for career blocks. He also ranked fifth overall in the league in rebounding and was named to the ACC All-Defensive team.

Also returning is junior point guard Tony Akins, a two-year starter at that

position. Akins was the second leading scorer last year, dropping in 11.5 points a contest.

Akins also proved that he could dish the ball off to his teammates, ranking sixth in the league in assists. In the exhibition victory on Monday night, Akins contributed 19 points and handed out eight assists.

Seniors Shaun Fein and T.J. Vines return to provide the Jackets with tremendous talent from the perimeter. Fein tied for the

team lead with 68 three-pointers last season, ranking third in the conference in three-pointers per game and seventh in the league for three-point percentage.

Vines, who has primarily provided a surge off the bench, ranks tenth in Georgia Tech history for most

career three-point field goals. Three freshmen join the Yellow Jackets this season, including two who were ranked among Bob Gibbons' Top 100 high school seniors in the country.

Marvin Lewis, who was ranked as one of the top 20 shooting guards by Athlon magazine, is averaging 15 points a game in Tech's first two games.

COACHED BY FOURTH-YEAR man Sieve Robinson, the Seminoles return six players to a squad that finished 6-10 in conference play, and 11-16 overall in 1999-2000.

Among the leaders of that returning group are senior guards Delvon Arrington and Adrian Crawford, two of the teams' tri-captains. Arrington, FSU's starting point-guard, enjoyed his best season last year as he ranked third in the conference in assists and tenth in steals.

Crawford, FSU's starting two-guard, is the other returning senior and Crawford, FSU's starting two-guard, is the other returning senior and will look to rebound from a knee injury, which limited him to only 15 games during his junior campaign.

The third of the Seminoles' tri-captains is junior guard Antwan Dixon, who started nine games as a sophomore and averaged 4.7 points per game on the season. He came on strong during the last seven games, however, averaging nearly double figures and amassing a career-high of 16 points vs. Vanderbilt.

Of the other returnees, seven-footer David Anderson is the most notable. Anderson, a junior from Lamar, Co., blocked a career-high 43 shots last season as a sophomore. That total is tied for second among all sophomores in school history. Nigel Dixon, a 6-10 for-

ward from Orlando, and Rodney Tucker, a 6-7 forward from Stone Mountain, Ga., round out the incumbents.

Sharing the playing time with the vets will be five new recruits, judged to be the 13th best recruiting class in the nation.

Among freshmen, the most highly-touted is 6-7 wing-man Michael Joiner.

Joiner, from 71st High School in Fayetteville, earned All-State first-team honors as a senior.

"Our new guys have been very competitive," Robinson said. "And I think they are pushing our older players."

Backing up Delvon Arrington will be freshman guard Ryan Lowery, a 5-11 native of Gastonia. Lowery spent a post-graduate year at Fork Union Military Academy before coming to FSU.

Andrew Wilson and J.D. Bracy are the other true freshmen from the recruiting class. Bracy has impressive credentials (27.2 ppg, 7.8 rpg, 5.3 apg) but is only a partial NCAA qualifier and is not eligible to play until next year.

Monte Cummings also arrived this year with the recruiting class, and is the lone junior college transfer on the Seminoles roster. He will challenge Adrian Crawford for playing time at the two-guard.

by  
WES  
PUTNAM  
Staff Writer

# 9

# FSU

# returns six

# Full house for Duke in women's hoops, too

HEADING INTO THIS, her ninth season at Duke, Gail Goestenkors is only 21 wins away from 200. It is safe to say that feat is well within reach.

Returning four starters and six key reserves from last year's 26-8 team that won the ACC Tournament and advanced to the Sweet 16, there are high expectations in Durham.

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Oh, yeah, they also brought in the top recruiting class in the nation according to Athlon Sports. Each of the five members of this highly-rated class were Nike All-Americans and four were USA Today All-Americans.

"Our freshmen are very, very talented," Goestenkors said. "They are also extremely agile. We have limited expectations for them. However, in order for us to achieve our ultimate goals, they'll need to produce."

If the first exhibition game is any indication, the Blue Devils should receive quite a bit of production from their freshmen phenoms. The most notable performance came from 5-foot-11 wing Alana Beard, who was 9-of-13 from the field with 28 points, seven rebounds and four assists in only 20 minutes of play in her college debut.

While Beard was easily voted Preseason ACC Rookie of the Year, she may receive her toughest challenge for the award from her own teammate — 6-foot-4 power forward Iciss Tillis. In her debut, Tillis provided a dominant post presence, as she converted 8-of-11 field-goal attempts, including 2-of-3 from beyond the arc, en route to 18 points and six rebounds.

The other three members of the outstanding recruiting class are 5-foot-10

guard Rometa Craig, 5-foot-5 guard Vicki Krappohl and 6-foot-5 center Crystal White.

While much of the attention will be placed on the freshman class, the Blue Devils are loaded with a talented core of returners.

For starters, they return the reigning ACC Player of the Year, guard Georgia Schweitzer, who was picked by ACC media to win the award again this season. Last year, Schweitzer was fourth in the ACC in scoring at 15.6 points a game. She will more than likely have the task of playing point guard this season, which is something she greatly looks forward to.

"I love playing the point," Schweitzer said. "My favorite thing to do in all of basketball is pushing the ball up the court. I feel great going into the season because I worked on my ballhandling and strength all summer."

The Blue Devils' other returning starters are 6-foot forward Rochelle Parent, who was voted to the ACC All-

by  
**DAVID HOBGOOD**  
Staff Writer

Defensive Team last year, 5-foot-9 guard Krista Gingrich and 5-foot-10 guard Sheana Mosch, who was an ACC All-Freshman performer last season.

Along with that talented core of returning starters and incredible newcomers, 5-foot-11 shooting specialist Missy West and 6-foot-1 Michele Matysovsky will play key roles off the bench to form a very deep team that will play an up-tempo style.

"We are more athletic and deeper than ever in the history of this program," Goestenkors said. "Therefore, we're going to run and trap a whole lot this year."

WHILE CONNECTICUT'S GENO Auriemma and Tennessee's Pat Summitt have reaped dynastic success on the women's basketball court and been extolled by national media, Virginia head coach Debbie Ryan has quietly surpassed several coaching milestones herself.

She's a seven-time Atlantic Coast Conference coach of the year. She has 526 career victories and 11 national titles. And she's coached three Final Four teams, three ACC tournament title teams, and 11 regular season ACC championship teams, directing 17 teams to the NCAA tournament over the last 17 years.

So, even though media predicted that the Cavaliers would finish second to Duke in conference play this season, it's no wonder Ryan is confident about her 2000-2001 team.

"We have a great trio of players returning in the starting lineup," she said. "They have a lot of experience and they are very talented. They are going to anchor our team this year and they are a very big bright spot for our team."

The trio Ryan returns includes sophomore Schyue LaRue, junior Telisha Quarles and senior Svetlana Volynaya.

LaRue, the 2000 ACC freshman of the year, and Volynaya, first team All-ACC, lead the Cavs' athletic frontcourt. The duo combined for 30.3 points per game last season (14.4 for LaRue, 13.8 for Volynaya) and 11.8 rebounds (8.0, 3.8).

"[Schyue] is a lot better, even better than she was at the end of last season, thanks to hard work over the summer," Ryan said. "She is focused on taking her teammates to the next level and she is confident."

There's an opening in the Cavs from

court, left by graduated Lisa Hosac, that senior Dean'Na Mitchelson will try to fill. Mitchelson dislocated her shoulder minutes into the season-opener Nov. 21, 1999 and never regained her starting position.

Sophomore Marcie Dickson, junior Elena Kravchenko and Chaloi Lias will battle Mitchelson for the starting position.

by  
**ROB GODFREY**  
Assistant Sports Editor

In the backcourt, Virginia lost second team All-ACC selection Renee Robinson. She averaged 9.7 PPG and 4.8 assists as a senior.

"Where we have to answer some questions is at the point guard position and that's

going to be a tough answer right now," Ryan said. "It is a huge question because Chelsea Whitaker had to have compartmental surgery in the preseason; she was probably the top candidate for the position."

Whitaker is a freshman from Dallas, Tx., who scored nearly 20 PPG and collected eight assists in high school. According to Ryan, she will sit out three to five weeks.

Though she is better suited on the wing because of her ability to score, Ryan knows Quarles can play point guard. Last season, with Robinson able to avoid foul trouble, Quarles scored averaged 12.4 points as shooting guard.

The Cavs edged Duke in the race to the 2000 conference regular season title (13-3 ACC, 25-9 overall). Falling to North Carolina in the ACC tournament semifinals, Virginia advanced to the NCAA Sweet 16, where national runner-up Tennessee trounced them 77-56.

Through two games of the preseason WNIT this season, Virginia is 2-0, having beaten George Washington 72-66 Sunday and Mt. St. Mary's 100-61.

# Virginia looks to bump Devils



# Tar Heels take aim

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THE COMBINATION OF youth and experience should make for an interesting and unpredictable season for the North Carolina women.

The Tar Heels will rely on their four seniors to lead a team composed largely of younger players. The Heels were picked to finish fourth in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

The No. 22 Heels are led by head coach Sylvia Hatchell, who is entering her 15th season with the Heels. She has compiled a record of 269-133 and led the Tar Heels to six ACC titles and a national championship during her tenure in Chapel Hill.

"I feel good about everything right now," Hatchell said. "We got a good group of freshman and we really haven't just had a good start to the season. It's been great."

The senior team captains will be LaQuanda Barksdale, Juana Brown, and Leah Sharp. Barksdale was selected preseason All-ACC. Last year, Barksdale led the ACC in scoring with 17.6 points per game and rebounding

with 8.6 rebounds a game en route to being named All-ACC.

Both Barksdale and Brown were selected as preseason candidates for the Naismith

college basketball player of the year award. Brown is coming off a year in which

she averaged over 10 points per game for the Heels.

The biggest loss for the Tar Heels will be Nikki Teasley.

She is taking a year off "for personal reasons."

UNC will look to many new players to assist the senior core of the team. *USA Today* named

6-foot-6 UNC freshman center Candice Sutton Maryland Player of the Year after

she averaged 17 points and 11 rebounds as a senior. The Heels also obtained the services of Chrystal Baptist, who was selected as North Carolina's Gatorade Player of the Year. Baptist averaged over 20 points as a guard for Charlotte Christian.

The Heels will begin their season in upstate New York with games at Buffalo and Syracuse.

JIM DAVIS HAS been coaching at Clemson for 13 seasons.

In his 13 years at the helm, he has attained quite a bit of success. Whether reaching the NCAA Tournament in 12 of 13 years, winning 20 or more games in 10 of 13 years or winning two Atlantic Coast Conference titles, Davis has seen his fair share of talented teams.

That is why his preseason assessment of this season is all the more intriguing.

"I feel better about this team than any other that I have ever coached here, in terms of physical and mental condition," Davis said.

With the return of a talented nucleus of veterans combined with an exuberant class of newcomers, the Tigers are looking to change their playing style a bit from the past.

"We're going to run a whole lot more than we have in the past," Davis said. "We're going to dictate the tempo with our defense generating some offense for us. This year's team will have much more freedom than any other I have

ever coached before. We have many creative and talented players, so I'm going to turn them loose."

With eight returning letterwinners, the Tigers' success will greatly depend on a pair of key performers trying to improve on past success. This duo is 5-foot-9 sophomore guard Chrissy Floyd and 6-foot-4 senior forward/center Erin Bath. Floyd averaged a team-high 12.3 points per game last season and, in the process, earned second team All-ACC and first team All-Rookie honors.

"Chrissy had a great year for us last season," Davis said. "She provided us with a spark offensively every single game. She is a very explosive player."

While Floyd was the Tigers' offensive spark, Bath gave them a boost defensively in each of their contests. She was third in the conference with 1.3 blocks per game and seventh with 7.4 rebounds per game. She also chipped in a solid 9.2 points per contest.

by  
**DAVID  
HOBGOOD**  
*Staff Writer*

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by  
**STEVE  
THOMPSON**  
*Staff Writer*

# Full speed ahead for NCAA berth

# High hopes for Georgia Tech

# 6

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THE THEME FOR the upcoming season — Let's Dance — sums up the post-season expectations in Atlanta.

Although the Yellow Jackets haven't made it to the NCAA Tournament since 1993, there is no reason why the expectations shouldn't be that high.

With the return of four starters and four key reserves from last year's team that finished sixth in the ACC (7-9, 17-14 overall), the Yellow Jackets may have received the break they needed with the return of 5-foot-8 with the return of redshirt sophomore phenom Niesha Butler.

In the fourth game of the season last year, Butler tore her ACL and missed the remainder of the season. Now the 1998-99 ACC Rookie of the Year is ready to return to the lineup and provide the leadership that she did in her memorable freshman campaign.

"I'm so happy to be back," Butler said. "It's just great to be back at practice sweating and gritting it out with my teammates."

In her freshman season, Butler averaged 19.3 points and four assists a game, while earning second team All-ACC and Freshman All-America hon-

ors. She had 13 games with 20 or more points, including her career high 40 points against Florida State.

"It's so great having Niesha back," head coach Agnus Beranato said. "It was a huge challenge for us last year because she's our everything. She is the ultimate winner."

Last season, with Butler out, numerous other players were forced to step up, which makes this team less reliant on their star and more unlikely to turn into a one-woman showcase.

With Butler, who turned down an opportunity for a leading role in Spike Lee's film *Love and Basketball* because of NCAA regulations, back in uniform, she now has a stronger cast of supporting actresses along her side.

The Yellow Jackets will to senior forwards Regina Tate, Jamie Kruppa and junior guard Milli Martinez to continue their strong, consistent play from a year ago.

If these three are able to pick up where they left off and Butler returns to her sensational pre-injury form, don't be surprised to see the Jackets dancing in March.

THERE USUALLY COMES a point in every season when a team gains confidence. Unfortunately, for Maryland, that point came last in the WNIT last season.

After lacking confidence for nearly the entire season, the Terrapins waited until March to play with a swagger.

Last year, because of our youth, we were an up and down team, head coach Chris Weller said.

Heading into the NIT we felt that on a good day we could compete with some good teams, but as we continued to win, we realized we could beat some really good teams. I feel we grew more in those three games in the NIT than in the rest of the season.

Now heading into this season with four returning starters and five key reserves coming back, the Terps feel like they are on the verge of a big season.

"We've reached the point where we're trying to make it to the NCAA Tournament instead of just improving," Weller said. "We certainly expect to be in the NCAA's now because of the talent we have."

Perhaps the most talented Terps are the inside-outside duo of 5-foot-9 junior guard Marche Strickland and 6-foot-2 junior forward DeeDee Warley. Strickland, a third team All-ACC performer last season, is one of the best

guards in the conference. Her complete, all-around game provides stability for the Terps.

Last season, she compiled 14.3 points, 3.6 rebounds and shot a blistering 40.4 percent from beyond the arc, which was second in the ACC.

"Marche really stepped up for us last season," Weller said. "She just provides so much versatility for us. We

will look for her to provide us with quite a bit of scoring again this year."

Warley, an All-ACC honorable mention last season, will provide strength and consistency in the low post. Heralded as one of the strongest players

in the conference, Warley possesses a soft touch on her jumper from 15 feet out. Last season, she averaged 12.9 points and 5.1 rebounds per contest.

"Last season DeeDee didn't get to show her complete game because of our lack of depth in the post," Weller said. "Now, because of our improved depth, she'll be able to become more flexible offensively."

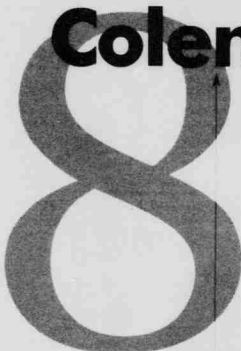
One key problem for the Terps is who will fill the void at point guard with the absence of 5-foot-7 sophomore Vicki Brick, who tore her ACL playing pickup ball in September. Brick's status for a return is very questionable, but she could possibly be back as soon as January.

by  
**DAVID  
HOBGOOD**  
*Staff Writer*

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## Terps looking for confidence

# Noles deal with life after Coleman



SUE SEMRAU ENTERS her fourth season as head coach at Florida State with perhaps the deepest, most experienced team she has ever fielded.

The Seminoles return 10 players and four starters from last year's squad and do not have a single freshman on the roster. The question now for Semrau and her team is whether or not that will be enough to carry them past the eighth-place finish the media predicted for them.

FSU finished fifth in the Atlantic Coast Conference in 1992, the team's inaugural season in the conference. Since then, the Noles have placed no higher than seventh, including four stints in last place.

For the Noles to have any chance to break that streak, they will have to cope with the loss of Latavia Coleman, a second-team All-ACC performer in her senior campaign. Coleman was second in the conference in scoring last season, averaging 16.1 points per game.

In the post, FSU brings back a dominant presence in 6-foot-1 senior forward Brooke Wyckoff, a member of

the All-ACC third team. Wyckoff led the ACC in blocked shots, with 1.4 per game. She averaged 10.6 points a contest and hauled down a team-high 7.1 rebounds per game.

Levys Torres, a 6-foot-4 senior from Colombia, should handle the center position. Torres started 13 games for the Noles last year, scoring 3.8 points per game.

Point guard April Traylor is FSU's leading returning scorer after putting up 12.7 points per game. Traylor, a 5-foot-10 junior, finished second in the ACC in assists, with 5.2 per game, and steals, with 2.4 per game. She was also extremely durable, playing every game for the Noles while averaging 33.1 minutes per game.

Junior guard Angela Sutton started all but one game for the Noles last season, scoring 6.9 points per game. She could end up splitting time at two guard with Traylor, who naturally plays that position. If Traylor moves to wing, junior Lakesha Springle and junior college transfer Petra Hofman will take over at the point.

SOMETIMES THERE'S NOWHERE to go but up.

Last year, the Wake Forest women's basketball team finished in the cellar of the Atlantic Coast Conference at 7-21 overall and 3-13 in league play.

The Demon Deacons were last in the ACC in scoring, field-goal percentage, three-point percentage, steals, rebound margin and turnover margin.

"We didn't make the progress I thought we'd make in terms of wins and losses, but we played a lot closer games," said head coach Charlene Curtis. "Had we been able to score, it would have made a huge difference. We have to score more points. That's why they took the bottom off that peach basket."

Last year, guard Alisha Mosley led Wake with 11.5 points per game and was the only Deacon to average double digits in scoring. Mosley has since graduated, however, and Wake will have to find scoring from other places.

Wake returns four starters from last season's team. Senior forwards Kristen Shaffer and Brenda Mock Kirkpatrick will lead the Deacon charge.

Kirkpatrick, who averaged 8.9 points per game in 1999-2000, is Wake's top returning scorer. She also averaged 7.3 rebounds per contest, eighth in the ACC.

Junior guard Val Klopfer and junior center LaChina Robinson both saw extensive playing time last year and should start this time around.

Robinson shot 52 percent from the floor last season and was second on the team in rebounding.

Four freshmen — Tracy Alston, Bianca Brown, Tonia Brown and

Eafton Hill — will also attempt to breathe new life into the program.

The Deacons took a hit in the exhibition season when senior Janae Whiteside suffered a season-ending knee injury. Whiteside, who started 23 games a season ago, figured to play a big role in the Deacon offense. She ranks sixth all-time at Wake with 68 career three-pointers.

"It is a big loss," Curtis said. "Janae was a player who was very focused and committed to doing what she could to help this program turn the corner. Janae's teammates know what they need to do to make up for her offensive contributions on the

court."

Curtis took over at Wake three years ago in hopes of righting the Deacons' ship.

In the perennially tough ACC, however, she has only amassed a record of 19-64. And this year's competition won't be any easier. The season opens with four ACC teams ranked in the top 25 — No. 3 Duke, No. 13 Virginia, No. 19 N.C. State and No. 22 North Carolina.

In addition to a pair of matchups with each of these and the other ACC teams, the Deacons will face No. 19 Connecticut on the road three days before Christmas. The Huskies return every starter from last season's national championship squad.

Wake's non-conference schedule also includes No. 9 Louisiana State, Arizona State and Appalachian State.

"People say I'm crazy to schedule those teams, but you have to learn to play against them," Curtis said. "To me, that's the standard."

by  
**JERRY MOORE**  
*Staff Writer*

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# Wake looking for progress

MEN'S SCHEDULE

Fri. Nov. 17 CoSida Classic, N.C./State vs. Penn, 7:00 p.m.  
 Sat. Nov. 18 CoSida Classic, TBA  
 Wed. Nov. 22 Hall of Fame Tip-Off — Springfield, Mass., N.C. State vs. Fresno State 7:00 p.m.  
 Sat. Nov. 25 vs. Charleston Southern 7:30 p.m.  
 Wed. Nov. 29 ACC/Big10 Challenge, Penn St. 9:30 p.m.  
 Sat. Dec. 2 @ Old Dominion 7:35 p.m.  
 Tue. Dec. 5 UNC Greensboro 7:30 p.m.  
 Sat. Dec. 9 Delta Classic - Atlanta, Ga. vs. Georgia 2:30 p.m.  
 Sat. Dec. 16 New Hampshire 2:00 p.m.  
 Fri. Dec. 22 UNC Asheville 7:30 p.m.  
 Sat. Dec. 30 Cal Poly 2:00 p.m.  
 Sat. Jan. 6 @ Virginia 8:00 p.m.  
 Wed. Jan. 10 Duke 9:00 p.m.  
 Sat. Jan. 13 @ Clemson 4:00 p.m.  
 Tue. Jan. 16 Georgia Tech 8:00 p.m.  
 Sun. Jan. 21 Maryland 3:30 p.m.  
 Thu. Jan. 25 @ Florida State 7:00 p.m.  
 Sun. Jan. 28 UNC 1:30 p.m.  
 Wed. Jan. 31 @ Wake Forest 7:00 p.m.  
 Sat. Feb. 3 Syracuse 1:00 p.m.  
 Wed. Feb. 7 Virginia 7:00 p.m.  
 Sun. Feb. 11 @ Duke 3:30 p.m.  
 Wed. Feb. 14 Clemson 9:00 p.m.  
 Sat. Feb. 17 @ Georgia Tech 4:00 p.m.  
 Tues. Feb. 20 @ Maryland 8:00 p.m.  
 Sun. Feb. 25 Florida State 4:00 p.m.  
 Wed. Feb. 28 @ UNC 9:00 p.m.  
 Sun. Mar. 4 Wake Forest 1:30 p.m.  
 Mar. 8-11 2001 ACC Tournament (Georgia Dome — Atlanta, GA) TBA

Sat. Nov. 18 Elon, GlaxoWellcome Invitational 1 p.m.  
 Sun. Nov. 19 Wisconsin or Oregon, GlaxoWellcome Invitational 1/3 p.m.  
 Fri. Nov. 24 Wahine Classic (Honolulu, Hawaii) Neutral TBA  
 Sat. Nov. 25 Wahine Classic (Honolulu, Hawaii) Neutral TBA  
 Sun. Nov. 26 Wahine Classic (Honolulu Hawaii) Neutral TBA  
 Mon. Dec. 4 @ South Carolina 7 p.m.  
 Wed. Dec. 6 Georgia Tech 7 p.m.  
 Sat. Dec. 9 Four in the Fall (Austin, Tex.) Texas Tech Neutral 3:30 p.m.  
 Thu. Dec. 21 East Carolina 7 p.m.  
 Thu. Dec. 28 @ George Washington 7 p.m.  
 Sat. Dec. 30 @ Florida State 7 p.m.  
 Tue. Jan. 2 @ Virginia 7:30 p.m.  
 Fri. Jan. 5 Clemson 7 p.m.  
 Sun. Jan. 7 Wake Forest 2 p.m.  
 Thu. Jan. 11 Temple 7 p.m.  
 Sun. Jan. 14 @ North Carolina 1 p.m.  
 Thu. Jan. 18 @ Duke 7 p.m.  
 Sun. Jan. 21 ACC/BigXII Challenge, Iowa State 1 p.m.  
 Thu. Jan. 25 Maryland 7 p.m.  
 Mon. Jan. 29 Florida State 7:30 p.m.  
 Thu. Feb. 1 Virginia 7 p.m.  
 Sun. Feb. 4 @ Clemson 1 p.m.  
 Thu. Feb. 8 @ Wake Forest 7 p.m.  
 Thu. Feb. 15 @ Georgia Tech 7:30 p.m.  
 Sun. Feb. 18 Duke 2 p.m.  
 Wed. Feb. 21 North Carolina 7 p.m.  
 Sun. Feb. 25 @ Maryland 1 p.m.  
 Fri. - Mon. Mar. 2 -5 2001 ACC Tournament Greensboro, N.C. TBA

WOMEN'S SCHEDULE

