

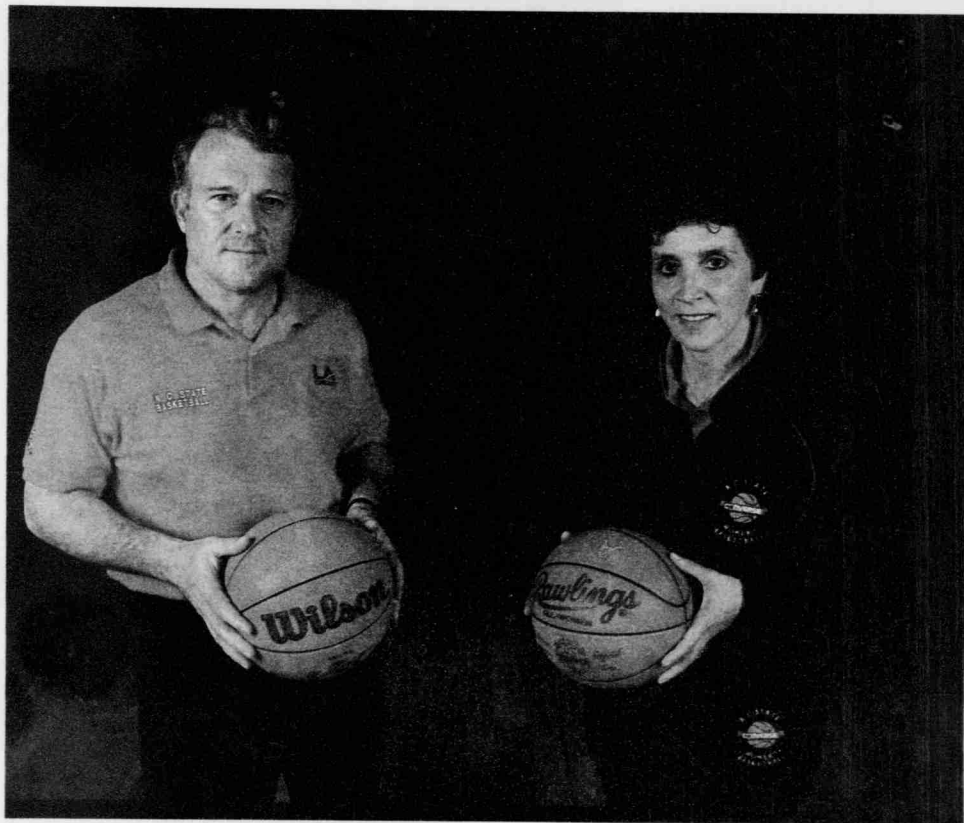
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Volume LXXIII, Number 50

Thursday

December 3, 1992



1992-93 Basketball Special

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1992-93 Women's Basketball Schedule

Dec. 2	Long Beach State	6 p.m.
Dec. 5	at Washington	2 p.m.
Dec. 16	Florida State	7 p.m.
Dec. 19	East Carolina	2 p.m.
Dec. 20	Western Kentucky	2 p.m.
Dec. 22	at George Washington	8 p.m.
Dec. 28	at Va. Commonwealth	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 30	Florida Atlantic	7 p.m.
Jan. 3	Clemson	1:30 p.m.
Jan. 8	Georgia Tech	7 p.m.
Jan. 13	Duke	7 p.m.
Jan. 17	at Virginia	Noon
Jan. 21	Wake Forest	7 p.m.
Jan. 24	Clemson	Noon
Jan. 27	at North Carolina	6 p.m.
Jan. 30	at Maryland	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 31	at Howard	1 p.m.
Feb. 2	George Washington	7 p.m.
Feb. 6	at Old Dominion	7:35 p.m.
Feb. 9	at Duke	7 p.m.
Feb. 13	Maryland	2 p.m.
Feb. 16	North Carolina	7 p.m.
Feb. 19	at Georgia Tech	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 21	at Florida State	2 p.m.
Feb. 24	at Wake Forest	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 27	Virginia	1 p.m.
Mar. 5-8	ACC Tournament #	

Winthrop Coliseum, Rock Hill, SC

1992-93 Men's Basketball Schedule

Dec. 1	UNC-Wilmington	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 3	UNC-Asheville	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 5	Connecticut	Noon
Dec. 16	Princeton*	9:30 p.m.
Dec. 19	Oregon State	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 21	at Kansas	8 p.m.
Jan. 2	Iona	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 7	North Carolina	9 p.m.
Jan. 9	Virginia	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 11	at Davidson	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 16	at Florida State	4 p.m.
Jan. 21	at Duke	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 23	Maryland	1:30 p.m.
Jan. 27	at Georgia Tech	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 31	Clemson	2 p.m.
Feb. 4	Wake Forest	8 p.m.
Feb. 6	at North Carolina	1:30 p.m.
Feb. 11	at Virginia	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 13	Tennessee	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 15	UNC-Greensboro	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 17	Florida State	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 21	Duke	3:45 p.m.
Feb. 24	at Maryland	8 p.m.
Feb. 28	Georgia Tech	1 p.m.
Mar. 3	at Clemson	7:30 p.m.
Mar. 6	at Wake Forest	1:30 p.m.
Mar. 11-14	ACC Tournament #	

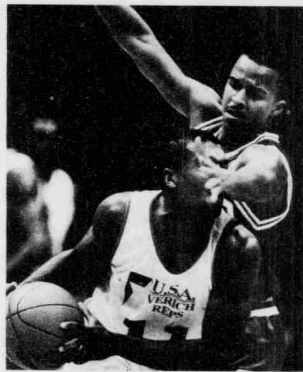
* Brendan Byrne Arena, E. Rutherford, NJ
Charlotte Coliseum, Charlotte, NC

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1992-93 BASKETBALL SPECIAL

INSIDE:

A look at how the Wolfpack shapes up for the '92-'93 men's and women's basketball seasons. Stats, profiles, rosters and schedules are included in this in-depth look at Pack basketball.



Sophomore Curtis Marshall is back.

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Special Thanks

This basketball special could have never materialized without the help of many. I want to especially thank the writers for putting in so many hours despite the semester crunch. Thanks should go to my assistant editors - Kevin Brewer and Jeff Drew - who spent a lot of time working on this project and did an excellent job. The photography staff, led by Angela Pridgen and Liz Mahncke, should be commended as should the photos at Agromeck who helped tremendously. Kudos to the layout staff and proofreaders. Thanks also to my copy editor Julie Gale.

I would like to express my appreciation to the NCSU Sports Information department, which was responsible for setting up many of the interviews. The last and most sincere thanks go to the players and coaches for cooperating with us. Best wishes for an outstanding season.

Bill Giverton

**This issue is dedicated to
the memory of Tony
Robinson, 1970-1992**

Thompson assumes leader's role for young team

By Jeff Drew
Senior Staff Writer

Sometimes, while playing amid the heat and frenzy of raucous Reynolds Coliseum, N.C. State senior center Kevin Thompson can hear one voice standing out from the crowd.

"I still hear my mother's voice sometimes on the court," Thompson said. "I hear her yelling and cheering me on."

During his career at State, Thompson has often heard his mother's voice, rising above any confusion in his mind and reminding him of the lessons she taught him as a youth in the Winston-Salem area.

"My mother is a very strong woman," said Thompson, who at 6-foot-11, 250 pounds is a very strong player. "[She] did a very good job instilling in me that you deal with your problems; you don't run from them."

Thompson has had plenty to deal with in his three years with the Wolfpack. His first season coincided with Jim Valvano's last coaching campaign, which featured an NCAA probation and massive media scrutiny.

His third season began with his high school and Wolfpack teammate Bryant Feggins going down before the season with a knee injury. It ended after a nine-game losing streak punctuated the Pack's first losing season in 21 years.

His final season has also started ominously. A gunshot injury has sidelined Feggins for another season. And a knee injury suffered the second day of practice forced Thompson to miss both Pack exhibition games and most of the preseason training.

But Thompson isn't crying about his hardships.

"That's basically just life," Thompson said. "I try to look at the bright side. Like with Bryant, there's definitely nothing good about hurting your knee or being shot, but he's doing a lot better and has a chance to make it back. He could have ended up dead. It definitely could have been much worse."

It certainly hasn't been all bad for Thompson at State. As a freshman reserve, he contributed three points and three rebounds a game. A 10-point, seven-rebound effort in the Pack's 88-

77 victory at North Carolina was the high point.

As a sophomore, Thompson started at center and averaged 8.6 points and 7.7 rebounds to help the Pack capture a NCAA Tournament berth. In the process, Thompson set a new single-season field-goal percentage mark by hitting 60.5 percent of his shots.

Last year, Thompson hit on 62.5 percent of his field-goal attempts to shatter his year-old record. Finishing second to Tom Gugliotta on the Pack scoring and rebounding charts, Thompson upped his averages to 15.7 points and 8.2 rebounds a game to earn third-team all-ACC recognition.

Thompson also played a key role in another Pack road victory over UNC. In the best scoring performance of his college or high school career, Thompson tallied 29 points on 12 of 14 shooting to lead State to a stunning 99-94 upset. The victory ended that nine-game losing skid and gave the Pack its first season sweep of the Tar Heels since 1974.

"Being a part of the first State win in Chapel Hill in 14 years was a highlight," Thompson said. "I don't know why I've played so well against Carolina. I guess it's such an intense rivalry that it just brings out the best in our team. We just relax and play intense against Carolina. If we played like we do against them more often, we'd get a few more wins."

"That's something I'd like to help our team do this season. We need to stop thinking too much and just play."

Just playing has remained Thompson's top goal heading into his final season. A lifelong basketball fan who says "he loves the game," Thompson has impatiently awaited his return to the floor.

"To sit there and watch [the first exhibition] was rough," Thompson said. "I saw a lot of effort out there, but they had a big team, and I saw a lot of things I could have done to help out. It would have also been good for me to go up against big guys like that."

While relegated to the bench, Thompson focused on his newest responsibility with the Pack — leadership. After playing in the

shadows of Gugliotta, Chris Corchiani and Rodney Monroe, Thompson said he is ready to take control of the team.

"I'm one of the four-year seniors on this team, so I definitely think I'm a leader," Thompson said. "I just have to step in at certain times to tell our young guys to keep composure. When the fans get really vocal at Duke or Florida State, that's when I have to step in and tell everyone to settle down."

The Pack's four freshmen have received much of Thompson's early season attention. Because they are all at least 6-foot-7, Thompson has been offering the group some post-play pointers.

"Kevin points out a lot of things that help your play underneath," said frosh Todd Fuller, another 6-foot-11 center. "He know a lot of moves in the pivot. And you can learn a lot just playing against Kevin, because he's so agile and quick."

Ironically, Thompson's injury may have indirectly improved his quickness. Working out on stationary bikes and stair climbers, Thompson lost 18 pounds during his rehabilitation.

"[Saturday] Kevin practiced for the first time, and he was lighter and showed more quickness," State coach Les Robinson said. "This will increase his value to us even more, because he will have more mobility to go along with his knowledge."

A quicker Thompson should have a good chance at realizing or even bettering his preseason second-team all-ACC selection. But, then again, after seeing the same prognosticators pick State to finish seventh in the conference, Thompson doesn't put much stock in predictions.

"Hey, the football team was picked fourth, fifth or sixth, and they finished second and might go to a major bowl," Thompson said. "I want to return to the NCAA Tournament."

Even if Thompson doesn't make it to the Big Dance, he plans on making it to the big ceremony — graduation.

"I should be about six or nine hours short after the spring semester, so I plan to finish in the first summer session," Thompson said.

After graduation, expect Thompson to take his shot at the NBA. Beyond that, Thompson



File photo

Kevin Thompson (42) is one of four returning starters for the Pack. Thompson earned third-team all-ACC honors a year ago.

He would like to work as a television analyst or maybe even a coach.

"I've thought about coaching," said Thompson, who often uses his large collection of game video tapes to study for games. "I do think I'd like to do something educational with children."

Regardless of where his life takes him, Thompson can

probably rest assured he'll choose the right path. After all, he'll still have his mother's voice to guide him.

"Anytime I'm going to do something I shouldn't, like put off homework or something like that, I can hear my mother's voice telling me to get my work done," Thompson said. "It's always there to keep me in line."

Kevin Thompson

	G-G	Min	FG-FGA	Pct.	3P-3PA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	Off-Def	Reb	Avg.	PF-Dq	A	TO	Blk	S	Pts	Avg.
1989-90	30-0	366	45-76	.592	0-0	0.000	8-21	.381	36-47	83	2.8	49-12	16	16	4	98	3.3	
1990-91	31-31	948	125-290	.605	0-0	0.000	36-63	.571	114-126	240	7.7	77-1	39	33	49	12	266	8.6
1991-92	30-30	1042	194-311	.624	0-0	0.000	79-138	.572	120-126	246	8.2	77-1	56	56	47	15	467	15.6
Career	91-61	2322	354-677	.523	0-0	0.000	115-201	.572	270-299	569	6.3	203-3	107	105	112	31	831	9.1

Taking average to a new level: Davis awaits return

By Kevin Brewer
Assistant Sports Editor

Average.

That's what sophomore guard Mark Davis called his first season as a member of the N.C. State basketball team.

"I was inconsistent," Davis said. "I needed to be in a little bit better condition. If I had to rate myself on a scale, I'd give myself a 'C' or just average."

"I don't think I had the kind of year I could have had. I'm the type of person who always wants to do better. I want to do better this year."

Davis averaged 11 points and four rebounds in the season he rated himself as average. The 6-foot-5 forward/guard set the Wolfpack freshman record for three-pointers with 57 last season.

Also, he helped complete the first sweep of arch-rival North Carolina in 18 seasons Feb. 22 with a career-high 25 points

which included seven 3-pointers. With 1:33 left in the contest, he nailed a three-point bomb to give the Pack a lead it would not relinquish.

"Not bad, for just an average player."

But instead of resting on his accomplishments of a year ago, Davis is picking apart the weaknesses in his game and trying to improve on them.

"My personal goals are to be in better physical condition and step my game up a lot more," Davis said. "I need to be a little bit better on defense and with rebounding and scoring if that's what's needed. Whatever I can do to make it easier for my team to win."

"I want to be giving it 100 percent. If I can do that this year, I'll be satisfied even if I don't hit a point or steal one pass."

It seems that Davis has always been working hard to achieve his goals, regardless of the abundance or lack of rewards

that may come later.

At Ulica High School (Miss.), Davis was the valedictorian of his senior class, and he is now majoring in civil engineering at State. He came to NCSU because the school ranked in the top-10 engineering schools in the nation, and he quickly realized the difficulty of his major.

"It's hard," Davis said. "If anything hard is worth having, that's the way I look at it. If it was easy, I wouldn't want it anyway."

Davis also had his share of success on the court during his prep career. He was a first-team all-state selection his senior season averaging 22.8 points, 17.1 rebounds and 6.2 assists.

He developed his deadly three-point shot and explosive quickness by playing since he was in elementary school. After his mom and cousins introduced him to the game, he played every day after school, no matter what. "I just play for the love of the



Chris Hondros for Technician

Mark Davis will probably be out for four weeks with a broken wrist.

game," Davis said. "If I ever lose that, I'll never be a good player."

Trying to elevate his game from being just an average player to becoming a good player was halted temporarily two weeks ago.

A snag entered Davis's young career when he was stepped on by an opposing player from USA Verich in an exhibition game. Ironically, it was Davis going for a rebound, trying to improve his

overall game, that will sideline him for the beginning of the season.

There are only 2-4 weeks left in his rehabilitation period, which would put Davis back in the lineup about the same time the Pack begins its conference schedule.

"We aren't looking at it as having our top-two scorers out," Davis said of his injury and the

See **DAVIS**, Page 10

Mark Davis

	G-GS	Min	FG-FGA	Pct.	3P-3PA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	Off-Def	Reb	Avg.	PF-Dq	A	TO	Blk	S	Pts	Avg.
1991-92	30-29	836	123-267	.461	57-138	.413	26-48	.542	48-78	126	4.1	69-2	39	52	2	17	329	11.0
Career	30-29	836	123-267	.461	57-138	.413	26-48	.542	48-78	126	4.1	69-2	39	52	2	17	329	11.0

Finally, Seale has a full season to showcase his talents

By Owen S. Good
Assistant Sports Editor

Donnie Seale is a senior.

He played two productive years of basketball at Anderson (S.C.) Junior College. But he sat out a semester after transferring to N.C. State, and therefore could only plug in 24 games with the Wolfpack. He has only one letter; he has only one season of State statistics on file.

So in that respect, Seale would probably be considered a sophomore at best.

"It feels like I'm going to be a junior or something," Seale says, continuing the mixup. Seale adds that the NCAA may rule that he has an extra year of eligibility, but, "I'm just going into this year like it's my last. I'm not going to depend on them

[the NCAA] to give me my extra year."

Whatever the outcome, Seale is in a peculiar situation. He is a starter and has less than a full season of experience with the Pack, less than Migjen Bakalli, a junior sixth-man. But Seale is also expected to provide leadership for a team that is without Mark Davis for another 2-4 weeks.

Seale feels the pressure.

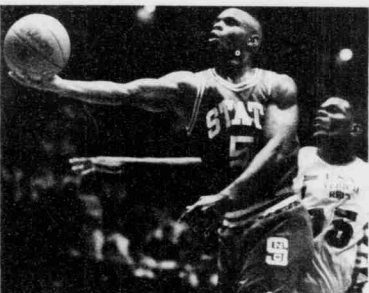
"I think [the team] and Coach [Les Robinson] looked for me from day one to take over and be a leader," Seale said. "not just scoring-wise but in passing the ball, setting up the offense, taking my charges and being aggressive on defense."

According to Seale, he accepted that responsibility from the first practice. "I tried to do

that the best I could, and I feel I'm showing a bit more leadership than last year."

Last season, as an upperclassman playing in the shadow of mega-star Tom Gugliotta, Seale led mostly by example. In Chapel Hill against North Carolina, Seale jammed a luscious dunk with the game in the balance and pocketed the ensuing free throw. The Wolfpack held on to win 99-94 thanks to the four-point lead Seale sparked.

Seale also provided the final gust of wind in State's sails for the 77-74 victory. His layup with 22 ticks remaining was the final score of the game and came with three crucial seconds left on the



Mark Schaffer for Technician

Donnie Seale hopes to stretch his final season as far as he can.

See **SEALE**, Page 10

Donnie Seale

	G-GS	Min	FG-FGA	Pct.	3P-3PA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	Off-Def	Reb	Avg.	PF-Dq	A	TO	Blk	S	Pts	Avg.
1991-92	24-17	623	66-149	.443	11-43	.256	42-73	.575	30-36	66	2.8	51-1	108	64	5	20	185	7.7
Career	24-17	623	66-149	.443	11-43	.256	42-73	.575	30-36	66	2.8	51-1	108	64	5	20	185	7.7

Bakalli searching for shooting touch

By Dwala Sutton
Staff Writer

Migjen Bakalli did all that was asked of him and more during his freshman year. Unfortunately, his sophomore campaign didn't live up to the first year's promise. As a returning junior to N.C. State, Bakalli is gearing towards a better season than his last two.

"My last two years have been mundane," Bakalli said.

Bakalli has not always been a consistent player, but the 6-foot-6 guard has had his share of highlights. He holds the record for three-pointers in a game, nine, which is shared with Wolfpack all-time leading scorer Rodney Monroe.

Bakalli also holds the record for the most consecutive three-pointers in a

game.

Known for his left three-point shooting accuracy, Bakalli's accuracy seems to be unaffected by his shooting distance. Amazingly, Bakalli is shooting 41 percent from the inside the three-point arch and 41 percent from behind against ACC opponents. As a freshman, Bakalli averaged 5.8 hits and 1.9 rebounds while playing in all of 31 of the Wolfpack's games. Bakalli also proved himself at the free-throw line, making 22 of his 29 attempts for a 75.9 percentage.

He scored a career-high 27 points in the

contest against Maryland, when he hit eight consecutive three-pointers. As a freshman, he hit the game-winner on more than one occasion, proving his ability as a clutch player.

The 114-91 victory over the Terrapins placed Bakalli in a hard stereotype to overcome, but he doesn't mind being remembered for the Maryland game.

"That's what I am — a team shooter." During his sophomore year, Bakalli had a good start but began to struggle after the first five games. At season's end, Bakalli averaged 6.8 points and 1.2 rebounds. He grabbed 10 rebounds for another career high in a 78-75 victory at Clemson and showed signs of snapping out of his season-long slump. But overall, it is a



Bakalli



Todd Bennett for Technician

See **BAKALLI**, Page 26

Migjen Bakalli

	G-GS	Min	FG-FGA	Pct.	3P-3PA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	Off-Def	Reb Avg.	PF-Dq	A	TO	Blk	S	Pts	Avg.	
1990-91	31-0	524	58-127	.457	42-88	.477	22-29	.759	19-39	58	1.9	60-1	21	20	1	12	180	5.8
1991-92	30-12	652	71-186	.382	36-116	.310	26-40	.650	24-52	76	2.5	60-1	67	43	2	15	204	6.8
Career	61-12	1176	129-313	.412	78-204	.382	48-69	.696	43-91	134	2.2	120-2	88	63	3	27	384	6.3

Wilson looking for some better breaks

By Dwala Sutton
Staff Writer

Don't bother talking to Marcus Wilson about his high-flying exploits on the basketball court. The wiry freshman would rather let his play speak for itself.

"I don't like to talk about myself," Wilson said. "I feel that other people should do that."

Wilson doesn't have to worry about talking about himself because others will be doing that for him after this year. Wilson, a 6-foot-8 freshman from Monroe, comes across as a positive aspect for the Wolfpack in the 1992-93 season.

Wilson chose N.C. State over Kansas, Wake Forest and Villanova. His decision was based on State's closeness to home.

"It was a family decision," Wilson explained. "I had to think about what is in front of me, not beyond me."

This was Wilson's belief during his senior year when recruiters

were calling him. This belief is still with Wilson.

During his freshman year, Wilson feels that time management is a necessity for success in his collegiate career. One of the biggest adjustments for Wilson has been finding a balance between school and practice. It is important for Wilson to "get the books out of the way first, putting basketball in between [studying] and then back to the books."

During the summer, Wilson participated in the NCSU Transition Program. He believes the program has helped him adjust greatly for different aspects of college life.

"My main goal is to become part of the team," said Wilson, a forward/guard. "It's a blessing to be out there."

As a senior in high school, Wilson averaged 24.5 points and 6.5 rebounds. He made 43.4 percent of his field goal attempts and was a 63-percent shooter from the foul line.

Wilson has broad shooting abilities and can hit the three-point field goal, making him an ideal fit for State coach Les Robinson's style of basketball.

Wilson is ambidextrous due to a summer of working on shooting solely with his left hand. He was an all-American honorable mention during his junior year.

In the off-season, Wilson lifted weights to add bulk to his physique. It became increasingly important for Wilson to make the transition from high school to college.

Wilson has been hampered in practice and in the exhibition games due to a broken nose. His nose was broken during practice after a collision with fellow freshman Chuck Komegas.

Wilson believes that the strength of the team is the seniors. "I hope to reach their level in the area they're in," Wilson said. "I'm working on everything and listening to what the other players have to say."

This is how Wilson will contribute to the team this year. His main goal is to become part of the team.

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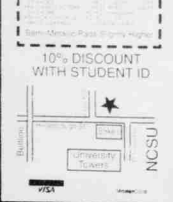
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Marshall ready for next step

By Owen S. Good
Assistant Sports Editor

About the only thing about Curtis Marshall's sophomore season that will resemble his freshman year is his playing time.

Last year Marshall was an indispensable part of a freshman core of talent needed to plug gaping holes and assimilate quickly into the frenetic world of NCAA basketball. As much as that experience can mature a young player, there is still much to learn.

Marshall acknowledges that he has come a long way — talent-wise and geographically — from high school basketball in his native state of Nebraska. But his focus this year is to not forget those all-important first lessons in Reynolds Coliseum.

"Overall, I believe I progressed a lot," Marshall said. "But I'm just trying to pick up where I left off last year."

If Marshall picks up right where he left off, and if the transition is smooth enough, then a career-

high 20-point effort against preseason No. 11 Florida State in the ACC Tournament, his last game as a frosh, won't be a rare sight. Neither will the stuff that made up his remarkable sendoff show for Tom Gugliotta in Gugs's last Wolfpack game.

Marshall raked in all of his points, 11, in a five-minute tear late in the second half of the Wake Forest season-ender. It rallied the team from eight points down and had a big hand in the 77-74 end result.

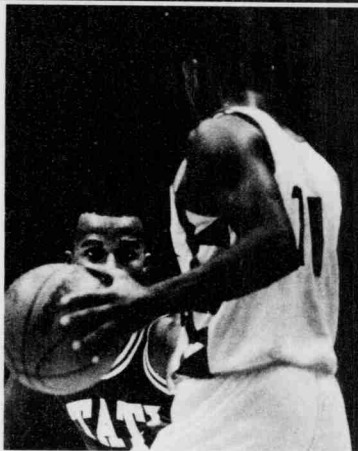
This isn't to say the gutsy 5-foot-11 guard performed well only in the team's last few games. Marshall drained two free throws in the last four seconds against Clemson to provide the 63-61 margin. He also poured in 12 points and led the squad with six assists during the team's second win over North Carolina, the first Wolfpack sweep since the 1974 championship year. Not surprisingly, his game-best assist total, six, came in each of those instances.

With this kind of talent,

Marshall and the rest of the guards have, for the most part, repaired a backcourt that still reminisces of the talented Chris Corchiani-Rodney Monroe pair. While Marshall agrees that he's building on a solid foundation, he doesn't acknowledge — only "following in the footsteps." "I feel we're doing a good job," Marshall said. "I wouldn't say we're filling [any "hole" left by Corchiani and Monroe]. I would say we're starting our own four years here. We're not trying to get into anybody else's shoes; we're trying to make our own first steps."

It will also be necessary for the backcourt to make forward progress while big men like Kevin Thompson and Mark Davis are down with injuries. Marshall figures that while injuries aren't the best thing for the team, some good can come out of the situation.

"I believe it's helped us [the



Chris Hondros for Technician

Curtis Marshall has a year of experience under his belt.

See **MARSHALL**, Page 12

Curtis Marshall

	G-GS	Min	FG-FGA	Pct.	3P-3PA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	Off-Def	Reb	Avg.	PF-Dq	A	TO	Blk	S	Pts	Avg.
1991-92	28-16	718	67-154	.435	37-88	.420	35-50	.700	8-38	46	1.6	52-0	70	61	2	24	206	7.4
Career	28-16	718	67-154	.435	37-88	.420	35-50	.700	8-38	46	1.6	52-0	70	61	2	24	206	7.4

Scoring isn't the top priority for Knox

By Josh Durham
Staff Writer

This year's N.C. State men's basketball team will not be getting any 30-point games from Jamie Knox, or any 20-point ones for that matter, but the senior forward seems to like it that way.

High-scoring outings are not what Knox has in mind when he steps on the court for the Pack. Knox is looking to help the team out in a very different way.

"The role I have is mostly giving the guys passes here and there," Knox said. "I'll tell them what they are doing good, as well as what they're doing bad. I'm basically looking to help the team out as much as I can."

The 6-foot-8 Knox is one of three seniors on this year's squad, but this is his fifth year at State, making him the player who has been around the

longest. An all-District player from Vicksburg, Miss., Knox's first year for the Pack was the 1988-89 season, during which he played in 11 games.

Knox severely injured his left knee against Clemson the following year and spent the 1990-91 season redshirted while he recuperated from major reconstructive surgery. Knox returned to the basketball court for the 1991-92 season and played in 21 games, averaging almost two points a game in the limited action he saw.

"I'll try to help the team out here and there," Knox said. "I'm not particularly concerned with scoring. It's my senior year, and I'm looking to have a good time."

Knox also said the things he has seen during his previous years will be his biggest contribution. After all, Knox was a freshman under former head coach Jim Valvano and has played in the Wolfpack program with such

standouts as Chris Corchiani, Rodney Monroe, Avic Lester and Chucky Brown.

"My experience is one of my biggest strengths," Knox said. "I'll try to help the young guys out. I've seen everything from getting to the NCAAs to probation. I've had my years here, and they've been pleasant."

Knox said he plans to tell this year's four freshmen about the importance of being prepared academically as well as athletically.

Yet it seems Knox is not giving himself enough credit for his fine abilities on the basketball court. He can play either forward position and has been described as having a "smooth jumper with good range."

Head coach Les Robinson believes Knox is very talented and has good on-court skills.

See **KNOX**, Page 26



Ann Kenion for Technician

Jamie Knox will be a role player for the '93 Pack.

Jamie Knox

	G-GS	Min	FG-FGA	Pct.	3P-3PA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	Off-Def	Reb	Avg.	PF-Dq	A	TO	Blk	S	Pts	Avg.
1988-89	11-0	80	7-16	.438	1-1	1.000	3-5	.600	4-3	7	0.6	7-0	5	5	2	2	18	1.6
1989-90	14-0	95	13-24	.542	1-2	.500	6-7	.857	3-6	9	0.6	7-0	2	7	1	3	33	2.4
1991-92	21-1	139	15-42	.357	1-10	.100	9-15	.600	8-11	19	0.9	18-0	6	11	7	3	40	1.9
Career	46-1	314	35-82	.427	3-13	.231	18-27	.667	15-20	35	0.8	32-0	13	23	10	8	91	2.0

Conference race should be tight at the top

Clemson

Coach: Cliff Ellis

'91-92 record: 14-14 overall
(4-12 in the ACC)

Starters returning: 4

The Tigers might be one of several "sleeper" teams in the ACC. Although picked by most to finish last in the conference, Ellis returns a standout sophomore Sharone Wright and Devin Gray, who averaged in double figures as freshmen. Wright starred at center for the Tigers, averaging 12 points and eight rebounds a game on his way to third place in ACC Rookie-of-the-Year voting.

However, depth may be a big concern for Ellis. Clemson lost six lettermen in '91 and will have to rely on several newcomers from a not-so-glorious recruiting class. After a disingenuous football season, Tiger fans may be in for more misery on the hardwood.

Duke

Coach: Mike Krzyzewski

'91-92 record: 34-2 (14-2)

Starters returning: 3

If the Blue Devils can get someone to replace national player of the year Christian Laettner, there is no reason why they couldn't reign as national champions for the third-straight year. The heir apparent to Laettner is sophomore Cherokee Parks, who played very well in Laettner's shadow a year ago.

Also returning for the Devils will be point guard Bobby Hurley, shooting guard Thomas Hill and all-everything forward Grant Hill. With a little bit of good fortune, the Devils could very well return to the Final Four for the sixth-straight year.

Florida State

Coach: Pat Kennedy

'91-92 record: 22-10 (11-5)

Starters returning: 5

The Seminoles are a team that can only get better and better. Everyone is back from a very successful season that culminated in a Sweet 16 appearance and a second-place ACC finish.

Leading the charge will be all-American candidate Douglas Edwards, who averaged 17 points a game last season while ripping down nine rebounds a contest. Joining Edwards down low will be the intimidating Rodney Dohard, who blocked 46 shots a year ago. Out front, leading scorer Sam Cassell returns along with Bob Sura, who was named ACC Rookie of the Year.

Georgia Tech

Coach: Bobby Cremins

'91-92 record: 23-12 (8-8)

Starters returning: 3

The Jackets will be searching for their ninth-straight trip to the NCAA Tournament when they hit the court this winter. Head coach Bobby Cremins returns 10 lettermen from a team that advanced to the Sweet 16 for the fourth time in eight years. Four-year starter Malcolm Mackey is the most heralded of those lettermen, averaging 16 points and nine rebounds a game last season.

Guard Travis Best stands to get only better with time. With Jon Barry departing, Best should be the quarterback of a team that plays 14 games against teams that made the Big Dance a year ago.

Maryland

Coach: Gary Williams

'91-92 record: 14-15 (5-11)

Starters returning: 3

Like the Terrapin football team, it looks as though Maryland basketball is building with an eye toward the future. Williams had a stunning recruiting class, led by Johnny Rhodes, a 6-foot-4 swingman out of Washington, D.C. He is joined by four more stellar recruits from Williams's gold mine.

Maryland still could be quite competitive this year. Guard Kevin McLinton led the team with 154 assists, which was the sixth-best season total in school history. Also returning is center Evers Burns, who was 10th in the ACC in scoring last season with a 16 point-per-game clip.

North Carolina

Coach: Dean Smith

'91-92 record: 23-10 (9-7)

Starters returning: 4

The winningest team in college basketball history should do more of the same in '93. The Tar Heels lost only Hubert Davis from a team that won at least 20 games for the 22nd-straight season. Carolina should have enough firepower to advance to the Sweet 16 for the 13th-straight year.

Derrick Phelps will run the point for the Heels after dishing out 207 assists, good enough for second in the conference in '92. Center Eric Montross will also return for his junior season after beating the sophomore jinx by averaging 11 points per contest.

Virginia

Coach: Jeff Jones

'91-92 record: 20-13 (8-8)

Starters returning: 3

This team could be really good or really bad. The defending National Invitational Tournament champs do have three starters

returning, but they lost all-ACC performer Bryant Stith to graduation. That leaves Virginia short on experience in almost all areas.

The Cavs will count heavily on a pair of sophomores, forward Junior Burrough and guard Cory Alexander. Burrough started all but one game as a freshman and led the team in offensive rebounds with 75. Alexander was third on the team in scoring

and ninth in the ACC in assists.

Wake Forest

Coach: Dave Odum

'91-92 record: 17-12 (9-9)

Starters returning: 1

Normally when only one starter returns for a team, one can expect a rebuilding or transition phase that season. This is not the case for Odum and the Deacs, however. Wake will revolve around one of the best players in

the game — forward Rodney Rogers.

The Deacs will be pleased to see guard Randolph Childress return to action. After spending all of last year recovering from reconstructive knee surgery, Childress is now ready to make a contribution. He, along with forward Terlonnie Owens, should make a big impact to complement Rogers.

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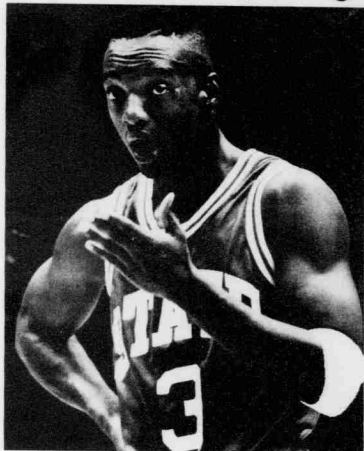
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Could the spotlight shine on Lakista McCuller?



Chris Hondros for Technician

Lakista McCuller will try to win a starting job in the backcourt.

By Jennifer Bouck
Staff Writer

With a year of experience under his belt, sophomore Lakista McCuller looks to play a solid, consistent game and help the Pack to a successful 1992-93 season.

Listed at 6-foot-3 and 170 pounds, McCuller should be a threat at both the point and shooting guard positions.

"I feel I have gained a lot of maturity on the court," McCuller said. "Last year I went out and got a better feel for the game, and I know what to expect now. I was inconsistent and not confident in myself last year at points in time, but I hope to change that."

Breaking into his first season, McCuller started the first 10 games of the season before bowing out to fellow freshman Curtis Marshall. Marshall would never relinquish his starting position throughout the remainder of the season. McCuller would rejoin Marshall later in the season for four games as a starter.

"In the beginning of the season, my shooting was kind of

sporadic and erratic," McCuller said. "It was just a matter of concentration I didn't have. I was not confident in myself, and this hampered my playing."

"But last year is over, and this year is a lot of different. I worked hard this summer on all aspects of my game."

Starting 14 of 27 games he played in, McCuller averaged 5.4 points per game and scored in double figures in seven contests. In addition, he averaged 2.1 rebounds per game and managed a 53 percent three-point field goal success rate.

"It was a good start for my college career," McCuller said. "But you never can be satisfied."

Coming in as a freshman, playing in the highly competitive ACC and facing the likes of the likes of national championship-holder Duke and other ranked teams may be intimidating to some players. But McCuller found the experience rewarding as his expectations about the conference were met and exceeded.

"My expectations were very high of the league," McCuller said. "It was very competitive night in and night out. I learned a

lot as a freshman in the ACC, and I hope to use that knowledge to enhance my playing this year."

As the season develops, McCuller should be a vital part of the team for his quickness and shooting skills. His role should be one of a potential leader at point guard. But, McCuller will have to compete with the likes of Marshall, junior Migjen Bakali and Donnie Seale for the coveted starting position.

"I plan to try to use my quickness to come up with the steals for the easy baskets," McCuller explained. "I like to think that in this way the defense can instantly become the offense."

"I want to go out every night and do the best I can in scoring and defense and be a leader on the team. In addition, I plan to really assert myself on both phases of the game."

Sports have long been in McCuller's blood. As a child, he Andersonville, Ga., native played many sports, including basketball, football and baseball.

See **MCCULLER**, Page 27

Lakista McCuller

	G-GS	Min	FG-FGA	Pct.	3P-3PA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	Off-Def	Reb	Avg.	PP-Dq	A	TO	Blk	S	Pts	Avg.
1991-92	27-14	630	45-128	.352	26-80	.325	31-45	.689	21-34	55	2.0	41-0	45	42	3	19	147	5.4
Career	27-14	630	45-128	.352	26-80	.325	31-45	.689	21-34	55	2.0	41-0	45	42	3	19	147	5.4

Sky is no limit for the 'rebounding machine'

By Bill Overton
Sports Editor

If a gymnasium had no boundaries, Chuck Kornegay could probably leap out of it.

Kornegay, a 6-foot-9 freshman forward, has made a lasting impression with Wolfpack fans and coaches during his first two exhibition games with the Pack. Kornegay, at times, has simply been a rebounding machine.

But that comes as no surprise for Kornegay, who hails from nearby Dudley, N.C. Rebounding has always been his strong suit. It's the other facets of the game he wants to work on.

"I need to work on my perimeter skills," Kornegay explained, "like hitting the three-pointer. I also need to improve my defense."

The most-heralded member of the freshman class is confident he can make an impact but, like most other newcomers, has had to make adjustments, not only on the court, but also in the classroom.

"I had a tough time managing

my time when I first got here," Kornegay said. "I'm starting to smooth it out now. I'm starting to put my priorities in order. Since I have little time, I'm trying to make use of what little time I have for schoolwork."

Kornegay provided a lift for the Wolfpack Nov. 23 in the 73-70 exhibition win over Brandt-Hagen. It was in that game that he showcased his talents to the Reynolds Coliseum faithful — 13 points, a pair of thundering slam-dunks and 11 rebounds in 32 minutes of play. His exciting

play earned him an earful of raucous applause.

Despite the encouraging effort, Kornegay admitted that he did experience some butterflies.

"I think I played nervous in both games," Kornegay said. "I was hesitant to do things that I would have done in high school, like drying or taking open shots. I use to take charge a lot more. I've been timid to do that so far."

Kornegay's high school resume reads like a "Who's Who" among prep superstars. He earned third-team all-America

recognition from Parade Magazine as well as USA Today. Kornegay was named the top senior in North Carolina by Basketball Times and was selected first-team all-state by the Greensboro News and Record.

He was heavily recruited by Wake Forest and Maryland, but

State coach Les Robinson and his staff were able to convince Kornegay that his talents would be most useful in Raleigh.

"I chose State because I felt like I could make a contribution right away," Kornegay said. "I

See **KORNEGAY**, Page 26

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Lewis not complaining, just waiting for chance

By Jennifer Bouck
Staff Writer

Because he hasn't seen an abundance of action as a N.C. State basketball player, it would be easy to assume that Marc Lewis is unhappy with his role with the Wolfpack.

But he isn't. The junior from Greensboro, N.C., is happy to be able to use what he has been given and, in turn, learn some valuable lessons.

"I think it has been a real character-building experience," Lewis said. "I went from in high school playing all the time, to here, where I haven't been able to play as much."

"Sometimes when a person doesn't get their way, like more playing time, they want to quit. I am just sticking with it, hoping to see more playing time."

As a senior in high school, Lewis led his team to a perfect 31-0 record and the North Carolina state 4-A championship title. In addition, he was named the Metro 4-A Conference

Player of the Year after averaging 23.1 points and 10.9 rebounds per game. Despite this impressive high school record, Lewis wasn't heralded by college recruiters.

"I wasn't highly recruited," Lewis said. "But, I don't think it's a matter of proving myself to anyone now. I just want to play. Regardless of what people said, good or bad, it doesn't bother me. I am not out to prove people wrong or right; I just want to play the game."

In his first season with the Wolfpack, the 6-foot-8 forward played in 12 games and scored in seven. Last year, with the absence of Bryant Fegins, Lewis saw more action, playing in 21 games including his only start vs. Iona. He pulled in an average of 1.4 points and .9 rebounds per game and had a 71 percent free-throw success rate.

Since coming to State two years ago, Lewis has noted some changes he has made in his playing and his confidence level.

"In my playing, I have moved

more from the inside to the outside, because people here are a lot bigger," Lewis said. "In addition, I think when I came here, the conference may have been a little intimidating, but I have gotten used to it. The competitiveness of the league makes you want to work that much harder."

As the 1992-93 season rolls around, the question is who will take Tom Gugliotta's spot at forward. Lewis seems to be a likely candidate, along with newcomers Chuck Kornegay and Marcus Wilson.

"This year, I am looking to contribute a lot more than I have in the past," Lewis said. "I want to help out anywhere I am needed and fill in any place, too. I think I can do either forward position, because I have played both. We use a rotational offense, so there isn't really a great effect as to which position I play."

Hoping to make an

See LEWIS, Page 27



Marc Schaffer/Staff

Marc Lewis could play a bigger role in the paint for the Wolfpack.

Marc Lewis

	G-GS	Min	FG-FGA	Pct.	3P-3PA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	Off-Def	Reb	Avg.	PF-Dq	A	TO	Blk	S	Pts	Avg.
1990-91	12-0	65	11-24	.458	0-0	0.000	5-10	.500	11-7	18	1.5	7-0	4	6	0	0	27	2.5
1991-92	21-1	116	9-15	.600	0-1	0.000	10-14	.714	7-10	17	0.8	18-0	6	12	0	3	28	1.3
Career	33-1	181	20-39	.513	0-1	0.000	15-24	.625	18-17	35	1.1	31-0	10	18	0	3	55	1.7

Davis

Continued from Page 5

injury to teammate Kevin Thompson. "We just have two players out. When we come back, we'll be a complete team."

Davis realized what it was like to have a team centered around one player last season when the Pack was led by all-ACC standout Tom Gugliotta. State previously suffered through a nine-game losing streak and mustered only 12 victories.

"He was such a good player," Davis said of Gugliotta. "Sometimes we were caught watching him do what he had to do. This year, it has to gel. The team has to come together and generate as one."

Whatever he does, Davis will feel the need to constantly improve. But as a cohesive unit, the Wolfpack could be better than average.

Seale plans to make the most of his short two years

Continued from Page 5

shot clock.

And Seale says the best is yet to come.

"I'm 100 percent, much more improved than last year," Seale said. "I couldn't even run up and down the court last year, so I think that my conditioning really improved my endurance."

Seale added that he is shooting the ball 100 percent better than the previous season, and he is better prepared emotionally for this season.

"It hurts being twitchy and nervous all the time," Seale said. "So I settled down from last

year."

But that doesn't mean Seale won't get pumped up for key games. An absolute must-win and one Seale is looking forward to greatly, is the Jan. 7 home contest against hated arch-foe UNC.

"I think we can win right there and get our momentum going into the conference," Seale said. "And that'll be our biggest accomplishment. We just have to get our momentum going so we can make the NCAA."

To make the NCAA Tournament will require a tremendous effort from all players, and Seale is ready to do

his part.

"I'm going to fill out my leadership role, get used to them all and get everybody used to the way I pass," Seale explained. "I think we've jelled as a team, and I think my leadership helped us,

the guards, to get a little more."

It's interesting that a senior would have to get a team used to the way he passes. But then again, such is the interesting life of Donnie Seale.

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Stronger Newman ready to tackle the ACC

By J. Keith Jordan
Senior Staff Writer

Of N.C. State's four scholarship freshmen, Victor Newman may have been in the most enviable position at the start of last season.

Unlike the other three rookies, who were forced to replace State's now-legendary backcourt duo of Chris Corchiani and Rodney Monroe, Newman had a chance to develop while playing behind forwards Bryant Figgins and Tom Gugliotta. And Newman had perhaps the most impressive credentials of the four, named Mr. Basketball in Alabama as a senior despite playing at a I-A school.

But the year did not go the way Newman hoped it would. Even after Figgins's

season-ending injury before the first game, the 6-foot-7 combination forward never found a niche in the team's rotation. He played sparingly for the Pack, averaging 1.3 points and 5.3 minutes per game.

Newman blames only himself for his lost opportunities.

"I didn't do all the things I should have done," he said. "I had trouble the whole year trying to stay healthy."

Newman said he has worked hard to become stronger, lifting weights "like crazy" while preparing to put forward the extra effort it takes to succeed in the ACC.

"It was like a slap in the face, realizing that a lot of the guys you're guarding are bigger and faster," he said. "Everything is so intense."

His lack of strength kept him from being an effective combination forward last year, Newman said.

"You have to be a lot stronger to withstand the pounding you get in college basketball," he said. "It was an even bigger jump [from high school basketball] than I expected."

Newman isn't sure how much he will play this season, but he knows what he is supposed to do during whatever time he gets.

"My role is to come in and give the team a lift with my shooting and rebounding," he said. "Shooting is my strength, though even that isn't where it needs to be."

He also feels that he needs to improve his foot speed but expects that to come with added strength.

Newman thinks he has already made big improvements over last season.

"I've improved some just because I know now what to expect," he said. "Practice this year has been good for me so far."

Though he played at center in high school, Newman expects to play primarily at small forward for the Wolfpack. His personal playing future brightened considerably last month when Kinston star Jerry Stackhouse, who plays the same position, decided not to attend NCSU.

"With him not coming, that's a lot of minutes that are opened up," Newman said. "It doesn't just help me, it



Ann Kenion for Technician

See **NEWMAN**, Page 27

Sophomore Victor Newman returns in '93.

Victor Newman

	G-GS	Min	FG-FGA	Pct.	3P-3PA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	Off-Def	Reb	Avg.	Pf-Fq	A	TO	Blk	S	Pts	Avg.
1991-92	19-0	100	8-23	.348	4-12	.333	4-7	.571	2-9	11	0.6	14-0	2	3	1	2	24	1.3
Career	19-0	100	8-23	.348	4-12	.333	4-7	.571	2-9	11	0.6	14-0	2	3	1	2	24	1.3

NBA great Jones molds Fuller into prized Pack recruit

By Clay Best
Staff Writer

Todd Fuller has already taken advantage of the great opportunities granted to him in his basketball career, and he comes to N.C. State looking to rise to the challenge once again.

Fuller, a 6-foot-10, 235-pound freshman center, arrives at State with two other talented recruits and is beginning to find his spot on the Wolfpack men's basketball team.

"I'm pleased with my progress," the Charlotte native said. "I'm just going to go out and practice and play as hard as I can."

Fuller led his high school team to the state independent title in his

senior year. He was the anchor man at Charlotte Christian, averaging 22 points, 16 rebounds and four blocks per game.

Fuller improved dramatically during his senior season in high school and earned USA Today honorable mention all-American recognition at the end of the year.

High school recruiting guru Bob Gibbons said of Fuller, "I don't know if I have ever seen a player improve so much, so quickly."

Fuller attributes much of his improvement to his coach at Charlotte Christian, NBA legend Bobby Jones.

The former Philadelphia 76er made Fuller his personal project. "Just about everyday he would get

out there and guard me," Fuller said. "His skills kind of rub off on you. His speciality was defense, and he taught me a lot of little things that help me defensively."

Fuller showcased his skills in high school against national power Oak Hill Academy by scoring 31 points and grabbing 20 rebounds.

The straight-A high school student likes to fly planes in his spare time with his student pilot's license. He also enjoys working with computers.

Fuller, a computer science major, choose NCSU over the likes of Wake Forest and Virginia Tech for a variety of reasons.



Chris Hondros for Technician

See **FULLER**, Page 27

Todd Fuller's stock has increased since signing day.

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Kretzer to sit out before following father's steps

By J. Keith Jordan
Senior Staff Writer

Bill Kretzer Jr. is in a unique situation among N.C. State's four freshmen basketball players this season.

An invited walk-on, the 6-foot-9 forward is by far the least heralded member of his class. But his name has echoed off the Reynolds Coliseum walls and been mentioned by Wolfpack fans more often than those of any of State coach Les Robinson's other young players.

To be precise, most of those references were to his father, Bill Kretzer Sr., who was a standout

forward for former Wolfpack coach Everett Case — and an obscure assistant named Les Robinson — at State in the late '60s.

The younger Kretzer also has a long friendship with Marc Lewis, a high school teammate who is now a junior forward for the Pack. But those connections did not bring him to west Raleigh.

"The opportunity to play against the best opponents made me decide to come here," he said. "And I really like Coach Robinson."

For this season, the only top opponents he will face will be

his teammates. The coaching staff plans to redshirt Kretzer to give him a chance to get stronger and to make sure he is fully recovered from an old injury to his right shoulder that caused him to miss most of his junior year in high school.

Kretzer, who said the injury and his family ties with the Wolfpack program caused most major schools to back off him during recruiting, is happy to work on his strength and conditioning for an extra season.

"Coach Robinson is giving me back the year I lost [to the injury]," he said. "I'll be a lot stronger next year. Right now

almost everyone on the team is stronger than I am."

Kretzer feels he will be best at small forward. Already a good shooter with excellent quickness for a player his size, he plans to extend his range out to the three-point arc.

A high school center who received scholarship offers from UNC-Greensboro, College of Charleston and Appalachian State, Kretzer plays defense against every position from point guard to the low post in practice.

"I'm trying as hard as I can," he said. "I guess I'm contributing."

Kretzer said Robinson was a

major reason he decided to play for the Pack.

"I think he'll give me a fair shot," Kretzer said.

Despite being listed as a senior and Smith's honorable mention all-American before his first year, Kretzer faces anonymity during the early part of his college career. He recognizes that he has a long way to go in improving himself as a player before he can contribute on game days.

But he wouldn't be the first unheralded 6-foot-9 forward to become a good player for the Pack. Or the first Bill Kretzer.

The brawniest behind N.C. State basketball

By Anthony Black
Senior Staff Writer

When Wolfpack head coach Les Robinson came to N.C. State from East Tennessee State over two seasons ago, his first job was to try and put together a coaching staff he felt was capable of competing at the ACC level.

His first choice was simple. He brought then East Tennessee State assistant Buzz Peterson with him. Peterson, who played his college basketball for in-state rival North Carolina, jumped at the chance to coach in the ACC.

"There was no hesitation on my part whatsoever," Peterson said. "Coaching in the ACC is the opportunity of a lifetime."

Al Daniel was the next assistant Robinson hired. The relationship between Daniel and Robinson goes back to Daniel's high school days when Robinson was the coach at The Citadel.

"He wanted me to come and play for him at The Citadel," Daniel said, "but I eventually ended up at Furman."

Robinson's relationship with Daniel remained strong as the two enjoyed several coaching confrontations as both coached in the Southern Conference.

Assistant Ed Conroy had the closest tie to Robinson. Conroy, who was recruited by Robinson while he was still the head coach of The Citadel, was a point guard and a three-year starter. After a short stint as a marketing

representative, Conroy joined the Wolfpack staff.

The trio of assistants have several responsibilities both on and off the court.

Daniel, who was promoted to associate coach prior to last season, is responsible for the team's academics and on-the-floor coaching. As a chief recruiter, he helps Peterson with scouting prospective players.

"I act like a liaison between the academic advisers in the staff," said Daniels, a 10-year assistant at Furman. "I monitor the (classroom) progress of the players and talk with the adviser to see how they are doing."

"On the practice floor, I'm responsible for working with the post players, and during the

game, I try and be an extra set of eyes for Coach Robinson while observing how well the defensive is playing."

Peterson's job includes coordinating recruiting, scheduling and equipment needs, while his on-the-floor duties are to work with the perimeter players.

"With recruiting, I'm the director, but all of the other coaches help out," Peterson said. "During the game, I keep up with time-outs and substitutions. I also watch to see how well the offense is running."

Conroy's job is probably the most diverse on the staff. Some of his office tasks include assisting the other three coaches in their duties while scouting the

other teams and coordinating the video taping and editing of the Pack's games.

While he is not allowed to recruit, Conroy handles the recruits while they are on campus. He also coordinates the summer camps. On the court, Conroy works with all of the players. During the games helps keep stats of both teams and keep the coaches up to speed on subs or other teams' opponents.

"There is a lot of overlap in what we do," Conroy said. "I will help Buzz or he might help Al. I also tend to a lot of administrative work either for Coach Robinson or for the team."

Marshall

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backcourt] a lot, because we have to look for more. We have to score and we have to rebound a little bit more," Marshall explained. "We have to do a lot of things we wouldn't have to do if Kevin was there. It'll help us out in the long run, because we'll have to do some of those things in a game when Kevin is back."

"One thing Marshall would like to do, with or without those injuries, is speed up the offense a little. Although he can play both a half-court and fast-paced offense, Marshall considers himself a run-and-gun player.

"I think I'm better in the transition type in the middle," Marshall said. "I feel I can make the right decision. And with guys like Donnie [Seale] and Lakista [McCuller] and Migjen [Bakall] on the wings — they're good finishers. I'd like to see us get up and down [the court] a

little more. We can go when we get it. We just have to get the rebound first."

Evidently, State head coach Les Robinson trusted Marshall to make the right offensive decision, too. The backcourt was placed in Marshall's care in early January, and from that point, he started the remaining 16 games. Marshall split time with another newcomer, Donnie Seale, at the point position.

Marshall has no preference between the one position and the shooting guard roles.

"Basically, it doesn't matter," Marshall said of the choice. "Some points in the game I like to play point, and some points I like to play shooting guard. In high school, I played point guard, so things are carrying over a little bit."

So, as the offensive traffic director, Marshall is aware of the leadership role and some of its responsibilities. "Keeping [the team] in control when everything's going wild; Just calm the team down," Marshall said.

"And please don't be


pressuring Kevin?," he asks the team. "Because he has a lot of pressure on his shoulders."

Being a backcourt general means being a team leader, and since Marshall is brand new from his rookie year, he has given sound advice to freshmen expected to perform.

"I told [Chuck Kornegay, Marcus Wilson and Todd Fuller] to take every game in stride and

not go out there and try to do too much," Marshall explained. "They don't have to go out there and try to prove anything. That's what I told them."

But it will probably be difficult for Marshall not to try and prove something Dec. 21. That's when the Wolfpack jets out to Kansas, the first away game in the proximity of his Nebraska-based family.



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Wolfpack will try to build on youth movement

By Owen S. Good
Assistant Sports Editor

Great teams are often defined in the sports pages by how much adversity they overcome. Regardless of the finishing record of the 1992-93 N.C. State men's basketball team, a hardy performance will certainly earn respect usually given to conference champions.

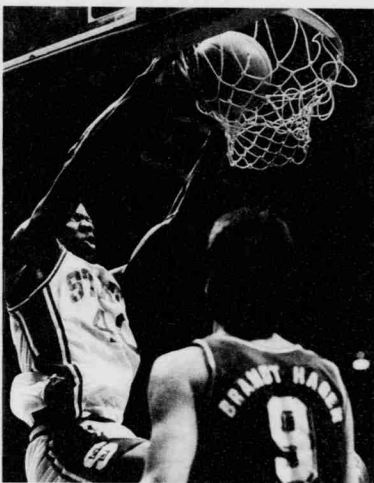
This season began like last, with an important big man suffering a knee injury before even one game was in the books. Kevin Thompson, like Bryant Figgins last year, succumbed to torn ligaments during practice.

Fortunately for the Wolfpack and unlike Figgins's season-ending malady, Thompson only missed the formative first month of the basketball year. But there should be some friction when Thompson — rated by some as high as the third-best forward prospect for the NBA — must assimilate into a team that has operated without him for four weeks.

"Kevin has been a leader in the fall program," Robinson explained. "When he's not getting treatment [for the knee], he's interested in giving us good leadership. He's come a long way since his freshman year."

But as soon as one gap can be plugged, another leak bursts. Sophomore forward Mark Davis, an integral component of the team's nucleus of young talent, suffered a wrist injury in the team's first exhibition game against USA Verich.

Robinson delivered the news after the match. A worst-case scenario, according to Robinson, was that Davis had suffered a



Todd Bennett for Technician

Freshman Chuck Kornegay should get his share of playing time.

broken wrist and would be out 4-8 weeks.

Worst-case scenarios are all the Wolfpack can bank lately. This time was no different.

But the loss that really puts these two injuries in perspective, on and off the hardwood, was the tragic suicide of utilityman Anthony Robinson. He was strictly a reserve, but Robinson's contribution to the team can be

measured far beyond his 0.8 scoring average and .400 shooting percentage.

"Tony, in terms of class attendance and on-the-court attitude and effort, was a model for others to follow. I would have said that a week ago," Robinson said.

However, as long as State can play five men, the schedule demands to be completed. And

even if all three of the aforementioned were present, it would still be a long haul through three months against perennial powers like Kansas, Connecticut and Princeton. "Last year, there were two teams in the ACC which were 8-8," Robinson explained. "We lost a game at Georgia Tech at the buzzer. If we win any other game, we're a heartbeat from 8-8, and that's fourth place in the conference."

But this season is probably not going to be considered a rebuilding year. After assimilating his first recruiting class and plugging the hole left by "Fire & Ice" guards Chris Corchiani & Rodney Monroe with a talented freshman backcourt, Robinson must find a way to compensate for the loss of another star, Tom Gugliotta.

Originally the plan was to have Thompson shoulder much of the frontcourt burden. But with his status as questionable for Saturday's noon showdown with UConn, others will have to step up.

Senior Donnie Seale and sophomore Curtis Marshall provide the only stability from last year's campaign to start the season.

Marshall was a welcome surprise his rookie year, taking over a large leadership role as point guard. Marshall was at his finest in the later games of the year, knocking down 20 points in the season-ender against FSU during the ACC tourney.

Seale transferred from Anderson (S.C.) Junior College and, after sitting out a semester, came on to shine in match-ups like the Wake Forest finale, where he posted an 8-2 assist to

turnovers mark. Seale and Marshall switched off at the point, but it is expected that Marshall will direct the offense and Seale will land in the shooting guard role.

Other guards expected to contribute will be Lakista McCuller and Migjen Bakalli. McCuller began the '91-92 season at point guard before giving way to Marshall after academic troubles.

Still, he and Bakalli have demonstrated a terrific capacity to can long-range shots.

McCuller completed 32 percent of his three-point attempts, his best effort being four against Iowa, part of his career-high 14 point effort. He should build on a reputation that lauded him as the team's top recruit last season.

This year's top frosh is a little harder to determine. Chuck Kornegay, the 6-8 Converse All-American, received the most press entering this year's signing period. But 6-10, 235-pound Todd Fuller could have an expanded role at center.

That unfortunately leaves Marcus Wilson and Bill Kretzer in the shadows. Wilson is starting to emerge, though. Picked as a first-team all-stater by the Greensboro News & Record, Wilson was recruited by national champion schools Kansas and Villanova. Kretzer, a walk-on, should be redshirted this season unless injuries dress him out.

"I'm very happy to have all of them," Robinson said. "They will all make a very significant impact for Wolfpack basketball to varying degrees this year."

1992-93 Men's Basketball Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Age	Cl.	Hometown
3	Lakista McCuller	G	6-3	177	20	So.	Andersonville, Ga.
4	Mark Davis	G	6-5	219	19	So.	Utica, Miss.
5	Donnie Seale	G	6-5	209	22	Sr.	Eden, N.C.
11	Curtis Marshall	G	5-11	164	19	So.	Omaha, Neb.
22	Migjen Bakalli	G	6-6	200	21	Jr.	Belmont, N.C.
23	Jamie Knox	F	6-8	226	22	Sr.	Vicksburg, Miss.
25	Marcus Wilson	F	6-7	185	18	Fr.	Monroe, N.C.
32	Victor Newman	F	6-8	205	19	So.	Dothan, Ala.
40	Chuck Kornegay	F	6-9	222	18	Fr.	Dudley, N.C.
42	Kevin Thompson	C	6-11	260	21	Sr.	Winston-Salem, N.C.
45	Marc Lewis	F	6-8	231	20	Jr.	Greensboro, N.C.
52	Todd Fuller	C	6-11	250	18	Fr.	Charlotte, N.C.
54	Bill Kretzer	F	6-9	225	18	Fr.	Greensboro, N.C.

Head Coach: Les Robinson [32-29 in 2 years at N.C. State, 245-261 in 18 years of coaching]

Associate Coach: Al Daniel

Assistant Coaches: Buzz Peterson, Ed Conroy

Robinson sees good things in program's future

N.C. State men's basketball coach Les Robinson is preparing to begin his third season at the helm of the Wolfpack. During his first year, the Wolfpack won 20 games, and he was named District Coach of the Year. However, State hit hard times a season ago, losing 18 games and suffering through a nine-game winless streak. Robinson recently had this conversation with Technician.

Technician: Are you pleased with the status of N.C. State basketball at this point?

Les Robinson: I'm pleased with the direction we're heading. I think we're heading up. We bottomed out last year. It was a difficult year. However, in relating to a business, I think we minimized our down time. It could have been worse. Someone might say how can it be worse than losing nine-straight? Well, it could have been 10. If nothing else, we showed as much character as any team I've ever had to come out of that and finish on an upbeat note. We just continued to improve, and our last seven or eight games were very solid. I think the program is starting in the right direction, and we've just got to continue it. This year, there will be setbacks. We're not going to go out there and be world-beaters.

Tech: How do you feel about practice being moved back to Nov. 1, and how does that affect you?

Robinson: When there's a coaching change, the first two or three years, you can use all the time you can get to practice. Frankly, there would be no magic number. We could use two months, six weeks, whatever. But I think that year-in and year-out with normal programs, a month is probably enough time to get ready. Through the years, college coaches have always said about the 8th or 9th of November, "we need to play." They've always said that. And now, that's basically what we're doing.

Tech: How much has the game changed since you first started coaching?

Robinson: The game has changed from a standpoint of athleticism. The obvious changes are shooting percentages are going up, but strangely enough, that doesn't mean we're shooting the ball better. Because of athleticism, we're getting more inside shots, more sure shots, dunks, drives, that type of thing. The tempo has changed as much as anything.

The three-point shot has brought about further changes in the last few years. Shooting percentages have dropped a



Chris Hondros for Technician

Les Robinson is trying to coach State back to national prominence. The Wolfpack head coach is entering his third full season of coaching in Raleigh and currently holds a 32-29 record.

little, but you have to factor in the productivity of the number of shots. In other words, 46 percent today, if you shoot a lot of threes, is better than 46 percent in 1982. You really cannot compare overall shooting percentage today to then. The three-point game has accomplished a lot of the things we wanted to accomplish. The big man is still important, but it has given the perimeter guy a greater opportunity. And the game is not dominated as much by 7-footers anymore.

Tech: You lost three top recruits within the last month. How difficult is it to recruit in this day and age?

Robinson: Year-to-year recruiting, you have your up and down periods. Sometimes when you have a couple of good years in a row, you can expect a slow year. Because good years make it more difficult to recruit. I'm very happy with the young man we have signed.

People get too excited on signing day, and they haven't won a game. You don't have to look any further than the draft this year out of our conference. You talk about Jon Barry, Hubert Davis, and Tom Gugliotta, none of who were ranked players. Another rookie on the roster at

Golden State is Keith Jennings, who I coached at East Tennessee for three years. [He] wasn't in the top 1000. He's now on the 12-man roster and is one of the top 300 players in America — not in America, in the world.

I'm very happy with our recruiting. We missed out on one great recruit that we wanted, that was Stackhouse. The only thing I dislike about recruiting at this level is that while it's going on, the only people that can't talk about it are those who know exactly what they're doing, and the people who can talk about it are everybody else in the world and have no idea.

Everything is based on presumption. There's more misinformation about recruiting than you can imagine. It can be frustrating, but I've learned to live with it. Recruiting has become a sport itself with the fans. The reliability is not always 100 percent.

Tech: Do you think there is too much pressure in recruiting.

Robinson: It's not like it was a decade ago. The rules that govern it are much better now. That has taken away a lot of pressure. Yet for a great prospect, like Stackhouse, there is some pressure in his community. Because basketball

Les Robinson

- 18 years of coaching (245-261)
- 2 years at N.C. State (32-29)
- 1991 NABC District Coach of the Year
- winningest coach ever at The Citadel
- most wins by an ACC coach ever in his first year
- played for legend Everett Case in 1965
- in 18 years of coaching, all but one of his players have earned a degree

is so popular in this area, there is pressure everywhere you go. But recruiting right now is probably as sane as it's ever been. It's not like people think: pressure-packed. The rules are good.

Tech: What would you like to see change in the game?

Robinson: I think our approach now, as college coaches, is first of all not to be a reactionary group. We want to look five years down the road. I think we've got the train back on the track, if it was ever off. I think order has been restored. College coaches now want to do more long-range planning — what is good for the game?

Tech: What do you expect out of your players academically?

Robinson: I expect them to make the effort to get a degree. I don't expect everyone who comes in here to be magna cum laude. I wasn't, and three-fourths of the students at N.C. State are not. All should be capable and motivated to get a college degree. But always, until the end of time, if you have a group of 15 young men, you're going to have some who are ultra-motivated to attend class and do everything right and a few that aren't as motivated. That's where we come in to help guys get over the hump.

Tech: Do you think Bryant Figgins will return to basketball?

Robinson: I think Bryant will return. Whether it's this year or not, I don't know. But the beautiful thing about Bryant is that he's going to be OK physically. He will be able to live a normal life. If he's able to play basketball — great. That's icing on the cake. His hand still hasn't recovered fully, and to say he's going to play Feb. 15 is impossible, but my guess is he's probably going to play again. But we're just happy he's going to get a college degree. He's fortunate. Every time I've seen him lately, he's been in great spirits.

Tech: Is it difficult to shed the so-called "reputation" that N.C. State has left over from the probation years? Do some people think there's still something wrong with this school?

Robinson: No. I think the biggest problem we're facing now is that our basketball team is now not as respected as it has been over the last two decades. That's our staff's job to change that perception. We don't have the respect we had five years ago or 10 years ago in basketball circles. That's to be expected.

We had a couple of periods there with reduced scholarships and that set us back a little. But I think we're heading in the right direction. I'm not saying that we're cured and that we're back playing at the level N.C. State fans are accustomed to. Talk is cheap, but I think we're going to show some progress this year.

Tech: What is the status of the Centennial Center?

Robinson: It's a very exciting project. Everybody is fired up about it. There's some political factors involved, and that's getting the other constituents fully behind it. It is going to be a facility used by the masses, not just N.C. State, and that's the way it should be. It's a multipurpose arena, and it will be used for a lot of things.

Tech: Who is the best player you've ever coached?

Robinson: Well, let's see. I know who the best player I've ever coached is. I don't even think Dean Smith — well, maybe he could say. His is sort of a given. It's hard to say that because you've got positions. Duke was a good team last year. Christian Laettner was evidently the best player, because he was voted best player in the nation. But, yet I don't know if he's the most valuable player — Hurley might be the most valuable player.

But, I've been very blessed here in a short three years to coach three outstanding basketball players, none of whom I recruited — Rodney, Chris and Tommy. But, to say best player, I don't really think any coach can answer that — except for maybe Dean Smith.

Yow still loves the challenge of the game

In her 18 years at N.C. State, Kay Yow has progressed from a little-known coach of the Wolfpack volleyball, softball and basketball teams to a nationally prominent coach and speaker. Yow has captured four ACC titles as coach of the Wolfpack women's basketball team as well as 1988 Olympic Gold Medal and 1986 Goodwill Games title as the United States National Team head coach. These achievements and Yow's battle against breast cancer in 1988 have made her a nationally known and respected figure. Technician talked with Coach Yow about her career.



Chris Hondros for Technician

Technician: Back when you were coaching three sports, did you envision the kind of success you were going to have, going on to coach the Goodwill Games team, the 1988 Olympic team that was the first to beat the Soviet Union, earning two Gold medals for your teams, receiving the type of national recognition you have today?

Kay Yow: I didn't think of myself in 1975 as being involved with USA basketball. In fact, the USA basketball program didn't really begin until I guess you have to say '76, because we got the team together. It was around that time that they started.

But the reason I didn't think about it was because it had never been done in the past. One of the hardest things about my job has been that I never had any role models. Intercollegiate sports for women didn't exist until we started it. It was part of the beginning of intercollegiate athletics for women. Therefore, I had a disadvantage of not having been able to play myself in college, not having a woman coach for a role model. That was a disadvantage.

Today, we are still struggling and striving for role models for young girls to get them started in sport at the younger age — that's at the little league, the rec centers, the Y's, the camps, everything. That's the junior high teams, the high school teams, and quality coaching at all these levels and first class programs at all these levels. That's what's going to make the difference down the road for intercollegiate sports and women's intercollegiate sports for women.

Tech: Who would you say the role models are today, and do you consider yourself one?

Yow: I would have to say that in comparison to none, there are a lot of role models today. I think really every college coach is a role model for somebody. They're role models for the players on their teams. They're role models for their community, just the same as women who are

Kay Yow has led teams to an Olympic Gold Medal, a Goodwill Games medal, and four ACC titles.

coaching in the high schools now are able to serve as role models for younger women. I think we have the opportunity now to see more role models.

Tech: Is there one coach in particular who you think stands out?

Yow: Well, it's a man. Because

opportunity last summer to visit with him for an entire day, and it was really a highlight of my coaching career.

Tech: Does it bother you that you haven't gotten past the Sweet 16 in the NCAA Tournament yet? Is it something that eats at you?

exciting just to strive toward that goal.

Tech: So what keeps you going? Is it the challenge, the people, both?

Yow: It's the challenge. It's the people. I have a love for people. I have a love for challenge. I have a strong faith, and I feel like I'm doing what God would have me to do. I feel like I'm where He wants me to be, doing what He wants me to do. I feel He has blessed me personally with a love for young people and a love for basketball. In doing that, I have been given a platform to do above and beyond that. In addition to everything else, I speak at a lot of churches and youth groups. I do a lot of motivational and inspirational speeches to companies and conventions and stuff like that.

I have moved beyond basketball into other areas, but it all has to do with people.

Tech: Along the lines of your faith, talk about the Bible incident in Moscow at the Goodwill Games in 1986.

Yow: There was some concern, because we had taken some Bibles into the Soviet Union. There were some people who felt that the coach of the national team should never do that and that my Olympic position would be jeopardized. As it turned out, everything turned out fine, and my Olympic position was not jeopardized. But the thing that I said so often was you can't separate faith and actions. For example, you can't say I'll live

Monday for me and Tuesday for God, Wednesday for me, Thursday for God. You can't separate the faith and who you are.

We are who we are, we have all we have a philosophy of life and belief systems that we base our all decisions and our values on. And I'm there, and I see the depression and oppression and everything. And I hear with my own ears their need for Bibles — the word of God, which can lift them up and help them to get out of the big pit. There's no way I'm going to go back to the States — because I had been there earlier that summer — and go back without doing something to help that request.

Tech: How do you handle your faith in relation to your players? If you saw that one of your players was hurting, I'm sure you would want to help her, but not everyone would agree that it's proper for a person in your position to bring faith into it.

Yow: Faith is a very personal thing. I've never taken a stand where I've tried to push it on someone else. I've always been willing to share it if someone wanted to hear about it. It's something I really wish everyone had, but each of us has a free will to make our own choices, and it's not something that I want to try to push on someone. At the same time, I don't want to hide the fact where I stand.

Tech: How did your faith help you through your cancer? Did it strengthen you, test you, both?

Yow: I think it was a test, but in the end it strengthened me. Everybody likes to be on the mountaintop, but it's your time in the valleys that you really grow. And if you look at the mountaintops, they're bare, hardly anything grows up there. But if you look at the valley, it's lush and green, and there's an abundance of growth. It's that time in the valley that helps you grow.

Tech: What is your attitude toward Prop 48? You had two tremendous players who were Prop 48 very early who can come through your system. The ACC now has an unwritten rule that it won't accept Prop 48 students. What do you think about that rule and about the general trend?

Yow: Prior to Prop 48, I had people who came before who would have been Prop 48 but Prop 48 didn't exist. Of the people who've come, some have done well and some haven't. I think it's a good move to emphasize the academics and to raise the standards at the high school level and to try to prepare at a certain level. I don't think that that's bad.

Kay Yow

- 21 years of coaching (440-155)
- 17 years at N.C. State (383-136)
- four ACC Championships
- head coach of 1984 Gold Medal Olympic team
- member of Women's Sports Hall of Fame

like I said, a role model would be a peer if it's a woman. So a role model is somebody you think of as having gone through it before you did and somebody you look up to. You look to them to learn from them, and that would be John Wooden, who coached at UCLA. There is no question to me that as a person or as a coach, in every way this man is a role model for many people. He did the pyramid for success that I totally agree with and am totally motivated by. Just the stand he takes as a person, who he is as a person, what he did as coach, his offensive system, his defensive system, his transition system. I'm just impressed totally. I have never read anything about him that hasn't impressed me. I had the

Yow: No, it doesn't eat at me, but I thrive on challenge, and I love a big challenge. And I think it pushes me to be my best. I am intrigued by this challenge. I have a burning desire to get there, but I'm not bent out of shape about trying to get there. I'm trying every year to be a better coach than the year before. And every year we're trying to recruit great athletes, great people to N.C. State. I think sometimes we've had the inside, but we didn't have our best perimeter. Then sometimes we've had our best perimeter, but we didn't have our best inside. It's a matter of getting the right people at the right time and having one of my best coaching years along with my staff. I think the challenge is there. It's

Height a liability as Pack tries to keep pace

By Jeff Drew

Senior Staff Writer

N.C. State women's basketball coach Kay Yow has seen the future, and she's not sure she likes it.

After 17 years of looking down on the rest of the ACC from her program's accustomed perch atop the standings, Yow now finds herself in unfamiliar company. The rest of the conference is catching up with traditional powers State, Maryland and Virginia, making the Pack's accustomed up-division residence harder to reach.

Last year, for example, the conference's improvement combined with the loss of all-American Andrea Stinson and all-ACC forward Sharon Manning to knock the Pack down to a 16-12 overall record, a 7-9 ACC mark and a early trip home from the ACC Tournament.

And this year, the loss of another all-American, ACC scoring and rebounding leader Rhonda Mapp, has the suddenly small Wolfpack picked for sixth in the preseason ACC polls and Yow in the unfamiliar and uncomfortable position of underdog.

"I'll be honest. I like being picked high," said Yow, who has captured four ACC titles with the Wolfpack. "But now that we are low, I would enjoy proving [the prognosticators] wrong."

To do that, Yow said, State must discover an inside game previously missing from the resumes of senior center Teri Whyte, sophomore forward Kolen Kreul, sophomore center Sarah McLeod and freshman forward Muriel Davis.



Angela Pridgen/Staff

Kolleen Kreul (45) and Teri Whyte (52) will have to scrap down low.

"I think you're going to take these four people in particular as the people ranking the teams are talking about," Yow said. "The question is: Can they get the job done and done well? If they can, that could change everything written in the preseason."

The key to a continued Wolfpack strength in the post is the 6-foot-5 Whyte, who developed from a seldom-used freshman to a valuable reserve last year. As the starter this season, Whyte will probably need to double her 5.8 points-per-game and 4.6 rebounds-per-

game numbers for the Pack to be effective.

Kreul, a 6-foot-1 sophomore, is the most proven inside performer behind Whyte. The Coral Springs, Fla., native fashioned a 2.9 scoring average and 30 rebounds from her forays in the last season.

On the perimeter, there can be no questioning the Pack's experience and talent. With preseason all-ACC selection Danyel Parker leading the way, four Pack seniors, a key junior and two sophomores appear to have State well-stocked in

outside talent.

"We have strong perimeter people coming back," Yow said. "We have perimeter people with experience. We have the total package on the perimeter."

Yow also has the total package in Parker. Mapp's heir apparent as State's premier performer. The 5-foot-6 Clinton native nearly recorded a triple-double against Georgia Tech Feb. 23 before going down with a torn anterior cruciate ligament in the Pack's next game against Maryland.

This season, Parker has made a remarkably quick recovery from the ACL tear and was expected to be 100 percent for the Pack's opener Dec. 2 against Long Beach State.

Senior Krissy Kuziemski, who set a school record with 13 assists against Wake Forest last season, returns to pair with Parker in the Pack's new generic guard line-up. Kuziemski will look to improve her 6.5 scoring and 4.5 assist averages of a year ago.

Parker and Kuziemski will direct many of their passes to the Pack's resident three-point specialist, junior Tammy Gibson. The 5-foot-8 swing player connected on 63-154 three-pointers last season en route to posting a 15.8 scoring average.

Another sharpshooter, senior Jenny Kuziemski, will look to add to the Pack's outside attack. Krissy's twin sister, Jenny started 26 of 28 games last season while averaging 7.5 points per game. This season, Jenny appears to be the top candidate for Yow's new sixth-starter role as the first player off the bench.

Slithe 6-foot-1 forward Ashley Hancock returns to once again hold down the power forward position. The Springfield, Va.,

senior should benefit from State's new single-post offense, which should free her to roam on the perimeter away from the more physical players who have troubled her in the past.

Two sophomores, forward Quicha Floyd and guard Lisa Gerton, look to provide a perimeter depth for State. A slashing 6-foot-1 forward, Floyd can fill in at either forward position, while Gerton, another good shooter, can fill in at a guard position.

"We actually have six starters, but we'll only be able to play five, so we're going to have a great sixth person," Yow said. "We have the six starters, and those six are going to see a lot of playing time."

If the outside reaches its potential and the inside holds together, Yow believes State could join upstarts North Carolina and Georgia Tech in contending with Maryland and Virginia for the ACC title.

"I think there are people on the team who can do a lot more than people believe that they can," Yow said. "Danyel can have an outstanding year, and she is performing very well at practice, but so are the twins, so is Ashley Hancock, so is Tammy Gibson and Teri Whyte is playing well in practice."

"The question is do we have the talent in order to be competitive and have our shots at an ACC Championship even though we're picked sixth?"

A tough schedule which features home match-ups with Final Four participant Western Kentucky and strong Long Beach State in addition to the brutal ACC slate should give Yow a solid barometer on her team.

1992-93 Women's Basketball Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Hgt.	Age	Cl.	Hometown
10	Danyel Parker	G	5-6	22	Sr.	Clinton, N.C.
13	Tammy Gibson	G	5-8	20	Jr.	Hartsville, S.C.
14	Krissy Kuziemski	G	5-10	21	Sr.	South Amboy, N.J.
15	Ashley Hancock	F	6-1	21	Sr.	Springfield, Va.
21	Lisa Gerton	G	5-8	20	So.	Louisville, Ky.
25	Quicha Floyd	F	5-10	21	So.	Greensboro, N.C.
33	Lisa Hodges	F	6-1	18	Fr.	Roanoke, Va.
34	Muriel Davis	F	6-1	18	Fr.	Dallas, Texas
41	Jenny Kuziemski	F	5-10	21	Sr.	South Amboy, N.J.
44	Natasha Weddle	F	6-1	19	Fr.	Trafalgar, Ind.
45	Kolleen Kreul	F	6-1	19	So.	Coral Springs, Fla.
52	Teri Whyte	C	6-5	22	Sr.	Sanford, Fla.
54	Sarah McLeod	C	6-6	20	So.	Dunwoody, Ga.

Head Coach: Kay Yow (383-136 in 17 years at N.C. State, 440-155 in 21 years of coaching)

Assistant Coaches: Cheryl Littlejohn, Faith Mimnaugh

Graduate Assistant: Robin Pate

Parker uses intangibles to spark Wolfpack

By Kevin Brewer
Assistant Sports Editor

Don't worry about the 1992-93 N.C. State women's basketball team. Danyl Parker is in control.

That's right — in control. Departing from the position of point guard, suffering a torn anterior cruciate ligament and adjusting to new offense during the past year hasn't weakened the direct influence the 5-foot-6 guard has over the Wolfpack. Since she arrived at State in 1989, Parker has exuded the kind of confidence and leadership abilities that every coach looks for in a team leader. Her confidence may manifest itself in leading a team huddle or knocking down a crucial jump shot, but it is always evident.

"I think Danyl is always important as a leader," State coach Kay Yow said. "When Danyl is playing strong, I think it's contagious. When a guard [doesn't] get down because things aren't going right but just continues to persevere, everybody sees that, and it motivates and inspires them."

"And I think when she's at the point, she does that. But when she's not, she still does that. I think it's good to have people encouraging each other. Somebody needs to inspire by words and actions on the court."

For Parker, her leadership is not a mental task forced upon her by the Pack coaching staff. She carries the load as if she has innate need to guide her team to success.

"I don't know if it's a position I want," Parker said. "It's a position that through my personality, I've just acquired. I speak my mind, let everybody know what's going on and just take control."

Parker's control is nothing new. She recorded 14.8 points and 4.9 assists a game last season and nearly notched the fourth triple-double in conference history with a 17-point, eight-rebound, nine-assist performance Feb. 23 against Georgia Tech.

A year earlier, as a sophomore, the Clinton native was responsible for distributing the ball among all-ACCers Andrea Stinson, Rhonda Mapp and Sharon Manning.

During her high school career, Parker led Clinton High School

to a 27-0 mark and a state championship her senior year while also becoming North Carolina's all-time leader in points and assists.

With all this success, it is easy to assume her confidence is innate or something she acquired without any effort. Instead, Parker gained her assurance from competing when she was younger on playgrounds against men.

"If you can do things against guys, who are naturally stronger and faster than females," Parker said, "then you've got to be able to do it with the girls. And I think that's where the confidence came in."

Although Parker's resolve has never been more intact than right now, it has been up in the air over the past year.

At about the halfway point last season, Parker was removed from her cozy spot at point guard to shooting guard to increase State's offensive output. Krissy Kuziemski replaced Parker against Wake Forest Feb. 15.

Not only did Kuziemski fit right in to Parker's spot, but she set a school record for assists with 13 in the 85-64 win.

"She plays good from both spots, but I think it gave her more of a chance to go to the boards from the two spot," Kuziemski said. "She's still talking in the huddle. She's just a leader."

"I was a shooting guard, so it was kind of like an old, familiar feeling again," Parker said. "It felt really good. There again, it was something Coach Yow needed to do for the team."

"We kind of kept the same roles on the team. We'd get into the huddles sometimes, and everybody's looking at me, so I go ahead and let the team know what we need to do."

Later in the season, Parker encountered the toughest challenge of her career. In a Feb. 25 game against Maryland, Parker drove the lane to attempt a shot and came down with torn ACL in her left knee.

Suddenly, not only was her control doubtful, but the future of Parker's career and health had emerged as a concern.

Parker began to exercise the injured knee the day after her operation in the spring. About five months later, she was running on the knee and was



Liz Mahncke/Staff

Danyl Parker will return for her senior season after fully recovering from knee surgery.

introducing herself to the game once again in August.

Before Parker sprouted through the recovery process, she experienced some stiffness in the knee. A second operation to remove cartilage was looming before the doctors realized there was no real problem.

"Once we nipped that problem in the bud, it did go smoothly," Parker said. "You have to stay on the weights, stay in condition. You can't let your knee get out of shape. It has to stay strong for at least a year after surgery."

"You can twist your knee, hyperextend your knee or just be

a freak accident. It could happen easily again, but it's not something I think about. The more you think about it, the easier it can happen."

This season, Parker enters her final season with the Wolfpack and faces yet another challenge — learning a new offensive system.

This system broadens the definition of Parker's role on offense even more. With an abundance of small guards and the loss of all-ACC center Rhonda Mapp, the Pack will set up a two-guard front. State will also use two forwards on the

perimeter in order to solve the team's scoring problems of a year ago.

"It doesn't matter as much who the one-guard or the two-guard is," Yow said.

"I think Danyl is our strongest ball-handling guard, and we're going to put the ball in her hands whenever we can. She'll have the ball-handling responsibilities more than anybody, especially when we face great pressure."

In other words, Parker won't be adjusting as much as she'll be returning to a familiar spot. She'll be in control.

Danyl Parker

	G-GS	Min	FG-FGA	Pct.	3P-3PA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	Reb	Avg.	PF-Dq	A TO	Bk	S	Pts	Avg.	
1989-90	30-1	406	73-160	.456	0-4	.000	35-50	.700	52	17.7	22-0	54	67	2	26	181	6.0
1990-91	33-32	951	143-287	.498	2-9	.222	73-90	.811	107	3.2	44-0	168	105	0	61	361	10.9
1991-92	26-26	799	165-326	.506	13-25	.520	50-66	.758	127	4.9	51-1	117	71	1	63	386	14.8
Career	89-59	2156	381-773	.493	15-38	.395	158-206	.767	286	3.2	117-1	339	243	3	150	928	10.4

Krissy K. adjusts to college

By Anthony Black
Senior Staff Writer

It has been over three years since Krissy Kuziemski traveled to Raleigh from South Amboy, N.J., and little did she know that she would be leaving one powerhouse that won four-straight state titles at Hoffman High School to play collegiate basketball for another perennial national power.

"It is definitely a transition coming from high school to college," Kuziemski said.

As a high school all-American, Kuziemski was more decorated than most war veterans, but her credentials gained her little favor during her freshman year.

"My first year playing basketball at State really put me in my place," Kuziemski said. "There were a lot of other players on our team who were really good, so I didn't to play a lot."

Kuziemski went on to post a

respectable 3.5 points and 1.1 rebounds per game in her first campaign.

During her sophomore season, Kuziemski alternated as a starter with her twin sister Jenny. Both Kuziemski possess almost identical talent in all of their skills, so head coach Kay Yow was able to use either of them at the wing forward position.

While sister Jenny's numbers showed a significant jump in her second season, Krissy's stats virtually remained the same, only she had become a more solid player.

It was late that season in a game against Virginia when Kuziemski faced probably the toughest challenge of her career. Kuziemski got hurt in much the same manner as teammate Danyel Parker did in February. After hyperextending her knee, Kuziemski was diagnosed as having a torn anterior cruciate ligament and missed the rest of the season.

After surgery and a vigorous

rehabilitation, Kuziemski returned for her junior season as if she had never missed a beat.

Amazingly, Kuziemski blossomed as a player by doubling her scoring, assisting and rebounding averages.

Kuziemski earned a full-time starting position as she started in 27 of the team's 28 games. Her all-around game had improved so much that her ability made her as strong a defensive player as an offensive threat.

Coming into her senior season, Kuziemski's goal is to continue to be the positive role player she has grown into.

"I'm not upset that I don't receive all of the attention I used to," Kuziemski said. "I've learned that there is a big difference between playing high school and college basketball."

Despite playing on two of the best teams in school history in her freshman and sophomore



Chris Hondros for Technician

Jenny (front) and Krissy Kuziemski still give opponents double vision.

See KRISSY, Page 25

Multiple skills place Jenny K. in an unusual position

By Kevin Brewer
Assistant Sports Editor

The passing ability, revamped outside shooting and tenacious defensive play of Jenny Kuziemski has put her in an unfamiliar and unusual position — the sixth starter.

A sixth starter? Wait a minute. The only place a sixth starter still exists in women's basketball is in low high schools. And even in the Hawkeye State, the six-player system is being outmoded and old-fashioned.

But Kuziemski would fit right into the archaic game, which uses three players in each half of the court. Her intensity would

allow her to compete on the defensive half, while her shooting touch would allow her to excel in the offensive zone.

For those reasons, N.C. State women's basketball coach Kay Yow has installed Kuziemski on the bench for her senior season and named her the team's "sixth starter."

"She's coming off the bench as our first sub," Yow said. "She can play at shooting guard or either forward position."

"I think she's ready to go no matter what her situation or position is — whether she's a starter or sixth player or a two-guard or a three- or four-forward."

Entering her senior season on

the bench and being asked to do virtually everything imaginable on a basketball court, Kuziemski has unknowingly used the past three years to hone and exhibit her multifaceted game.

She has established a knack for finding an open teammate on offense. Also, her defensive hustle has helped her record 30 steals and receive Best Defensive Player honors for the Pack two seasons ago.

Now, while preparing to complement a new Wolfpack offense this season, Kuziemski has developed a better outside shot that extends beyond the three-point arc.

"It has a lot of motion, and we get a lot of options out of it,"

Kuziemski said of the offense. "It opens up the game a little more. It's not so structured, and we have a lot more freedom."

The South Amboy, N.J., native is not only more relaxed in the new offense, but the uncertainty of when and where she will fit in the offensive scheme does not seem to bother her.

"I feel more confident," Kuziemski said. "I'm eager to play, because it's my last year. I'm approaching every game like it's my last. When you know it's your last year, it really hits you that 'after this, I'm done.'"

No matter how different and varied her overall game becomes, it will be nearly impossible for her to escape the

inevitable comparisons to her twin sister and teammate Krissy Kuziemski.

"We don't compare ourselves to each other," Jenny said, "but other people want to compare us. That's kind of a negative."

When the Kuziemski guided their high school to four state championships, received all-state honors in New Jersey and decided to attend the same college, the differences between the twins seemed to be few and far between.

But since their sophomore season, the line between their genetic similarities has become blurred. Krissy suffered a torn

See KUZIEWSKI, Page 27

Krissy Kuziemski

	G-GS	Min	FG-FGA	Pct.	3P-3PA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	Reb	Avg.	PF-Dq	A	TO	Blk	S	Pts	Avg.
1989-90	28-1	308	44-76	.579	0-0	.000	11-16	.688	31	1.1	19-0	37	17	1	11	99	3.5
1990-91	27-12	471	36-75	.480	0-1	.000	27-32	.844	46	1.7	30-0	62	31	3	17	99	3.7
1991-92	28-27	789	71-131	.542	2-3	.667	38-49	.776	86	3.1	47-0	125	74	3	29	181	6.5
Career	83-40	1568	151-282	.535	2-4	.500	76-97	.784	163	2.0	96-0	224	122	7	57	379	4.6

Jenny Kuziemski

	G-GS	Min	FG-FGA	Pct.	3P-3PA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	Reb	Avg.	PF-Dq	A	TO	Blk	S	Pts	Avg.
1989-90	26-0	172	12-35	.343	0-0	.000	13-22	.591	20	0.8	5-0	24	11	0	6	37	1.4
1990-91	33-20	820	100-211	.474	1-5	.200	36-47	.766	61	1.8	44-1	86	45	3	30	237	7.2
1991-92	28-26	798	93-230	.404	4-10	.400	20-33	.606	69	2.5	45-0	82	53	0	39	210	7.5
Career	87-46	1790	205-476	.431	5-15	.333	69-102	.676	150	1.7	94-1	192	109	3	75	484	5.6

It takes more than dunking to impress Whyte

By Puan Wallace

Senior Staff Writer

Yes, for the last time, Teri Whyte did see North Carolina's Charlotte Smith and Sylvia Crawley dunking at the Tar Heel's media day.

What's more, Whyte's not very impressed. She's gone through the dunking phase already.

"I've done it, but I can't do it every time I try," she said. "I took off running from halfcourt. I could do it. That's what they did. They took off — no dribble. They just took off running."

"I can do it every once in awhile. I just can't do it consistently."

Dunking aside, one thing

Whyte will do consistently is start at center for the Pack in this, her senior season.

"I'm excited about it," Whyte said. "For the last three years, I've been playing behind Rhonda Mapp and Sharon Manning, and now it's my year. That's sort of the attitude I've taken. It's my year."

Indeed, Whyte has been living proof of the saying good things come to those who wait.

Before arriving at N.C. State, Whyte earned a name for herself while playing for Lake Mary High School (Fla.). Whyte averaged 17 points, 14 rebounds and six blocks a game — good enough to draw the interest of many schools including Georgia Tech, LSU, Florida and Auburn.

"I wanted to go to a program that had a great coaching staff and that had a record of success in the past," Whyte said. "I wanted to play, but I didn't want the team to be centered around me. I didn't want it to come to the point where if I had a bad game, we lost."

Not only was the Wolfpack team not centered around her, the 1988-89 team was headed at the center position. Whyte was redshirted that year and worked on building up her strength and endurance.

The next year, in her first season, Whyte played in relief of Manning and Mapp — two of the best centers to ever play at NCSU. Whyte got more minutes the next year, but for the most

part, went through the same experience. However, all the while, she was steadily improving in all facets of her game. In fact, she earned Most Improved Player honors her sophomore season.

Last season, with just Mapp ahead of her, Whyte got major minutes and improved on her stats even more, averaging close to six points and five rebounds a game. She also showed flashes of dominance with her 14-point, 11-rebound, two-block performance against Florida State.

With such improved play, Whyte nabbed yet another Most Improved Player award. She hopes to get it again this year.

"I think that's a credit to Coach

[Kay] Yow, because I've learned a lot since I've been here," Whyte said. "I wanted to learn, and I think that makes it easier to improve."

To help her assume the burden of the post position, Whyte attended the USA Basketball Premier Post Program at Colorado Springs this past summer. Along with stellar centers such as Heather Burge from Virginia and Lisa Leslie from Southern Cal., Whyte worked on footwork, defense and shooting.

"There were 15 girls that were 6-foot-4 and above, so it was really neat being around all these

See **WHYTE**, Page 22

Teri Whyte

	G-GS	Min	FG-FGA	Pct.	3P-3PA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	Reb	Avg.	PF-Dq	A	TO	Blk	S	Pts	Avg.
1989-90	26-1	212	29-52	.558	0-0	.000	11-20	.550	44	1.7	43-2	5	24	8	9	69	2.7
1990-91	33-5	466	40-72	.556	0-0	.000	12-20	.600	98	3.0	79-3	14	41	18	8	92	2.9
1991-92	28-2	532	66-118	.559	0-0	.000	29-55	.527	128	4.6	93-6	25	58	15	7	161	5.8
Career	87-8	1210	135-242	.558	0-0	.000	52-95	.547	270	3.1	215-11	44	123	41	24	322	3.7

Gibson thrives behind arc

By Bill Overton

Sports Editor

In this day and age of college basketball, it is almost imperative that a team be able to sink the three-point shot.

Hitting the trey can make a game much more exciting, not only in terms of the score, but in terms of entertainment. Next to the slam-dunk or the blocked shot, there isn't anything a fan enjoys more than the three-pointer.

Every team likes to have a long-range bomber. For the N.C. State women's basketball team, that specialist is junior forward Tammy Gibson.

Although Gibson only started four games for the Pack a year ago, she was the Pack's second-leading scorer, averaging nearly 16 points a contest. Gibson's shot had the second-best three-point percentage in the ACC, hitting almost 41 percent from behind the arc.

However, with Gibson destined to be a starter in the Pack's three-guard offense, she must now use

all of her skills to perfection.

"My shot will still be there," Gibson said. "I need to improve on rebounding. With our small line-up, we need to get as many loose balls as possible. I'm also going to have to do a better job on defense."

As accurate as Gibson is from behind the arc, she can still have an occasional off-night. It's those nights when the other facets of Gibson's game will become so important.

"I remember the Florida State (76-75 loss) game last year," Gibson said. "That was the worst game (two points) I think I had all year. I just have to try to get steals and get other people involved. If the shot is not there, it's not there."

Gibson will be one of the leaders of a team that is coming off a disappointing season in which the Pack fell short of the NCAA Tournament. She said she will try to turn last year's negatives into this year's positives for the Pack.

"I felt like the chemistry was there last year," Gibson said.

"This year, we've just got to stay together. We need to be a team on and off the court. I think we've developed that this year."

"We have the potential to be better than we were last year. We have more guards, and we just have to get it and go. A lot of teams may out-rebound us, but we're going to run them to death."

With the ACC getting better and better, the Wolfpack women must step its act up a notch. The conference has always been recognized as a solid conference. Now, it's fast becoming one of the best in the nation.

While that may make life difficult for Gibson and company, it just makes the Pack that much more aware of what it needs to do to win in the ACC.

"If we play like we're capable of, that will help us in the long run," Gibson said. "Carolina's getting better. Of course, Virginia and Maryland will be up there near the top."

"And it seems like we lose people and they gain people. But we can overcome that. We can



File Photo

Tammy Gibson (left) may have to drive to the basket more in '93

win some games if we just focus on what we have to do."

So Gibson will still be launching the three's for the Pack in '93. But, if State is to be successful, it's going to take more than just a few three-point hoops. It's going to take some

commitment.

"We are capable of winning an ACC Championship," Gibson said, "but we must play together. It's not going to be easy. We have to bounce back from last year. We don't want to have another season like that."

Tammy Gibson

	G-GS	Min	FG-FGA	Pct.	3P-3PA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	Reb	Avg.	PF-Dq	A	TO	Blk	S	Pts	Avg.
1990-91	33-0	364	61-146	418	7-19	.368	33-50	.660	49	1.5	22-0	34	22	0	26	162	4.9
1991-92	28-4	677	155-342	.453	63-154	.409	69-88	.784	84	3.0	34-0	56	62	1	43	442	15.8
Career	61-4	1041	216-488	.443	70-173	.405	102-138	.739	133	2.2	56-0	90	88	1	69	604	9.9

After sitting out first time, Hancock wants title feeling

By Clay Best
Staff Writer

Senior forward Ashley Hancock looks forward to the 1992-93 women's basketball season and savors the idea of winning an ACC championship.

When the '90-91 edition of Wolfpack basketball won the ACC championship, Hancock was recovering from back surgery to repair a herniated disk and was redshirted for the entire year.

"I want to be on the floor when we win a championship," Hancock said, "instead of having to watch from the bench."

Hancock rejoined the Wolfpack last season and stepped into a starting role, where she averaged six points and four rebounds per game.

However, Hancock, a 6-foot-1 senior from Springfield, Va., is better known for her prowess on the defensive end of the court.

For her defensive skills, Hancock was voted the best

defensive player by her teammates last season.

"Ashley's versatility and defensive skills are her strengths," State head coach Kay Yow said. "She can play every position and gives our defense a tremendous boost."

"I pride myself on my defense," Hancock said. "I knew I wasn't the strong offensive player, and I knew that wasn't my role."

When Hancock returned last season after a tough rehabilitation, she credited many of her friends and family for making it easier.

"My teammates really helped [and] Coach Yow — they still made me feel like a part of the team," Hancock said. "I didn't feel like an outsider."

"God and my family also made it easier," Hancock added. "I had to get over the anger of being injured and being unable to play, and they helped me with that. My boyfriend at the time really helped me too."

But for Hancock, returning to the Wolfpack team last season and "knowing that last year was all behind me" was a great feeling.

"It was the closest I felt," Hancock said, "to being a part of the team."

Hancock, a member of the ACC Honor Roll, calls last year a very good year and looks forward to this season with even more optimism.

"This team has gotten along the best out of every team we've had," Hancock said. "We are absolutely a team. Everybody cares about each other, and we'll do anything for each other."

Hancock looks for herself and the four other experienced seniors to guide the team and surprise a lot of people.

When Hancock is away from the basketball court, she likes to get involved in any other athletic activity she can. She runs and plays tennis regularly and plans to enter a triathlon after this season is over.



Chris Hondros for Technician

Ashley Hancock (center) says she prides herself on her defense.

Hancock's active lifestyle keeps her in top physical shape and year-round and makes her one of the best conditioned players on the team.

"Ashley's conditioning is one of her greatest assets," Yow said, "and it shows in her play on the court."

When the business management major leaves State, she will take many valuable lessons with her.

"I definitely learned teamwork," Hancock said, "and that you have to put some of the things you want aside to make the whole team happy. I also learned to work hard on and off of the court."

"Coach Yow helped me a lot as a person. She helped me learn to be a person who is the best person I could possibly be."

Ashley Hancock

	G-GS	Min	FG-FGA	Pct.	3P-3PA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	Reb	Avg.	PF-Dq	A	TO	Blk	S	Pts	Avg.
1988-89	24-0	186	11-31	.354	0-0	.000	5-8	.625	20	0.8	13-0	13	20	2	7	27	1.1
1989-90	20-0	190	16-39	.410	0-0	.000	16-25	.640	24	1.2	19-1	24	18	1	6	48	2.4
1991-92	28-28	708	81-167	.485	0-0	.000	44-47	.468	115	4.1	78-4	46	47	10	33	184	6.6
Career	72-28	1084	108-237	.456	0-0	.000	23-80	.538	159	2.2	110-5	83	85	13	46	259	3.6

N.C. State men's all-time team

First Team

- F **David Thompson** (1973-75)—Best ACC Player ever. Period.
 F **Bobby Speight** (1951-53)—Two-time all-American; great rebounder
 C **Tom Burleson** (1972-74)—Anchored Pack's first national title
 C **Chris Corchiani** (1988-91)—The NCAA's all-time assist leader
 G **Rodney Monroe** (1988-91)—State's all-time leading scorer

Second Team

- F **Kenny Carr** (1975-77)—Fifth in all-time scoring; sixth in rebounds
 F **Tom Gugliotta** (1989-92)—Perhaps Pack's most-versatile forward
 C **Ronnie Shavlik** (1954-56)—Career average of 16.8 rebounds a game
 G **Sammy Ranzino** (1948-51)—Three-time all-American
 G **Dick Dickey** (1947-50)—Led Pack to Final Four in 1950

Coach—**Everett Case**



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Floyd seeks to make a contribution

By Josh Durham
Staff Writer

It's Quicha Floyd's turn to make a contribution to the Wolfpack women's basketball team.

The 5-foot-10 forward from Greensboro has returned to State for her sophomore season after playing in 22 games last year and averaging 1.9 points and two rebounds per outing. After seeing such limited action during her freshman campaign, Floyd said she would like to see more action this year.

"I hope to see more playing time," Floyd said. "I think I've improved. I worked half the summer on my shooting."

Shooting and ball handling are two aspects of her game that Floyd said she needed to work on.

"I'd like to improve those, but at the same time, when I'm on the court, I'm there to help the team, not my stats," Floyd said.

Floyd would like to contribute to the Wolfpack's cause at either the power forward or small forward positions. Her natural quickness will also help the Pack in the transition game. In 1991,



Liz Mahnicka/Staff

Elevated play from Quicha Floyd (25) could lift the Pack.

Gerton adjusts to college pressures

By Owen S. Good
Assistant Sports Editor

Sophomore guard Lisa Gerton looks at her inaugural year with the N.C. State women's basketball team as, "more of a learning experience," than anything else.

But this year, with the Wolfpack expected to improve well beyond its 1991-92 record of 16-12, Gerton can count on graduating from the classroom and feeling the pressures of performing in "the real world" — Reynolds Coliseum.

Gerton appeared in 11 games, none as a starter, as a rookie last year before the university's academic policy ruled her ineligible for the season's remaining 16 games. She performed well, averaging just under 10 points in as many games to start the season.

Gerton returned to the team in good standing in time for the ACC Tournament. This kind of continuity will certainly help Gerton fit back into her job, one she defines as, "Basically the one and two position, defense, and helping to shoot the ball."

She will also be an integral part

to a bench that will, "do a good job coming in and helping us be successful," according to Gerton. She will look to build on her best effort off the bench, a 15-point, six-assist night against Howard last December.

Gerton is also looking forward to the season and one game in specific. Dec. 20's Western Kentucky affair is a red-letter day on Gerton's calendar.

"I'd say the biggest game would be the West Kentucky game, because they were in the [NCAA] finals [last season]," Gerton said. "They're gonna be hyped, and they'll come in to play us, but I think they're going to underestimate us, and we'll surprise them."

That kind of theme holds for the season, too, according to Gerton.

"I think a lot of people are underestimating us. They think since we lost all-American Rhonda Mapp that we're not as successful on the inside," Gerton said. But we've got a perimeter that can do the job and come to the boards.

Because "one of the seniors

See **GERTON**, Page 23

See **FLOYD**, Page 26

Quicha Floyd

	G-GS	Min	FG-FGA	Pct.	3P-3PA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	Reb	Avg.	PF-Dq	A	TO	Blk	S	Pts	Avg.
1991-92	22-0	202	13-39	.333	0-0	.000	15-24	.625	44	2.0	28-0	12	18	0	8	41	1.9
Career	22-0	202	13-39	.333	0-0	.000	15-24	.625	44	2.0	28-0	12	18	0	8	41	1.9

Lisa Gerton

	G-GS	Min	FG-FGA	Pct.	3P-3PA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	Reb	Avg.	PF-Dq	A	TO	Blk	S	Pts	Avg.
1991-92	11-0	126	23-47	.489	2-7	.286	6-8	.750	15	1.4	8-0	15	12	0	7	91	9.1
Career	11-0	126	23-47	.489	2-7	.286	6-8	.750	15	1.4	8-0	15	12	0	7	91	9.1

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Pack freshmen may pull surprise

By Jeff Drew
Senior Staff Writer

Tom Gugliotta taught the college basketball world a lot about perseverance during his career at N.C. State.

A lightly recruited freshman, Gugliotta saw very little playing time his first season. But he didn't complain or get frustrated. Instead, he lifted weights and practiced shooting, molding himself into an all-ACC player and a first-round NCAA draft pick.

Three freshmen on the N.C. State women's team would do well to learn from the Gugliotta story. Not expected to make an immediate impact on a veteran Pack squad, Natasha Weddle, Muriel Davis and Lisa Hodges likely face a lot more practice time than playing time this season.

For Weddle, just getting a chance to practice would be a major step forward. After redshirting and missing all of last season with a knee injury, Weddle underwent another surgery to clean out cartilage that fell and has yet to practice with the squad.

"It's been really hard," Weddle said of her prolonged absence. "It's been difficult to keep in mind that I'm a good player."

There is light at the end of the tunnel for Weddle, an honorable mention all-American at Trafalgar, Ind., Indian Creek High School. The 6-foot-1 forward is expected to finally start practicing this week, and she could perhaps start seeing game time toward the start of the new year.

"[Weddle is] right on schedule if not a little ahead. It's progressing well," Yow said. "I think she can help us if she comes back healthy. She has a lot of strength."

As does Davis, who may have the best chance among the three of making a significant contribution this season. A bruising inside player who packs a lot of wallop into her 6-foot-1 inch frame, the Dallas native could add some much-needed weight to a front line decimated by the loss of 1992 ACC scoring and rebounding leader Rhonda Mapp.

"She showed something in the exhibition game against Leverkusen," Yow said of Davis's effort. "She has worked really well in system."

If Davis can blend in effectively, she may prove to be a force on the boards. A self-described rebounding

specialist, Davis averaged a Wilt Chamberlain like 21 rebounds a game last year at Lincoln High School.

"I'd like to average about nine rebounds a game this year," said Davis, who also averaged 18 points, three assists and five blocked shots a game as a senior. "But I'll do whatever it takes to help the team win. I just want to make a contribution."

Unfortunately, Davis, a former Texas high school shot put champion, may be carrying a little too much weight this season to make the impact she would like. Yow has expressed concerns about her conditioning and Davis admits to being a little taken back by the physical demands of the State program.

"She needs to work on her conditioning level, which has been holding her back," Yow said.

Or as Davis said, "I wasn't expecting to have to do this much running."

If she could, Yow would probably transfer some of Davis's size and strength to Hodges. A slender 6-foot-1 shot blocker, Hodges will be adjusting to her new small forward position, where she will likely sit behind a slew of overclassmen.

"There are a lot of players ahead of me at my new position, so I'm not expecting to play much," said Hodges, who averaged 14.5 points and 9.8 rebounds per game last season. "This is a good chance for me to learn the system."

It is an opportunity to hit the weights with Davis.

"With Lisa, we want her to work on strength training," Yow said. "Muriel has a lot of natural strength, but Lisa needs to spend some time in the weight room working at building up her strength."

"So that's where the focus is with them, conditioning and weight training and conditioning, building the physical fundamental, the physical base from which they can work to become solid ACC players. They are also working very hard on their defense, which is, skillwise, probably their biggest weakness."

Even if they follow through with all of Yow's recommendations, chances are Weddle, Davis and Hodges won't enjoy immediate results. But, as they say, you never know what's going to happen in basketball.

Just look at Michigan.

Coaches still part of game

By Kevin Brewer
Assistant Sports Editor

For most elite male basketball players, reaching the top of the college game means entering a professional league and signing million-dollar contracts.

For most female players, however, those same opportunities simply don't exist. With the exception of a few American exports to pro leagues in Europe, most female basketball players are forced to enter the coaching profession to extend the use of their basketball talents.

As a result, N.C. State women's basketball coach Cheryl Littlejohn, who won an NCAA Women's National Championship as a player at Tennessee in 1987, and Faith Minnaugh, who totaled 1,000 assists as a point guard at Loyola, Ill., now aid Wolfpack players in reaching their full potential.

Both Littlejohn and Minnaugh are entering their second season as assistants under head coach Kay Yow, but both made their key to the Wolfpack program in distinctly different ways.

Three years ago, Littlejohn was far from the basketball world,

After finishing her career at Tennessee with a national championship, she began working for the Drug Enforcement Agency in Los Angeles.

"Law enforcement was in my blood," Littlejohn said. "My father was a police officer. When I was at Tennessee, I met a lot of people in the Secret Service and in the Knoxville DEA."

But the coaching bug started to gnaw at Littlejohn, and her former coach at Tennessee, Pat Summitt, contacted her about a job opening. The opening was at State, and Yow, who is a close friend of Summitt, gave Littlejohn an interview and the eventual job.

Littlejohn, who is charge of the team's recruiting and inside post players, has learned to translate what she trained as a member of a national championship team to present and future State players. "It was a good experience," Littlejohn said. "I would like for all of the kids that I recruit to experience what I experienced. The people make the program, and that's what I try to get across to all the kids I recruit."

Minnaugh, on the other hand, took her first coaching steps in Australian leagues while also competing as a player. After four years in the semi-pro leagues of Australia, Minnaugh received the Pack opportunity.

"I had wanted to coach at a very competitive program," Minnaugh said. "To be able to

work for Coach Yow was a great opportunity, so I was very excited when I got the call."

The Elk Grove, Ill., native worked on her master's degree as a graduate assistant during her first two years with the Pack before attaining the assistant position last season.

Minnaugh, a point guard during her career, works with the team's perimeter players. Off the court, she heads State's pre-season conditioning team scheduling and the players' academic progress.

Although Minnaugh aspired to be a head coach at the Division I level, she still regrets the lack of career opportunities for women to pursue in professional basketball. "I do miss playing the game," Minnaugh said. "I wish there were more opportunities to do that [in the United States]. I think it's a shame that very talented players don't get any opportunities to continue their basketball careers."

Sure, Littlejohn and Minnaugh will probably never become rich from their basketball exploits, but they have found a way to enrich others with their knowledge.



Littlejohn



Minnaugh

Whyte

Continued from Page 19

women that were my height," Whyte said. "It was a really good camp, and I learned a lot."

Whyte feels that this year's Wolfpack team also has some things to learn and believes the exhibition loss to Leverkusen of Germany did more good than

harm.

"If we would've won that game, we would've just deceived ourselves, because we have a lot of things that we need to learn," Whyte said.

But Whyte feels her team is on the right track and knows that how far they go will be determined somewhat by her performance. With that in mind, she has no qualms about revealing her personal goals for this season.

"Fifteen points, 10 rebounds and five blocked shots," Whyte said. "I want blocked shots. I've been working on my timing with that."

And the dunk?

"Coach Yow has set up a play for me and Quicha [Floyd]." Whyte said. "I think it's going to be on my mind more so because of all the hype that Carolina's been getting."

And if she dunks one, you can bet she'll dribble the ball.

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With Mapp gone, Kreul's play is now critical

By Josh Durham
Staff Writer

Standout N.C. State center Rhonda Mapp is gone, taking her ACC-best 22 points and 9.8 rebounds per game with her. As a result, when sophomore forward Kolleen Kreul gets the call this season, she'll have to continue the trend of improvement that marked her first Wolfpack season.

The 6-foot-1 Coral Springs, Fla., native returns to State after being named the Pack's Rookie of the Year last season. Described as being a "total team player," Kreul said she is ready to do all she can for the team again this year.

"I don't have any goals that I have set for myself," Kreul said. "I'm looking for things that I can do to help the team. If I do good and play well, then it'll help. It's just a matter of playing my role and doing it well."

The role Coach Kay Yow expects Kreul to play for the team this season has the versatile inside player in two different positions throughout the season. "She could see some playing time backing up Teri Whyte,

center] or at power forward." Yow said. "We look for her to play great defense and help out on the boards."

During her freshman year, Kreul averaged almost three points and two rebounds in her 26 games. She also contributed a total of 11 assists, four steals and three blocked shots. Kreul went 44.4 percent from the field and 79.4 percent from the free-throw line for the year.

Kreul said she learned a lot in her freshman campaign, especially from Mapp, the all-ACC center Rhonda Mapp now lost to graduation.

"Everybody's first year is a learning experience," Kreul said. "I learned a lot from Rhonda Mapp."

Back in Coral Springs, Kreul was named by USA Today as Florida's Player of the Year and was an all-America honorable mention by Street & Smith's basketball publication. But Kreul is quick to point out that there is a big difference between high school and college basketball.

"It's a big step," Kreul said. "A lot of people come in thinking they'll be as good as they were in high school. The differences

are unreal. It's a lot more intense here."

Looking ahead to the 1992-93 Wolfpack women's basketball season, Kreul is expecting big things from the team, and she believes their low preseason ranking is not an accurate representation of how good this team could be.

"We're going to surprise a lot of people," Kreul said. "There is no one person that the other team will be able to key in on. We are going to have a different player in the spotlight every game."

Kreul also said this year's team has "good chemistry," and they get along well, both on and off the court.

One final reason Kreul gave for the success she predicts is that Yow has a lot of things coming out this year — things that have been working well in practice. Kreul, however, would not disclose any more information on the subject.

"I'll let Coach Yow reveal them," Kreul said with a laugh.



File Photo

More scoring from Kolleen Kreul (45) is a must this year for State.

Kolleen Kreul

	G-GS	Min	FG-FGA	Pct.	3P-3PA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	Reb	Avg.	Pf-Fq	A	TO	Blk	S	Pts	Avg.
1991-92	26-0	231	24-54	.444	0-0	.000	27-34	.794	50	1.9	33-0	11	15	3	4	75	2.9
Career	26-0	231	24-54	.444	0-0	.000	27-34	.794	50	1.9	33-0	11	15	3	4	75	2.9

Gerton

Continued from Page 21

and the perimeter players have to go to the boards more often," according to Gerton, "a lot of other talented players step up and take [Mapp's] position." Gerton sees herself figuring in the team's leadership scheme. "I'm not as vocal [as Mapp], but my actions show," Gerton said.

And among those actions that

Gerton counts in her favor is an ability for a guard to grab some rebounds. She admits that she has to work on her ball-handling, among other facets of the game.

"You've always got room for work," Gerton said. "I've still got to stay focused, and my knees have been bothering me."

One aspect that is coming up rosy, however, is Gerton's shooting. She connected on 23 of her 47 attempts, good for a 48.9 shooting percentage, and came in just under 30 percent from three-point land.

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Yes, Virginia, Maryland is favored in the ACC

Clemson

Coach: Jim Davis

'91-92 record: 21-10 overall (9-7 in the ACC)

Starters Returning: 3

Tiger coach Jim Davis is the first coach in conference history to win 20 or more games in his first five years as head coach. And there is no indication that record of consistency will change this season with two of Davis's favorite weapons — junior college transfers and the three-point shot — held intact.

JUCO transfers Rhonda Jackson, Rema Miller and Ade Kwangye will help hold down the Tiger inside game along with junior Jessica Barr, a transfer from Georgia. All-ACC rookie selection Tara Sanoonke, who was first in the ACC in three-point field-goal percentage, and Kerry Boyatt-Hall, who was third in three-point bombs, also return.

Duke

Coach: Gail Goestenkors

'91-92 record: 14-15 (4-12)

Starters Returning: 2

A year after the Duke men's team won back-to-back national championships, new Blue Devil coach Gail Goestenkors may have trouble winning back-to-back conference games with the loss of the team's top-three scorers — Cleste Lavoie, Robin Baker and Monika Kost.

A knee injury to Duke guard Dana McDonald, the team's only senior, adds to Goestenkors' leadership dilemma. But the six-year veteran Purdue assistant has implemented a Devil defense with more pressure to fend off ACC scorers.

Florida State

Coach: Marynell Meadors

'91-92 record: 17-11 (8-8)

Starters Returning: 3

Like most Seminole teams in any sport last year, the Florida State women's basketball team jumped into the tough ACC and surprised most critics with a more than respectable season. This season, the Seminoles find themselves in a similar situation, as the preseason No. seven pick, and will have to prove themselves again.

Robin Com, the team's all-time assist leader, is gone, but Florida State looks to make some noise down low. Inside forces Tia Paschal, Chantelle Dishman and 6-foot-6 Mary Berryhill will attempt to cut out a larger niche in the ACC for the Seminoles.

Georgia Tech

Coach: Agnus Berenato

'91-92 record: 20-13 (6-10)

Starters Returning: 4

After winning the National Women's Invitational Tournament last season, the Yellow Jackets would like to be playing on their home floor at tournament time this season. The NCAA Women's Final Four will be on its home court in Atlanta, and Georgia Tech would dearly love to be there.

But, considering that the Jackets have never received a birth to the NCAA Tournament, that monstrous goal will be easier said than done. All-American candidate Joyce Pierce, who averaged 18 points last season, will lead the way. Denny Caldwell and Lara Kauffman will lend support for an experienced squad that returns all but two players from last season.

Maryland

Coach: Chris Weller

'91-92 record: 25-6 (13-3)

Starters Returning: 3

Being voted by ACC sports writers as the favorite to win the conference is probably the worst thing that could happen to superstitious Terrapin coach Chris Weller. Known for hitting her head and the floor with her knuckles for good luck during Maryland free throws, Weller enters the season with the most experienced team in the ACC.

Center Jesse Hicks and forward Melissa Boles lead a group of five seniors who were part of last year's team that was ranked number one in the nation. The Terrapins do face one glaring question: Can they replace 5-foot-7 point guard Limor Mizrahi, who returned to her homeland of Givatim, Israel, after one season with the Terps?

North Carolina

Coach: Sylvia Hatchell

'91-92 record: 22-9 (9-7)

Starters Returning: 3

The Tar Heels may not have the best team in the ACC this season, but they may possess the most exciting squad. Last season's ACC freshman of the year Charlotte Smith and center Sylvia Crawley both showed off their dunking exploits on the team's media day and will attempt to be the second and third women to dunk in a college game.

The Heels' backcourt of Emily Johnson and LeAnn Kennedy is gone, but their inside game is intimidating. The 6-foot Smith, 6-foot-5 Crawley, 6-foot-7 Gwendolyn Gillingham and all-ACC selection Tonya Sampson are just the beginnings.

Virginia

Coach: Debbie Ryan

'91-92 record: 32-2 (15-1)

Starters Returning: 3

Losing the most decorated backcourt in women's basketball history, Dawn Staley and Tammi Reiss, would crush most teams. But the Cavaliers aren't just any team. Virginia will rebound from its losses behind senior Denia Evans and freshman Kristin Sotomayo, the likely candidates to take over the backcourt roles.

At 6-foot-5 each, twins Heather and Heidi Burge form two-thirds of one of the most formidable frontcourts in the nation. Heather, a first-team all-ACC selection last season, will also receive help from 1992 North Carolina high school player of the year Wendy Palmer.

Wake Forest

Coach: Karen Freeman

'91-92 record: 10-18 (1-15)

Starters Returning: 4

Change is the operative word when it comes to Wake Forest women's basketball this season. New coach Karen Freeman, who was an assistant under N.C. State coach Kay Yow two years ago, has changed the team's basketball office and uniforms and years to play in Lawrence Joel Coliseum, where the Deacon men hold court.

The most impressive change for Freeman would be a revival in a Wake Forest program which is coming off its worst season in 11 years. Wake point guard Nicole Levesque, who was recruited by Freeman for Wolfpack purposes, and center Laura Cookley will look to lead the resurgence from the ACC cellar.

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State women's all-time team

First Team

- F **Linda Page** (1982-85)—two-time all-ACC; 2,307 points
- F **Trudi Lacey** (1978-81)—second all-time rebounder
- C **Genia Beasley** (1977-80)—All-time leader in points
- G **Andrea Stinson** (1989-91)—"Miss Jordan" could do it all
- G **Angie Armstrong** (1980-83)—State's all-time assist leader

Second Team

- F **Susan Yow** (1976)—Kay's sister; State's first all-American
- F **Sharon Manning** (1988-91)—MVP of 1991 ACC title team
- C **Rhonda Mapp** (1989, 91-92)—Dominated with sweet shot
- G **Ginger Rouse** (1978-79, 81-82)—seventh in points
- G **Connie Rogers** (1979-82)—Could play either guard spot

Coach—**Kay Yow**

McLeod perseveres, tries to play full season

By Jennifer Bouck

Staff Writer

Going against the odds, Sarah McLeod continues to play basketball.

Despite what many doctors believe to be a career-ending condition, she is in pursuit of her first full season of play since she entered State in the fall of 1990.

"The doctors said I shouldn't play anymore," McLeod said. "But truthfully, they don't know what's wrong with me. It seems to be basically a mechanical problem of very high arches on my feet.

"I have just gotten sick of them telling me I couldn't play, so I am going to continue until I can't go anymore. I will probably have problems later in life, but I would have them whether or not I continue to play basketball. I am just not ready to give up the sport quite yet."

Since coming to State two years ago, McLeod, a 6-foot-5 center, has seen virtually little to no playing time. During her first season, she was redshirted to gain experience and knowledge

about the Wolfpack basketball program.

As a redshirt freshman during the 1991-92 season, she had surgery on her feet in October

and subsequently played in only 12 of the 28 scheduled games for the Pack. In those 12 games, she averaged 3.3 points and 4 rebounds per game.

But her perseverance was noted, and she was awarded the Iron Wolf award. After the completion of that season, she underwent further surgery in July of 1992.

"The doctors still want to do more surgery," McLeod explained. "But I decided it wasn't worth it at this point in time. Coach Yow has left the decision whether to play or not completely up to me. She doesn't want me to hurt myself, but in turn, I know she wants me to play, too.

"Karen Donaldson, our team

trainer, agrees that it is a mechanical problem, and there isn't much we can do about it. I just have to deal with it. Luckily, the pain hasn't been too bad yet."

One thing that dealing with this kind of adversity does for a player is teach lessons and strengthen character. Despite her problems, McLeod feels lucky to be playing and appreciates many simple things.

"It has taught me to be grateful of what I have," McLeod said. "I appreciate every step I can take, and I am grateful when I get a chance to play."

Basketball has long been a part of McLeod's life. Playing since she was 8 years old, she has just about grown up on the sport. Her father was the main influence in the beginning of her career.

"My Dad got me started," McLeod said. "He was a big motivator for me as my coach. I sometimes think he was living his life vicariously through me. In the beginning, I didn't have much choice, but now I am glad he got me into it."

But McLeod is not the only basketball player in the family.

Her brother, a high school senior, is being recruited at several colleges to play basketball.

While in high school, the Dunwoody, Ga., native, was a three-year starter and led her team to the state semifinals. In addition, she set the Dunwoody High School record for blocked shots with 377 in four years.

After high school, college can change a lot of people, and McLeod feels she is no exception. There are many differences, especially in college athletics.

"I feel like I have matured a lot in my playing," McLeod said. "I know I have a lot more confidence. Before, I used to worry a lot, and I think that showed in my game. This year I am really ready to go.

"I think that is partly due to the fact that people tell me I can't. I know there is no time to be scared. I just have to take it one day at a time."

As the Lady Wolfpack start the 1992-1993 season, McLeod would like to see herself playing an important role on the team.

"Ideally, I would like to be one of the first five players off the

bench," McLeod said. "But I know I am going to have to improve myself and work hard and prove myself in the games as well as practice."

"I want to contribute to the team and not be a 'benchwarmer.' I feel like I can give Teri [Whyte] a run for her money in practice and in the games. I want her to know she should be looking over her shoulder for me."

Coming off a 16-12 record and returning four veteran starters, hopes are high for the Pack to move up in the ACC and back into the NCAA Tournament. McLeod sees several goals for her teammates and herself as important barriers to cross to reach the top.

"We have great chemistry," McLeod said. "Everyone gets along really well with one another. I think the most important thing in the game is the team unity. I really think we can go anywhere."

Her teammates may just go "anywhere," but McLeod has proven she has the real determination and fire to go to that "anywhere" place.



McLeod

Sarah McLeod

	G-GS	Min	FG-FGA	Pct.	3P-3PA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	Reb	Avg.	PF-Dq	A	TO	Blk	S	Pts	Avg.
1991-92	12-0	48	2-6	.333	0-0	.000	0-2	.000	5	0.4	8-0	2	6	1	0	4	0.3
Career	12-0	48	2-6	.333	0-0	.000	0-2	.000	5	0.4	8-0	2	6	1	0	4	0.3

Krissy

Continued from Page 18

seasons, Kuziemski feels without a doubt this season's squad will be the best for her personally.

"I think playing on this year's team will be a challenge for all of the seniors," Kuziemski said. "The seniors have been

through a lot together, and I'd like to end my career playing with the same group I came to State with."

Kuziemski is also very optimistic about the opportunity for her team to win its second ACC title in three years.

"I think we have a good shot at winning [the ACC]," Kuziemski said. "We have as much talent as

any of the other teams in the conference."

Kuziemski hopes that when she leaves State she will have left a strong foundation on which the freshmen can build.

"I hope that despite whatever happens to them in their first season, they have fun and enjoy their time at State, because it goes by so fast."

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Bakalli

Continued from Page 6

season Bakalli would rather forget.

Nevertheless, Bakalli is optimistic about the start of a new season. After a long season in which the Wolfpack suffered through a nine-game losing streak, Bakalli is excited about the prospects of the '92-'93 season.

"I want to have a good year and play to my potential," Bakalli said. "It's difficult to have goals at the beginning of the season. You've got to go out

and work with what you've got."

The Belmont native also wants to prove to the nation that Wolfpack basketball belongs with the best. The Pack has been picked by most prognosticators to finish in the lower third of the ACC. Bakalli thinks this year's club can prove the critics wrong.

"We want to prove the polls wrong," Bakalli said. "This season, for the team to win realistically, we have to get after it and play together as a team."

This year's team is smaller than others, but Bakalli sees its three-point shooting and its inside game as team strengths, keyed by senior Kevin Thompson.

Knox

Continued from Page 7

"He's got offensive skills, and the big thing about Jamie is, how well he's come along as far as his ability to run and his ability to play defense," Robinson said. Knox had seven blocks and three steals in his 11-game junior campaign.

While Knox's knee is still not 100 percent, he admits he is paying particular attention to it during the team's twice-a-week weightlifting sessions. Knox believes the amount of action he sees this year will once again be determined by how well his knee feels.

"It's getting better," Knox said. "I still have pains sometimes. I hope it gets better and better as the season goes along."

Looking ahead to the upcoming season, Knox feels

this Wolfpack squad can do something last year's team couldn't: make the NCAA Tournament. It is just a matter of finding the right chemistry, he said.

"With Kevin [Thompson], the perimeter players and the experience the freshmen get last year, we can go," Knox said, referring to the team's chances at making the 64-team tournament. "It's a team effort and we have to come together. Everybody has to play his role."

Knox also said the team can achieve a success higher than what the media has predicted.

"They've got us way down in the rankings," Knox said. "If we can come together, we'll be as good as any team higher up. The new guys have to come along real quick, too. Knox also said the advice he's giving the freshmen is to take the good with the bad and to keep their heads up.

Kornegay

Continued from Page 9

felt I could be out there from the jump.

"I also didn't want to be too far from home. My family likes to come to every game they can. Ever since I can remember playing, they haven't missed a game."

It was at his home where Kornegay learned to play the game.

"I think I was around third grade. My dad wanted me to get into some kind of club or organization instead of running around," Kornegay explained. "He put me in the Boys Club, and I tried out for the basketball team. I wasn't that tall back then.

He jokingly added, "I don't think I made one shot all year. I was really embarrassed. That made me work real hard."

Kornegay is one of four newcomers for the Pack and, ironically, all are from the state of North Carolina. State did miss out on one huge target, however. Kingston's Jerry Stackhouse, a good friend of Kornegay, announced that he would attend the University of North Carolina. Stackhouse's decision might have left a lot of Wolfpack fans dismayed, but it hasn't dented Kornegay's friendship.

"I haven't been able to talk to him that much," Kornegay explained. "But it really hasn't affected our friendship. I was trying not to put pressure on him when I did see him, because I know how I was when I was being recruited. I didn't want anybody hounding me about a certain school. That really turned me off."

Floyd

Continued from Page 21

Floyd's time in the 300-meter hurdles was 45:03, tying the third best time in the state that year. Yet women's coach Kay Yow is looking to Floyd for other purposes than her speed.

"Defense and rebounding. That's what she told me tonight," Floyd said, referring to Yow's comments after the team's red-white scrimmage.

"We look to her for her great defensive ability first and foremost," Yow said. "She is a great leader, and she has great timing and a knack for rebounding." Floyd is a great leader, indeed. In high school, she took the 4-A state high jump crown with a jump of 5-feet 8-inches.

Ranked as one of the top 15

players in the state coming out of high school by recruiting analyst Bob Gibbons and named as an honorable mention all-American by USA Today, Floyd said she is glad she chose N.C. State and is ready for her second season to begin.

"I didn't know what to expect last year," Floyd said. "College basketball is very different than high school. It's more intense here."

Last year, Floyd contributed eight steals and 12 assists in her 22 games. For this year, she went 33.3 percent from the field and 62.5 percent from the foul line.

One of Floyd's best games came against Oral Roberts when she put her high-jumping skills

to work and came down with 10 rebounds. Floyd's best scoring outing was against Florida State when she scored seven points.

Floyd would not say if there were any which stuck out most in her mind. When asked if she merely chuckled and declined to comment on whether she had any memorable moments or initiation to college basketball.

Maybe this year, Floyd will add some games to her highlight tree. If she does, her Wolfpack squad might fare better than its sixth-place preseason ACC ranking. So, what do you think about your chances, Quicha?

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happened on your outside, would you still smoke?

McCuller

Continued from Page 9

In high school, he was selected to the Georgia all-state basketball team his senior year. He came to State with impressive credentials—12.4 averages of 26.4 points and 6.4 rebounds per game in his last high school season.

"My direction into basketball was inevitable," McCuller said. "My uncle played it, and I gradually picked it up and worked to get where I am.

"My mother was also a big part of that success, as she has really inspired me in everything I do. Whether it's playing basketball

or just being myself, she has helped me a lot. I can always turn to her when things aren't going that well."

Coming off a seventh-place ACC finish, the Pack has high hopes it will move up in the conference. In order to do that, McCuller sees certain goals the team must meet.

"As a team, we need to get out and play as a unit and not a group of individuals," McCuller said. "I hope to be solid and play on a consistent basis every night of the season. If these things happen, I hope we will have a successful year."

Theed McCuller looks to have a solid season. And as the old saying goes: The best is still yet to come.

Newman

Continued from Page 11

helps a lot of guys on the team."

In the future, Newman may land a role as a starter or key reserve if he continues to improve his game. For now, though, he will wait his turn while the Pack's older players and more accomplished sophomores get the bulk of the playing minutes.

Newman said he is content to wait his turn—for now.

"I'm happy with my decision to come here," he said. "I can't fault anyone but myself for playing time. The coaches, fans and my teammates have all been great."

He said that he chose State because he thought he could play a prominent role for Les Robinson's Wolfpack. It remains to be seen whether that will be the case, but Newman appears ready to do what he must to make it happen.

Fuller

Continued from Page 11

"The campus, the opportunities for education, how I felt I would fit in with the team and with the university," all influenced his decision to attend State, Fuller said.

Fuller was also impressed with State head coach Les Robinson and his staff's personality and work ethic.

"They're real down to earth," said Fuller, "but in practice, they'll push you. They know how to get the best out of you."

Fuller's own work ethic is visible in many ways—in his tough defensive efforts on the floor and even in his basketball

idols. How many times do you hear younger players list the Celtic, work horses Robert Parrish and Kevin McHale among their idols?

In the Wolfpack's early practices, Fuller has had to step into the starting five due to senior center Kevin Thompson's knee injury.

The freshman center is already drawing praise from State fans for his performance in an early exhibition game and is quickly gaining the attention of his coaches and teammates.

Fuller has simple goals for his first season at State and is working hard to achieve them.

"I'd just like to learn the system, the way things are run," said Fuller, "and listen to the upperclassmen and coaches so each game and each year I can learn more and more."

Kuziemi

Continued from Page 18

anterior cruciate ligament and moved to point guard, while Jenny became known for her tough defensive play.

Although both of the twins received ACC Championship rings in 1991, they did not have the chance to play together because of Krissy's knee injury.

This season, Jenny's confidence and versatility could be the missing ingredient needed

for another ACC title and to erase the memory of last year's 16-12 record.

"Hopefully, we'll surprise a lot of people," Jenny said. "I'd say we want to finish first, but it seems like whenever a team finishes first in the conference, they don't win the ACC Tournament.

"I'd rather be an underdog, actually, and come back and kick some people's butts. If we do well, then we'll kind of put it in all those people's faces who thought we were going to be terrible."

Lewis

Continued from Page 10

improvement on last year's 12-18 record. Lewis has some goals in mind for himself and

the team.

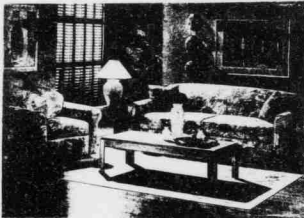
"I definitely want to play more," Lewis said. "I would like to be of an impact player and contribute to the team."

"For any team, there is always the ideas of ACC titles and NCAA titles, but I think we

need to focus on consistency. Last year we were really sporadic. We spanked Carolina then lost to Iona. We need to have some more consistency going into next year."

Consistency will definitely be the key for the Pack and Lewis.

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