

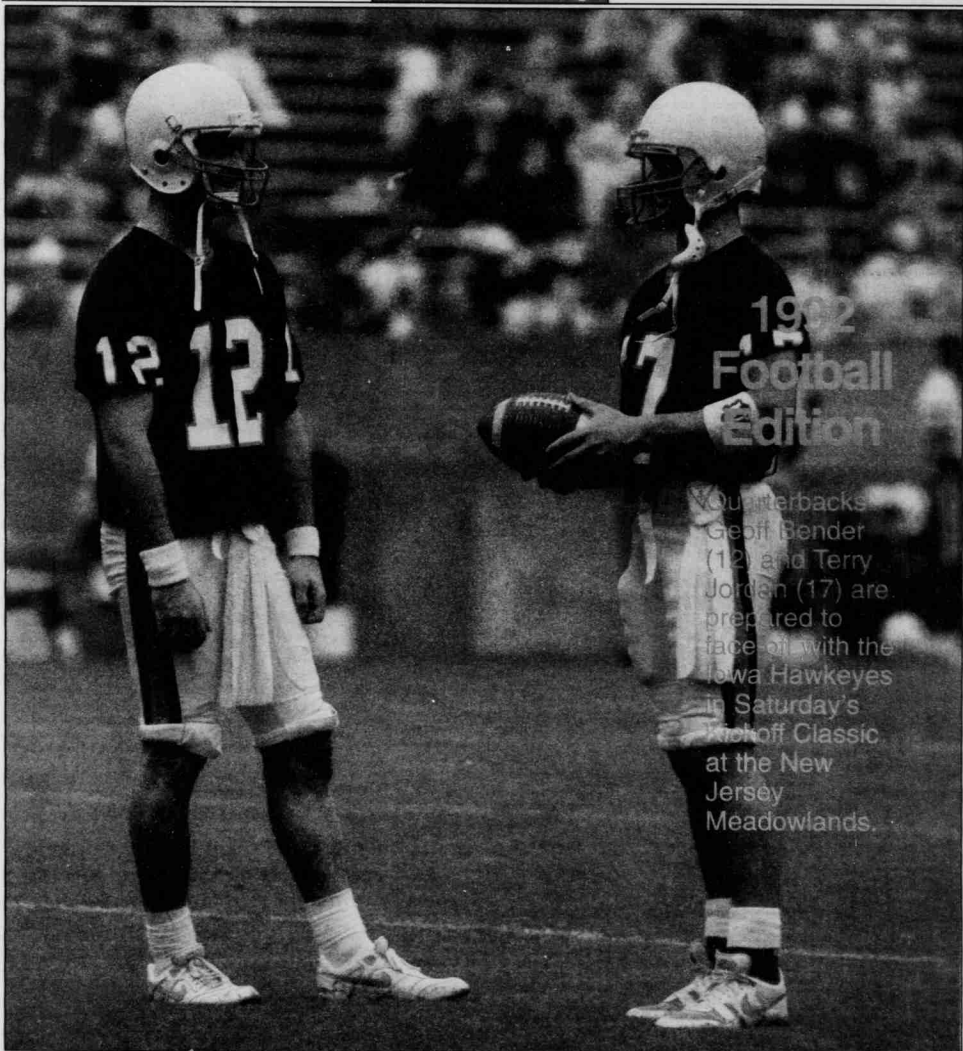
Tech too

North Carolina State University's Newspaper Since 1920

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1992 Football Edition

Quarterbacks
Geoff Bender
(12) and Terry
Jordan (17) are
prepared to
face off with the
Iowa Hawkeyes
in Saturday's
Kickoff Classic
at the New
Jersey
Meadowlands.

Jordan is top wolf at quarterback for now

By Owen Good
Senior Staff Writer

The N.C. State football brain trust has made up its mind — for now.

Terry Jordan, the 6-foot-1 senior from Tampa, Fla., is the starting quarterback for this year's aggregation, but head coach Dick Sheridan isn't about to make any blanket statements.

The dilemma the coaching staff is presented with this year was, thankfully for the coaches, a delightful one. Three quarterbacks stepped forward and contributed to the 1991 Wolfpack's 9-3 Peach Bowl season. Only one can have the starting job for the present season.

It all started when Jordan was sidelined by a broken arm during the heated North Carolina game. Jordan had been a visible team leader to that point, completing 56 percent of his passes for 511 yards and issuing four touchdowns to receivers.

After a collective groan descended on Carter-Finley Stadium, freshman Geoff Bender shook off his redshirt status and stepped in to lead State to the 24-7 victory. Bender then displayed surprise brilliance in the following two Saturday matinees with Georgia Tech and Marshall.

Bender rallied the troops for the game-winning 74-yard drive against ACC-contender Tech. He then kick-started a lame-duck offense for two touchdowns in three minutes during a sene-shattering 15-14 win over Division I-AA monster Marshall. With Jordan slated to return just in time for any bowl game, Bender's duty was to make sure Jordan and the team would reach such a game. Bender recovered from a disheartening loss to Clemson to show South Carolina a 38-21 style hoodlum.

But in the downpour that was Homecoming '91, Bender separated his shoulder and made a premature exit against Virginia.

True freshman Terry Harvey then entered the game. As the Wolfpack appeared to exhaust its string of luck, State's third nine-win season also looked out for reach.

But "the other Terry" would prove to be just as good. Harvey couldn't do much with the 35-3 deficit he inherited in the 42-10 loss to Virginia. But his next start against Duke showed that his name would have to be figured into the '92 quarterback equation.

Harvey looked up with Robert Hinton for a clutch two-point conversion in the 32-31 squeaker over the Blue Devils.

But the healthy Jordan got the nod in the New Year's Day Peach Bowl and has it thus far for the 1992 campaign.

"It's Terry Jordan's job," quarterback coach Mike O'Cain said. "Either he loses it or somebody takes it from him. He has put in his time and deserves to play."

With Jordan in the lineup, State gets an experienced quarterback with a pure passer's arm, O'Cain said. O'Cain adding that he should perform well now that he knows the staff is behind him.

"He thought he'd lost his chance," O'Cain said after Jordan suffered the season-ending injury. "But when we put him in the Peach Bowl it was a tremendous boost."

"Terry doesn't lack confidence, but he's got to believe that you have confidence in him in order for him to perform," O'Cain added.

Jordan has quietly established himself as a top-flight ACC quarterback. The publicity surrounding the injury situation allowed all three candidates to showcase their talents.

"There have been expectations of quarterbacks in the past, but usually they've been considered middle of the pack," commented O'Cain.

Now, O'Cain says, the Pack is at the front of the pack.



Jordan

38-68-2,511
yds, 4 TDs in '91

QUARTERBACKS



Bender

76-157, 949
yds, 7 TDs in '91

Position Analysis

Terry Jordan	6-1	194	Sr.
Geoff Bender	6-4	201	So.
Terry Harvey	6-1	180	So.

"I think there's more expected from this group than from any group in the conference," O'Cain said.

Bender should fit in as the second-string QB, with the coaches looking to red-shirt Harvey.

"Geoff had a very, very good spring practice," O'Cain said. "He could beat out Terry in the fall. We'll see."

But no matter how much the Wolfpack staff thinks any of the three deserves to play, it will not employ a multi-quarterback rotation.

"We don't like to have a two-quarterback system. We did that for a couple of years, and it was hard on us," O'Cain said.

Bender is a pure passer in the same vein as Jordan and looks to be heir apparent because Harvey is considering a career in baseball.

O'Cain would love to have Harvey opt for the pigskin instead of the horseshoe. He's just a natural athlete. I've probably coached him less than any other quarterback I've had."

However, O'Cain sees Harvey behind Jordan and Bender in mentally planning out his attack.

Harvey hasn't mentally mapped out his sports career yet. "I thought I'd know what I wanted to do when I got out of high school. But here it's college and I still don't know."

"You can't beat football Saturdays," Harvey said, "but in terms of longevity and thinking about the body, it's baseball."

In choosing a starter and sticking with him, at least one player is going to lose a season of eligibility. Harvey may opt to



Ann Kenion/Staff

Terry Harvey came on to strong to help post two Pack wins in '91.

be redshirted, something he never got around to last year, in case baseball doesn't pan out.

But even though Harvey and Bender are willing to sacrifice that year of eligibility, that doesn't mean they're satisfied. "The only one that's satisfied right now is Terry Jordan," O'Cain said.

Dear Wolfpack fans,

Welcome to college football season. I hope you're as excited as I am about the upcoming fall. Wolfpack football is going places and I'm thrilled about the opportunity to see State play. I hope you are, too.

This Pack Preview issue is a culmination of many people's hard work and I'd like to thank everybody who contributed. Special thanks goes to my staff, who prepared much of the summer for this one issue. A sincere thanks also goes to assistant photo editor Ann Kenion, who supervised photography. She and Angela Pridden did a tremendous job and I couldn't have done it without those two ladies.

Thanks to Julie Gale for doing the copy-editing and a huge thanks to Jeff Drew, who did about anything I needed him to. Last, but not least, my gratitude goes out to Laura Allen, who did the layout, and Sharrard Lewis, who did the proofreading. If I left anybody out, I apologize. You all did excellent work.

Enjoy the season Pack fans. If you're going to the Meadowlands, I'll see you there. If not, make sure to tune in your TV Saturday night. I promise you won't be disappointed.

Bill Overton

On the Cover

Sophomore Geoff Bender (left) and senior Terry Jordan (right) are two of three proven quarterbacks in a QB-deep Wolfpack squad. They will try to help State improve on last season's 9-3 record.

Photo by Ann Kenion.

Explosive backfield armed with weapons

By Puan Wallace
Staff Writer

Having lost several experienced players from last year's offense, the N.C. State football team needs only to look in its own backfield to find a wealth of leadership.

Boosting three seniors and two juniors, the Wolfpack's backfield looks to be one of the strongest parts of this year's team.

"I feel good that we have depth and experience at the position," State running back coach Dick Portee said.

Leading the way for the Pack is senior tailback Anthony Barbour. The Garner native led the team in rushing yardage last year, amassing 769 yards. Barbour's 6.2 average per carry was tops in the conference, despite the fact he is one of the smallest backs in the ACC.

"He's not a big back by any means, but we're expecting him to do well," Portee said. "His great acceleration and good experience go hand-in-hand. We expect our running game to be solid with him in there."

One of the juniors that will be called upon to contribute is tailback Gary Downs. The 6-2, 205 pound Downs was used primarily in short yardage situations last season en route to gaining 212 yards.

"Last season, Gary was used quite a bit in the short yardage, goal-line situations and he scored some touchdowns for us," Portee noted. "We expect him to continue to do that because of his size and the ability he showed us last year."

Portee also said that Downs would be used in more standard formations.

"You should also expect him to give us a number of plays when Anthony's not in the game," Portee explained. "Gary is very capable, he's a very good back and he has real good speed and acceleration. And when Anthony's out of the game, we don't expect much of a drop-off when Gary comes in the game."

Senior tailback Aubrey Shaw adds spice to the unit with his ability to catch passes out of the backfield. The 5-11, 201 pound Shaw caught 12 passes for 126 yards in addition to his 257



Barbour

769 yds in 91,
3 TDs, 6.2 avg

RUNNING BACKS

Position Analysis

FB	Greg Manior	6-2	241	Sr.
FB	Ledel George	6-1	207	Jr.
FB	Dallas Dickerson	6-2	227	So.
TB	Anthony Barbour	5-9	175	Sr.
TB	Aubrey Shaw	5-11	201	Sr.
TB	Gary Downs	6-2	205	Jr.



Shaw

257 rush, 157
recep yds in '91

rushing yards gained last year.

"During his sophomore season, Shaw was the leading receiver on the football team as a running back," Portee said. "When we have to throw the football, Aubrey will come in the game."

Lending Barbour, Downs and Shaw support in the backfield this season will be senior fullback Greg Manior. Last season, Manior's 272 rushing yards were good for second-best on the team.

Manior will also be making a comeback of sorts this year. Since last season, he's had arthroscopic knee surgery and sat out the entire spring football season.

However, Portee said Manior is near full recovery. "This early season camp, he's been doing

very well."

Also expected to make an impact is third-year fullback Ledel George. George, like Shaw, was used primarily in passing situations and caught 25 passes for 225 yards in '92.

"Ledel's the type of athlete that excels in catching the ball, making plays for us when the defense is spread out," Portee said.

George also tallied 52 rushing yards on 16 carries—a fact that doesn't escape Portee.

"He'll continue to be used in passing situations, and we're also working very hard to be able to play him in the regular downs as a fullback."

Adding a twist to this year's backfield is sophomore Dallas Dickerson. Last season,

Dickerson played at tight end, however, he has made the move to fullback a smooth one.

"We used him quite a bit in the spring," Portee said. "He got better in spring football. He's not played in a game for us yet, but he's had a pretty good preseason and he's done real well."

Portee said his running backs are not taught to meet any numerical goals, but to abide by three simple rules:

1) Protect the football 2) Break tackles 3) Make 'em miss."

"By doing these things, we'll be successful in doing what we have to do," Portee said. "The bottom line is us doing our job well to win the football game."

Healthy Greg Manior needed for success

By Jeff Drew
Staff Writer

They are hidden on some teams and showcased on others. They silently clear a path or they explosively run to glory. Their jobs vary from team to team, play to play, situation to situation. They are the fullbacks—the do-everything players of college football.

N.C. State senior Greg Manior is the Wolfpack's version of the Renaissance running back. The 6-foot-2, 241 pounder has the size and power to go up the middle, the speed to break it outside and the agility to avoid the obstacles in between. In fact, about the only thing Manior can't do is call his own plays.

"He's got good speed and he's a strong kid who can block and run the ball inside," Wolfpack running back coach Dick Portee said. "He's improved and has looked pretty good this fall."

While he is schooled in all phases of backfield play, Manior understands that his main job this season is to block for State's talented crew of tailbacks. If successful, Manior will have taken a large step in helping to re-establish the Pack's rushing

game as a formidable one in the ACC. It is a responsibility he does not take lightly.

"To have a good season, I have to block well for the tailbacks, Anthony Barbour, Aubrey Shaw and Gary Downs, and open holes for them," Manior said. "If I do that, we should do well."

And Manior should collect quite a few stars. State coaches issue stars as a reward for the knockdown blocks that flatten opponents and open wide running lanes. Manior takes pride in collecting his share of the prizes.

"I like to make knockdowns and collect stars," Manior said. "Since I have to block, I'd much rather give a blow than take one."

When not plowing into opponents, Manior gives the Wolfpack offense a multi-faceted runner it can throw at the defense. A threat to break the big play since his freshman season, Manior has enjoyed many memorable moments with the Pack.

"Probably, the biggest highlight I can think of in my career is my touchdown in the all-American bowl," Manior said, referring to his spectacular 41-yard sprint



Angela Prigden/Staff

At 6-2 and 241 pounds, fullback Greg Manior is one hefty order for defenders to bring down.

which featured a swan dive into the end zone. "The Carolina game was good too, even though I didn't score." Manior broke off a 52-yard romp late in State's 40-

6 thrashing of the Heels.

Manior's ability to break the big one was threatened in the spring when he had to undergo arthroscopic surgery to rectify a

lingering knee injury. But after missing spring practice and rehabilitating through the summer, Manior said his knee is back to 100 percent.

Addition of Hegamin makes line one of the biggest ever

By Nick Marcopulos
Staff Writer

If the N.C. State offense is to be successful in 1992, it may depend on the men in the trenches.

As a result, the largest challenge facing Coach Dick Sheridan and his staff will be to rebuild an offensive line that lost three starters to graduation and two projected starters to injuries.

Second-team all-ACC linemen Scott Adell and Clyde Hawley, along with tight end Todd Harrison, combined for a total of eight years as starters. Two-year letterman Brent Bagwell will be one to an injured knee but will stay on as a student assistant to offensive line coach Robbie Caldwell.

Six-foot-four, 275-pound guard

and two-year starter Mike Gee was expected to be sidelined in '92 with shoulder problems, but to the surprise of everyone, Gee will return to the field.

However, even with the return of Gee, the Pack may still find themselves lost in the woods. Brothers Scott and Heath Woods will not see action in '92. Scott, a 6-4, 271-pound junior tackle and returning starter will be redshirted after having fallen victim to injury. His younger brother Heath, a 6-4, 289-pound sophomore tackle transfer from UNC-Chapel Hill must sit out one more semester under NCAA guidelines to be eligible to play. "The key to starting to make it to a bowl game, look for Heath Woods to be a key reserve.

"Because we'll be relying on so many young players, our top priority in the spring was

offensive line play," Sheridan said. "We've still got quality and depth. Overall, it's the best talent we've had, but we'll still be lacking experience."

So taking into account the losses, the projected starting line-up for the offensive line looks to have senior co-captain Neil Auer at tight end. The 6-5, 245-pound Auer is an excellent pass-catcher and a much-improved blocker. Backups Ryan Schultz and Miller Lawson will also see time at the position.

The center spot will belong to junior Todd Ward, who along with Gee, is the only returning starter. At 6-2 and 254 pounds, Ward may not have the size of other linemen, but he is a tremendous worker and leader for the younger players. Junior James Newsome and sophomore David Innam should back up at

center.

The right guard slot will welcome back Gee, while converted guard Shawn Johnson will move over to left tackle from his old post at center. Johnson possesses all the physical tools and just lacks the experience needed to be a dominant player. Three-year letterman Marc Hubble, a 6-4, 273-pound senior, and sophomore Chris Black will also provide key minutes at the guard position.

Also contributing will be two heralded redshirt freshmen, Chris Hennie-Roed and Steve Kiem, who have both impressed coaches in the fall workouts.

Redshirt freshman George Hegamin, a robust 6-6, 346-pounder, will make the shift from defense to offense and will occupy the right tackle position.

Meanwhile, the left tackle slot should be filled by 6-3, 270-pound Eric Taylor, a two-year letterman.

Junior Chuck Cole and sophomore Ed Miller should see backup time at tackle. Also contributing will be redshirt freshmen Chris Tortu, Jonathan Redmond and Kenneth Redmond.

While this year's line may lack the experience held by last year's squad, experience may be the only attribute missing from the bunch.

"Overall, we're much more physical and have more athletic ability as a whole unit," offensive coordinator Robbie Caldwell said. "We need to stay injury-free due to our depth problems and get our redshirts ready to play."

Gee gets a second chance at football

By Nick Marcopulos
Staff Writer

As N.C. State prepared for the 1992 football season, guard Mike Gee was facing the realization of not being a part of this season. The 6-4, 275-pound offensive lineman was facing a career-threatening shoulder injury he aggravated back in January. After arthroscopic surgery, his doctor advised him that he not continue with the game.

"Back in 1988, I had a shoulder dislocation, and they put a pin in the shoulder — then a bone block. They call it, Gee said. "I'm not sure it was necessary, and it was not successful.

"The bone graft didn't calcify properly. The pin popped, digging into the joint, tearing up the tissue."

Gee was greatly anticipating his final year with the Pack. The senior from Burlington was flooded with potential all-ACC honors and could play with a team capable of shaking up the league.

"You come to a point where you say 'Alright, if things don't continue after next year, I can handle that and prepare, but this was such a sudden shock, having something I've been doing for so long taken away from me immediately,'" responded Gee.

After doctors advised Gee to give up the game, he entered a period of serious thought.

"Being advised to quit without trying isn't good enough for me," Gee explained. "I had to try to rehabilitate myself just to prove that I gave it my best and would never have to second-guess myself."

The shocking news came when Gee went back to his doctor for a re-examination in April. Gee had expected to hear that he would need to have reconstructive surgery, which would end any possibility of returning for his senior season.

Instead, he was miraculously given the go-ahead to continue playing.

"The shoulder was totally stable," Gee said. "The doctor was amazed. He said he couldn't believe it, that it didn't even look like the same shoulder."

Gee was now ready to strengthen his arms and legs, and due to missed winter and spring workouts, that would take a lot of hard work and pain. But, hard work and pain are nothing new for Mike Gee.

"Mike has been playing in pain ever since he began playing for us," offensive line coach Robbie Caldwell said. "Besides being such a dedicated athlete, he's also a good leader and a pleasure to have out here. He's not a complainer; he just goes out and does what he has to do."

Not only is Gee a leader on the field, but he's also a winner in the classroom. He recently earned a spot on the academic honor roll.

Gee has been working out in pads during practice and doesn't



Hegamin

Newest member of offensive line came over from defensive line in '92

OFFENSIVE LINE

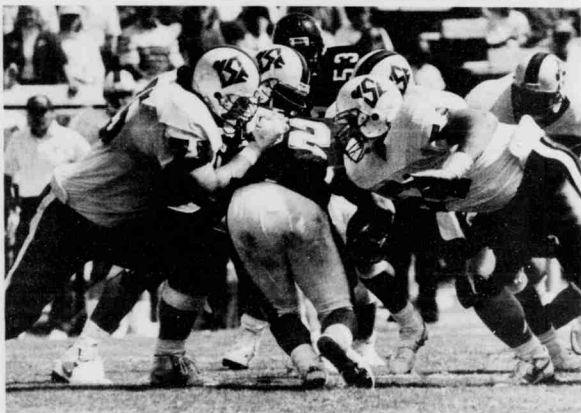
Position Analysis

T	Eric Taylor	6-3	270	Jr.
T	George Hegamin	6-6	346	Fr.
C	Todd Ward	6-4	275	Jr.
G	Mike Gee	6-4	292	Sr.
G	Shawn Johnson	6-2	265	Jr.
TE	Neil Auer	6-5	245	Sr.



Auer

Co-Captain, has 6 lifetime reps for 75 yds, good hands for TE



Ann Kenion/Staff

After what was thought to be a career-ending injury, Mike Gee (75) will return for State in 1992.

seem to be focusing on his shoulder.

"I try to be positive about everything," Gee said. "I know that I wouldn't be out here

playing if it wasn't meant to be. The more time I spend worrying about my shoulder, the less time I have to concentrate on what I need to do out on the field."

But for now at least, Mike Gee can concentrate on enjoying his final season doing what he loves to do — play football.

Wideout talent bolsters Pack passing game

By Puan Wallace
Staff Writer

During last year's N.C. State football season, whenever someone spoke about the Wolfpack receivers, they usually referred to Charles Davenport and no one else. Davenport's exploits cast long shadows over the efforts of the other Wolfpack receivers.

However, with Davenport having moved on to the NFL, the "other guys" can now be seen as the impressive group of receivers that they are.

"This is the best group that I've had," said wide receiver coach Jimmy Kiser, who is entering his seventh season.

Kiser went on to state that not one receiver appears to stand out above the rest. "There's not a whole lot of difference between the top one and the seventh one."

"We may not have the Haywood Jeffries or the Charles Davenport at the top of the group, but I think top-to-bottom, this is the deepest group that I've had."

The lone senior in the receiving corps is split end Reggie Lawrence. The 6-foot, 178-pound speedster hauled in six receptions for 55 yards and a touchdown last year.

Lawrence, who also runs for the NCSU indoor and outdoor

track teams, will be looked upon to set an example for the younger wideouts.

"Obviously he's been here awhile, he's got real good playing experience, he's real dependable, he's smart," Kiser said of Lawrence. "He'll provide the senior leadership for our group."

Another talented Pack receiver is junior flanker Ray Griffin. Last season, the Burlington native made 14 catches for 202 yards and a touchdown.

"Ray's a real good player," Kiser said. "He's small, but he's real good. He's also fast and he does a real good job."

Robert Hinton, a junior split end from Garner, is yet another receiver who impresses Kiser.

"He's a guy that's been there before, and we're counting on some big things from him," Kiser said. "He was in the rotation last year so he's made a lot of big catches for us."

Hinton posted solid numbers last year with 14 receptions of his own for 174 yards and a touchdown. Included in those receptions was Hinton's game-winning, two-point conversion grab against Duke.

Sophomore flanker Eddie Goines is coming back after a strong

freshman campaign. According to Kiser, Goines has improved



Griffin

14 catches in 91
for 202 yds

RECEIVERS

Position Analysis

FL	Ray Griffin	5-10	165 Jr.
FL	Eddie Goines	6-1	185 So.
SE	Reggie Lawrence	6-0	178 Sr.
SE	Robert Hinton	6-1	184 Jr.
FL	Adrian Hill	6-2	187 So.



Goines

14 catches in 91
for 219 yds

noticeably.

"Eddie Goines has looked really good in August camp," Kiser said. "He's very talented. He's the fastest receiver we have. He's gotten bigger and stronger. He's developed into a really good blocker. He's really developed into a complete player. He's going to be pushing for a starting position."

Goines also caught 14 passes last season, the most memorable of which was the one-handed, 49-yard snare against Duke that set up the game-winner. Goines finished the season with 219 yards receiving and a touchdown.

Another sophomore that looks to make an impact this year is flanker Adrian Hill. While Hill didn't receive many playing time last year, Kiser has high hopes for him this year.

"Hill is definitely the most improved receiver on the team," Kiser said. "He's come a long way from last year and we're looking for him to do well."

Rounding out the Wolfpack receiving unit are two red-shirt freshmen, Mike Guffie and Brian Davenport.

Guffie (6-3, 182 pounds), a highly touted player from Lakeside High School (Ga.), was tabbed as one of the top 50 wide receivers coming out of high school.

Davenport starred at Pine Forest High School in Fayetteville and is the younger brother of Charles Davenport—a fact of which he is very much aware.

"I remind Brian all the time about being Charles' little brother and he's getting tired of hearing it," Kiser said.

Kiser said that while the two freshmen's time may be limited, they are to prepare as much as the returning lettermen.

"I expect both of them to play and to contribute," Kiser said. "It just depends on the injury situation. They've got to be ready to go. They'll play every game."

With such a deep unit of

wideouts, you can expect the Wolfpack coaches to employ as many receivers as possible on a regular basis.

"We've gotten into a situation where we'll carry anywhere from six to seven receivers on our varsity squad," Kiser said. "And we'll play that group each game, we'll rotate them in and out."

And for all of these receivers, Kiser said that catching the football isn't the only aspect of the position.

"We want our receivers to understand that it's just as important that they make that key block out there as it is that they make the big reception."

And with all this talent, what does the wide receivers coach look for the team to establish first? The running game, naturally.

"Anytime you're running the ball successfully, it makes the passing game that much easier," Kiser said.

"The passing game will kind of take care of itself."

Lawrence to take on new leadership role

By Jeff Drew
Staff Writer

Reggie Lawrence has seen it happen before.

From far away in his hometown of Camden, N.J., or from upclose as a reserve wide receiver and kick returner for the N.C. State football team, Lawrence has watched as the Wolfpack has developed some of the best pass catchers in college football.

Talents such as Mike Quick, Haywood Jeffries, Naz Worthen, Danny Peebles and Charles Davenport have all honed their skills in the State system before moving on to careers in the NFL. Now, as the only senior in the receiving corps, it's up to Lawrence to

continue tradition.

"It's not necessarily me personally but everybody who's going to have to step it up," Lawrence said. "I don't feel any pressure personally. We've got at least four guys who can start, and there's probably six with the ability to play and contribute."

"It's my responsibility as the only senior to provide some leadership."

"[Lawrence's] role will expand this year," State wide receiver coach Jimmy Kiser said. "As my only senior, he will be expected to provide leadership, and as my most experienced player, he will be looking to set the proper pace."

More than likely, that pace will be fast. Lawrence, who moonlights with the track team, earned all-American honors during the indoor season in the 55-meter dash, and his 4.3 second 40-yard-dash time makes him one of the fastest players known



Lawrence

See R. LAWRENCE, Page 9



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Sheridan has Wolfpack moving in right direction

Pack enjoys success on and off field

By Jeff Drew
Staff Writer

When N.C. State University officials hired Dick Sheridan as head football coach in 1985, they thought they had gotten the man who would turn their football program around. They were wrong.

Dick Sheridan hasn't been building a football team at N.C. State, he's been constructing an ideal. Not merely satisfied with fielding a competitive team, training a decent player or producing an adequate student, Sheridan instead wants to implement the perfect plan, assemble the most cohesive unit and win the ultimate game. In short, Dick Sheridan wants it all.

"I want to prove we can have the best team in the country on the field at N.C. State while also having the best students and the best representatives of a university a school can have," Sheridan said at an interview last week. "These are lofty goals, I know, but I feel that athletics need role models. I would love for this program to be that role model."

Sheridan's blueprint for his model is a list of coaching principles he developed during his previous stint as head coach at Furman. It is these guidelines that provide the philosophical foundation that has supported the State football program for the past six years.

"It's important to know what you believe in, so every year I sit down with my staff and go over the guidelines we will use in making our decisions," Sheridan said. "We are very demanding, but if we let our players know what they can expect from us and be consistent, then our players will meet our expectations."

"Coach Sheridan is very upfront; that's one of his strongest points," running back coach Dick Porter said. "You know what to expect with him and that's the way I've always done it in my 27 years of coaching, and that's the way it's done here."

When he arrived in 1986, Sheridan's straight-forward approach brought about an immediate revival in the Wolfpack program. Providing his new team with a sense of purpose and hope, Sheridan took players mired in the ruins of three consecutive 3-8 seasons and inspired them to make a run at the ACC championship.

The highlights in that 8-3-1

HEAD COACH

Dick Sheridan

-43-26-2 at N.C. State in 6 years, 112-49-4 (14 years)

-1986 Bobby Dodd Coach of the Year

-Has the nations eighth best winning percentage among active coaches (.691)



Sheridan



Ann Kenion/Staff

Head coach Dick Sheridan is trying to point the Pack toward an ACC title and national recognition.

season were many. State defeated archrival North Carolina for the first time in seven seasons, whipped conference power Clemson on ABC television and earned its first bowl appearance since 1978. The remarkable turnaround brought Sheridan a slew of coaching honors, including ACC Coach of the Year and Bobby Dodd National Coach of the Year. At the end of it all, it seemed as if Sheridan could do no wrong.

Six years later, that aura of unapproachability has been removed from the Sheridan mystique. A 4-7 campaign in 1987 proved that Sheridan can be beaten, and an inability to avoid injuries, defeat Virginia or win an ACC championship has shown he can be stymied. His erratic offense has been ridiculed in the press, and his recruiting has consistently been graded as average at best.

But despite these problems,

Sheridan's teams have achieved a remarkable level of success. Since 1986, State has compiled an overall record of 43-26-2, enjoyed a 14-2-2 advantage over Big Four competition, won five of six from UNC and reached four straight bowl games.

Sheridan's teams have made strides off the field as well.

"I am especially proud of the gains we've made academically," Sheridan said. "Only two of the 20 seniors on this year's team don't have the 2.0 GPA needed to graduate. And only two of the 27 that were seniors last year don't have it. That means only four of 47 players are lacking the necessary GPA."

Sheridan's emphasis on the 2.0 GPA differs from the focus on graduation rates taken by the media and many coaches. To Sheridan, making sure his players stay on track to graduate takes precedence over making sure they're going fast enough.

"We structure our academic program around the 2.0," Sheridan said. "We know that if a player has a 2.0 average that eventually he is going to graduate whether it takes four years, five years or whatever."

"If the players maintain above a 2.0 they are treated just like every other student. Freshmen, though, we do require to go through supervised study Sunday through Thursday night regardless of the GPA, because we want to make sure they get off to a good start. Those upperclassmen who fall below a 2.0 are also required to attend the study sessions, and we require that they attend breakfast every morning so we can be sure they go to class."

"We also talk to their professors because they have the best perspective on how well the players are doing and what that player needs to work on."

"Unlike some coaches who

give lip service to academics, Coach Sheridan actually makes a commitment," defensive coordinator Buddy Green said. "He wants to develop young men who are more than just football players and are also gentlemen."

According to Sheridan, finding the players willing to make the necessary sacrifices is the key to making his system work.

"My staff does a great job in recruiting, of finding the players with the self-discipline and desire to succeed in the classroom," Sheridan said. "We've been very fortunate in the players we have gotten for this program. Our players represent the school in a proper fashion and display great responsibility and character."

"It makes me feel good when someone will go out of their way to compliment me on their behavior at a particular event or on a trip. Our players take great pride in representing the student body of this university."

But while Sheridan receives almost universal praise for his off-the-field accomplishments, he often takes criticism for his on-the-field decisions. Fans and columnists label his emphasis on the running game as too conservative, and recruiting analysts consider his strict guidelines for player selection too limiting.

Throw in the limited tradition and facilities that go with the N.C. State football program and the skeptics seem to have plenty of ammunition for their argument that State can never develop into a top-10 football program. Sheridan, however, seems unimpressed by the evidence.

"When I was considering taking this job, there were several people who told me not to take it, that told me that you could never win at N.C. State," Sheridan said. "But what they considered to be disadvantages, I never saw. I only looked at them as challenges that we would have to overcome. And the only way I know how to do that is to work as hard as we know how."

As Sheridan looks to the future, he maintains his hope for the ideal team. And while he has had offers to realize his vision at football-crazed South Carolina and Georgia, he appears determined to finish the job at State.

"You might say I feel it's my responsibility to stay and finish what I started," Sheridan said, "but I really admire the fans we have at State. And I think they have the same vision for the program that I do."

"As long as I feel that the university has a commitment at N.C. State to at least try and have the program I've described, and as long as I feel like we have the fans' support, I'd like to do it here."

State faces most challenging schedule ever

Classic adds flavor to 92 Pack season

By Owen Good

Senior Staff Writer

There aren't many fans that remember N.C. State's 9-3 1991 season, which was only its third nine-win season in 100 years of football.

That's because, unfortunately, the Wolfpack went out with a loss, a New Year's Day defeat at the hands of East Carolina in the Peach Bowl.

It has taken a long time for the scars of 1991 to heal. Sure, they scabbed over, but State supporters couldn't help but pick at them.

But why? Why focus on the negative? After all, the Pack earned Big Four bragging rights last year; Wake Forest was never a match; Duke futilely believed they could have won — then lost on State's last drich miracles, and the Carolina game; the most venerable rivalry in the state, was sweetened by the Wolfpack's unprecedented fourth consecutive victory over the Heels.

Throw in the heart-stopping thriller with Marshall and then consider that State did all this despite not one, but two losses at its key offensive position — quarterback.

Nine of twelve ain't bad. So what more do the fans want?

Plenty. Here are the demands:

For starters, they want a victory over Virginia, which would be the first in head coach Dick Sheridan's six-year tenure. President Jefferson's boys ruined the Pack's Homecoming last year, and fans are howling for payback.

Speaking of payback, revenge against Clemson is also high on the agenda. Then 11th-ranked State was embarrassed last year in Death Valley by the Tigers, who chose to wear purple for the first time since the 1930s. Orange, purple, whatever. The Wolfpack will be wearing — and seeing — red when Clemson comes calling in the Textile Bowl.

Carolina. State can never win too many against UNC. The Sept. 26 matchup should, and always, be a litmus test for how

good the Pack's season will turn out.

And although East Carolina isn't on the schedule, the father must pay for the sins of the sons. Former Pirate coach Bill Lewis, now the patriarch of Georgia Tech, receives N.C. State in Atlanta on Oct. 3. Courtesies are not expected.

Supporters can be a vicious and demanding lot. But the Wolfpack will do its best to oblige.

To serve the fans better, State brings a loaded offense to the 1992 season. Despite the fact the Wolfpack defense receives more advanced press, an overlooked offense could be the key to a few games this year.

No one, however, has overlooked the quarterback trio of Terry Jordan, Terry Harvey, and Geoff Bender. These three displayed competence and leadership last year. Jordan has been given the nod to start the season, but the coaching staff acknowledges that Bender could steal the job late in the fall. Terry Harvey is perhaps the best third string quarterback in the country, and he will likely sit out after missing much of the spring practice for baseball season.

The running game under Coach Sheridan's tenure has been steadily improving. Anthony Barbour, Gary Downs and Aubrey Shaw will provide the steam from the backfield.

Shaw rushed for 257 yards and four touchdowns in 1991. He will provide depth at the tailback position behind Downs. Downs was the Wolfpack's scoring specialist in '91, landing in the end zone five times.

But Barbour will definitely be the leader on the ground. Barbour led the conference with his 6.2 yards per carry average in 1991. He also rushed for three touchdowns and gained 769 yards, the best for a State back since 1984.

Rounding out the offense will be Reggie Lawrence and the G-Men, Eddie Goines and Ray Griffis. The three will attempt to pick up the slack caused by

1992 Wolfpack Schedule

Aug. 29	Iowa (Kickoff Classic)	9:00
Sep. 5	APPALACHIAN STATE	7:00
Sep. 12	at Maryland	12:10
Sep. 19	FLORIDA STATE	12:10
Sep. 26	at North Carolina	1:30
Oct. 3	at Georgia Tech	12:10
Oct. 10	TEXAS TECH	1:00
Oct. 17	at Virginia Tech	1:00
Oct. 24	CLEMSON	1:00
Nov. 7	at Virginia	12:10
Nov. 14	DUKE	12:10
Nov. 21	WAKE FOREST	1:00

Home games in CAPS
Iowa in E. Rutherford, NJ

Charles Davenport's departure. Don't look for them to struggle.

Lawrence, as the lone senior wideout, will provide much-needed experience. Last year he caught six passes for 55 yards, good for a 9.2 yard average.

Goines, timed as the fastest man on the team, pulled down 14 receptions for 219 yards in his rookie year with State. Griffis, also a first-time letter winner, averaged 14.4 yards per catch. Griffis nursed an injured shoulder this spring, but is expected to be 100 percent in the fall.

The defense is expected to be as miserly as ever. Last season, the pack yielded only 304.2 yards and 16.8 points per game, leaving them the 17th-ranked defense in the nation. This was highlighted by a three-game streak of allowing no touchdowns.

But since the Wolfpack's first game is with Big Ten force Iowa, it isn't likely to be repeated.

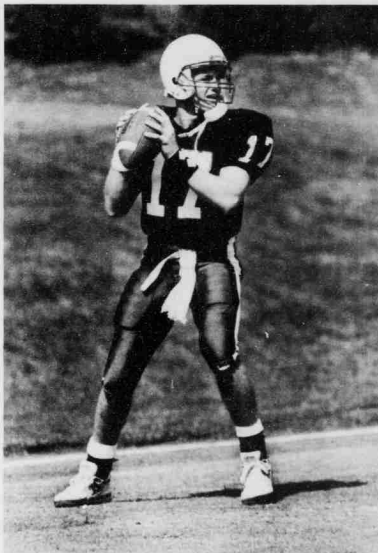
That isn't to say that cornerback Sebastian Savage won't give it his all. The first team all-ACC selection hauled in five interceptions last year, broke up an additional six passes and crunched 63 tackles.

Dewayne Washington will pal around with Savage on the other corner. Washington, who prefers to make the big hit, racked up 31 tackles last season.

Backing Savage and Washington at the safety positions are Mike Reid and Ricky Turner.

Reid is a preseason all-ACC pick coming off last year's solid performance at strong safety. Reid made 83 tackles and broke up 14 passes in addition to blocking two punts.

Turner played his first season as a defensive liner in '91 and had a veteran-like year. The



Ann Kenion/Staff

Senior Terry Jordan will try to reload his rifle arm this season. The 6-1, 185 quarterback could challenge for post-season honors.

senior free safety had 48 tackles to go along with three interceptions and 5 passes broken up.

Among the linebackers, David Merritt occupies one inside linebacker position and is a probable all-ACC candidate. Merritt has proven that he can turn it up in the big games. He posted a career-best 19 tackles against Clemson, and 13 against UNC.

Greg Giamanore teams with Merritt at the other linebacker spot. Giamanore has earned two letters as a linebacker and is a valuable commodity with the departure of Billy Ray Haynes. He too can be counted on in a pinch, as he tackled fourteen in his first start, against Georgia Tech.

Keith Battle is the leading candidate for the "raider" outside linebacker position. Battle pulled double duty on the defensive line and against special teams, and should do the same this season. At 6-3 and 238 pounds, Battle adds a quick dimension to his play at linebacker.

Tyler Lawrence enters the season with great expectations of his play at outside linebacker. Lawrence racked up four sacks and an additional eight tackles for a loss en route to a 42-tackle season. He is arguably the marquee player of the defense besides Savage.

As far as N.C. State's schedule goes, the unspoken consensus around many of the ACC schools is that most teams will be playing for third place. The admission of Florida State is likely to enhance the conference's competition, but the Seminoles are expected to come out on top in nearly all of their conference games. Fortunately, FSU plays the Wolfpack in Carter-Finley on September 19. If an upset is in the making, a home-field advantage certainly would help.

Clemson, last year's champion and always a force to be reckoned with, is now billed as the number-two conference power. They too will play State in Raleigh.

SECONDARY



Savage

Had 5 int. in '91
Recorded 179
tackles in career



Reid

Hard hitter who
had 83 tackles in
'91

Position Analysis

CB	Sebastian Savage	5-11	187	Sr.
CB	D. Washington	6-0	184	Jr.
SS	Mike Reid	6-2	208	Sr.
FS	Ricky Turner	6-0	188	Sr.
CB	Marc Latta	5-10	187	Sr.

Wolfpack secondary loaded with experience and quickness

By Puan Wallace
Staff Writer

Throughout the years, many college football programs have established reputations for producing great players at certain positions. Penn State is known for its linebackers, Miami its quarterbacks and Michigan its offensive linemen.

In the last several seasons, N.C. State football has staked a solid reputation for developing fine defensive secondary players--and this year is no exception. Coming off a season in which the N.C. State defense was 20th in the nation in pass defense, the Wolfpack returns every starter in its secondary.

The man primarily responsible for State's consistency is defensive coordinator Buddy Green. Green, who's coaching his seventh group of defensive standouts, said he's simply been the right man in the right place. "I just think that I've been blessed with good athletes that want to work hard," Green said. "Each year that I've been here,

we've had a group of guys that have worked extremely hard at getting better and I think I've been very lucky. I've had some really good players around me."

One of those players is senior cornerback Sebastian Savage. Coming off a first team all-ACC year in which he pulled down five interceptions, Savage has established himself as one of the country's premiere defensive backs.

"Savage had an outstanding year for us at corner," Green said. "He made a lot of big plays, makes good plays in man coverage and also on special teams."

Joining Savage in the Pack secondary is junior strong safety Mike Reid. Last year Reid made 83 tackles, broke up 14 passes and intercepted two others. His exploits earned him second team all-ACC recognition. Reid has also been tabbed by The Sporting News as one of the 10 most underappreciated players in the nation this season.

"I think Mike Reid, last year, put together as consistent a year

at strong safety that I've seen since I've been here," Green said.

Reid has also been hampered by an injury of late... something that causes Green some concern.

"He's been slowed in practices with a knee problem," Green said. "I hope he'll be ready by the first ball game."

Junior cornerback Dewayne Washington is looking to improve this year after suffering a knee injury of his own during last season.

Despite the injury, Washington still finished with 31 tackles and two interceptions.

"I think Dewayne got off to an excellent start," Green said. "But he wasn't the same after he came back from his knee injury."

Ricky Turner, a senior free safety, played his first year in the secondary last year and played better than anyone expected, making 48 tackles, breaking up five passes and intercepting three.

"I think Ricky Turner probably didn't get enough credit," Green said. "He did a good job, a very



Angela Pridden/Staff

Ricky Turner filled a gaping hole at free safety for the Pack in '91.

good job at free safety and was our quarterback on defense."

"Unlike most of the team's coaches, Green said that he and his defensive backs do set statistical goals to determine their success in games.

"We have goals we try to reach as far as number of points allowed, turnovers caused and total offense allowed," Green said.

The Wolfpack secondary also focuses on keeping the opposing quarterback from completing too many passes.

"We try to keep the completion

percentage around 44-55 percent," Green said. "We have a lot of goals that are built into each week's game plan. We have them on a chart and try to reach those goals, and usually, if we reach those goals, most of the time we have successful games."

As for this year, Green likes what he's seen so far of his defensive backs.

"I think the four starters came back in great shape," Green said. "I think they could possibly improve on last season."

The Pack on the Tube

State will appear on TV
six times in 1992

Aug. 29	Iowa	9:00
Sept. 12	Maryland	12:10
Sept. 19	FSU	12:10
Oct. 3	Ga. Tech	12:10
Nov. 7	Virginia	12:10
Nov. 14	Duke	12:10

Iowa will be televised by Raycom Sports
All others will be televised by JP (WRAL)



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Depth a concern on defensive line

By Anthony Black

Staff Writer

Earlier this year N.C. State nose guard Ricky Logo had a very tough decision to make. The 6-foot-1, 278-pound senior could become the lifetime chief of his native American Samoa or he could return for five months to lead a smaller group of local warriors known as the Wolfpack?

The decision wasn't easy, but Logo chose the latter.

That's definitely good news for the State football program. A captain for the 1992 Wolfpack football team, Logo has blossomed into a dominant force that opposing teams must deal with if they are to have any offensive success.

If Logo is the leader of the defensive front then junior John Akins (6-4, 268) must be second in command. Akins, who like Logo, has received numerous preseason accolades from sports publications around the nation, is expected to provide the defensive front with a new-found pass-rushing attack.

Both of them will prove to be very valuable to defensive line coach Jeff Snipes with senior Mark Thomas graduated and now in the NFL.

"I feel that John is the premiere defensive tackle in the country," Snipes said. "I would not trade Ricky or him for anybody in the country. I really feel that they are that good."

To fill out the defensive front, Snipes plans to start senior Andreas O'Neal (6-5, 251) at the other tackle position. O'Neal

recently scratched the cornea of his eye, and his status remains day to day although the prognosis is positive. After years of painful injuries, O'Neal looks ready to make a significant contribution this season. "I really feel good about Andreas," Snipes said. "He has been one of the most pleasant surprises at this point of the season."

Should O'Neal's status be in question, sophomore Carl Reeves (6-5, 219) or junior Eric Coons (6-1, 248) stand ready to answer the call at tackle.

Junior Darryl Beard (6-2, 248) will help spell Logo at nose guard. Beard sustained a knee injury right before the beginning of school and will probably sit out the Iowa game and possibly the Appalachian State contest also. Assisting Beard will be converted fullback Chris Cotton (6-0, 230).

Although the front line is not deep, Snipes has been especially pleased with the work that freshmen Mike Harrison (6-2, 262) and Nick Kukulinski (6-4, 245) have done.

"We really have a lot of inexperience after our starters," Snipes said, "but I have been very surprised by the progress that Mike and Nick have shown. Both of them could play very significant roles for this year."

The focus of the entire defense will be to remain healthy so that they will have the ability to shuffle fresh players in from the sidelines.

"We are really young," Logo explained, "so a lot of the guys coming in off the bench are



Angela Pridgen/Staff

Junior tackle John Akins (96) will be one of the stalwarts counted on to anchor the defensive line.



Logo

Go captain can bench press 500 lbs.

DEFENSIVE LINE

Position Analysis

T	John Akins	6-4	268	Jr.
T	Andreas O'Neal	6-4	270	Sr.
MG	Ricky Logo	6-1	278	Sr.
T	Carl Reeves	6-5	219	So.
T	Mike Harrison	6-4	265	Fr.



O'Neal

Very quick at RT, had 2 stops in '91

going to get a chance to get a lot of experience in a hurry."

As for the man who could have been king, Logo feels that he has adjusted to the pressure rather nicely.

"I do feel some pressure, but I know that I must keep the intensity up along the front line as well as the entire defense,"

Logo said. "I understood that this season I would be asked to play more snaps, so I've had to get myself into better shape."

What that means is that Logo, who made 46 tackles last season, will probably be spending a lot more of his time in opponents' backfield this season.

"Ricky thrives on pressure, and

I want him to play like that," Snipes said. "Players who want to be in the game in the pressure situations are the players who are going to make the big plays."

As Logo leads this defensive group into the 1992 ACC season, he will be in search of something that he could have had in American Samoa: A crown.

R. Lawrence

Continued from Page 5

the grid iron.

"He has the speed," Kiser said. "And now he has the knowledge to go with that speed. He will get an opportunity at catching the ball more often this year and hopefully, he'll be able to take advantage of it."

Because of the talent surrounding him, Lawrence has had a limited number of chances to contribute statistically while learning the system. He did make an auspicious debut as a redshirt freshman in 1989 when he caught 11 passes for 204 yards in a limited role. He caught a career-best five passes for 129 yards that season against Duke, including a 65-yard touchdown that was the Pack's longest play of the season.

Lawrence's production dropped slightly in 1990 as he hauled in nine passes for 149 yards. The highlight was a 33-yard touchdown that gave the Pack the final lead in a 20-15 victory over Wake Forest.

"The game against Wake Forest was a big one for me because I caught a touchdown pass from Terry [Jordan] at a time when everybody on the team needed someone to make a big play," Lawrence said.

Last season, nagging injuries

and the return of Davenport to the receiving corps combined to limit Lawrence to only 55 yards on six catches. Nevertheless, Lawrence feels he is ready to make an impact this season.

"There is a big difference in me now than when I came here," Lawrence said. "I've definitely got more size and strength. And I've also learned to use my ability better by learning the minor details which help you to see the big picture."

Even if Lawrence doesn't make

a single catch this year, he is likely to make a positive impact on the team. With the enthusiasm and outgoing personality to complement his experience, he serves as an ideal spokesman and role model for the State system.

"He has that infectious kind of

enthusiasm," Kiser said. "He's always thoroughly prepared for every game, and it rubs off on his teammates. He's always done what he's been asked and that's very important.

"He's my assistant coach on the field."

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LINEBACKERS



Merritt

Had 85 tackles in
91

Position Analysis

OLB	Keith Battle	6-3	238	Jr.
OLB	Tyler Lawrence	6-3	230	Jr.
ILB	D. Covington	6-0	225	So.
ILB	David Merritt	6-2	235	Sr.
ILB	G. Giannamore	5-11	219	Jr.



Battle

Young, but quick
Has 64 total stops



Ann Kenion/Staff

If Tyler Lawrence stays healthy, he will make the Wolfpack linebackers among the best in the ACC.

Lawrence ready to bust loose

By Jeff Drew
Staff Writer

Tyler Lawrence is a linebacker. Not just any linebacker, you see, but a good one. One capable of being among the best outside linebackers in the country. Tyler Lawrence is a star.

That's what many of the college football gurus are saying about Lawrence, N.C. State's 6-foot-3, 240-pound junior outside linebacker from Greensboro who's been terrorizing opposing defenses for the past two seasons. An exceptional athlete with tremendous speed and tenacity, Lawrence has used his remarkable versatility to sack quarterbacks, chase down running backs, intercept passes and just generally create havoc on the field.

His exploits have earned him national recognition during this year's preseason. Several preview magazines list Lawrence among their top-10 outside linebackers in the country. But Lawrence himself claims to be unimpressed by all the attention he's getting. His only concern,

he says, is doing his job.

"I just want to be the best player I can be," Lawrence said. "I just want to do what I can to help the defense and go out and play the best I can. I try not to worry about the predictions or about dominating the games. I just want to go out and have a solid game."

Despite his protestations, Lawrence has appeared on the verge of dominating the ACC since his first start, a five-tackle, one-sack, one-interception performance as a redshirt freshman against eventual national champion Georgia Tech. He gave further notice of his abilities his freshman year with a 10-tackle, one-sack, one-interception show against Duke and seven-tackle performance against Virginia Tech.

Last season, the spectacular outings became more common as Lawrence recorded a 12-tackle game against North Carolina, an 11-tackle game at Clemson, a nine-tackle game versus Duke and a key interception return for a touchdown against Georgia

Tech. For his efforts in the 28-21 victory over the Yellow Jackets, Lawrence was named the ACC defensive player of the week.

In his brief two-year career, Lawrence has racked up 115 tackles, 11 sacks, 12 tackles for losses, five pass breakups and four interceptions. He finished fourth on the team in 1991 with

See **LAWRENCE**, Page 11

Linebackers could surprise conference

By Kevin Brewer
Staff Writer

It may be time for N.C. State's corps of linebackers to get a little recognition.

Despite years of making the big plays that go along with being an integral part of one of the nation's best defenses, the Pack's linebackers have been overshadowed in the media by more celebrated teammates in the secondary and defensive line. This year, however, with the pre-season all-ACC selections Tyler Lawrence and David Merritt leading the way, the Pack's linebackers may finally grab their share of the spotlight.

Leading the charge to recognition will be all-ACC candidates Tyler Lawrence and David Merritt. Lawrence, a junior outside linebacker, is a preseason all-ACC selection and has built a reputation as one of the top linebackers in the conference. Before missing two games with an ankle injury last season, he compiled 63 tackles and came back to record five in the Peach Bowl.

The big play has also become a specialty of Lawrence since he won the starting job at the end of his freshman season. The 6-foot-3, 230-pounder return an interception 32 yards for his first touchdown in a 28-21 victory over Georgia Tech.

"His goal is to be a better player than last year," outside linebacker coach Kent Briggs said of Lawrence. "He's got a lot of goals and a lot of determination to be the best in the conference."

Merritt is just as valuable because of the leadership he can provide for the linebacking foursome. The 6-2, 240-pound senior is responsible for the signal calling on the defense. Inside linebacking coach Ken Pettus likes to call him the "quarterback of the defense."

Entering his third season as a

starter, the Raleigh native hasn't shied away from the leadership role.

"I feel like I have to show the young guys how to come out and go hard every play," Merritt said. "It puts a little pressure on me to try harder in whatever I do."

Merritt's mental toughness is evident, and the 85 tackles and 10 interceptions he notched last season cannot be ignored either. A few unexpected all-conference honors could come Merritt's way.

He also fulfills the football cliché of "bigger, stronger, faster." While working with weights and on his overall field speed, Merritt put on 10 pounds since the team's loss in the Peach Bowl.

Merritt's leadership will be needed to bring along two new starters. The Pack lost Billy Ray Haynes on the inside and Clayton Henry on the outside. Experienced inside backups Ray Frost and Lee Knight will also have to be replaced.

Junior Greg Giannamore and sophomore Damien Covington will compete for time at the open inside slot. Giannamore has already had some experience replacing Haynes. After Haynes hobbled out of the North Carolina game, Giannamore came in to make nine tackles and finished with 53 on the year.

Covington saw action in 10 games last season and recorded 30 tackles, including eight against Duke. Redshirt freshman Carlos Pruitt and junior Mike Nichols add depth to the inside.

On the outside, junior Keith Battle won Clayton Henry's starting job. Battle played in 11 games last season and made 63 tackles. Briggs has said that he may be the Pack's best athlete ever at the "raider" position.

Juniors Sen Maguire and Loren Pinckney will back up

See **LINEBACKERS**, Page 11

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Three applicants vie for kicking post

By Kevin Brewer

Staff Writer

Special teams may be the one area where the N.C. State football team has the most questions to answer.

The Wolfpack kicking game is the most pressing of all the questions. Damon Hartman and Mark Fowble, both seniors last season, accounted for all of the Pack's 65 points off field goals and points after touchdowns.

Steve Videtich, Matt Osborne, and Jimmy Szkaisi will all fight for time at the position that Hartman and Fowble dominated. Videtich is the only one of the three who has had any actual game experience, working as State's kickoff man on several occasions last season. The 6-foot-2 sophomore has emerged as somewhat of a surprise frontrunner for the job after the first spring practice.

"The first thing coaches look

for is accuracy," State specialists coach Henry Treathan said. "Videtich was probably a little more accurate through spring practice."

Treathan is waiting for senior Matt Osborne's accuracy to come along in the fall practice. Osborne has played behind the Hartman/Fowble combo since he has been a part of the Wolfpack program, but with his strong work ethic he will probably be able to find some playing time.

Junior transfer Jimmy Szkaisi has more experience than the other two seniors, although it is not with State. In 1990, the transfer from Western Carolina scored 35 points, hitting six of 12 field goals and all 17 of his PAT attempts. He may have the strongest leg of the threesome, but needs to find more consistency.

Punting, on the other hand, is an area where the question is how who will do the job, but how



Kilpatrick

Booted 59 kicks in 91 with a 39.4 yd average

SPECIALISTS

Position Analysis

PK	Matt Osborne	5-9	153	Sr.
PK	Steve Videtich	6-2	200	So.
P	Tim Kilpatrick	5-11	172	Sr.
P	Tom Muse	6-0	165	Sr.
LS	Miller Lawson	6-2	223	Jr.
LS	David Innman	6-4	270	So.



Osborne

Accurate kicker who could be starter vs. Iowa

well senior Tim Kilpatrick can perform. Kilpatrick took over the starting job last season and punted the ball 59 times for a 39.4 yard average, good enough for fourth in the ACC.

"There's no reason why he shouldn't average 42 or 43 yards and be one of the better punters in the league or the best," Treathan said. "At his level, you can be a little better because of the mental approach than in any other way."

The 5-foot-11 Rocky Mount native, who also is also the holder for field goals and extra points, had his dedication tested in the spring by ligament

problems in his knees.

While Kilpatrick takes care of the punting, junior Ledi George and senior Ricky Turner will handle the receiving chores. In 1991, George returned 40 punts for 328 yards and a 8.2 yard average to rank seventh in the conference. Despite only returning four punts last season for a 4.3 average, Turner will challenge George for the starting role.

Seniors Reggie Lawrence and Anthony Barbour have the inside track on the starting kick return spots. Lawrence returned nine kickoffs for 216 yards and a 24 yard average.

"Lawrence came along real fast as a return man," Treathan said. "He's got great speed. He's a wide receiver, so the more he returns, the better he gets."

Barbour, a 5-foot-9 tailback, returned 13 kickoffs for 361 yards and a 27.8 average, including a return of 51 yards. Sophomore Eddie Goines may push for some return time. He had nine kickoff returns and a 22.3 average in 91.

With some quick answers to a few tough questions, the Pack's special teams can become integral part of the team's expected success this season.

Linebackers are ready and waiting

Continued from Page 10

Battle in his first year in the starting line-up while sophomore Ed Gallon provides support for Lawrence.

It can be hard to find weaknesses in a defense that ranked 17th in the nation, but there is always room for improvement. The same defense that allowed only 304 yards a game was also led by Lawrence with only four sacks.

"We are going to put more pressure on the quarterback," Lawrence said. "Instead of rushing four, we probably will rush five or more. That was one of our letdowns last year."

The letdowns in the Pack defense were few and far between. The linebackers were part of defense that placed fourth in the nation in turnover margin and Lawrence, Merritt and Fowble could continue to be one of the best kept secrets in the country.

"I wonder why people don't give us the recognition I think we deserve," Pettus said. "We've been in the Top 20 in defense the past four years."

"But that's alright with us as long as we finish at the end of the season where we want to be."

Lawrence never made the big

play because the other team was expecting it and Merritt never called an audible for recognition. So if the linebackers continue to do the usual, the defense will again be one of the best in the nation, and the Pack will find itself in another bowl game.

Manior

Continued from Page 3

"It's not giving me any trouble. I'm ready to go," Manior said. "I want to see us go undefeated and welcome Florida State to the ACC. I would also like to have a good season and stay healthy."

"And what does Manior want to do after the season?"

"I want to go into TV or radio," said Manior, a mass communications major who will graduate in spring 1993. "I worked with radio this summer, but I just want to do something where I'm talking on the air. But I don't know. I also want to go into film."

If he does, he'll truly be the do-everything back.

Lawrence set to make a big hit

Continued from Page 10

63 tackles despite missing two games with an ankle injury.

"It's all gone by pretty fast," Lawrence said. "I was fortunate to come in, start right away and do well. I think my career has gone pretty well so far."

Perhaps the most amazing aspect of Lawrence's success is the fact that he has been competing as an almost one-dimensional player. While he has always possessed the speed and natural size, he has lacked the strength and weight to dominate blockers. Over the course of a season, he has become worn down by the pounding he has taken and, as a result, suffered from the minor injuries and occasional lapses that can block a player's development.

"He didn't reach his potential

last year," State outside linebacker coach Kent Briggs said. "He's now a lot stronger and can bench over 400 pounds. He's also got stronger fundamentals, and he worked very hard in the spring."

"He can be one of the best in the ACC, but he's got to perform on the field every week at that high level."

If he does, Lawrence could establish himself as one of the best outside linebackers to ever

play at State, a possibility that he finds attractive.

"It crosses my mind a lot," Lawrence said. "The coaches are always telling me how good I could be. I try to listen to them and work on the things that will make me better."

And an improved Taylor Lawrence would be a star.



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