

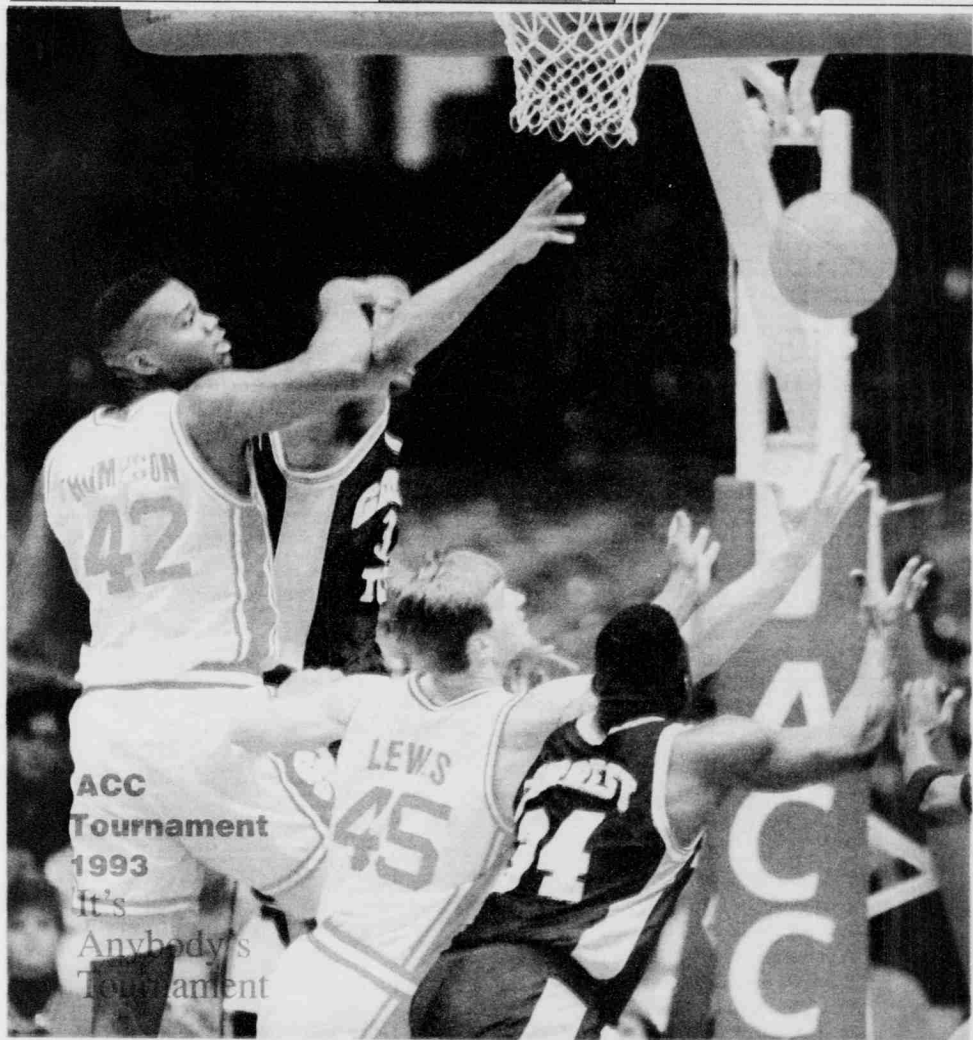
# Tech too

North Carolina State University's Newspaper Since 1920

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Thursday

March 10, 1993



**ACC  
Tournament  
1993**  
It's  
Anybody's  
Tournament

# Overton's overview of the Charlotte scene

By Bill Overton  
Sports Editor

If you are one of the lucky souls to have a ticket to the 1993 ACC Tournament, congratulations! You must have friends in high places. However, to make your trip as enjoyable as possible to the Queen City, I have assembled this fan's guide for those who don't live, eat and drink basketball.

I hope this question-and-answer session will help you have the time of your life even if your favorite basketball team doesn't fare as well as you'd like.

**What if State gets eliminated Thursday against Maryland?** You could spend Friday at Discovery Place. This downtown exhibit is hands-on fun where you can explore the world of science. Make sure you take a trip inside "The Giant Eyeball."

Another definite at Discovery Place is the Omni Max Theatre, which sports the second largest domed planetarium in the world. Currently, Omni Max is showing "Ring of Fire," a tour inside a volcano. Sounds like fun, huh?

If losing makes you want to shop, there are plenty of malls in the Charlotte area, including the brand-new Carolina Place, located off Highway 51 in south Charlotte. Southpark and Eastland are also popular malls in the area.

**What kind of nightlife is in Charlotte?** The Double Door is located off of Old East Independence across from Memorial Stadium. This bar has a wide variety of people visit it and features live music for a cover charge.

For the sports nut who can't stop watching the replays, stop by The Press Box just off Montford Drive 10 minutes from the arena. The Press Box was one of the first sports bars in the city and features wide-screen TVs and pretty good food.

If you're in the mood for getting arrested, go to the Paper Doll on Wilkinson Boulevard. This topless joint normally



Photo courtesy of the UNC-Charlotte Sports Information Department

makes the eleven o'clock news about once a week.

**Where do I go for good food?** First of all, do not try to sneak out between sessions on Friday. The second game will end about 4:45 p.m. and the night session begins at 7 p.m. You will not leave the parking lot until at least 5:15 and there's no way you'll make it back in your seat by 7.

But after the games, try The Mill located nearby on Woodlawn Road. The Mill features excellent homemade soup and sandwiches at very reasonable prices, usually between \$5 and \$10.

Harpers is also a wise choice, again located at the Coliseum's backdoor on Woodlawn. Steaks and seafood are the keynotes here and the prices are a tad more than The Mill.

Want some more? How about Key West Bar and Grill (one more time) off Woodlawn. Plenty of great seafood in a casual surrounding is what you'll get.

**What should I show down on inside the Coliseum?** The barbecue is the Coliseum's specialty, although I've never tried it. At least it's legit. When I was down in Jacksonville, Fla.,

for the Gator Bowl, I ordered some "barbecue." What I got was dog food.

The Super Hot Dogs are superb for the larger appetites and worth the 50 cents or more you will pay for them. Try to stay away from Domino's Pizza — it's hardly a bargain to pay \$8.75 for this tiny pizza that's no bigger than my palm.

**What time should I leave for the game?** I suggest leaving the night before. Traffic in Charlotte is sheer hell to try to maneuver in. If you're staying in one of the area hotels, find out if a shuttle is offered to the arena. You'll save yourself the headache of driving and also keep three extra dollars in your pocket for avoiding the parking fee.

**Need some cash?** The word here is "scalping." While I do not suggest you re-sell your tickets (\$500 fine), there will be plenty of people hounding the parking lot, and you could make a bundle for yourself. But, hey, if you really can't stand to see Duke and Carolina play for the championship, why not give some other fool the opportunity to pay three times what you paid for the tickets.

**As for the game itself...**

**You know it's over for State:** If Maryland reserve Kurtis Schultz starts shooting the three like John Paxson. This bulky 6-foot-5 forward ignited the Cole Field House crowd last month with a 22-foot three-point j.

**You know it's over for State II:** If you accidentally call Maryland guard Exree Hipp "Walt Williams."

**You know it's over for Maryland:** If Wolfpack player/manager Tommy Kane dunks over Evers Burns. While not a likely occurrence, I'm sure

Kane pictures this scenario quite often. Before you know it, Kane will be playing with the world champion Bulls and taking the place of "Jordka."

**Something you can take heart in:** Despite the fact that Charlotte is, by and large, a UNC-partisan city, you won't see too many Carolina fans at the tournament. If the Pack can muster a win Thursday, it should have the support of most of the 23,000-plus fans in attendance, especially the seven other member schools. It might even make the Pack feel like it's back home in Reynolds.

## TECHNICIAN

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- 8 Previews for quarterfinal match-ups

## On the Cover

The ACC Tournament is up for grabs — even for the Wolfpack. Here, Kevin Thompson (42) and Marc Lewis (45) reach for a loose ball.

Photo by Angela Pridden

# Courage, if not victories, helped '93 Pack

"Purpose shall be the firmer, heart the keener, courage shall be the more, as our might lessens."

—From "The Battle of Maldon"

By Owen S. Good  
Assistant Sports Editor

It can be said that the N.C. State men's basketball team is the world's greatest sports story waiting to happen.

Someday, somehow, these eight players that weathered one of the hardest-luck seasons in Wolfpack hoops history will be mentioned alongside those that craft future memorable moments.

If it is, it is, it is, this year when a rag-tag bunch of black-eyed playground scrappers earn a hard-fought upset in the ACC Tournament, or if it is in the future when, invariably, members of the nucleus of eight that survived injury, suspension and even death, restore winning traditions to Reynolds Coliseum.

Then, Mark Davis, Lakista McCuller, Marc Lewis, Kevin Thompson, Todd Fuller, Marcus Wilson, Victor Newman, Curtis Marshall and coach Les Robinson can rest assured that their hard work and emotional investment will not dissipate in vain.

## Purpose Shall Be The Firmer

After Migjen Bakalli broke his foot against Davidson Jan. 11, it seemed that his name was the final entry on a balance sheet of net losses. First, Tony Robinson committed suicide shortly after the Wolfpack's second exhibition. Then super-frosh Chuck Komegay as well as floor leader Donnie Seale joined Jamie Knox on academic suspension before, traditionally, the team's biggest game — at home against North Carolina.

When State players stopped tempting fate by saying, "It can't get any worse — can it?" they



Angela Bridger/Staff

"I think every successful team has got to believe." — NCSU head coach Les Robinson (left)

suddenly realized an advantage no other team in the conference had. Unfortunately, it was the kind of advantage the basketball gods mercifully deal out only to teams in the throes of an abyssal season. To wit: if you have nothing to lose, you have everything to gain.

"I think sometimes we did take that attitude [that we have nothing to lose]," said Davis, who suffered a broken wrist after the team's first exhibition in November. "People were expecting us to lose every game that we were going into."

But, Davis says, "it [the team's purpose] still remained the same. We still believed in ourselves. We believed we could win and we went out and played hard."

Newman feels the team's role as a volatile giant-killer disturbs opponents.

"I think going into the tournament we're the type of team that nobody really wants to play," Newman said. "Because they know that on any given night, anybody can be beaten in this league."

With that axiom in mind, it appears State's only problem is that it isn't given many nights. That doesn't come as a disappointment to the team.

"I've pointed out to our players [that they are] not going to get any breaks," Robinson said. "You make your own — nobody's going to give them to you, so don't expect it."

## Heart The Keener

There's a handmade red-lettered sign taped up beside the sideline scoreboard on the west end of Reynolds Coliseum. It reads: "We Believe."

This is Coach Robinson's third year with State and, so far, this is the only banner or sign hung with any permanence in his era. It went up shortly before the North Carolina game Jan. 6; even though the Tar Heels bullied the Wolfpack 100-67, the fans who put it up saw fit not to take it down. They still believed in their team, just as their team still believed in itself.

"I think every successful team has got to believe, believe in each other and believe in its coaches," Robinson said. "In our

existence and progress as a team, it's very important."

Important, because often it was the only thing State had to keep the predictions and point spreads from getting the team down before each game. Even in its home building, the Wolfpack was never a favorite in an ACC game.

Despite this, State gave strong, dare-to-dream performances against conference heavies Wake Forest and Florida State on its home floor, leading at the half against both. The Pack also took a five-point advantage into the locker room against Duke at Reynolds, but could only salvage a moral victory for making the seventh-ranked Devils glad to escape with a win.

"We could have just fizzled, got beat every night by 25, finished up and had a miserable season at 4-21," Robinson said. "There are some teams that are not real good and have those problems [but] we didn't do that."

"It shows a lot of courage and character," Marshall said of the team's effort against every non-confidence vote each night. "We could have given up a long time ago."

"It says a lot that a lot of people on this team are mentally tough with a lot of heart and courage up on the floor," McCuller echoed. "We just got to have that heart and that desire to win out there."

## Courage Shall Be The More

Bakalli, Komegay, Seale, Knox, Tony Robinson — all bodies missing from a practice routine that badly needed them. Manager Tommy Kane, redshirt Bill Kretzer Jr. and medical redshirt Bryant Eggins all stepped in to help the team, but there was a noticeable absence of manpower at game time.

That apparently didn't make

See **COURAGE**, Page 8

# Basement battle could be a close contest tonight

By Bill Overton  
Sports Editor

N.C. State basketball coach Les Robinson is a man of honest and realistic expectations. But certainly he couldn't have predicted this.

Robinson had to think the worst is behind him — a losing record and a nine-game losing streak last season. He had all but one starter coming back from that young team and was optimistic from Day One.

But Robinson's young Wolfpack team went through a season that left it feeling like it just got run over by a Mack truck. The Pack could only

muster eight wins against 18 losses and when the season ended, State was reduced down to only nine available players, including manager Tommy Kane.

But when game one of the ACC Tournament tips off tonight, Robinson once again will be optimistic. And he will be going against a team and a coach that had to endure just like the Wolfpack.

"We're looking forward to the game," Robinson said. "Our guys have continued working hard day in and day out. We're just thankful we're in the tournament."

Maryland coach Gary Williams

and his Terrapins were also plagued by higher expectations. The Terps raced out of the gate to an 8-0 start and upset nationally ranked Louisville along the way.

Then that same Mack truck began steamrolling the Terps. They lost 10 of their next 12 games, salvaging wins over Oklahoma and the Wolfpack. The Terps enter the tournament with a three-game losing streak and a 2-14 mark that matches the Pack's record. Maryland's only two wins — over the Wolfpack.

"This week is a very big week for us," Williams said. "We have

See **TERRAPINS**, Page 7

## GAME I Maryland vs. N.C. State Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

### Terrapins

**Seed:** 8  
**'92-'93 Record:** 11-15  
(2-14 in the ACC)  
**Coach:** Gary Williams  
**ACC titles:** 2  
**Tour. record:** 27-36  
**Notes:** Finished for the second-straight year as the eighth seed. Williams is 1-2 in tournament play. Terps last won in 1984.

### Wolfpack

**Seed:** 9  
**'92-'93 Record:** 8-18  
(2-14 in the ACC)  
**Coach:** Les Robinson  
**ACC titles:** 10  
**Tour. record:** 44-29  
**Notes:** State is the third-winnest tournament team behind Carolina and Duke. Robinson is 1-2 in tournament play.

# 1983: a year when dreams came true

By Jeff Drew  
Senior Staff Writer

The images are vivid. Derrick Whittenburg launching a 30-footer, Lorenzo Charles dunking in the "pass," Jim Valvano searching frantically for someone, anyone to hug.

For N.C. State fans, these memories recall of a magical season when anything was possible and the Wolfpack was destiny's darlings. The season when a coach's dream came true and a university reveled in euphoria.

That season was 1983. That team was Jim Valvano's Cardiac Pack, a scrappy bunch of survivors who engineered an improbable nine-game winning streak and stunned mighty Houston for the national title.

Ten years later, that most unlikely group of champions returned home in celebration to Reynolds Coliseum. Once again soaking in the cheers of an adoring Wolfpack faithful, the squad accepted thanks for thrilling a university and captivating a nation.

Most of the principals from the '83 season returned for the program that Sunday afternoon. Team doctor Don Reibel, head trainer Jim Rehbock, strength coach Wright Wayne, assistant coaches Ed McLean and Ray Martin, players Tommy DiNardo, Mike Warren, Harold Thompson, Quinton Leonard, Alvin Battle, George McClain,

Terry Gannon and co-captains Whittenburg and Thurl Bailey all returned. They came to reminisce and to rejoice. They came to see "V."

Like so many other days in Reynolds Coliseum, Feb. 21 was Valvano's day. But this day was different, a chance for Pack fans to finally, emphatically pay tribute to the miracle's inspiration.

A limping, tired Valvano, ravaged by cancer, in turn paid tribute to the spirit of the '83 team. In the process, he recalled of a simpler time, a time when his toughest enemies wore shorts and tank tops and his toughest challenge was winning games. "I'm fighting a different battle now, but I remember the lesson of the '83 team," Valvano said. "That team taught me about the importance of dreaming. If you have someone with a dream, someone who's motivated then that person can accomplish anything."

"The '83 team taught me that."

## The Dreamers Unite

From the beginning, Valvano knew his 1983 team would be special. Seniors Lowe and Whittenburg, teammates since high school, manned the nation's most cohesive backcourt. Fellow tri-captain Thurl Bailey provided the inside punch with sophomores Charles and Cozell McQueen adding capable support.

The lingering disappointment

from an upset NCAA Tournament loss to Tennessee-Chattanooga a year earlier fueled the Pack's bid for redemption. A six-game losing streak to defending-national champion North Carolina instilled a sense of urgency.

To prepare his team for the NCAA Tournament, Valvano arranged matchups with Michigan State, Louisville and West Virginia. State edged the Spartans 45-41 at home, lost 57-52 at Louisville and beat the Mountaineers 67-59 at the New Jersey Meadowlands.

The two wins and a close road loss to one of the nation's best teams convinced Valvano his team was ready for ACC play. A 49-42 walk-through loss at fourth-ranked Missouri did little to dissuade the Pack's confidence.

"People forget that we got off to good start that year," Whittenburg said. "We started 7-2 and gave Virginia fits for a half."

Whittenburg introduced State fans and the top-ranked Cavaliers to the ACC's experimental three-point line with a first-half shooting exhibition Jan. 12. Hitting from everywhere but the Bell Tower, Whittenburg lit up Reynolds Coliseum for 27 points in the first half as State grabbed a 54-46 halftime lead.

When he came out for the second half, Whittenburg appeared determined to continue the onslaught as he launched another three from the left corner. But this time the shot bounced away and Whittenburg landed on Othell Wilson's foot.

State's season had taken a drastic turn.

## Nightmare

Whittenburg shattered the fifth metatarsal bone in his foot when he landed on Wilson's foot. With Whittenburg out of the game, State lost to Virginia. With Whittenburg apparently lost for the season, the Pack dropped four of its next six games.

The losses dropped State to 9-7 and seriously jeopardized the squad's NCAA Tournament hopes. But the Pack didn't unravel amid the adversity.

"It was amazing that even when we were struggling we never had any real problems," Warren, a reserve forward, said. "We were a team on and off the court. We never had any jealousies over playing time or anything like that. We stuck together."

And slowly began to recover. Freshman guard Ernie Myers stepped into Whittenburg's position and soon emerged as a legitimate scoring threat. Gannon developed into an effective three-point weapon off the bench, and the remaining starters slowly began to rediscover that elusive team chemistry.



Technician File Photo

Cozell McQueen's rebounding was a big factor in the ACC finals.

The result was a potent mixture of talent and experience, a combination that exploded in a Feb. 19 game against North Carolina.

## Revival

The third-ranked Tar Heels, 99-81 victors over State a month earlier, appeared ready to capture their eighth-straight series victory when they took an early 31-20 lead. But suddenly,

McQueen swatted away a Carolina shot and Tar Heel coach Dean Smith and the Carolina bench went ballistic pleading for a goaltending call. The referees awarded their hysterics with two technical fouls and State used the four free throws to climb back into the game.

From that point on, the Pack owned the game's momentum and control. A no-look, between-the-legs pass from Lowe to Bailey for a massive dunk sealed the 70-63 upset and sowed the seeds of a title run.

"When you look back, that's where it all started," Bailey said. "That's where we got the confidence again that we could beat anybody."

State's rejuvenation continued two weeks after the UNC game when Whittenburg miraculously returned for the Pack's final three ACC contests. But the excitement of Whittenburg's return was quickly dampened

when State lost to Virginia and Maryland.

The defeats, which dropped State to 16-10, prompted some critics to argue that the Pack was better off without Whittenburg. But Valvano and his players laughed off that notion and then annihilated Wake Forest 130-89 in a Senior Day laugher.

That victory reminded the rest of the conference that it would have to take the Pack seriously in the ACC Tournament. More importantly, it marked the beginning of State's run to the title.

## Destiny

Thoughts of destiny and championships were far from the Pack's mind upon arriving in Atlanta. State merely wanted to survive its first-round contest against a Deacon squad it thoroughly whipped just six days earlier.

The Pack and Deacons battled on even terms for 39 minutes before a Lowe steal gave State the final possession. With the score tied at 70, Charles drew a foul with three seconds left. He missed the first free throw but made the second as State advanced, 71-70.

State owed a penchant for improbable comebacks while upsetting UNC in the semifinals. After blowing a chance to win in regulation, State trailed by six in



Technician File Photo

Derrick Whittenburg led the Pack to heights even greater than State's 70-63 upset of North Carolina in Reynolds Coliseum.

# ... and State was Destiny's Darling

the overtime with only 2:13 left to play. But Whittenburg, who scored 11 of his 17 points in the extra session, sparked a furious Pack rally that downed the Heels 91-84 and gave State a final shot at Virginia.

The Pack had dropped seven straight games to Virginia and three-time national player of the year Ralph Sampson prior to the ACC final. But the 6-foot-2 Gannon made a critical steal from the 7-foot-4 Sampson, and State captured the championship and automatic NCAA Tournament bid, 81-78.

The Pack's victory ignited a rowdy Hillsborough Street celebration and sent State to Corvallis, Oregon to face Pepperdine. The prospect of facing the little known Waves in an NCAA Tournament first round game that worried Valvano.

"When you play a first round game in the NCAA Tournament, you want to play a team everybody's heard of," Valvano said. "We ended up playing a school that sounded like a toothpaste. But I knew they were very good and that we would have an extremely tough game."

Valvano told reporters in Corvallis that State would be lucky to get past Pepperdine. But if State survived, Valvano said he thought State would win it all.

He was right on both counts.

In one of the ugliest games in recent NCAA history, State trailed the Waves by six with 1:03 remaining in overtime. With no shot clock and no three point line in the NCAA Tournament, the Pack had to resort to fouling. It looked bleak when Pepperdine's Dane Suttle, an 86-percent free-throw shooter, took the line with a chance to clinch the upset.

But Suttle missed the front end of a one-and-one, and State scored. Suttle then missed again and State cut the advantage to two. After yet another miss, Whittenburg drew a foul and had a chance to tie it. He missed but McQueen grabbed the rebound and scored at the buzzer to send the game to a second overtime. State went on to win 67-67.

## The Cardiac Pack

State's improbable win earned national attention and a nickname: "The Cardiac Pack." Talk of destiny surfaced for the first time and Bailey among others hinted that "State might win this thing." The dream began to blossom.

Bailey's follow shot at the buzzer capped State's rally from a 12-point second-half deficit and downed fourth-ranked Nevada-Las Vegas 71-70. Torrid 68-percent shooting scorched Utah 75-56, and set up matchup number four with Virginia.

State overcame yet another second-half deficit against the Cavaliers and had a chance to win when Lorenzo Charles took the free-throw line with 10 seconds remaining. During a time out, Valvano told Charles he would have the free

throws and send State to the Final Four. "You have to be positive so I told the

Louisville. Phi Slamma Jamma stunned the Doctors of Dunk with an awesome 19-



Jim Valvano and former Chancellor Bruce Poulton celebrated a title 10 years ago.

team during the timeout what we would do if Lorenzo made the free throws," Valvano said. "I have a responsibility as a coach to tell the players what to do in every situation, but you don't want to tell them what to do if Lorenzo misses because you don't want Lorenzo thinking he might miss. So I just talked about what we'd do when he made them and when the players left the huddle, I grabbed Sidney and said 'Here's what we do if he misses.'"

Valvano's contingency plan proved unnecessary. Charles made both charity tosses, and when Virginia missed three last-second shots, State was headed for Albuquerque, N.M. and the Final Four.

## The Dream Realized

State's routine 67-60 semifinal victory over fellow Cinderella team Georgia was viewed by many as the JV game of the Final Four. The real game was top-ranked Houston's matchup with high flying

dunk, 94-81 victory that had many proclaiming Houston as the national champions.

"Trees will tap dance, elephants will drive in the Indianapolis 500 and Orson Wells will skip breakfast, lunch and dinner before N.C. State beats Houston," Dave Kindred of The Washington Post wrote.

In many ways, State did face an impossible challenge. No team with 10 losses had ever won the national title. And no team had ever won six games in one NCAA Tournament. Throw in the fact that Houston featured future NBA superstars Akem Olatunji and Clyde Drexler, and it was evident the Pack faced some daunting odds.

But State's players were never intimidated.

"We've seen teams this good. We've beaten teams this good," Whittenburg said.

Valvano had hinted of "holding the ball

until Tuesday" against the Cougars, but State surprised everybody by coming out running. Bailey opened the game with a slam dunk and scored 15 first-half points to power State to a 33-25 halftime lead.

But Houston flexed its muscles in the opening minutes of the second half and flattened State with a 17-2 run. Leading 42-35 with 10 minutes left, Cougar coach Guy Lewis then slowed his team down in an attempt to preserve the lead. It proved to be a fatal mistake.

Houston's scoring slowed to a crawl and State stormed back thanks to several outside bombs from Gannon, Whittenburg and Lowe. Houston freshman Alvin Franklin missed the front end of a one-and-one and Whittenburg tied it at 52 with a 20-footer.

Valvano then ordered his squad to foul again with the score even. Franklin missed and McQueen, who was falling out of bounds, handed the rebound to Charles to give State the final possession.

A surprise 1-3-1 halfcourt trap turned State's last-second play into a scramble. For nearly a minute, the Pack tossed the ball aimlessly from corner to corner. Finally, with about five seconds left, Bailey threw out to Whittenburg about 35 feet from the basket.

Franklin nearly stole the pass, but Whittenburg recovered and launched a shot. Charles, hovering near the basket, leaped high and softly dunked the errant ball in the basket.

Pandemonium.

Charles landed stunned, unsure if his basket counted. Valvano exploded off the bench looking for Whittenburg, whom he hugged after every game. But Whittenburg was lost in a sea of bodies and Valvano was forced to scramble to find someone, anyone to hug. He eventually found State's portly athletics director Willis Casey. "Best hug I've ever had," Valvano said afterwards.

The images are vivid.

NCSU	FG	FT	R	A	FTPT
Bailey	7-16	1-2	5	0	1 15
Charles	2-7	0-0	7	0	2 4
McQueen	1-5	2-2	12	1	4 4
Whittenburg	6-17	2-2	1	1	3 14
Lowe	4-9	0-1	8	2	8 8
Battle	0-1	2-2	1	1	1 2
Gannon	3-4	1-2	1	2	3 7
Myers	0-0	0-0	1	0	0 0
Team					2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>23-59</b>	<b>8-11</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16 54</b>

HOUSTON	FG	FT	R	A	FTPT
Drexler	5-8	0-0	6	0	1 4
Michaels	2-6	0-0	6	0	1 4
Olatunji	7-15	6-7	18	1	1 20
Franklin	2-6	0-1	3	0	4 4
Young	3-10	0-4	8	1	0 6
Anders	4-9	2-5	2	1	2 10
Celtys	0-2	0-0	2	0	1 4
Rose	0-1	0-0	1	0	2 0
Williams	0-1	0-0	4	1	3 0
Team					2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>21-55</b>	<b>10-19</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>52 16</b>

N.C. State	Houston	25	21	-	54
Houston	State	67	52	-	13

**Turnovers** - N.C. State 26, Houston 13  
**Officials** - Nichols, Housman, Forte  
**Attendance** - 17,327

32. N.C. State 71, Nevada-Las Vegas

33. N.C. State 75, Utah 56

34. N.C. State 63, Virginia 62

**Final Four**

35. N.C. State 67, Georgia 60

36. N.C. State 54, Houston 52

37. N.C. State 54, Houston 52

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# Technician has spoken: Rogers is top dog

By Kevin Brewer  
Assistant Sports Editor

Welcome to Mister Rogers' Neighborhood.

That's what the ACC looked like on more than one occasion this year when Rodney Rogers, Wake Forest's 6-foot-7 forward, took control of games on Tobacco Road.

During his first two seasons, Rogers showed he could score and rebound with anyone in the conference, but it was his ability to propel the Demon Deacons to the next level this season that gives him the nod as Technician's ACC Player of the Year.

Rogers led the ACC in scoring with 21.1 points per game and also grabbed 7.5 rebounds per contest. More importantly, the Deacons finished the regular season with a 10-6 mark, their best conference mark in nine years. Wake's 19-7 overall mark is its top record since the 1984 season.

Rogers' all-around game and leadership also brought the Deacs their share of the national spotlight. Wake Forest debuted in the Associated Press Top 25 Poll at the number 13 slot Feb. 1 and has been no lower than 14th, including the 12th spot in this week's poll.

Rogers has also shown a knack for the spectacular. He unleashed a 360-degree dunk on North Carolina in Wake's 88-62 win Jan. 30 and duplicated the feat in the Deacons' 65-54 win over N.C. State four days later.

He returned to his hometown of Durham and took down then third-ranked Duke Feb. 13. Hitting 14 of 16 shots from the field, Rogers totaled a career-high 35 points as Wake Forest won going away.

With such imposing credentials, it should come as no surprise that few can enter Rogers' exclusive 'hood. Technician, however, deemed four players talented enough to join him on our all-ACC team.

## Bobby Hurley Duke

Although he may have been the best player in the nation during the past two weeks, Hurley's six-point, six-assist (none in the second half) performance against North Carolina put him one vote behind Rogers for the top honor.

Hurley joins Rogers as the only unanimous selections on Technician's All-ACC squad and was the only other player to receive votes for player of the year.

The 6-foot-point guard began his unbelievable run against N.C. State Feb. 21 with a career-high 15 assists and only one turnover. Three days later, he dished out 16 assists while popping in 16 points versus Florida State.

During the Blue Devils' next two contests, Hurley neatly wrapped up his career with a couple of lionizing honors in Cameron Indoor Stadium.

His number, 11, was hoisted into Cameron's rafters before the UCLA game, and Hurley promptly totaled 15 more assists. Then, Hurley disposed of Chris Corchiani's all-time NCAA assist record in his last home game while leading Duke to a 95-79 rout of the Maryland Terrapins.

## Eric Montross North Carolina

Evers Burns of Maryland and Malcolm Mackey of Georgia Tech average more points. Burns, Mackey and four other ACC centers average more rebounds than the 7-foot center.

But Montross, averaging 15 points and 7.6 rebounds in conference games, has emerged, hands down, as the top center in the ACC. And he has outplayed the rest of the league's big men in the big games.

Remember two things about the sometimes mechanical, always effective Tar Heel. First, he's the best player on the number-one team in the nation, and that makes him an all but automatic selection for this team.

Second, his size allows him to dominate at any time, at either end of the court. For example, Montross scored 18 points, and grabbed seven rebounds in the Tar Heels' 83-69 victory over Duke Sunday. His counterpart, Cherokee Parks, had seven points and two rebounds.

Now, that's domination.

## George Lynch North Carolina

What Tar Heel has pulled down two more rebounds per game than Montross this season? Who is only the second player in ACC history to amass 1,500 points, 900 rebounds, 200 assists and

## 1993 Atlantic Coast Conference Basketball Tournament

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	(4) Wake Forest		
	Noon		
	(5) Virginia		
(8) Maryland		1:30 p.m.	
7:30 p.m.			
(9) N.C. State	2 p.m.		
	(1) North Carolina		
	(2) Florida State		
	7 p.m.		
	(7) Clemson		
	(3) Duke	3:30 p.m.	
	9 p.m.		
	(6) Georgia Tech		
			Champion 3 p.m.

200 steals?

If you answered Lynch, Carolina's 6-foot-7 senior forward, then you already know who the most underrated player in the conference is.

Lynch, a consistent performer who has played in the shadow of Montross, Hubert Davis and Rick Fox during his career, is the third-leading rebounder in Tar Heel history, and his 9.3 boards per game ranks third in the ACC.

His team-leading 24 steals per game is no fluke either. Lynch, like Montross and just about any UNC player, does the little things on defense and possesses an impressive work ethic. Those things go unnoticed, but they are yet another reason the Heels are the country's top-ranked team and the conference's top seed.

## Randolph Childress Wake Forest

One might think a team with Rogers wouldn't need much else, but Childress provides the outside complement to the Bull's inside game.

Although he can get cold just

as easily as he can get hot, the sweet-shooting sophomore has kept Wake Forest in plenty of games by bringing opposing defenses away from Rogers on the inside.

Childress leads the conference in three pointers with 83 long-range shots, including seven threes in a win over North Carolina. He has hit 44 percent of his shots from behind the arc and his 20-point average gives the Deacs two of the top three scorers in the conference.

The 6-foot-2 guard also offered Wake Forest some help at the point guard spot when Charlie Harrison was out with a sprained left knee. Childress leads the Deacons with 4.2 assists per game to double as Wake's top passer.

## The Bench Florida State's Doug Edwards

received the same number of votes as Childress, but Childress was selected to give the team two guards. Edwards has been as consistent as they come on a very erratic Seminole team. FSU's Sam Cassell received votes but was too overshadowed to come close.

Cory Alexander of Virginia averaged 19 points and five assists and was an integral part of the Cavaliers' sweep of Duke. Grant Hill of Duke was sometimes spectacular, but missed too many crucial conference contests.

Clemson's Sharone Wright and Georgia Tech's Malcolm Mackey are the league's top two rebounders, but mainly because

they had to carry the load on weak rebounding teams.

## The Dean

He holds a 766-222 record in more than 31 years of coaching at North Carolina. He has taken the Tar Heels to the Sweet 16 each of the past 12 years. And he furnishes the NBA All-Star Game with plenty of talent every year.

But none of those things have anything to do with Dean Smith being named Technician's ACC Coach of the Year. The most significant accomplishment for the Heels has been their resurfacing from the shadow of hated rival Duke.

The Blue Devils are two-time defending national champions and have been to six of the last seven NCAA Final Fours. And during virtually that entire period, the Devils have received more attention than Carolina. Smith has brought the Heels back with his usual formula of frequent substitutions, defensive intensity and a balanced scoring attack.

The Heels finished the season 26-3 overall and 14-2 in the ACC to win their first ACC Tournament top seeding since 1988. They are ranked number one in the nation and proved it again by spanking Duke 83-69 Sunday. They have graced the cover of Sports Illustrated and once again have the attention of a nation.

That's why Dean Smith is coach of the year.

## The Technician All-ACC Team

Player	Position	Year
Rodney Rogers, WFU	Forward	Junior
Bobby Hurley, Duke	Guard	Senior
Eric Montross, UNC	Center	Junior
George Lynch, UNC	Forward	Senior
Randolph Childress, WFU	Guard	Sophomore
Coach of the Year—Dean Smith, UNC		
(26-3, 14-2)		



Rogers



Hurley

21 ppg, 8 rpg

16 ppg, 8 apg



# Wahoos owe the Deacs

By Owen S. Good  
Assistant Sports Editor

When is four equal to five? When this year's ACC Tournament kicks off its quarterfinal round, Fourth-seeded Wake Forest matches up so closely with fifth-seeded Virginia that mathematics buffs will stumble all over themselves when they see that number four isn't all that different from number five.

Both teams have excellent point guards directing a methodical attack. Both teams have a bullish forward good for team-leading points and rebounds most nights. Both teams have coaches with less than five years of experience at their current schools. Both teams have pulled off tremendous upsets. Both teams have been upset. Both teams jumped in and out of the polls. Both teams...

See what we're getting at here? Wake Forest coach Dave Odom sees things the same way. "Both teams are physical. It has the makings of a very competitive game," Odom said. Virginia patriarch Jeff Jones bears a similar opinion.

"It's probably not going to be a

pretty game. It'll not be a whole lot of fun to watch, but I can guarantee that there will be some intensity."

Speak for yourself, Jeff. This one will be all over the country blowing their minds over which highlights to cut and which ones to use.

The Wahoos and the Deacs both possess balanced attacks that any fan with a bean for the game has to respect.

In the backcourt, the nod goes to Wake Forest with Randolph Childress anchoring its attack. The shooting guard averages 20 points and four assists per game and possesses an explosive scoring potential.

His nemesis at point guard, Cory Alexander, is expected to provide his fair share of the scoring excitement. Alexander, too, has come through for the Cavaliers in big games: his 15 and 20 points versus Duke in Durham and Charlottesville, respectively, powered his team to its first sweep of the defending national champs since 1983.

But, the two's showtime styles should not be hindered, as they will not be going head-to-head. Deacon point man Charlie

Harrison (6.7 ppg, 1.8 rpg) will face Alexander and the Cavaliers' Cornel Parker (11.5 ppg, 6.9 rpg) will try to corral Childress.

Another feature of both team's attack is a bullish frontcourt highlighted by big men from metropolitan North Carolina. Cavalier Junior Burroughs, averaging 15.2 points and 7.5 rebounds per game, makes his return to his hometown of Charlotte Friday.

Burroughs, at 6-foot-8, is the biggest of the Cavaliers' forwards, but he isn't expected to match up with Wake Forest's player of the year candidate Rodney Rogers. Burroughs will likely give Rogers (21.2 ppg, 7.5 rpg) plenty of space so that he doesn't get into foul trouble early.

But again, the advantage is Wake Forest's due to Rogers' ability to break a game wide open by himself. In Durham, Rogers marked his homecoming with a career-high 35 points during Duke's unheard-of second loss in Cameron Indoor this season.

It was one of four occasions Rogers surpassed the 30-point mark this season, and he did it in

WAKE FOREST vs. VIRGINIA	
Friday, Noon	
<b>Deacons</b>	<b>Cavaliers</b>
Seed: 4	Seed: 5
'92-'93 Record: 19-7 (10-6 in the ACC)	'92-'93 Record: 18-6 (9-7 in the ACC)
Coach: Dave Odom	Coach: Jeff Jones
ACC title: 2	ACC title: 1
Tour. record: 28-37	Tour. record: 28-38
Notes: Wake is certainly 'due for a title — the Deacs haven't won since 1962. Wake has lost five-straight tournament games.	Notes: Gave up \$3.8 million in three years at Charlotte. Virginia's only title came in 1976. Jones is 1-2 in tournament play.

back-to-back games to kick off January. His 30 versus Winthrop and 31 against Florida State was the first time a Deacon turned the trick since the 1977-78 season.

Although Wake Forest beat the Cavs twice in the regular season, the numbers aren't necessarily in the Deacons' favor.

The first challenge will be defeating a team three times in a year — always a prodigious task. But beyond that, Wake Forest has not won in the opening round of the ACC tournament since 1987.

This seems to have a belt-tightening effect on the Deacons according to Odom.

"We've got a number of

reasons to be ready on Friday," Odom said. "Mainly, we haven't won a first round game in about six years. I know how hard it is to beat a team three times. This year, I think it's particularly important that we're ready."

Jones also feels the influence of intangible forces going into the game.

"We remembered in the preseason what people were predicting. We want to continue to prove them wrong," Jones said.

Both teams will present their proof at high noon Friday. Bring your calculators.

# Tigers and Seminoles should run ragged in Game 3

By Jeff Drew  
Senior Staff Writer

Expect points, lots of points when Florida State and Clemson clash in the ACC tournament Friday night.

The Seminoles and the Tigers

both like to run and gun with FSU being particularly proficient in the up-tempo style. Even mighty North Carolina had to resort to slowing the game down to subdue the Seminoles. With Bob Sura, Sam Cassell and Doug Edwards in the FSU lineup,

nobody wants to run with the Seminoles.

Nobody that is, except for the Tigers. Clemson averages 80 points per game and, like the Seminoles, will shoot it from anywhere at any time. And though FSU whipped Clemson 89-71 and 102-92 in its two meetings this season, Tiger coach Cliff Ellis says he won't change his style against the Seminoles.

"If you go into the game and do something you're not used to doing, it's hard to win," Ellis said. "Each team has a personality and I don't think you can change that."

But Ellis admits that sticking with the Seminoles is a daunting task. All-ACC second-teamers Sura, Cassell and Edwards combine for 57.6 points per game. Sura's 20.9 average is second in the ACC, while Cassell leads the conference with 2.9 steals per contest; and

Edwards is fifth with nine rebounds per game.

And the Seminoles excel in their trapping, pressing full court defense. FSU collects more than nine steals per game and turns many of those thefts into transition baskets. The easy scores are the main reason FSU leads the league in scoring with 86.9 points per game.

"Florida State is as good as any team in the country. They've proven that many times," Ellis said. "They do a good job with the press. Their running game is outstanding, if not the best running game in the league."

If successful, the Tigers can then exploit some of FSU's weaknesses. The Seminoles have committed more turnovers than any other team in the conference. And with no starter taller than 6-foot-9, the Seminoles have trouble with good inside games.

Clemson has the tools to give FSU fits. The Tigers led the

ACC with 9.8 steals per game. And 6-foot-11 center Sharon Wright led the ACC in rebounding at 10.5 boards per game and the nation in blocks with 4.3 per contest.

Wright combines with forward Devin Gray to give Clemson a potent inside game. Gray paces the Tigers with 17 points per game while Wright chips in with 14.7.

Three-point specialist Chris Whitney opens things up for the inside game. Whitney has hit 74 of 185 three-pointers this year while posting a 15.6 points per game average.

"When Chris Whitney plays well, he can play with anybody. He frees up the game for Sharon Wright," Ellis said. "Our inside game, that's been a problem for us all year long. I've been proud of them though. We'll have to use our quickness and pressure the ball on the perimeter."

However, guards Lakista McCallister and Curtis Marshall have shown steady improvement and the Pack's assist-to-turnover ratio has dropped, and the guards' scoring totals have gone up.

Stigien will also find out if guard Miguel Bakalli can contribute some quality minutes. The 6-foot-6 guard has been sidelined for two months with a broken foot and is still experiencing some pain.

## GAME 3 Florida State vs. Clemson Friday, 7 p.m.

**Seminoles**  
Seed: 2  
'92-'93 Record: 23-8 (12-4 in the ACC)  
Coach: Pat Kennedy  
ACC title: 0  
Tour. record: 1-1  
Notes: FSU is only in second year of ACC competition. The 'Noles beat N.C. State last year before bowing out to UNC.

**Tigers**  
Seed: 7  
'92-'93 Record: 15-11 (5-11 in the ACC)  
Coach: Cliff Ellis  
ACC title: 0  
Tour. record: 8-39  
Notes: Don't expect the Tigers to go too far — they have only made the semifinals seven times and the finals only once.

## Terrapins

Continued from Page 6

a really positive mental attitude. It's no disgrace to play in [the first game]."

Maryland's fate by in-large rests in the collective hands of its five freshmen. The Terps landed one of the top recruiting classes in the country a year which

included Johnny Rhodes, Eric Hipp and Duane Simpkins.

Rhodes and Hipp have been the most impressive. Rhodes leads all freshmen in the ACC with a 14.3-point scoring average and is currently second in the conference with 2.6 steals per game, despite only shooting 42 percent from the field. Hipp is the fourth-leading Terrapin scorer with an 11-point average.

"I like their development," Williams said of the freshmen.

"As a group, they really have improved. They are the nucleus for our future."

Take out the freshmen and about all that's left are Evers Burns and Kevin McLinton. Burns is fourth in the league in scoring and has the ability to stick the 15-foot jumper as well as go inside. McLinton has lit up the Pack twice this season scoring 27 in both wins over State.

Meanwhile, the Pack will try to

make the most of its trip to Charlotte. State has continued to play well in stretches but can't seem to stay on top of an opponent for a complete 40 minutes. The Wolfpack has led every team in the league, with the exception of North Carolina, at halftime but has still won only two conference affairs.

The Wolfpack has been led all season by center Kevin Thompson, who is averaging 16 points and nine rebounds.

# Tar Heels look to defend title as top team in the country

By Jeff Drew  
Senior Staff Writer

You'll have to excuse N.C. State and Maryland fans if they don't seem too excited about this year's ACC Tournament.

After all, even if their team escapes Thursday's first-round game, their reward is a showdown with top-ranked North Carolina. And a showdown with the Tar Heels means a quick exit from the tournament.

OK, OK, anything is possible. Upsets happen. But The News & Observer will endorse Jesse Helms for president before the Terrapins or Wolfpack will beat Carolina.

The reason is talent. Great talent molded by the coaching hand of Dean Smith into a methodical, relentless force that smotheres opponents defensively and overpowers them offensively.

UNC is 26-3 overall, 14-2 in the ACC. The Tar Heels win by an average of more than 18 points per game and outshoot opponents 51 percent to 41 percent. They averaged losses to Wake Forest and Duke by whipping the Deacons and Devils by 18 and 14 points, respectively. Their other loss, to Michigan, came on a desperation follow shot at the buzzer.

The center of the Tar Heels' universe is massive junior Eric Montross. The 7-foot, 256-pound

## TOP SEED North Carolina

### Tar Heels

**Seed:** 1  
**'92-'93 Record:** 26-3  
(14-2 in the ACC)  
**Coach:** Dean Smith  
**ACC title:** 12  
**Tour. record:** 57-26  
**Notes:** Carolina is playing as good as any team in the country. Smith has won 71 percent of games he has coached in the tournament. The Heels have advanced to the title game four out of the last five years.

center has bullied opponents for 15.7 points and 7.4 rebounds per game this season while shooting 61 percent from the field. His efforts have earned first-team all-ACC recognition and, more importantly, praise from his coach.

"He's really improved defensively," Smith said. "He's not a great shot blocker but a capable shot blocker. He's doing a much better job on the board."

Montross, however, is not Carolina's top rebounder. That honor goes to senior forward George Lynch whose 9.4 boards per game average helped him join Montross on the all-conference first team. Lynch,

who is UNC's second-leading scorer at 14.9 points per game, also is a linchpin in UNC's suffocating man-to-man defense.

The leader of the defense, junior point guard Derrick Phelps, was left off the all-ACC teams mainly because he's not a big scorer. But with Montross, Lynch, sophomore sharpshooter Donald Williams (13.3 ppg) and junior jumping jack Brian Reese (11.1 ppg) to pass to, Phelps needs to do little more than keep the Tar Heel machine running smoothly.

"I was very disappointed not to see Derrick on the regular season all-ACC team," Smith said. "I know he doesn't score a lot but he plays very well."

As does the Carolina bench, which probably is the nation's deepest. Williams provides most of the offensive punch from the pine but Pat Sullivan, Dante Calabria and 7-footers Kevin Salvadori and Matt Wenstrom give Smith plenty of choices.

But don't expect the Tar Heels' overwhelming talent to mean that they're looking ahead to ACC and NCAA titles. Smith keeps his team singularly focused and the Tar Heels will have only one thing on their minds Friday.

"Our next goal is to play well against State or Maryland," Smith said. "I think we'll remain hungry."

# Hill to make return in third meeting with Tech

By Kevin Brewer  
Assistant Sports Editor

While Duke and Georgia Tech have had contrasting seasons, both teams are looking for a turnaround in the ACC Tournament's quarterfinal nightcap Friday.

Duke, trying to recover from an 83-69 loss to North Carolina Sunday, will try to get back on the winning track and return to the form that won two consecutive national titles.

"We were definitely outplayed by North Carolina," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "They should be the number-one seed in the East [during the NCAA Tournament]."

Duke (23-6, 10-6 in the ACC) has been in six of the past seven NCAA Final Fours but suffered six losses in the ACC and are the tournament's third seed.

Returning to championship form may be a little easier with

the services of first-team all-ACC selection Grant Hill. The 6-foot-7 junior who has missed the last six games with a bruised toe practiced Monday and is expected to start against the Jackets.

"He is getting treatment and he's not too bad," Krzyzewski said. "What Grant does is make plays. You have to play Grant. He's also one of our best ball handlers and he gives the other players more confidence."

Hill's start will place freshman guard Chris Collins on the bench for the tournament and give the Devils more depth.

Point guard Bobby Hurley also will have to return to his usual form if Duke expects to make it past Friday's game. Hurley, the NCAA's all-time assist leader, could muster only six assists against the Heels Sunday after finishing the season with a flurry of dish-outs.

"Bobby Hurley is my player of

the year," Georgia Tech coach Bobby Cremins said. "To me, Duke is still the national champion. Until someone beats them, they're still the best."

While Duke is looking to regain its old form, Tech is just trying to find some consistency. The Yellow Jackets have been good enough to beat a top-ranked Duke and bad enough to fall to the College of Charleston.

Tech (16-10, 8-8) is led by senior center Malcolm Mackey and sophomore forward James Forrest. Mackey, the second-leading rebounder in the conference, will try to control the inside against Duke's Cherokee Parks.

Forrest is one of two super sophomores in the Jackets' arsenal along with point guard Travis Best. Forrest is knocking in 19 points per game, and Best tallies 17 points and six assists.

"I think we can beat anybody if we put our mind to it," Cremins

## Courage

Continued from Page 6

much difference to Fuller, who said, "When you get out there playing, you don't even notice it. You don't even worry about how many guys you have."

Lewis felt the team still had the resolve of the usual 12-man squad — maybe even more.

"I don't think [the losses] hurt us spiritually, in that sense," Lewis said. "If anything, I think it strengthened us, because we had to pull together."

"I think we've grown a lot and come together as friends," Marshall said. "The character of the team is just great. We're just going through this time and staying together, and it is bonding us together."

"Those that are coming back next year will be a lot stronger for having to go through this stuff," Newman asserted. "I don't think next year, in any way, could add up to all the things that happened this year."

"This hasn't been the most enjoyable season, but it can't help but build character," Lewis added.

Character that, Coach Robinson explained, was the team's ability to separate how it was perceived from how it perceived itself.

"They realized that we don't have to play like people perceive us, which is really no good — just a bad basketball team. That's what I will always be proudest of about this team. That we did regain that respectability and had the respect from our crowd."

### As Our Might Lessens

A ligament injury brought Thompson low during an early-season practice. As if the fact the team would miss its big gun during the formative weeks of the pre-season

wasn't enough, shooting threat Davis suffered a broken wrist against the USA Verich Reps.

But the one pre-season loss that put both of these injuries in perspective was the unexpected and disturbing suicide of Tony Robinson. The Havelock native was a quiet example-setter even though he did not get much playing time, and his loss was visibly felt by the team.

McCalluer keeps a framed picture of the junior reserve in his locker. Robinson's locker is also preserved in the Wolfpack clubhouse.

But Les Robinson is slow to associate his player's death with his team's struggles.

"I've not wanted to ever combine his death with this team's success or failures," Robinson said. "That was a tragic event that still bothers each of us to this day and will for the rest of our lives. But I've not liked associating it with the team. I've tried to separate it, in my mind, from the success of the team."

Robinson feels the team is able to separate business from life as well. "But for every one of us it had an effect on how we deal with people," Robinson added.

Maybe someday, Pack fans will look around Reynolds Coliseum and wonder why a shoddily-lettered poster reading, "We Believe" gamifies a building that has multiple championship banners waving from its rafters. Perhaps they'll wonder why it's necessary to reiterate their belief in a winner.

Of course they'd have gazed up to the south end of the arena and remembered '74 and '83. But maybe this time they'll see the sign beside the Jesse Jones hot dogs ad. Maybe they'll remember '93.

It has been a season that, for better or for worse, deserves no less recognition than all the others.

## GAME 4

Duke vs. Georgia Tech  
Friday, 9 p.m.

### Blue Devils

**Seed:** 3  
**'92-'93 Record:** 23-6  
(10-6 in the ACC)  
**Coach:** Mike Krzyzewski  
**ACC title:** 9  
**Tour. record:** 53-30  
**Notes:** Devils have won at least one game in 25 tournaments. Duke holds a 26-12 record in the quarterfinals.

### Yellow Jackets

**Seed:** 6  
**'92-'93 Record:** 16-10  
(8-8 in the ACC)  
**Coach:** Bobby Cremins  
**ACC title:** 2  
**Tour. record:** 10-11  
**Notes:** Tech won the '90 tournament in the first year at Charlotte. Cremins is 10-9 in tournament play as a coach and 4-3 as a player.

said. "We've been inconsistent because we have two freshmen and two sophomores in the starting lineup." Although just as inconsistent as

the rest of the squad, the Jackets' freshman class can be enough to scare any team. Martice Moore and Drew Barry will offer help with their outside shooting.