

Meet the Pack

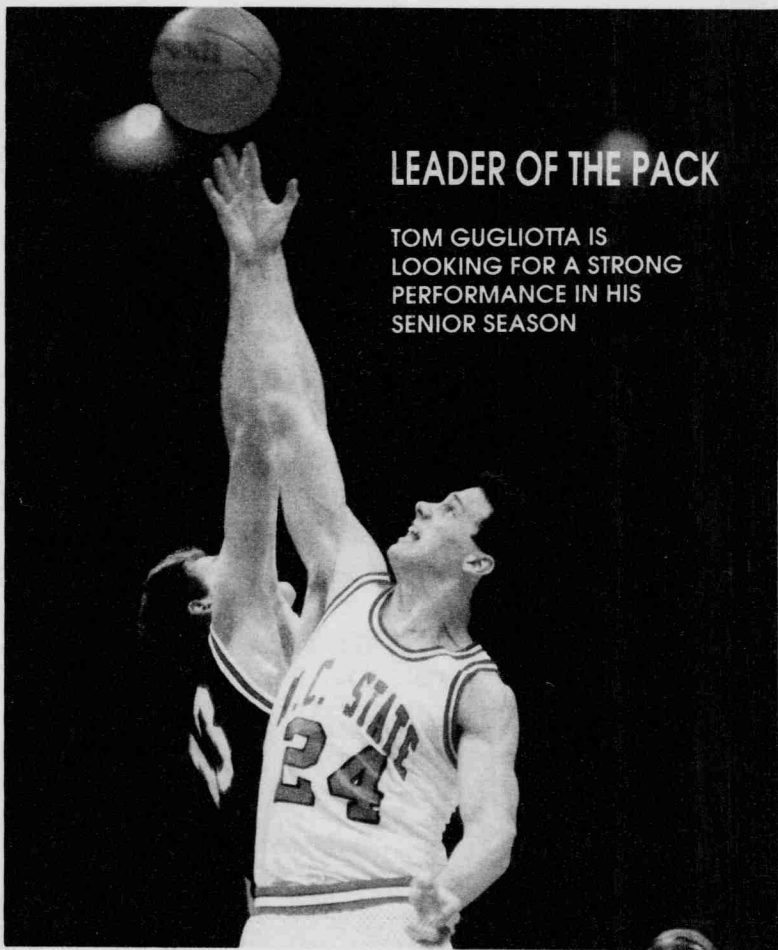
Player profiles of all members of the men's and women's basketball teams

One Last Look

Remember the exciting final year of the "Fire & Ice" backcourt

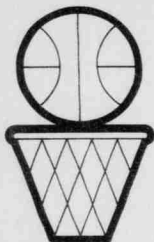
HooPreview '91-92

Technician's Annual Basketball Edition



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ABOUT THE COVER

Senior forward Tom Gugliotta jumps center during the first exhibition game of the season in Reynolds Coliseum. The Pack defeated Spirit Express 76-67. Gugliotta led all scorers with 24 points.

Photo by Marc Kawanishi

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Gugliotta now in the forefront of the Pack attack

By Brooke Barbee

A 6-foot-10 and 240 pounds, he has stood in the shadows, patiently working without calling for the spotlight. Certainly, there have been the double-doubles, the pivotal crashes to the boards and the phenomenal slams. Yet, for the most part, Tom Gugliotta has filled his role for the N.C. State basketball team in his own way — as the silent workhorse.

During Gugliotta's previous three years, shadows were cast over him by the little guys, the backcourt tandem of Chris Corchiani and Rodney Monroe. After all, the duo attracted headlines with record-breaking statistics, contrasting styles and the nickname of "Fire and Ice."

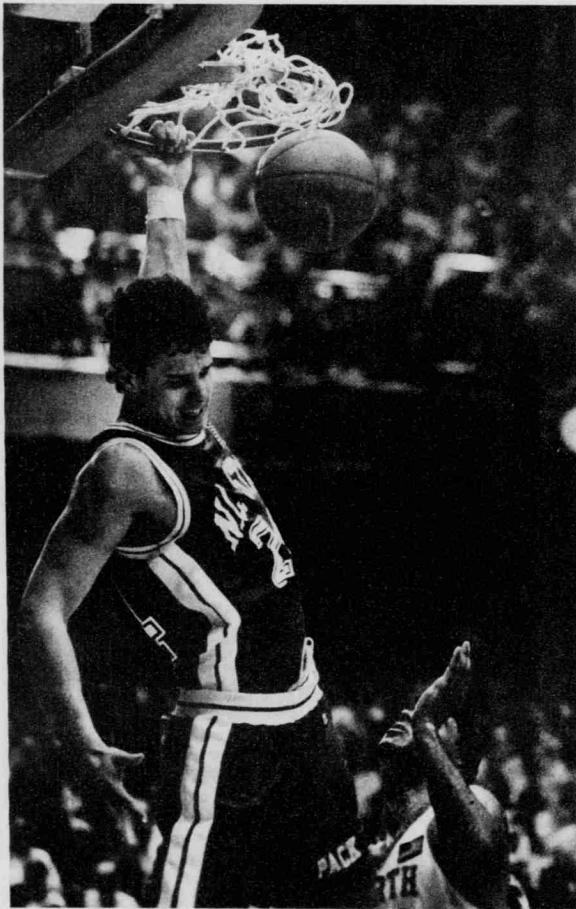
But the close of the 1990-91 season brought the end of the Fire and Ice era at NCSU and left Gugliotta as the only senior for the 1991-92 campaign.

As a result, the senior captain finds himself on unfamiliar ground this season. He's being touted, and rightfully so, as an all-American candidate. An inexperienced team looks to him for leadership. All in all, he may well be a gauge for the team's success. Despite his lack of experience in the spotlight, Gugliotta is prepared to take on this new role.

"As a senior," Gugliotta said, "I definitely have to step up my leadership, on and off the court. I take responsibility for being the team leader, getting the guys motivated and organizing the team. But on the court, I don't feel like I have to score all the points or get all the rebounds to be a leader. We want to be a successful team, and we won't be that with just one person doing everything."

Gugliotta's performance last year at small forward proved that he is the Pack's all-around performer. His final statistics reflected averages of 15.2 points, 9.1 rebounds, 2.8 assists and 1.7 steals. The performance earned him second-team all-ACC honors. He scored in double figures 26 times and posted 12 double-doubles. On the boards, Gugliotta was the Pack's leading performer, grabbing a career high of 16 rebounds in the season opener at Florida International.

The versatile Gugliotta is also a threat from the perimeter. With a shooting touch similar to any of an athlete his size, Gugliotta's steady fires from behind the three-point stripe. Last year, only two players in the league — Monroe with 104 and Georgia Tech's Jon Barry with 72 — had significantly more treys than Gugliotta's 66.



Marc Kawanishi

Tom Gugliotta Forward 6-9, 240 lbs. Huntington Station, NY

Yr.	G-GS	MIN	FG-FGA	PCT	3P-3PA	PCT	FT-FTA	PCT	REB	A	BK	PTS	AVG
89	21-0	171	18-42	.429	1-2	.500	19-29	.655	35	5	1	56	2.7
90	30-29	886	135-268	.504	23-47	.489	41-61	.672	211	47	12	334	11.1
91	31-31	1123	170-340	.500	66-166	.398	65-101	.644	281	87	34	471	15.2
Tot.	81-60	2180	323-650	.497	90-215	.419	125-191	.654	527	139	47	861	10.6

Forward Tom Gugliotta will be the mainstay of N.C. State's attack during the upcoming season. Gugliotta earned second-team all-ACC honors last season.

Perhaps his presence was felt the most when the Pack doubled rival North Carolina in Reynolds Coliseum by a 97-91 margin. In that contest, Gugliotta scored 28 points, due in part to a five of eight performance from three-point range. In addition, he hauled in 10 rebounds.

When Gugliotta arrived at NCSU in 1988 as a standout from Walt Whitman High School in Huntington Station, N.Y., certainly no one could have predicted his success story in the making. Then at 6-foot-7 and 210 pounds, Gugliotta slowly began to earn playing time until he suffered a knee injury which required arthroscopic surgery in December.

Fortunately, a summer of hard training paid tremendous dividends.

As a sophomore, he had an immediate impact in a starting role, filling the position of the graduated Chuckie Brown. In the annual Diet Pepsi Tournament of Champions, he scored 20 points and hauled in 11 rebounds against Ohio State. In the finals, Gugliotta tallied 21 points and 10 boards to lead a 100-87 Pack victory over Pitt. For the performance, Gugliotta garnered MVP honors. He went on to establish himself as the team's leading rebounder in 17 contests.

"I always took it one year at a time and tried to get better and work harder at each practice," Gugliotta said. "I tried to be optimistic, but at the same time realistic. I never look too far ahead."

True to form, Gugliotta is planning to take this season one game at a time. Undaunted by his team's inexperience and youth, Gugliotta has confidence that the Wolfpack can compete with the best in the conference.

"As a team, we looked at our schedule and decided that, on a given night, we can beat anyone in the league," Gugliotta said. "It's taking time to get used to playing together, but we're gaining confidence in our play everyday. With each practice, we're developing a team concept."

Gugliotta's performance this season may not only determine the Wolfpack's outcome but also his future. Scouts will keep a watchful eye on Gugliotta to determine his potential for professional play. At the completion of his degree this summer in communication, he hopes to have an engagement with the NBA waiting.

s there life after Corchiani and Monroe?

Wolfpack fans soon will find out as N.C. State tips off their 81st collegiate basketball season. The holes left by the "Fire and Ice" show were ones to be expected. But, the most unkind blow may have come just two days after the start of practice.

Junior Bryant Feggins, one of the Pack's three returning starters, went down with a knee injury on October 17. Arthroscopic surgery revealed the all too common torn anterior cruciate ligament. Feggins consequently will be lost for all of the '91-92 season, with prognosis for a complete recovery.

"This is a devastating loss for our team," second year head coach Les Robinson said, "but I feel worth for Bryant. But Bryant is tough and I'm confident he'll pay the price in rehabilitation and come back as good as new."

The loss of Feggins' 13 points and five rebounds per game may be irreplaceable. But, the rest of the front line returns, including second team all-ACC selection Tom Gugliotta who gets better and better.

Gugliotta has emerged as an all-American candidate after having a fine all-around season in 1991. Gugliotta possesses a strong inside game to complement his smooth touch from the perimeter. He shot 40 percent from behind the three-point arc, and contributed a team high 281 rebounds in 31 games.

The six-foot-ten, 240 pound senior continues to be one of the most amazing transformations in Wolfpack history. Recruited as a "project" by former coach Jim Valvano, Gugliotta has developed a blue-collar style that has drawn attention from many N.B.A. scouts. Gugliotta is a legitimate all-American candidate.

"Googs made himself into a great player by concentrating on the things he didn't naturally do well," Robinson said.

Joining Gugliotta down low will be junior center Kevin Thompson. The Winston-Salem native set a new single-season field goal percentage record when he shot 61 percent from the floor. His career scoring best came against Coastal Carolina in early January when he helped lead the Pack to a come-from-behind victory with 22 points.

Thompson really came alive in the last three weeks of the season, proving to be a force on the boards, and averaging almost 12 points a game during that stretch.

The front court will also benefit from the play of junior Jamie Knox, who sat out last season with reconstructive knee surgery. Knox has a smooth shooting touch, but is physical enough to do damage from the inside.

Marc Lewis and Anthony Robinson will be the other returnees down low. Robinson saw action in 20 games last season, averaging a point a game, while contributing 31 rebounds. Lewis played in limited action last winter, but his work load should be picked up for his sophomore campaign.

Joining these forwards will be a pair of freshmen,

NCSU searches for life without Fire & Ice

A youthful Pack will take the court with many new faces in '91-92

By Bill Overton

Victor Newman and Mark Davis. Newman earned the Mr. Basketball award for the state of Alabama, while Davis averaged 17 points a game as a point guard at Utica High School in Utica, Mississippi. Davis could play any of three positions on the court.

"We'll rely on a number of different combinations in an effort to pick up the slack since Bryant's going to be out," Robinson said. "In fact, we may play so many combinations that most of the players won't know if they are a power forward or shooting guard or small forward."

Robinson isn't kidding. All you have to do is look at the back court to see the minimal experience and the youth that stares Robinson in the face.

"It's pretty obvious that a number of our people will be learning under fire," Robinson said. "I'm confident that these inexperienced players will have nights when they will shock everyone in the gym with what they accomplish. An I'm sure they'll play us in and out of some games this year."

Sophomore swingman Migjen Bakalli was the Wolfpack's bench last season contributing 5.8 points in the sixth man role. He was at times brilliant, scoring a career-high 27 points in the win over Maryland last February. However, he is the only guard with practical playing experience that returns.

Sophomore Adam Fletcher only appeared in 10 games last year, producing under two points a game in extremely limited time.

So, that leaves it to a pair of freshmen to quarterback the club. Lakisia McCuller is a six-foot-3 guard from Andersonville, Georgia, where he starred at Sumter County High School, averaging 26 points a contest. He has tremendous versatility, and can play either the point or the two-guard position.

The other freshman guard is Curtis Marshall, a cat-quick five-foot-11 player who has the demeanor and skills to be excellent at the point guard position.

"This recruit class is going to be very important to the long-range health of the program," Robinson said. "Under the circumstances, we were lucky we come up with a group this good. If they pan out the way I think they can, it would amount to a big-shot cut back."

The schedule includes some difficult games early, including trips to Hartford, Conn., for the ACC-Big East Challenge, and an early-season match-up against preseason top 10 Alabama. The other non-conference games include Marquette, Tennessee, and East Tennessee State.

Overall, Robinson is staying upbeat, and sticking to this theory that this team could be better than most think.

"I'm looking forward to working with this team," Robinson said. "They seem eager to learn and create their own identity. It's an awfully long road we travel between October 15 through March. We'll take it slow and hopefully make the kind of progress that will show we're a better team in March than we were at the beginning of the season."

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Kay Yow sets sights on national title

By Bill Overton

The disappointment was glaring. Bewildered and stunned, the Wolfpack women's basketball team gathered on the Palestra floor for the last time of the 1990-91 season. The University of Connecticut had just dealt the Pack an 82-71 loss and sent State home without even reaching the finals of the regionals.

This was a team that had its sights set on New Orleans and reaching the Final Four. There was so much reason to believe they would just sweep by the region and move on to the big dance, the show. After all, they took the ACC Tournament convincingly and looked good in their first-round game, a victory over George Washington.

There were a lot of dreams crushed on that cold evening in Philadelphia.

But you know what one of the most beautiful things about college basketball is?

There's always next season. Wolfpack basketball coach Kay Yow knows that, and it's that kind of yearning that makes her the consistent, winning

coach that she is. Yow, an intense competitor, has built a program at State that others are measured by.

"My sister, who is the athletic director at St. Louis, gave me a great piece of advice," Yow explained. "She said 'a dream deferred is not a dream denied.' The dream was deferred last year, but I think she's exactly right. We'll strive again for that national championship."

With all fairness to Yow, she has accomplished about every dream possible except for the national championship, at least in respect to coaching. In 16 seasons at the helm of the Wolfpack, Yow has built a program which is a standard for every program in America to model. Yow has a gold medal, four ACC championships, and in 13 of the past 16 seasons, Wolfpack teams have won 20 games or more.

"We have everything going for us," Yow said. "We represent so many people and such a great institution."

The Gibsonville, N.C., native is currently ranked 10th on the list of active winning coaches with an overall 424-143 record

See **YOW**, Page 22



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Les Robinson begins second season at the helm

By Jeff Drew

When Les Robinson returned to his alma mater 18 months ago to clean up the N.C. State basketball program, he received almost universal acclaim.

The athletics department and booster club at State, his previous employers at East Tennessee State University and even the cynics at the News & Observer all proclaimed him as the cure for the academic abuses and other improprieties

that had plagued the program under former coach Jim Valvano. Here was the man, they said, that could lead the Wolfpack out of the darkness of its NCAA probation.

Their reasoning was sound, Robinson, after all, was the embodiment of Wolfpack basketball, a man who had played under legendary Wolfpack coach Everett Case in the 60's and could restore the basketball program's ties with its celebrated past.

Even better, in his 16 years as a head coach at ETSU and the Citadel, Robinson had exhibited the academic emphasis —

all but one of his players graduated — necessary to restore State's tainted image. Add to that the fact that his last two ETSU squads reached the NCAA tournament, and Robinson appeared to be the ideal man for the job.

Today, with one season complete and another ready to begin, Robinson's popularity has reached a new high. The success of last year's squad — 20-11 with victories over Duke and UNC-Chapel Hill as well as a NCAA tournament appearance — has rejuvenated the fan's interest in the program. The restoration of old Case traditions, such as the wooden playing floor and spotlighted player introductions, has re-established some of the Pack's tradition. And the signing of a revolutionary shoe contract with L.A. Gear, designed to provide scholarships for

Replacing the injured Bryant Feggins will be one of the major obstacles facing Robinson during the upcoming season.

Former Pack cagers, has revived some academic respect for the Pack program.

Yet despite all of those accomplishments, an air of uncertainty still hangs around the Pack program. Record-setting NBA draft picks Rodney Monroe and Chris Corchiani are gone, and junior forward Bryant Feggins, a returning starter, has been lost for the season with a knee injury. Only three players with significant playing time return from last season, and Robinson will be forced to rely on the rapid development of a raw group of freshmen to field a strong team. In short, it appears that Robinson's real rebuilding job will be this season.

"The loss of Rodney and Chris is extremely significant, and when you add Bryant's loss to that, it's easy to see that we have a very limited returning group in terms of experience," Robinson said after a recent early-morning practice. "What that means is that the coaching staff and the players must work that much harder to pick up the slack."

Ironically, this isn't the first time Robinson has faced a major rebuilding challenge. In 1986, when Robinson migrated from the Citadel to ETSU, he inherited a Buccaneer team devastated by severe NCAA restrictions that limited his available talent and his recruiting.

"We started an all-freshman starting line-up in our first game that season, so we were even less experienced than this year's team," Robinson said. "Of course, we didn't have to play the kind of schedule we have to play at State, but that's all relative."

"It was very exciting that season to watch that team develop from literally a freshman team to a very competitive mid-major level team."

Robinson has similar hopes for his Wolfpack this season. Despite pre-season predictions of an eighth-place ACC finish for State, Robinson remains very optimistic about the upcoming season.

"A lot of people may disagree, but I think if we can develop, we can be an upper-division team," Robinson said. "It depends on how quickly the freshmen develop and come along."

But regardless of how the Wolfpack performs this season, Robinson will still suffer from the loss of a man who held a central role in his coaching routine and his life.

"This will be my first basketball season without my father," Robinson said of who passed away last summer. "I also lost my brother last December, so I'll be going through the season without my two biggest fans and supporters who had followed me all the way from playing in church league to playing at State and through all those other stops back to the Wolfpack again."

Speaking of his father, Robinson said, "I thought about him on my way to the exhibition game the other night. I used to call him before every game. I think like anyone who loses a parent, some of my dad is still alive in myself ... in a way, I feel like my dad is still here with me."

And so Robinson will continue forward toward the new season and the new challenges. And he will try to enjoy this, his favorite time of year, as he and his players work to build the foundation of what they hope will be a successful season.

"Once the season starts, it really becomes a process of making adjustments," Robinson said. "We still have 15 or so practices before the regular season and we still have time, with the exhibitions, to teach our younger kids the need for intensity and playing hard that a coach sometimes has trouble conveying just in practice."



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Wolfpack women look to defend ACC title

By Bill Overton

It's hard to imagine the N.C. State women's basketball program as an underdog, but that might be the case this season.

The Lady Wolfpack will look to defend their ACC title without the services of departed all-American Andrea Sinson, ACC tournament MVP Sharon Manning and three-point force Nicole Lehman.

That's not the only problem 17-year head coach Kay Yow has to deal with. How about the addition of another strong program to the already strong ACC, which is arguably the best conference in the land?

But who said life was easy? Things are not all bad for the Wolfpack. It certainly couldn't be termed a rebuilding year for the team that finished 27-6 a year ago and swept the ACC Tournament championship, as well as finishing seventh in the nation. The Lady Pack still returns a strong veteran squad of seven letter winners and a cast of five newcomers who could step in and make the graduation losses seem trivial.

"I feel like the team overall is working hard," Yow said. "I feel like we're getting our system. For this point and time, I feel good where we are."

Point guard Danyel Parker will run the Pack. The 5-foot-6 guard from Clinton possesses the

ability to score off penetration and from long range. As the starting point guard a year ago, she played in all 33 games and averaged 10.9 points and over five assists per game.

It certainly couldn't be termed a rebuilding year for the team that finished 27-6 a year ago and swept the ACC Tournament championship, as well as finishing seventh in the nation.

"We will depend on Danyel in a lot of ways this year," Yow said. "She's in a leadership position. I'd say she's in as good a condition as anybody on the team."

The Pack does have an all-American candidate in center Rhonda Mapp. She was named to the first team all-ACC a year ago and has proven to be one of the most athletic 6-foot-3 players in the conference. She is the Pack's leading returning rebounder and scorer.

The front court will receive depth from a pair of 6-foot-5 centers, junior Teri Whyte and redshirted freshman Sarah McLeod. Whyte played in all 33 games last season, averaging just under three points per game. McLeod sat out last season to gain strength and conditioning, but she has sustained a foot injury and will be lost longer than originally thought. McLeod will probably not see action until December, leaving State very thin in the height department.

"Injuries have hurt us," Yow

said. "We've been really short. It takes away from the kind of practices we'd like to have."

The twin forward duo of Jenny and Krissy Kuziemski will be returning once again. The 5-foot-

10 junior forwards are considered to be the two hardest working players on the club and possess solid fundamentals and a winning attitude.

Krissy averaged 3.7 points and

freshman from Trafalgar, Ind., will most likely redshirt, gaining conditioning and strength to join the team next season.

Meanwhile, the guards will be boosted by sophomore Tammy Gibson, who made the all-freshman team in her initial season, providing an accurate shooting touch off the bench. Sophomore Wanda Wade, a transfer from the University of Washington, will also provide the Pack with a solid back-up for Parker. Freshman Lisa Gerton is also expected to contribute.

The schedule might be the most difficult in the school's history. In addition to the ACC slate, the Lady Pack will make a trip to the West Coast to play in the Stanford Classic and will have an away game at Long Beach State.

"Almost everyone in the ACC has their starters back," Yow said. "I really believe it will be the strongest ever. It will be a challenge to us. We should be able to find out very quickly where we stand."

almost two rebounds in 27 games last year before being sidelined with a knee injury. Jenny was honored as the Wolfpack's best defensive player, and she averaged 7.2 points and 1.8 rebounds per contest.

Returning to the Lady Pack this season will be the versatile Ashley Hancock. Hancock sat out the '90-91 season with a back injury, but she has fully recovered and should see a great deal of playing time due to her ability to play the wing or a guard position.

The front court will also be benefited by the addition of talented newcomers, including USA Today Florida Player of the Year Kelleen Kruei and Guilford County player of the year Quicha Floyd. Kruei was a three-time all-state selection at Taravella High School in Coral Springs, Fla., while Floyd averaged 15 points and eight rebounds a game at Page High in Greensboro.

Natasha Weddle, a 6-1

1991-92 N.C. State women's basketball schedule	
Nov. 16	CANADIAN OLYMPIC TEAM (ex)
29	N.C. STATE INVITATIONAL Ga. Southern vs. Minnesota N.C. State vs. Villanova
30	N.C. STATE INVITATIONAL
Dec. 3	HOWARD
7	at N.C. A & T
19	Cardinal Classic at Stanford N.C. State vs. S. Illinois
20	Cardinal Classic
23	at Long Beach State
29	at Connecticut
31	at Holy Cross
Jan. 4	CLEMSON
7	DUKE
11	at Virginia
15	at Wake Forest
17	at Georgia Tech
19	at Florida State
22	at North Carolina
25	OLD DOMINION
29	at East Carolina
Feb. 1	at Maryland
5	NORTH CAROLINA
8	at Clemson
12	WAKE FOREST
15	FLORIDA STATE
18	at Duke
23	GEORGIA TECH
25	MARYLAND
29	VIRGINIA
Mar. 6-9	ACC Tournament at Rock Hill, SC

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John Garner

Mapp readies for new on-court role

By David Honea

After four years in a supporting role, Rhonda Mapp is ready for her turn to star.

Some might have expected to see Mapp, a first-team all-American in high school, in the spotlight sooner. But, coming to N.C. State with Andrea Stinson would cut down on the attention anyone received.

"I knew when I came here that Andrea would be the one everybody noticed," said Mapp, a 6-foot-3 forward from Asheville. "The important thing is to play well and win, and someone like Andrea helps

Mapp will now be called upon to step forward and lead the team with graduation of Andrea Stinson.

you so that."

Stinson is gone now, after three seasons as a first team all-American, but Mapp, because she redshirted two years ago, has one season left. She wants to make the most of it.

"We were disappointed with the way we ended up last year," Mapp said, referring to the NCAA sweet 16 loss to Connecticut. "We really let down after winning the ACC. This year I think we can be a better team. We'd like to repeat as ACC champions and go further in the

NCAAs."

Although Mapp has not been the center of attention, her play has certainly not suffered. After sitting out her freshman year under Proposition 48 guidelines, Mapp came out strong as a sophomore, averaging 14.3 points and 8.2 rebounds a game. She was also second nationally in field goal accuracy, shooting 64.4 percent.

After sitting out the 1989-90 season, Mapp came back last year to earn first team all-ACC honors, averaging 17 points and 9.6 rebounds a contest.

For the first time, Mapp will play back-to-back seasons at State. She has been picked to some preseason all-America teams, and as such will be a focal point of State's attack.

Mapp says she's ready for the role. "There will be some pressure, but I think I'm good at handling it," she said. Her confidence is borne out by her ACC tournament performance, here she has made the all-tournament team twice.

"Really, my job won't be that difficult," Mapp said. "The most important thing is to rebound and get the fast break started, and I'll get my points when we run the offense and off of rebounds."

It's the same thing I've been doing all along, so that really takes the pressure off," she added. "More people may notice now, but that

doesn't matter when you play."

For Mapp, the big loss may not be Stinson, but center Sharon Manning. Last year, Mapp and Manning shared inside duties and formed one of the most powerful duos in the country. This season, Mapp is likely to see defenses more focused on her.

She will also have to be on the court longer, since State has no experienced reserves at the inside positions. Mapp, who has tired easily and gotten into foul trouble in the past, says she has worked to get ready for 40 minutes a game.

"We've never worked as hard as we have this preseason," Mapp said. "The whole team is in better shape. As far as the fouls, I have to get used to less contact. They're supposed to call the games tighter, so I'll just have to be careful."

"We only have three real post players, so I'll have to play a lot. That's just another challenge."

Looking to the future, Mapp said she would like to be named all-American and make the Olympic team, but that she didn't want the individual honors for herself.

"For me, the best thing is to be on a team that goes all the way," Mapp said. "All-American or playing in the Olympics, that would be nice, because it would make my parents proud. They're the ones that supported me to get this far, and I'd like to make them happy."

Thompson sets sights high for the upcoming season

By Thomas Baker

Thompson is one name that strikes a responsive chord in many Wolfpack fans. It brings back memories of dream seasons, ACC titles and magical NCAA championships.

David Thompson was possibly the greatest college basketball player of his day. Although his scoring mark was eclipsed by Rodney Monroe last year, he still stands as one of the giant figures in Wolfpack basketball history, probably the greatest player ever to don the Wolfpack uniform.

But now there's a new Thompson in town. And when the Les Robinson era is described in the N.C. State history books, Kevin Thompson is one name that may deserve bold print. The 1991 season may well be remembered as the year that Kevin Thompson gained superstar status for himself.

The signs were there last season. While Rodney Monroe and Chris Corchiani were grabbing headlines, Thompson turned in several excellent efforts. He averaged 8.6 points and 7.7 rebounds and led the

Pack in rebounding 11 times last year. He grabbed a career-high 16 boards in last season's second match-up with Maryland and scored a career-high 22 points against Coastal Carolina.

This season, graduation and injury have thinned the Pack's ranks. Monroe and Corchiani have gone to the world of professional basketball, and Bryant Feggins, a high school

Thompson is still focused on his season goals despite losing his front court mate Bryant Feggins.

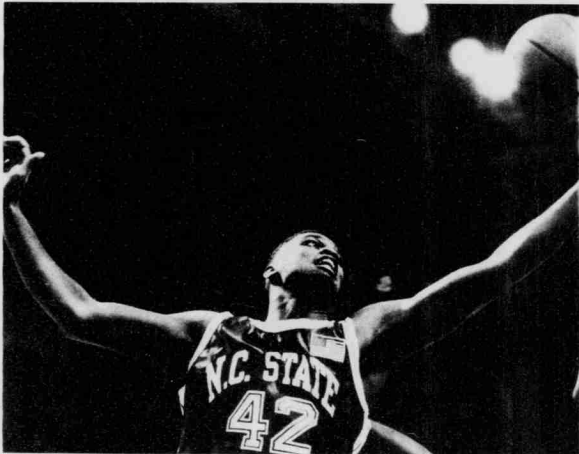
teammate of Thompson, is lost for the season to a severe knee injury.

But Thompson was prepared for the loss of Monroe and Corchiani, and the injury to Feggins doesn't seem to faze him.

"It (Feggins' injury) doesn't affect my goals," he said. "I want to average in double figures in scoring and rebounds, and average a couple of blocks per game."

"It'll be the first time in six or seven years that I've played without him," he added, "but some other guys will just have to step up."

Thompson, Tom Gugliotta and Migen Bakali, the only players



Nigel Mortiz

left with any real game experience, will have to shoulder the burden until the young team begins to gel.

In anticipation of his expanded role, Thompson worked out during the off-season. He worked with weights to improve his conditioning and strength, and

worked on improving his outside shooting touch.

Far from apprehensive, he is eager to get started.

"I'm looking forward to the first exhibition game," he said. "It's been so long. I'm also eager to play Pittsburgh (in the ACC-Big East Challenge) and there's

always Duke and Carolina."

But what about the rest of the ACC? In the most preseason polls, State is tabbed to finish little higher than seventh in the league, even behind newcomer Florida State.

Davis and Newman likely to fill in for Feggins



Ann Kenion

Davis can play several positions for the Wolfpack.

mistakes from the freshmen, but they'll see a lot of good things, too."

Newman, a 6-foot-8 forward from Dothan, Ala., was Alabama's "Mr. Basketball" last year. He averaged 28 points and 13 rebounds as a senior to lead Houston Academy to the state title. He also set Alabama career records for scoring and rebounding.

Newman was the area player of the year four consecutive years

in high school, but he says he expects to be a "supporting player" for now. He's working to make the adjustment to ACC play.

"I knew what to expect, but I'd still never practiced this long, and it's so much more intense," Newman said. "You have to move quicker, get your shot a little higher, work harder on defense. Working against Gugs and Kevin, I know I'm playing against the best."

Davis, a 6-foot-5 guard/forward from Utica, Miss., was listed among the top 100 recruits in the country by many scouts. An exceptionally versatile player, Davis could play either guard spot, as well as small forward. As a high school

senior, Davis played point guard even though he was the tallest player on the floor. Despite playing out on the perimeter, he averaged 17 rebounds per game.

"I think being versatile will help me have more opportunities," Davis said. "We're going to be trying a lot of different line-ups and playing a lot of people, so it's good to be able to play more than one position."

Wolfpack coach Les Robinson has already said the team will use more players on a regular basis this season. That's a big change for State fans, who have grown accustomed to "Iron Man" line-ups with little or no substitution.

"The freshmen will give us a lot more depth, but what you give up there is consistency," Robinson said. "They'll probably make mistakes that cost us games, and their talent will

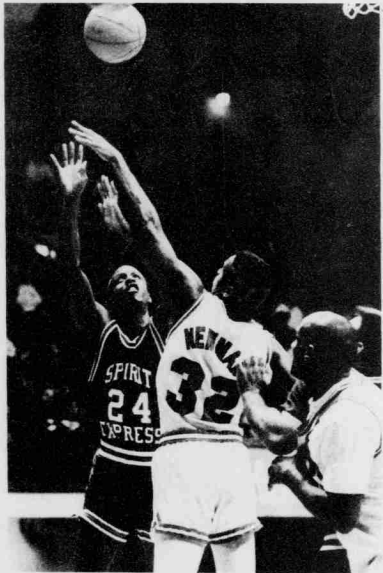
Newman holds the Alabama state records for scoring and rebounding.

win us some games we might not have won. They'll be in the thick of things right away."

Outstanding students, Newman and Davis both chose State in part for academic reasons. Newman is currently a pre-med major, while Davis, valedictorian of his senior class, has chosen civil engineering. Academically, their experiences have been the same as most other freshmen.

"There's a lot more work than I was used to," Davis said. "I just try not to get behind in anything, but it's all going well so far."

As their first college season



Ann Kenion

starts, both players hope it will also go well. They are excited about the possibilities.

"When you lose two players to the NBA and then have someone hurt, people's expectations are down," Newman said. "That's an incentive to us, to show there's

still a lot of talent here. It's all decided out on the court."

"We've got a lot of good young players, and Coach Robinson is getting a good system started here," Davis added. "You're going to see a lot of good things before we're done."

By David Honea

The pre-season injury to Bryant Feggins opened up a big block of playing time at the small forward position. Two players likely to fill some of that time are freshmen roommate Mark Davis and Victor Newman.

Davis and Newman share space at the Stroud Center and may soon be sharing time on the court. Both realize Feggins' injury is a major blow but hope to bring some good out of it by gaining valuable experience.

"A lot of us will get playing time this year," Newman said. "That's why you have to always be ready. People expect to see

Parker to provide depth at point guard for Yow's Pack

By Jennifer Bouck

Junior Danyel Parker is one of three returning starters for the Wolfpack women's basketball team who hopes to help the team defend its ACC title. The junior point guard from Clinton, N.C., should be one of the key team members after starting 32 of 33 games last year and setting school records in most assists (12) and steals (10) in a single game.



Parker

basketball since she was 12 years old, but she didn't play on an organized team until junior high school. At one time, basketball

was not her first love, but she also played volleyball and softball. She explained why she chose to concentrate on basketball.

"I really loved softball, but it isn't as popular of a college sport and I knew with basketball I could go a lot further since it's a major sport."

"State has an excellent engineering program, plus a great basketball program," Parker added, "but also I wanted to stay in state to be close to my family and friends."

As an electrical engineering major, Parker has to balance her time between the classroom and the court.

"It can be pretty difficult, but I really like electrical engineering. I just have to absorb more in the

classroom than other people do because I have less time outside of class," Parker said.

The team practices three hours every day except Sunday, so organization of her time is essential.

"I feel like I have grown as a basketball player and a person," Parker said. In her prep career, she played shooting guard, but she had to learn a new position as point guard her freshman year here. The change in position meant learning basketball from a different point of view, but she handled the adjustment well, averaging 6.1 points and 1.7 rebounds per game her freshman year.

Looking to the coming season, Parker has set several goals for herself and the team.

"I always set high goals for myself," Parker explained, "including making the all-ACC team, getting a nomination for Kodak All-American and being in the top 10 in the ACC in all categories this year."

As for her team goals she added, "I hope for us to make our first NCAA Final Four appearance and repeat as ACC champs."

Parker believes the team will have to work hard on its unity in order to reach these goals.

"We are trying to establish good team unity," Parker stated. "Coach Yow has stressed to us that we don't play for ourselves as individuals, but for N.C. State."

Hancock seeks to make a contribution with her return

By Kevin Brewer

There is a lot of talent on the N.C. State women's basketball team this year and on that talented team, some team players are needed. Ashley Hancock is of the many Pack players that has put the team's success before her own.

"I want to make a contribution to the team," Hancock said. "I think we're going to go a long way and I want to give my best to the team."

Hancock, a junior, is coming back from a back injury after missing the 1990-91 season. If Hancock can keep her back healthy, she will certainly be an asset to the team.

She helped the healing process over the summer.

"It's doing pretty good," Hancock said of her injured back. "I haven't had any trouble while playing. I worked hard at running and lifting to strengthen my back."

Hancock has great ball-handling skills, and with her height, she can also offer help down low. At 6-1, she can play both guard positions and move to small forward.

"I think I can contribute at the post position because we are short at that

spot," Hancock said.

During Hancock's high school career, she was widely recognized as one of the best players in Virginia. She was named to the Associated Press all-state and scored over 1,500 points in her four years. Hancock led Robert E. Lee High School to the semifinals of the state playoffs while averaging 20.1 points, eight rebounds, six assists and four steals in her

Hancock sat out last season with an injured back, but she is looking forward to making her return to the Pack lineup.

senior year.

However, the fame of high school basketball is not lasting, and Hancock recognizes the big differences in the play of the ACC.

"It's much more physical," Hancock said of the college game. "The tempo is faster and the quality and knowledge of the players is higher."

In her freshman season with the Wolfpack, Hancock averaged eight minutes and 1.1 points in 24 games. She continued to improve in her sophomore year and became a key reserve. Hancock averaged 2.4 points in 20 games and also contributed 24 points and 24 assists.

Coming off a year in which State won



Todd Bennett

the conference title and advanced to the sweet 16 in the NCAA tournament, a lot is expected from this Wolfpack team. Hancock offers up some big goals, but also more realistic ones.

"I want to win the ACC again and go to the Final Four," Hancock said. "I want us to work together and work hard as a team. If we work as a team, we can accomplish all of our goals."

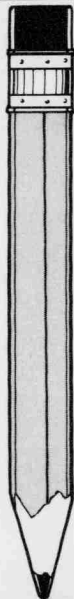
Much of Hancock's improvement and positive attitude can be attributed to head coach Kay Yow. Yow, coach of the 1988 Olympic team, has been a role model for

the Springfield, Va., native.

"She has helped me to be the person I am now," Hancock said Coach Yow. "After meeting her and her staff, I definitely thought that State was the place for me. I thought she could bring out the best in me as a player and a person."

Hancock is a business management major and plans to use her knowledge in NCAA and ACC sports in some way.

For now, many question whether the Lady Pack will play as well this year as last year.



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The Pack picks up after "Fire & Ice"

By Bill Overton

Prior to the 1990-91 season, no one could really predict what would happen to the N.C. State basketball program. A new coach had just been hired to calm the stormy seas left by the former coach. Two star players threatened to leave the squad, and many of the Wolfpack's

Club's 10,000 members were losing faith in the university.

Probably no one could have written a better script, however.

The Pack not only survived, it thrived. First-year coach Les Robinson guided his team to a 20-11 mark, a third-place ACC finish and a trip back to the NCAA tournament.

And he can give thanks for most of it to "Fire" and "Ice."

Chris Corchiani and Rodney Monroe each left their mark at North Carolina State. Corchiani, the fiery court leader, left the university setting the NCAA

record for most assists, dishing out an unprecedented 1,038. Meanwhile, Monroe broke the school record for points, eclipsing David Thompson's total with 2,551 points.

Pretty good for two guys who had threatened to go elsewhere when former coach Jim Valvano was terminated from the program.

But "Fire and Ice" weren't the only ingredients. Junior Tom Gugliotta was superb in the power forward role and led the team in rebounding as well as providing a deft shooting touch from the outside. Forward Bryant Figgins upped his point production to 13 and a half per game and gave State an emotional lift on the inside.

Center Kevin Thompson gradually improved throughout the course of the season, hitting the boards hard and shooting 61 percent from the floor.

And then there was the bench — Migjen Bakalli. Bakalli held his own against the ACC, shooting 48 percent of his three-pointers.

Included in the Pack's highlights for the year were wins over national champion Duke, rival North Carolina and three wins over Georgia Tech.

State's first big win came over Tech in January. Down 50-38 at the half, the Pack stormed back behind Monroe's 48 points, chasing the school record 57 set in 1975. State went on to take their second ACC win, 90-83.

A week and a half later, Duke entered Reynolds Coliseum ranked ninth in the nation, and the Pack put the clamps on the soon-to-be national champions, 95-89.

After back-to-back losses on the road at Maryland and Virginia, State picked up what may have been their most significant win over Tech in Atlanta. Unable to win on the road in the early season, the Pack came back from the 32-point loss at Virginia to defeat the Jackets.

State fans will probably remember the next two games as much as any. Due to the Persian Gulf War, the matchup with Carolina was postponed and moved to make a first in conference history —

back-to-back games on consecutive nights. The Wolfpack made the most of the first game in Reynolds Coliseum, following Monroe's 37 points to a 97-91 victory. But the Pack didn't have the legs to make it back the next night and faltered by a 92-70 score.

State finished out the season strong at 6-2 and took a first-round victory once again over Tech in the ACC tournament, before Duke routed the Pack in the semifinals.

They received a berth to the east region in College Park, Md., and faced a formidable Southern Mississippi team in the first round. The Wolfpack shot extremely well on the way to a 114-85 easy win.

Two days later, it was over. Oklahoma State put an end to any dreams the Pack may have had about reaching the Final Four. It also put an end to "Fire and Ice."

But no one will ever forget the memories and the excitement they brought to Reynolds Coliseum.

Monroe looks to go up with a strong shot against Duke.



Technician File Photo

Wolfpack fans give say their final good-byes to one of the best guard tandems in history.



Technician File Photo



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Chris Corchiani and Rodney Monroe embrace before their final game for N.C. State.

Monroe looks for the baseline shot against Coastal Carolina.

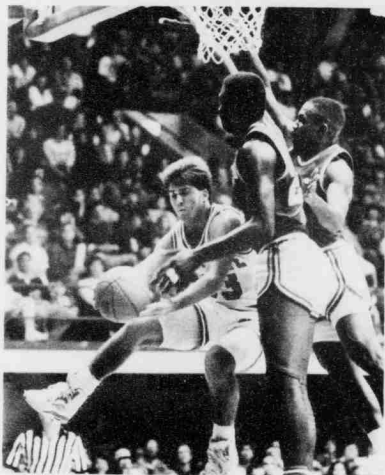


Technician File Photo

Corchiani discusses strategy with head coach Les Robinson along the sideline.



Technician File Photo



Technician File Photo

Corchiani drives to the basket in an early-season game against Marathon Oil

Wade excited about first season

By Bill Overton

ACL. If you're a basketball player, you are likely to know those initials. Sophomore point guard Wanda Wade does. The Anterior Cruciate Ligament seems to claim the knee of more and more basketball players. Unfortunately for the Wolfpack, it also claimed the left knee of Wade.

But thanks to constant rehabilitation and a year off, Wade is ready to make a contribution to a Wolfpack team in need of a back-up to starter Danyel Parker.

"I'm back on track," Wade explained at an earlier practice. "I've started scrimmaging, and I'm doing most of the drills."

This will be the first season in the Red and White for Wade. She is a transfer from the University of Washington and sat out the mandatory year that the NCAA requires last season. The resident of Lynwood, Wash., played in 18 games during the 1989-90 season, averaging 1.6 points a game, while shooting 58.3 percent from the field.

While Washington may be home, she just felt like she needed a change.

"The style of play here is more my style of play," Wade said. "I like pressing and playing the up-tempo game. At Washington, it

was a half-court style."

If Wade indeed likes the up-tempo game, then she came to the right institution. The Wolfpack averaged 91 points per game last season, and coach Kay Yow likes to regularly push the ball up the court. If she keeps recovering as quickly as she has, Yow has promised that she will

see action soon.

But, for now, Wade must wait for clearance from the doctors and make sure that she doesn't worsen the injury.

"I should be ready to play by Thanksgiving," Wade said. "The summer slowed me up a little, but I'm ready to go."

Wade explained that she feels very fortunate to be in the position she is.

"My advantage is that I've sat out a year. I've been able to watch the program. You can see what needs to be done, and the role you're going to have to play."

The business management major seems to be adjusting to life in Raleigh. After all, she is a country apart from her home.

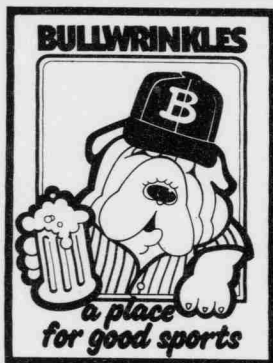
"The people are a lot friendlier in the South," Wade said. "But, I do miss my home a lot."



Wade

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Defensive intensity a hallmark of Fletcher's play

By G. Ray Brown

Raleigh's own Adam Fletcher is working hard in practice, and he is ready to change some people's minds about his ability and the N.C. State basketball team's ability to succeed.

"After hearing everyone pick us to finish near the bottom, it's going to be fun to prove everybody wrong," Fletcher explained.

Fletcher is accustomed to rising to the occasion. Playing at Sanderson High School on the north side of town, Fletcher often stifled offensive threats such as Donald Williams of Garner, now of UNC. He was also able to hold his own on offense.

Now, Fletcher is facing a bigger challenge — trying to gain playing time in the toughest conference in the country.

"When I enter the game, I am concentrating on playing smart and playing hard," Fletcher said. "I really want things happen. Sometimes I overplay, but if I make mistakes from playing hard, I'm not mad at myself."

Fletcher has worked hard in the off-season and feels he has improved all parts of his game. Although only 6-foot-1, he is one of the strongest players on the team.

Despite limited playing time his freshman year, fans appreciated his full-court defensive play, which Fletcher feels is one of the strongest parts of his game.

"I've always been intense on defense," Fletcher said, "but I've also improved my poise, ball-handling, court awareness, and I'm staying more in control."

"As a team, I'd love to finish in the upper part of the conference and go to the NCAA Tournament again. My personal goal is to earn a starting spot."

Lewis expects more playing time

By G. Ray Brown

Mark Lewis has high hopes for this year, and rightfully so. He will be forced into a position more playing time due to the season-ending injury to junior forward Bryant Fegins.

Lewis is a hard-working player who knows what it takes to win. As a senior at Greensboro Page High School, Lewis led his team to the state 4-A championship, and an undefeated season.

Not highly recruited, Lewis did receive some attention from Wolfpack coach Les Robinson. At that time, the first-year Wolfpack coach was looking for some blue-collar talent and Lewis was happy to oblige.

Not only was Lewis an exceptional basketball player, but he was also a scholar student. He finished with a 4.0 grade point average while at Page and was the senior class representative. He fit into Les Robinson's idea of the perfect student-athlete.

It didn't take long for him to adjust. In his first collegiate game with the Wolfpack, Lewis scored a season-high six points in the win over Florida

International. One game later, he pulled down his season high for rebounds with four. Lewis' playing time gradually decreased with the beginning of the conference slate, but he continued to work, knowing that his opportunities would come.



Lewis

Lewis, 6-foot-8 and 218 pounds, is a very aggressive player. He could prove very valuable to the team down the stretch, especially in critical games. Lewis is an excellent free-throw shooter and can shoot three-pointers. He has improved his quickness and jumping ability, as well as his upper-body strength.

"I'm just really ready to get the season started," Lewis said. "I'm ready to play." Lewis has the potential to be an above-average defensive player as well as a tenacious rebounder. Concentration on these aspects, coupled with a little more playing experience could propel this not-so-heavily recruited player past all expectations.

Newcomer Krueel brings big-time credentials to State

By Matt Bolick

Freshman Kolleen Krueel, a newcomer to the Lady Wolfpack, has the potential to make a large impact this year. Krueel hails from Coral Springs, Fla., and was named the Florida player of the year by USA Today.

As a three-time all-state honoree, Krueel averaged 21 points, 7.5 rebounds and 6.5 assists per game as a senior at Taravella High School. She led Taravella to a 33-1 record and the state 4-A championship. At the end of her senior season, Krueel was named as an all-American by Street and Smith's basketball magazine.

The awards for Krueel seem to be endless. In addition to the awards above, she claimed the Naismith award for best basketball player in Florida. She was also named player of the year by the Miami Herald.

Krueel, 6-foot-1, will be expected to play the power forward position this season. She

should provide the team with a combination of strength and finesse, particularly in the high post position. The biological sciences major should help provide depth in a front court that lost the services of ACC Tournament MVP Sharon Manning.

Krueel is also described as a very intelligent player who can run the floor extremely well.

"I think I can contribute a lot to the team," Krueel said. "I was a shooting guard in high school, but I feel very capable of playing forward here."

"The players were great and Coach Yow really impressed me," Krueel said. "Coach Yow just knows what it takes to win."

Winning is something that Krueel is familiar with. She participated on state championship teams in basketball and volleyball her senior year.

"That whole year was remarkable," Krueel stated. "It was nice to be recognized for individual awards, but winning two team championships was fantastic."



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Jamie Knox returns to the court

Spurred on by NBA star, Knox makes comeback

By Owen Good

He suffered a career-threatening injury nearly two years ago. He worked his way back to health through a grueling rehabilitation. And now, when N.C. State's basketball squad needs him more than ever, Jamie Knox is back.

At Clemson, during the 1989-90 season, Knox came down hard after a rebound and ended up with a basketball player's nightmare: a knee injury — the kind of knee trouble that plagued NBA standouts Bernard King and Danny Manning. Since then, the 6-foot-8 junior has used an all-star rehabilitation program on the journey back.

"Bernard King, that's who I really appreciated in his comeback because he worked so hard," said Knox. "When he did come back, he was an all-star. I pretty much did my rehab the way he did his program."

Knox's resolve to recover was bolstered, not dampened, when the severity of his injury came to light.

"They (the doctors) told me there were a lot of people that had this (type of injury) and didn't come back," Knox explained.

Knox didn't want to become one of those people. Neither did the Wolfpack's boosters.

Knox acknowledges that his



Marc Kawanishi

knee is not what it used to be. He will have to wear a brace while playing.

Speaking of his knee, Knox said, "It is not 100 percent, but it feels much better."

Unfortunately, as Knox returned to the court, teammate Bryant Fegins left for the same reason — a season-ending knee injury. As a result, Knox and others like him should see more playing time. He is expected to pick up the rebounding slack in the power forward's slot.

"His as well as two or three other guys' role is going to become more significant."

NCSU head coach Les Robinson said, "There will be three or four guys getting more minutes with the loss of Bryant, and he'll be one of them. How much, though, is hard to say."

Robinson, in his second year as head coach, has had no opportunity to see Knox in a game situation. Since Knox was red-shirted the previous season for rehabilitative reasons, Robinson has only observed him in practice. However, he is optimistic about Knox's condition and contribution to the team.

"He's more comfortable out

After a season of rehabilitation on his knee, Knox is beating the odds by soaring again.

there, he's getting his drive back and he's getting accustomed to playing again."

With the added playing time being under Robinson's up-tempo system of play, Knox should play a key role this season. His veteran status, despite the experience lost to

injury, is also a factor in his favor.

Robinson's only concern is in Knox's readjustment to life on the hardwood.

"Even though you might be well physically, your mind isn't accustomed to competing. But mentally, he's getting tougher all the time."

Regardless of the doubts and statistics against him and his team this season, Jamie Knox is ready and waiting to play.



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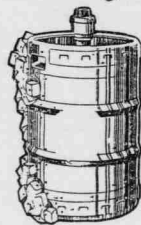
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Defense is the name of Jenny's game

By Thomas Baker

First there was "The Terminator." Then there was "The Equalizer."

Now there's "The Stabilizer."

Jenny Kuziemi, the other side of the N.C. State women's basketball team's double-vision-inducing tandem with her identical twin Krissy, is returning to the team for her third season. But the loss of starters Andrea Stinson and Sharon Manning will make a successful defense of the ACC championship a difficult

enterprise, and Kuziemi will have to expand her role on both ends of the floor.

"I'll basically be the stabilizer," she said. "I just go out every day and go as hard as I can on defense. (But) I think I'm going to be looked to to score now."

Kuziemi was the team's defensive leader last season, making 30 steals and averaging three blocked shots in 33 games. She averaged 7.2 points and 1.8 rebounds per game and hit 76.6 percent of her free throw attempts.

But the complexion of this year's team is a little different without the wheeling and dealing

of Stinson, a two-time recipient of Kodak All-American honors.

"I think it will be a different kind of team," she said. "We'll have to play as a team to win. The conference is going to be really tough."

The team may find itself in an unusual position this year. N.C. State and Virginia have been the dominant teams in the ACC over the past several years, but this year the Cavaliers, the runners-up in last year's NCAA tournament, seem poised to grab the lion's share of the conference limelight.

See **KUZIEWSKI**, Page 22

McCuller seeks consistent play at both ends of the court

By Jeff Drew

As Lakista McCuller makes his mark on the N.C. State basketball program during the next four years, it is very likely that the acrobatic antics of his State's highest flyer will earn him a few imaginative nicknames from the Wolfpack faithful.

The possibilities are endless: the "Georgia Grasshopper" perhaps, or the "State Skywalker" or "Reynold's rim rattler," or maybe even the simple "Air Lakista."

However, despite McCuller's ability to duplicate Michael Jordan's kiss-the-rim, rock-the-cradle slam dunk, it's far too early to be describing State's incoming freshman guard from Andersonville, Ga., in the stratospheric terms previously reserved for the high-flying world champion from Chicago. And while McCuller's astounding 41-inch vertical leap may make him State's resident lord of leaping, he isn't ready to take over the court, at least not yet.

"No, not really. I'm not worried about anything like that," McCuller said recently. "My goals for myself are to be consistent, play as hard as I can and do whatever I can to help the team win."

McCuller should have plenty of chances to make a tangible contribution to the Wolfpack, as State attempts this season to adjust to the loss of its all-world backcourt of Chris Corchiani and Rodney Monroe to the NBA

draft. Listed at 6-foot-3, McCuller should see action at both the point and shooting guard positions, splitting time with fellow freshmen Curtis Marshall and Mark Davis and sophomores Migjen Bakalli and Adam Fletcher in a four-to-five-

McCuller should have plenty of chances to make a tangible contribution to the Wolfpack....

man rotation.

So what will McCuller add to this year's Wolfpack squad? "Lakista's a great athlete," State head coach Les Robinson said. "He's a slasher and he's got great range for his size. He has the best leaping ability on the team, and that helps rebounding-wise as well as defensively and scoring around the basket."

"He adds an athletic element to the team that gives us another dimension that we didn't have a year ago."

McCuller also adds a strong scoring threat to this year's Wolfpack team. He averaged 26.4 points, 8.5 assists and 6.4 rebounds while earning first-team all-Georgia recognition last season. McCuller was even better in the big games, as he scored 37 points and handed out 10 assists to lead his Sumpter County High School squad to a regional championship victory over Tri-county High. That victory came on the heels of a 43-point, 13-assist effort in a comeback victory over defending Georgia 2A champion Manchester.

"I had a pretty good game,"

McCuller said of Sumpter's regional semifinal victory. "We were playing the team ranked first in the state. We were behind by 14 at halftime, and we came back to win by 10."

McCuller knows that his Wolfpack squad is expected to face quite a few large deficits this season with only two starters returning, but the spring-legged business major thinks the Pack's stock will rise as the season progresses.

"It could work both ways, but I think we'll really surprise a lot of people right now because everyone's predicting us to finish last in the league," McCuller said. "I think we'll do all right. We got some really good players on this team."

But regardless of how well this edition of the Wolfpack basketball team fares this season, McCuller will derive a sense of satisfaction merely from playing in the same games he used to watch on television so often as a kid.

"When I was growing up, just about all I watched was ACC basketball," McCuller said. "Everyone at home wanted me to go to Alabama, but I just thought that State was the place for me. I wasn't sure I was going to be allowed to go home if I didn't go to Alabama, but I really like Coach Robinson and I'm now more sure than ever that I made the right choice in coming here. I have no regrets."

"The ACC is the best league and I'm really excited about getting a chance to play in it."

As a senior in high school, Floyd earned honorable mention All-America notice from USA Today, and she was selected first team all-state by the Greensboro News and Record.

Not only did Floyd have excellent stats as a basketball player but she also was the state high jump champion as a senior. In addition, Floyd equaled the third-best time in the state in 1991 in the 300-meter hurdles race.

"Track kept me in shape for basketball," said Floyd. "It was a reciprocal relationship." Floyd isn't sure exactly how she will fit into the Lady Wolfpack game plan.



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Floyd finds inspiration in Miller

By Christine Jaworsky

Joining the N.C. State University Lady Wolfpack this season is freshman Quicha Floyd from Greensboro.

The 5-foot-10 forward enjoyed an outstanding prep career at Page High School, averaging 15.0 points and eight rebounds per game as a senior. Floyd decided to come to N.C. State because of the aerospace engineering program and the excellent reputation of head coach Kay Yow and the Wolfpack.

"I had to decide between Tennessee and N.C. State, but when it came down to it, State's engineering is better, and I was impressed with the basketball

program," Floyd said. The transition to college life has been smooth for Floyd.

"I like State a lot," Floyd said. "Everyone's nice. Coach Yow, my teammates and the other student-athletes I've gotten to know."

Floyd also enjoys the freedom of being a college student.

"Despite the demanding practice schedule, I have more time to myself (compared to high school). I don't have to be in class from nine until three."

Floyd said her greatest inspiration is Cheryl Miller, a member of the 1984 U.S. Olympic basketball team. Floyd, who was 11 at the time, remembers being impressed with Cheryl Miller while watching the Olympic Games. "She was an awesome athlete," Floyd said.

Whyte faces challenge of expanded role without Manning

By Kevin Brewer

Terri Whyte is a player who can be called indispensable when talking about the success of the N.C. State women's basketball team.

Whyte, a 6-foot-5 junior, is one of six returning letter winners on the women's team and has worked hard during the off-season to prepare herself for the big expectations that always surround women's basketball at N.C. State.

"I took an aerobics class to help with my endurance and ran one or two miles a day," Whyte said of her preparation. She has also worked on her shot and has been jumping rope.

Whyte averaged 14.1 minutes, 2.9 points and three rebounds in the Pack's 33 games last season. She had season highs of 12 points against East Carolina and 9 rebounds against Western Carolina. With her hard work and natural athletic ability, Whyte can only improve during the 1991-92 campaign.

"I want to lead the team in rebounding and contribute with points and assists," Whyte said of goals for the upcoming season.

The women's team finished last season with a 27-6 record, an ACC championship and made it to the regional semifinals in the NCAA Tournament. According to Whyte, the loss of three seniors will not affect the team very much.

"I want to win all the tournaments we are in and repeat as ACC champs," Whyte said of her expectations. "I want to go to the sweet 16 and beyond. I lot of people don't want to talk about a national championship, but that's what we want."

Losing three important players from one of the most heralded teams in women's basketball, the Lady Pack will try to recover from the absence of all-American Andrea Stinson, ACC Tournament MVP Sharon Manning and three-point



Technician File Photo

Nicole Lehmann.

"I lot of people think we won't be as good," Whyte commented. "Everyone is forced to step up and take on a different job. They will be missed, but we will get over it. The chemistry is good and each player has a role. I think we will be better than last year."

Whyte will certainly be one of the players asked to step up and contribute more than last year. Her love for the game is demonstrated by her enthusiasm and willingness to take on more responsibility.

"My playing time will increase

Whyte will certainly be one of the players asked to step up and contribute more than last year.

this year," Whyte said of her new role. "I have some big shoes to fill and I'm ready for it."

Whyte played high school basketball at Lake Mary High School in Sanford, Fla. She averaged 17.4 points and 14.1 rebounds per game during her three years as a starter and was an all-conference and all-county selection.

The change from high school basketball to the college ranks is tough for any player, but maybe more so for a dominant player

Whyte will be called upon to increase her offensive output this season.

like Whyte.

"I never had to jump or work hard in high school," Whyte said. "The level of play is the biggest change."

Whyte averaged 2.8 points and 1.8 rebounds as a freshman after sitting out a year as a red-shirt. During the year off, Whyte improved her strength and endurance and was able to practice with the team.

"I still got to bang around with everybody and didn't lose a year of eligibility," Whyte said of her year off. "It helped me because there were five people in front of me. I was so small that Rhonda could say 'boo' and I would fall over."

A player of Whyte's stature had a choice of many basketball programs around the country. She was not only satisfied with the NCSU basketball program but was pleased with the Raleigh area.

"I picked State because of the tradition, coaching staff and chemistry of the team," Whyte said. "I eventually want to move to North Carolina, and I like the small-town atmosphere of Raleigh."

Head coach Kay Yow has helped Whyte improve over the past three years. "She is the best fundamental coach I have ever had," Whyte said of the 17-year coaching veteran. "She is a great person and she encourages me."

Whyte's year as a red-shirt also helped her get off to a good start academically. She is a communication major with a minor in business and is planning a career in advertising.

"I will begin graduate school next year," Whyte said of the future. "It is a long-term goal of mine to own my own advertising company."

Terri Whyte is very determined and ambitious on and off the court and will be an integral part of the success of women's basketball at N.C. State.

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McLeod still waiting for first collegiate playing time



Technician File Photo

By Owen Good

If Sarah McLeod's college basketball career thus far could be summed up in a neat phrase, it would most certainly be, "You've come a long way, baby."

The 6-foot-5 freshman center, redshirted in the 1990-91 season, is currently recovering from a foot injury.

"I had some scar tissue in my

know what's going on and what to expect. Once our games start, I'll be ready to play."

McLeod has asserted herself on what style of game she plays best.

"Defense is my favorite part of

After being red-shirted last season, McLeod has been slowed this year by a foot injury.

the game. I'm hoping that I gained some strength over the summer, and I'm hoping that my game will be a little more physical this year."

Although McLeod has gained valuable experience under the wing of senior front-courter Rhonda Mapp, she doesn't consider her methods as physical as Mapp's. However, "Once you've played with her for awhile," McLeod explained, "you really don't have much of a choice."

McLeod is banking on her height to allow her to see playing time this year.

"Rhonda and Teri are obviously our biggest people down there, and being 6-5, when we meet up with, say Virginia, I hope to be in there. When it comes down to size, that's in my favor."

Faith Mimnaugh, assistant coach for the women's squad, also plans to exploit McLeod's size.

"Sarah is ... big," Mimnaugh said, "and we want to take advantage of her size. She doesn't have the foot speed a lot of other post players have, so we're depending on her to intimidate a lot on the inside by being a shot blocker and, of course, rebounding."

Assistant coach Cheryl Littlejohn says that while McLeod will be missed, there is enough help in the front court to cushion the loss.

foot removed," said McLeod of her recent setback. "I went to three doctors and they said it (the recovery period) should be from about two to six weeks. I'm aiming for two weeks."

McLeod is certainly ready to play. Her freshman year, she was redshirted to improve her skills and conditioning.

"Last year, I learned a lot," said McLeod. "Even though I didn't play, it was a learning experience. I don't consider myself a freshman at practice; I

Bakalli no longer a sixth man

By Scott Joyner

One of Coach Les Robinson's biggest surprises in his first season had to have been the outstanding play of his "sixth man," freshman Migjen Bakalli. Bakalli stepped into the hostile ACC environment and performed like a true blue-chipper.

Bakalli, a 6-foot-6, 190 pound wingman from Belmont, N.C.,

was an instant hit with Wolfpack fans, hitting three-pointers with the eye of a marksman. Fans welcomed his entry into the line-up, as he proved his versatility subbing for guard or forward. Bakalli averaged 5.8



Bakalli

points per game and hit 42 three-pointers for 47 percent, playing behind one of the best starting five in the nation.

"I think a lot of my success last year was based on Rod (Monroe) and Chris (Corchiani)," Bakalli said. "Having guys like that helps take the pressure off you."

Bakalli worked in the off-season to improve his ball handling and defense.

See **BAKALLI**, Page 23

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Dedication pays off for Krissy

By Jeff Drew

For virtually her entire life, Krissy Kuziemi has shared a type of dual existence with her identical twin sister

Jenny.

From birth, through all the traumas of growing up, to an introduction to basketball and an eventual scholarship offer from the N.C. State women's basketball program, the sisters from South Amboy, N.J., have navigated life's little twists and turns in unison, managing along the way to direct their lives over the same roadblocks and through the same challenges.

But Feb. 23, in the Wolfpack's last regular-season game at Virginia, Krissy's life veered off on a course of its own. In the blink of an eye, the anterior cruciate ligament in her right knee exploded, ending her sophomore season and leaving her facing reconstructive surgery and six to 12 months of rehabilitation.

Suddenly, for the first time, Krissy would face an obstacle that her sister would not have to face as well.

"That's pretty much true now that I think about it," Krissy said recently. "It was really hard because we had worked so hard for the ACC tournament and the NCAA tournament, and I hurt myself right before those games."

So while her sister and her teammates moved on to capture the ACC tournament title and



Technician File Photo

reach the final sixteen of the NCAA, Krissy could only watch and look forward to her eventual return to the court.

"It was probably harder for Jenny," Krissy said. "She really felt bad because I couldn't play and couldn't do the things, like running, that we usually did together."

Now, after nearly nine months dedicated to rebuilding her knee, Krissy is running once again. Despite a distinctive surgical scar and a bulky new knee brace, the junior forward/guard says she has fully recovered and is back to full speed. It is a comeback that doesn't surprise NCSU head coach Kay Yow.

"Her preservation, her dedication and her eagerness to work hard and do whatever it takes to get in great condition and be ready for a great season means a lot to her team," Yow said.

After nine months of rebuilding her knee, Kuziemi is back.

With U.S. national team member Andrea Stinson and ACC tournament MVP Sharon Manning graduated, Krissy knows that for the Wolfpack to have another great season, she must increase her scoring output. In her first two seasons, Krissy posted seasonal averages of 3.5 points and 3.7 points per game, while allowing her more celebrated teammates to carry the offense.

"During the last two years, I thought I should try to get the ball to Andrea to get the ball inside to our main scorers first," said Krissy, who alternated with Jenny at the small forward position last season. "This year, everyone's going to have to pick up the scoring load."

If Krissy's scoring records for Hoffman High school are any indication, then the possible starter at shooting guard is well equipped to contribute on the offensive end of the court. But Krissy is more concerned with the overall performance of the team — she and Jenny led Hoffman to four straight New Jersey state titles — than with her statistics.

"To be totally honest, I would really rather accomplish something with Jenny than accomplish it alone," Krissy said. "It would be nice to see what it feels like to actually participate in an ACC championship game."

"It has been driving me, not being able to practice or play with the team." On the other hand, she said, "I guess it's better that I redshirt this year so I can have an extra year to play, instead of playing at only 70 percent this year."

Since she won't be playing this season, Weddle will be working on rehabilitating her knee, increasing her strength and working on the fundamentals of her game.

"Hopefully I will be practicing with the team by Christmas," Weddle said. "I think when I get back to playing after my injury, my confidence should be improved, making me a stronger player."

career last year by qualifying for the East-West All-Star Game. The 6-foot-1 forward scored 14 points in the game, despite playing with an injured knee. For the regular season, she averages 17.8 points and 11.1 rebounds per game.

In addition, Weddle was named honorable mention all-American by USA Today and was selected first team all-state by the Indiana Girls High School Athletic Association.

"Coach Yow made a great impression on me," Weddle said, explaining why she came to State. "She is an excellent coach and the best person I can learn from."

Frustration has been a major feeling for Weddle.



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Weddle faces red-shirt season

By Jennifer Bouck

Although freshman Natasha Weddle doesn't expect to play for the Wolfpack women this year, she could make a big impact on the team in the future.

Weddle will probably redshirt this season, in order to let her left knee heal, after she tore her anterior cruciate ligament and cartilage in March. She had reconstructive surgery on it in July and has been undergoing rehabilitation in the form of bike riding, using stair master, running and jumping rope ever since.

Before her injury, the Trafalgar, Ind., native culminated her prep

Freshman Gerton adds to backcourt depth

By Christine Jaworsky

The N.C. State University Lady Wolfpack has acquired freshman Lisa Gerton of Louisville, Ky., to add depth to a strong backcourt.

Gerton, who can play both point guard and shooting guard, averaged 27.8 points, nine rebounds, three assists and four steals per game at Pleasure Ridge High School.

Gerton, who was recruited by Virginia, Iowa, UNLV and Arizona, to name a few, chose to come to NCSU because she was attracted to State's women's basketball reputation.

"I had been following the program throughout high school, and I liked what I saw," said Gerton. "I felt State offered the best opportunity for me both academically and athletically."

Although she hasn't been at State for very long, Gerton believes her adjustment to collegiate life is going well.

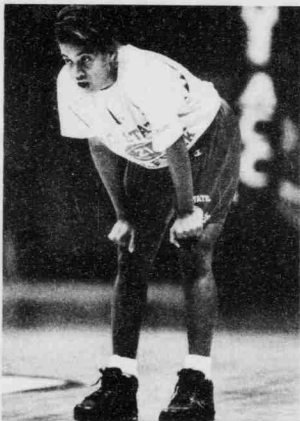
"It was a big step. It was hard to adjust in the beginning, but I have to do well, and I know how it important it is to succeed."

Gerton became very interested in basketball when she was growing up, and her two uncles took her along with them to the gym.

"My uncles really inspired me. They took me out to the gym with them, and I watched and learned the game of basketball," said Gerton.

In fact, Gerton added, her uncles even dubbed her "the gym rat."

Comparing NCSU's program to her high school program, Gerton says that not only is there a huge time commitment difference but there's also a lot more intensity involved.



Ann Kenion

"In high school, I was used to being the star. When I came to State, I realized I had

Gerton, a highly recruited player from Louisville, Ky., can play either guard position.

a lot of competition and a lot of great players to work with. It's a big difference."

In high school, Gerton was rated as the sixth-best player in Kentucky by the Louisville Courier-Journal, while setting a school record for career points with 2,132.

During her senior year, Gerton was an honorable mention all-American by Street and Smith's basketball magazine

and was named first team all-state by the Lexington Herald, the Louisville Courier-Journal and the Associated Press.

While Gerton was pleased with her individual rewards, she believed something was lacking.

"We never won a team championship. Although I personally accomplished a lot, I wanted to have my team involved as well. I wanted to do something for them."

Gerton now has the opportunity to do something for the Wolfpack.

"The team lost some great players last year, but we still have a lot of depth. And with the freshman coming in, we'll be able to contribute and still be a successful team," said Gerton.

"I realize I won't be in the spotlight that I was in back at high school, but my goal is to contribute and to help out my new team," said Gerton.

Quickness on defense set Marshall apart from the rest

By Jeff Drew

Unlike his contemporaries in the N.C. State basketball recruiting class of '91, incoming freshman guard Curtis Marshall has already played an official game on the new-old wooden floor of Reynolds Coliseum.

Back on May 22, Marshall, an Omaha, Neb., native, took the court with a group of North Carolina high school all-stars in an exhibition against the Soviet Union Junior National Team. The 5-foot-11 point man scored six points and dished out two assists while making his debut in what will be his basketball home for the next four years. It was an opening salvo that Marshall describes as "all right."

"I was just coming down to get a feel for the gym and for the atmosphere," Marshall said before a recent practice. "All and all, it was a pretty good experience, though I could have played a little better or a little more."

You can expect Marshall to see plenty of playing time this season as the Pack attempts to find replacements for its three-year starting backcourt of near legends and NBA draft picks Chris Corchiani and Rodney Monroe. Marshall is a leading candidate for the starting point guard position and State head coach Les Robinson expects his lightning-quick recruit to contribute early and often to the Wolfpack line-up.

"Curtis has very good quickness and that's apparent on the defensive as well as offensive ends of the floors," Robinson said. "He can really put pressure on the ball. He also has very good penetration abilities with that quickness and he can stop on a dime and hit that jumper."

Last year, Marshall's abilities made him



Todd Bennett

almost unstoppable as he earned "Mr. Basketball" honors in Nebraska by averaging 30.5 points, 6.5 rebounds and 5.5 assists for Creighton Prep High School. Marshall hit 48 percent of his field goal attempts, 46 percent of his three-pointers and 81 percent of his free throws while earning honorable mention all-America honors from USA Today.

This year, Marshall will be literally hard-pressed to even approach those numbers, as State's opponents are expected to turn on the defensive heat in

the hopes that the Pack's inexperienced backcourt will wilt in the spotlight.

"He's going to have to work on handling the pressure he's going to see this season," Robinson said. "That's what we're working on now in the present, handling the pressure over the full court and over the half court as well."

"I need to work on making sure when I penetrate that I stay under control a little bit," Marshall said.

Though he concedes to having a lot to learn, the upbeat Marshall is confident he

Marshall sees the challenge of playing in the ACC as another adjustment to life on a college campus.

can succeed in the upbeat style of play Robinson has established in Raleigh.

"Coach Robinson's system was one of the big reasons why I came here, because I thought it would allow me to use my abilities to the best of my ability," said Marshall, an early signee with the Pack last November. "I've never been too tentative and Coach Robinson's freelance style gives us just the right amount of freedom to work well as a team."

Anyway, the way Marshall sees it, if he can make the adjustment from a high school student in Omaha to a college student in a major basketball program, he should be able to survive playing against the Bobby Hurleys of the ACC.

"It's been a really big adjustment coming here and you really have to learn to budget your time, especially with the season coming up," the business major said. "But it's weird, though. You watch all these guys in the ACC on TV one year and the next year, you're going against them head-to-head. I'm really looking forward to it."

Kuziemski worked to improve skills

Continued from Page 16

But Kuziemski has no problems with the underdog's role.

"I really think that will help us," she said. "It's always easier going into a game expected to lose than to win."

In the off-season, Kuziemski worked in a number of basketball camps to improve her conditioning. Games like last season's triple-overtime slugfest with Virginia, in which Kuziemski tallied 18 points, three rebounds and three assists, illustrated the competitiveness in the league and showed the necessity for endurance and

stamina.

But Kuziemski was faced with a difficult adjustment during the off-season. Her sister suffered a knee injury in last season's rematch with the Cavaliers and missed the last six games. Though Krissy will be on the team this year, over the summer she concentrated on rehabilitating her knee. This meant a temporary breakup of the duo that helped New Jersey's Hoffman High School to four consecutive state titles and a 121-6 record during the 1985-89 seasons.

"It was a lot harder over the summer to go out and do things without her," Jenny said.



Technician File Photo

Jenny Kuziemski worked in a number of basketball camps last summer to improve her conditioning.

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Yow works for the future of her game

Continued from Page 6

and a 367-124 mark with the Wolfpack. Yow has produced eight all-American players and 14 all-conference selections.

Yow certainly isn't limited to just coaching accomplishments, however. She conducts clinics and meets speaking engagements all over the country. Yow is a past president of the Women's Basketball Coaches Association. She also gives time to the N.C. state chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Kay Yow is by no means one-dimensional. But don't get her wrong. Her love and her life are coaching.

"I see myself coaching for many years to come," Yow explained. "I have no desire to go into athletic administration. The only thing I've ever said to myself is when coaching is no longer fun, then I know it's time to get out."

Yow is working for the future of women's basketball. She wants it to develop to the point where it competes with the men's game for excitement. If last year was any indication, the program is slowly, but surely showing signs of doing just that. Last January, second-ranked Virginia and the third-ranked Wolfpack met in Reynolds Coliseum in an early-season ACC showdown. It was more than just another game, though. It was a milestone.

Over 11,500 spectators packed the 45-year-old arena for this battle between national powers. What they witnessed was entertainment that could have rivaled almost any men's game last season. In three overtimes,

Virginia came away with a 123-120 victory, but the real winner was women's basketball.

Yow has often said that the level of play in women's basketball must improve each year if there is to be any chance of competing with the men's game.

"Women are starting at younger and younger ages. We're going to get better skilled, mentally sound people and create interest from more people. In the end, they'll start their

careers in college at a higher level."

"I think women's basketball has a long way to go. I think 20 years from now, it will be hard to recognize the game. It will be an awesome game."

When women's basketball reaches that status, there aren't many more people who can take more credit for its development than Kay Yow.

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Bakalli is anxious to start

Continued from Page 19

"I worked out on the weights a lot and gained about five pounds," Bakalli said. "This year I'll have to help bring the ball up some and rebound more. I'll have to show more skills than last year."

Bakalli has worked at different positions early in practice.

"We've worked with a lot of different rotations. Coach Robinson's style fits my style perfect. He wants you to push the ball up and shoot," Bakalli said with a smile.

Bakalli feels he has been very fortunate to work with Robinson and his staff. "I couldn't have been any luckier," Bakalli

exclaimed.

State's up-tempo style of play should provide many exciting moments for Pack fans this year, just as it did last year. Although the Wolfpack faces a tough challenge without all-Americans Monroe and Corchiani, and even more recently with the loss of hard-playing Bryant Feggins, Bakalli remains upbeat.

"We are going to miss Feggins, he's such a fierce competitor," Bakalli said. "But there is no pressure on us if we are picked low. Our guys will gain a lot of experience, and we'll be stronger in January."

Because of his freshman success, Bakalli will be expected to fill the shoes of Monroe and Corchiani when he steps on the court. Bakalli came into his own with an incredible performance against Maryland last season.

"I came in and hit eight three's (including seven in a row)," Bakalli said. "That was the highest moment of the last year. That, and beating Carolina."

Bakalli earned Southwestern 3-A Conference Player of the Year twice at South Point High

School. His father, Fejz, is a native of Albania who immigrated to the United States from Yugoslavia.

Bakalli was one of the hottest shooters for the Pack when he got into a game-rhythm.

Bakalli, like the rest of the Pack, is anxious to start the season. The young Pack will face some early tests before it hits the rugged ACC.

"We've really got a lot of shooters this year," Bakalli said. "If you leave your man, the ball is going up."

Bakalli is a sophomore with an undecided major, but he has a very positive outlook on life.

"I really love being here at State. I've got so many friends here, it's great."

As Robinson and sharp-shooter Migjen Bakalli enter their second year, many questions remain. Excitement fills the air, and so will quite a few basketballs when Bakalli is on the hardwood.



Todd Bennett

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*Thanks,
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FROM THE EDITOR

Basketball season is upon us, and we can all look forward to filling Reynolds Coliseum on game nights to root for the Wolfpack. State has a long tradition of fine basketball, and I hope my staff has been able to share that with you.

Had it not been for a group of people as committed as my writers were, this special edition would have never made it to print. Bill Overton did a great job of coordinating writing assignment. On the photo side, Marc Kawanishi and Larry Dixon did a bang-up job getting the pictures on short notice.

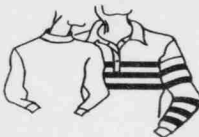
But the biggest thanks of all goes out to Daryl Pittman and Laura Allen who stayed up for over 48 straight hours putting the paper together. Thanks a whole bunch.

This is the third basketball special that I've been involved with, and each one has been more fun to put together than the last. I watched Fred Hartman put this issue together last fall when he was sports editor, and I knew I wanted to do the next one. Despite a lot of fussing and fuming mixed in with late nights, I can honestly say I'm very satisfied with the outcome.

Read and enjoy as you become familiar with members from both the men's and women's teams. They deserve all the support that rallies behind them. Each team has a difficult schedule, but that means there will be more exciting games to be played this season.

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Robinson will do whatever it takes to win

By Brooke Barbee

Turbulence and transition seem to be Tony Robinson's forerunners.

Upon joining the N.C. State men's basketball team in 1989, Robinson found himself in the midst of one of the worst periods of NCSU basketball. His inauguration to the team, along with that of Kevin Thompson and Bryant Feggins, was a controversy surrounding Coach Jim Valvano that ended in Valvano's resignation. Because he was red-shirted that first year, Robinson never had the opportunity to play under Valvano's tutelage.

Classified as a freshman in 1990, the Havelock, N.C., native joined the ranks of another Mr. Robinson — new basketball coach Les Robinson. Although the number seven man on the roster, Robinson saw only limited playing time as the Pack relied heavily on a six-man lineup.

The season was overshadowed, however, by the events in the Persian Gulf. Robinson's father, a U.S. Marine, was stationed in Saudi Arabia.

Now, as a sophomore, Robinson once again is in the heart of a restructuring period. The Wolfpack will sport a new look this season and, this time,



Technician File Photo

Robinson's role on the team is less clearly defined this season with the loss of Bryant Feggins, who suffered a knee-injury.

Robinson will not be a bystander. On the contrary, he will be an integral part of the team's identity.

With the season-ending injury of Feggins, all of the NCSU frontcourt will be called on to fill the void. However, the 6-foot-10, 243 pound Robinson does not feel additional pressure to star in the role of forward.

"If you think about pressure, you'll choke," Robinson said. "I just can't worry about filling Bryant's shoes. He's a great player and we're going to miss not having him this season. But I'm just going to worry about doing my part and doing the best that I can."

Last season, Robinson saw action in 20 games, averaging under five minutes of playing time per contest. In that time, he scored a total of 20 points, hauled in 31 rebounds and displayed his defensive savvy with ten blocked shots. His most memorable outing was at Maryland where he played 14 minutes, made a dunk off the offensive boards, grabbed three

rebounds and blocked three shots.

In that campaign, Robinson's role was clearly defined — come off the bench for some quality minutes. This year, however, the team has few well-defined roles. "I'll do whatever it takes to make us win," Robinson said. "If I'm sitting on the bench, then my job is to keep morale up. If I'm on the court, then I'll be diving after loose balls and trying to grab rebounds."

Discounting pre-season predictions, Robinson thinks the Pack can succeed and is convinced that the mechanisms are available. "Basketball is a team game, and right now

we've got the pieces to make a winning team," Robinson said. "We've just got to put the pieces together and make the machine work."

In light of all the turbulence during his tenure at State, basketball measures up, to an outsider, as a trivial consideration. But Robinson has found solace in the most fundamental aspect of his sport — love of the game.

"Whatever happens, I'll just do what I've got to do, keep learning and enjoy the game."

"If you think about pressure, you'll choke."

— Tony Robinson

Gibson returns after posting an impressive freshman campaign

By Kevin Brewer

One of the players who will be asked to contribute more minutes for the N.C. State women's basketball team this season will be Tammy Gibson.

Gibson, a 5-foot-8 sophomore guard, averaged 4.9 points and 1.5 rebounds in 33 games as a freshman last year. She provided some points off the bench and was named to the ACC all-freshmen team.

"It was really hard being the only freshman," Gibson said of her initiation into the Wolfpack program. "I'm a sophomore now, and I know more of what is going on."

Gibson showed she was a solid player who could handle herself on the court last year and has come prepared to begin her sophomore season with the Pack.

"I worked on my game with some other coaches on my own," Gibson said. "I also tried out for a team in a festival at Georgia State and did some running."

Gibson considers head Wolfpack coach Kay Yow as an influence and credits Yow for her efforts in her improving game.

"She's a motivator," Gibson said. "She talks to me and encourages me. She will tell you if you do something wrong."

The women's team is coming off one of their most successful years. The Lady



Gibson

Pack finished seventh in the Associated Press poll with a 27-6 record. The Pack also won the ACC Tournament and made it to the sweet sixteen of the NCAA Tournament. This does not, however, satisfy the Hartsville, S.C., native.

"We want to be ACC Champs again and make it to the Final Four," Gibson said.

Gibson's potential is evident from her dominance during her high school career. She finished her senior year averaging

Gibson showed she was a solid player who could handle herself on the court last year and has come prepared to begin her sophomore season with the Pack.

20.6 points and 7.3 steals per game and led her team to a 32-1 record. Gibson has learned that the college game is a big change.

"You have to work extra-hard," Gibson said. "You have to wait your turn and learn more plays and defenses. It's a hard adjustment."

Gibson recorded season highs of 15 points against Wake Forest and six steals against East Carolina. With these numbers, she has a real shot at the starting position.

"I want to start this year," she determined Gibson said. "I will hopefully fill Andrea's shoes. The all-freshmen team was a big lift. I want to be recognized as one of the top players in the ACC."

A three-time all-state player at Hartsville High School, Gibson had her choice of many schools but made her choice of N.C.

State for many reasons.

"I wanted to play in the ACC," Gibson said. "It was close to home, and I wanted to play for Coach Yow. She is one of the premier coaches, and State has an established program."

Gibson's dedication to the game she loves will not stop in the college ranks. The sociology major has definite plans of continuing her blossoming career.

"I want to play overseas for a couple of years and then go work close to home," Gibson commented.

If this Wolfpack team is to be successful, Tammy Gibson will certainly play a large part. Kay Yow sees improvement in Gibson's game and is looking forward to seeing what she can do.

"Her three-point shot is improving better and she has more confidence," Coach Yow said. "She has an opportunity to make a major contribution."