

Draft-depleted Carolina looks to freshmen for rebuilding

By ADAM ROTHSCHILD
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REPORTER

Imagine a basketball season in which the North Carolina Tar Heels finish in the second tier of the ACC standings for the first time since 1964.

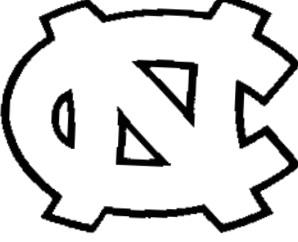
Then imagine a season in which the Heels win their 23rd regular season ACC title.

Either one could happen this season, as the loss of two eventual NBA lottery picks and the arrival of an exciting freshman class should make this year's UNC squad a fascinating study.

Last year, the Tar Heels finished with a 28-6 record, 12-4 in the ACC, good enough for a share of a four-way tie for first place in the conference. Head Coach Dean Smith then guided his team to the ACC final, and then to the national semifinals, where they lost to Arkansas.

This year's squad, on a quest for the school's 22nd consecutive NCAA Tournament berth, will have an entirely new look. Gone are Jerry Stackhouse and his 20.1 points and 8.2 rebounds per game. Gone, too, is classmate Rasheed Wallace,

who averaged 16.6 points and a league-leading .654 field-goal percentage. Both chose to leave Chapel Hill after their



Head Coach: Dean Smith
Record at UNC: 830-236
Overall Record: 830-236
1994-95 Record: 28-6 (12-4, tied for 1st ACC)

sophomore years, with their sights on NBA millions. Smith also lost starting guard Donald Williams to graduation. Obviously, the Heels will miss the sta-

tistics and athleticism of Stackhouse and Wallace. Perhaps more importantly, their departures leave UNC without a proven, sure-to-be-a-lottery pick superstar that is always present on the Heels' roster.

This year, the closest thing the Tar Heels have to a known superstar is junior point guard Jeff McInnis. McInnis is the team's leading returning scorer, averaging 12.4 points per game last season, and was a third-team All-ACC pick a year ago. He led the ACC in assist-to-turnover ratio, at 2.5 to 1. The other returning starter is senior Dante Calabria. A 6-4 small forward, Calabria led the Heels with a .496 percentage from three-point land.

Other than McInnis and Calabria, the remaining returnees may not strike fear in the hearts of ACC opponents. Junior Serge Zwikker, 7-2, is a potential threat at center, but he's no Wallace. Sophomore Shammond Williams and junior Ed Geth averaged a mere 4.6 minutes each last year.

Therefore, Smith finds himself in an unfamiliar position this year. He will be forced to play his freshmen, and, in fact, he will need to rely quite heavily on them.

Fortunately for Smith, this year's recruiting class seems ready for the challenge.

Vince Carter, a 6-6 prep All-American from Ormond Beach, Fla., is considered one of the nation's top-five freshmen. He should start and contribute major minutes at either guard or small forward. Also joining the Heels is 6-8 Antawn Jamison, the North Carolina high school Player of the Year. He should step in immediately at power forward.

The season is up in the air for the proud Carolina Blue. The freshmen must demonstrate that they can step in and compete at the ACC level. Zwikker must use his size to his advantage in the pivot, and McInnis and Calabria must lead the team and take their games to new heights. If so, this squad could go places. If not, the die-hard Carolina hoops fans may have to endure a sub-par season and a quick exit from the Big Dance.

The Tar Heels open their campaign Monday at the Maui Invitational. Smith's bunch can also expect tough challenges from non-conference opponents Georgia (Dec. 7 at home) and Villanova (Jan. 20 in Philadelphia, Pa.).



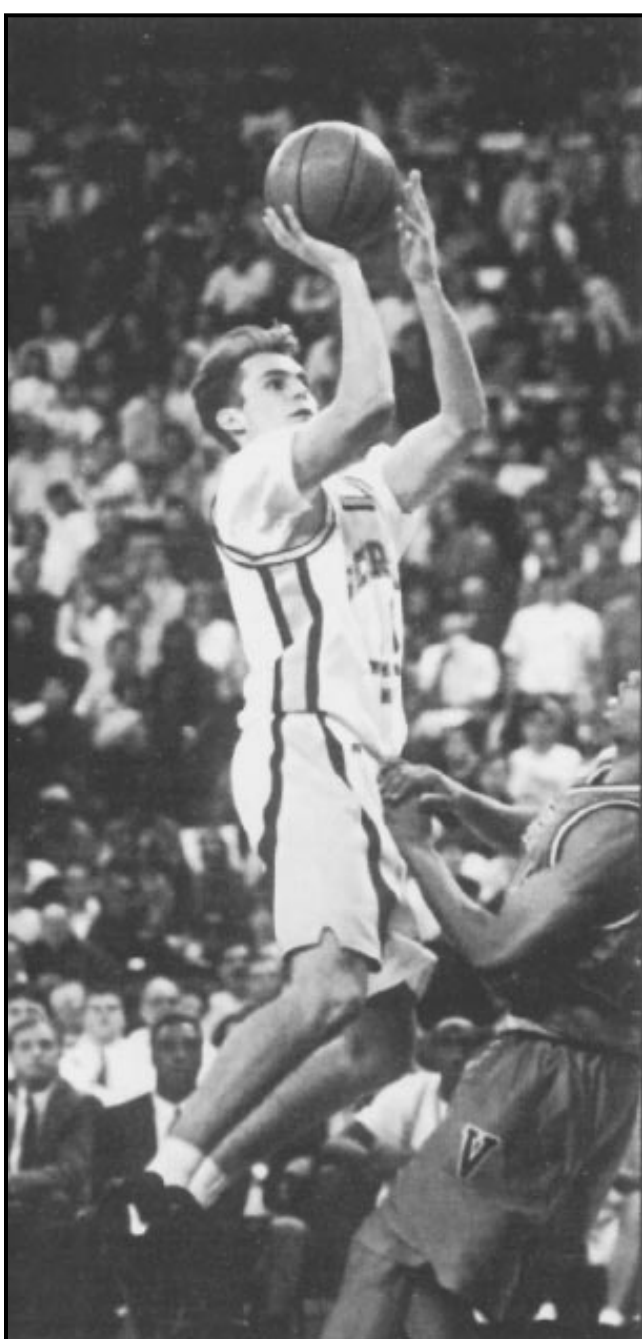
Courtesy of North Carolina Sports Information
Calabria will provide veteran leadership for UNC.

Highly-touted rookie Marbury holds fate of Yellow Jackets

By ROBERT NEELY
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REPORTER

The Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets seek to rebound from two disappointing years with the highest-profile rookie in the conference.

Bobby Cremins, hoping to return to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1993, will have to compensate for the losses of Travis Best and James Forrest, but has many



Courtesy of Georgia Tech Sports Information

Senior guard Drew Barry will provide veteran leadership for a young Yellow Jacket squad.

exciting young players to infuse the Yellow Jackets with talent.

Stephon Marbury, a 6-1 guard from Brooklyn, N.Y., is expected to dazzle the competition after a stellar

performance for the United States team in the World Junior Championships, where he contributed 21 points per contest. He was named high school player of the year by *Parade* magazine and the "Gatorade Circle of Champions."

Marbury will see playing time alongside senior Drew Barry in the backcourt, who has led the ACC in assists for two straight years. Barry, 6-5, averaged 13.4 points and 6.7 assists last year, and he gives the Jackets versatility in the backcourt both offensively and defensively.

Also in the backcourt for Tech is freshman Gary Saunders, a 6-5 player who, like Marbury, is from New York City.

In the frontcourt, the Jackets return sophomore forwards Matt Harpring and Michael Maddox.

Harpring, who was named to the ACC-All Freshman team last season, averaged 12.1 points per game and impressed observers with his hustle and determination on the court.

Maddox, a power forward at 6-8, 222 pounds, averaged 9.1 points while displaying both inside and perimeter potential as the Jackets sixth man. He should start this season.

Eddie Elisma, a junior, will fill the center spot for the Jackets. He averaged 5.8 points and 5.0 rebounds last season, but his slender build is a disadvantage. Elisma led the Jackets in blocked shots and field goal percentage.

Bucky Hodge, a 6-9 sophomore, will also be counted on for minutes in the front court. His size lends versatility to the Tech bench.

Freshman Juan Gaston, another wide body at 6-7, 235 pounds, is a top-70 prospect who should contribute.

The Jackets have missed the last two NCAA Tournaments despite tremendous talent.

This year, Harpring, Maddox and Marbury form a young nucleus that will have to carry the team.

Barry's leadership will be essential to a team that has lacked chemistry in recent years, but the pieces are there for a return to the "Big Dance."



Head Coach: Bobby Cremins
Record at Georgia Tech: 274-160
Overall Record: 374-230
1994-1995 Record: 18-12 (8-8, 5th ACC)

Deane-Staples tandem anchors dominant Cavalier backcourt

By MARK RABUANO
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REPORTER

The Virginia squad of 1994-95 had a great year. Not only did they tie for the regular-season title, but they made it into the Great Eight of the NCAA Tournament, upsetting No. 1 seed Kansas in the process.

That was the good news for this team that ended with a 25-9 record. The bad news — this year the Cavaliers are without the under-the-basket prowess of Junior Burroughs and outside threat Cory Alexander, both of whom bolted for the NBA draft. With this loss, expect the team to depend on defense and for them to keep games in the 60s.

Arguably the best backcourt in the ACC remains with Curtis Staples and Harold Deane. Staples was the most productive three-point shooting freshman last year, making 42 percent. Deane had 16 points per game last year, and he is expected to be a fantastic playmaker for the Cavaliers this year.

There is a large gap between their backcourt and the rest of the team. Jamal Robinson, a 6-7 wing player, is very erratic and will need to improve on his 5.4 points per game.

Underneath the basket, sophomore Norman Nolan

is trying to learn the ropes and to get accustomed to the position. In his 33 career games, he has never had an assist. He must learn quickly to give up the ball on occasion.

Center Chris Alexander, a 6-9 senior, is very effective on defense and in collecting rebounds. He shot 57.4 percent from the floor last year.


As far as recruiting talent goes, the two freshmen Courtney Alexander and Darryl Presley could have an impact as well.

The 6-6 Alexander has Head Coach Jeff Jones and teammates licking their chops for a chance to see this brash youngster strut his stuff. Cocky and arrogant with all the tools to back it up, look for Alexander to quickly join the list of high-impact newcomers in the league.

Virginia will be tested early against Kansas in the Great 8 Tournament and in a matchup against Connecticut, but their only other true threats in the non-conference slate will be Vanderbilt

and cross-state rivals Virginia Tech and Virginia Commonwealth.

There are too many pieces missing in Virginia's puzzle to seriously compete. They will play up to their potential, which will give them an opportunity to be competitive in most games.



Head Coach: Jeff Jones
Record at Virginia: 105-57
Overall Record: 105-57
1994-95 Record: 25-9 (12-4, tied for 1st ACC)



Courtesy of Virginia Sports Information



Courtesy of Virginia Sports Information

Junior guard Harold Deane (left and above), along with sophomore Curtis Staples, anchor the Virginia backcourt which is arguably one of the best tandems in the entire country.

Krzyzewski's return will revamp Blue Devils into top-caliber team

By SCOTT PLUMRIDGE
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REPORTER

Although already pegged by some experts as a rebuilding season, anybody who knows the ACC conference from a GOP conference knows that Duke will be anything but a push-over this season.

What could possibly be the difference, you may be asking yourself, between last year's mediocre 13-18 squad and this year's team? The myriad of possibilities run through your head: Duke lost key front-court contributors Erik Meek and Cherokee Parks to the NBA, Assistant Coach Mike Brey and substitute Head Coach Pete Gaudet left the team, and so on and so forth.

Yet there can be only one answer, one man and one attitude so vital to a team's success. That man so eternally valuable to the program is Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski, who was lost for a majority of last season due to back surgery.

Krzyzewski, entering his 16th season at the helm of Duke basketball, is one of the great basketball minds of our time.

With a career record of 358-127 at Duke, Krzyzewski began a tradition and has managed to maintain its stellar reputation throughout his stay.

In fact, Krzyzewski's program has been so successful for such a long time that it often

draws comparison to some of the great basketball traditions of all time.

With last year's poor performance still fresh in basketball enthusiasts' minds, the demise of Duke basketball and its great tradition of excellence seems near to many. Regardless of popular opinion and a disappointing previous season, Krzyzewski will settle for nothing less than a full restoration of Duke's college basketball prominence.

It may be an easier path for Krzyzewski to hoe than many realize. In fact, last year's Krzyzewski-led Duke squad started off the season in typical fashion. However, after compiling a 9-2 record, chronic back pains and the urging of wife Mickie forced Krzyzewski to go under the knife. At the advice of doctors, Krzyzewski remained at a distance from the program to avoid any stress and anxiety that could aggravate his condition.

Nearly a year later, Krzyzewski is rejuvenated and once again ready to undertake the task of molding his team into a winner.

Coach K also has reason to be happy about the quality of players he has at his disposal.

An especially bright spot for Duke this year will be the backcourt, which contains a plethora of talent.

Running the point this year for the Blue Devils will be 6-5 junior All-America candidate Jeff Capel. As the second leading scorer on the 1994-1995 team, Capel will be expected to assume even more of the offensive burden this year. He is the team's top outside shooting threat, converting on an astounding 46 percent of his three-point attempts. Capel also led the team in assists, dishing out a little over four per game. Manning the wings beside Capel will be sophomore sensations Trajan Langdon and Ricky Price. Langdon averaged 11.3 points per game last year while playing in all 31 games for the Blue Devils.

The squad will look to Langdon to play an increased offensive role this season. He will join Capel from beyond the arc where he

converted 59 three-point attempts last year.

Currently, Langdon is recuperating from a stress reaction in his left leg which has kept him out of preseason action. Langdon is expected to be ready to play by the first regular season game.

Price, a 6-6 silky-smooth swing-man, is expected to build upon his solid freshman year to be the Blue Devils' defense-penetrating weapon. The athletically-gifted Price averaged 8.1 points a game, pocketed 23 steals and pulled down the fourth most rebounds on the team last season in 14 starting assignments.

Also figuring into the equation will be senior co-captain Chris Collins. Although often erratic and hot-headed, Collins is a legitimate scoring threat who possesses the ability to single-handedly influence a game with his long-range bombs. Collins enters this season second on Duke's career list for three-pointers with 130.

Further support in the backcourt will come from feisty sophomore Steve Wojciechowski. Wojciechowski is a fierce competitor on the court, especially defensively, and was second on the team in assists a year ago. One can also expect to hear from junior guard Carmen Wallace, who rounds out Duke's strong perimeter unit.

If any area is of special concern to Krzyzewski, undoubtedly it is his dismantled

front line. With the loss of big men Meek and Parks, some gaping holes have opened up front for the Blue Devils. Hoping to fill the void created by the graduated NBA players are highly-touted 6-10 freshman Taymon Domzalski, 6-8 senior Tony Moore and 6-10 junior Greg Newton.

Inexperience is the main problem among the trio who have only one college start between them. Newcomer Domzalski will most certainly have to adapt quickly due to the lack of depth up front. Over the summer, Domzalski got a taste of the college game while playing on the USA Junior National Team with teammates Langdon and Wojciechowski.

Although rarely used in his previous three years at Duke, Blue Devil insiders feel that Moore may be the surprise of the ACC this season. Because of his natural athletic ability and off-season work, many believe that the power forward can add some punch to the Duke front line.

The most promising player this preseason for the Blue Devils has been Newton. Duke will look to Newton to be the leader of the front court trio.

Despite a suspect front court, the wealth of talent around the perimeter should lead the team to another successful season. Look for Duke to return to the top of the ACC and to restore its customary spot in the top 20. Coach K is back, and so are the Blue Devils.



Head Coach: Mike Krzyzewski
Record at Duke: 358-127
Overall Record: 431-186
1994-95 Record: 13-18 (2-14, 9th ACC)