

# Return of Langdon, addition of McLeod will revive ailing Duke

By PAUL GAETA  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The formidable days of Bobby Hurley, Christian Laettner, and Grant Hill have passed, but the 1997 Duke men's basketball team still looks to continue its tradition of excellence. With the help of four starters returning from last year's squad, a key guard back from serious injury, and a strong recruiting class compliments of Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski, the group has its sights set on the conference elite.

One question, however, still looms: how will the team adjust to this year's different playing style?

"I think if we had four starters back from

a system we were still going to run it would mean much more," Krzyzewski said. "But the way we are going to play is different. We want to rely on more depth, more pressure on defense, and more competition daily within the team so that we become better prepared for our games. It's going to be an interesting year. Chemistry will be big."

Continuing a long-lasting tradition of strong players coming from the Blue Devil program will be tri-captain Jeff Capel. Leadership both on and off the court will come from the senior guard. Last year, Capel was a third-team All-ACC selection while leading the team in points per contest with 16.6 and minutes played with 34.9. The Fayetteville native is also a huge threat from behind the three-point arc. As a junior, he became third in Duke's history for three-pointers made with 168.

Another returning starter who will play an important role for the Blue Devils will be tri-captain Greg Newton. The 6-10 center led the team last year in rebounds per game with 8.2, blocked shots with 48, and field-goal percentage with 56.8 percent. The big man will be a good compliment to Duke's strong backcourt, especially with Capel's excellent long-range shooting.

The final two starters back from last year's 18-13 team are junior guard Ricky Price and sophomore forward Taymon Domzalski. Price, also a third-team All-ACC selection, averaged 14.2 points with 3.5 rebounds while starting in 29 contests. Like Capel, Price can also fire the three, shooting close to 40 percent behind the arc last year. Domzalski could be the future of the Blue Devil pro-



**Head Coach: Mike Krzyzewski**  
**Record at Duke: 376-140**  
**Career Record: 449-199**  
**1995-96 Record: 18-13 (8-8, Tie 4th ACC)**

gram. In only his first year he averaged 6.5 points and 5.0 rebounds and was rewarded with a selection to the ACC All-Freshman team. A notable absence from last year's squad was sophomore Trajan Langdon. The native of Anchorage, Ak., was a medical redshirt when he suffered a stress fracture in his left leg last fall. He is back this year, and the Blue Devils will reap benefits from his return; the guard averaged 11.3 points as a freshman.

"Up until Oct. 15 he hadn't played a five-on-five game in 14 months," Krzyzewski said of Langdon. "He's a little rusty, but it's good to have him back."

Rounding out this year's deep Blue Devil squad are four new players to the team. The most notable is Roshown McLeod, a transfer from St. John's University. The 6-8 junior forward averaged 7.2 points and 5.8 rebounds in 57 games.

"He could be one of the guys that starts," Krzyzewski said. "He adds a competitive element. I think he can guard big people, and he can also guard a perimeter person. So all those guys starting have to realize that a very good player is there."

Krzyzewski has also recruited three highly-touted freshman in Chris Carrawell, Mike Chappell, and Nate James. Carrawell was a star at Cardinal Ritter College Prep in St. Louis where he set school records in points scored, rebounds, and assists. The 6-6 forward was also a Street and Smith All-America pick. Two shoulder operations in the last year and a half could affect his game, though.

"I'm not sure what level of efficiency he's at," Krzyzewski said. "He has to regain the

confidence in himself and in his game that he had prior to his operations."

Chappell, too, broke records for points, rebounds, assists, and blocked shots for Southfield-Lathrup High School in Michigan. The 6-8 forward was a Parade All-American selection.

"Mike is a very unique player because he is at least 6-8 but he is thin," Krzyzewski said. "I think he can be a really good scorer because he can shoot the three easy and he can drive. He is a very smooth and intelligent player."

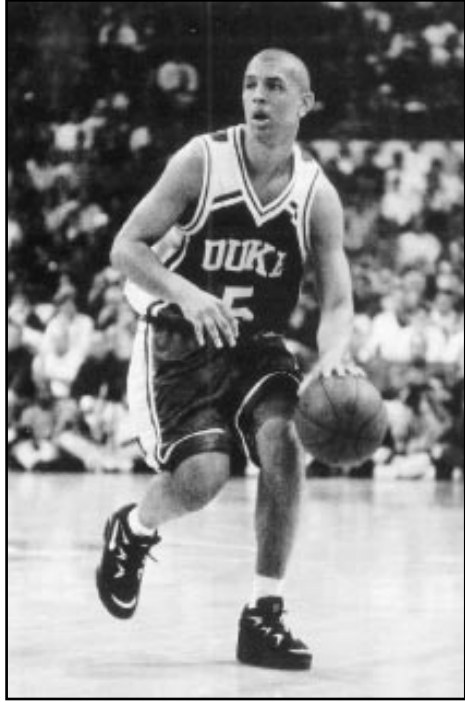
The last of the freshman recruits is James, another high school All-America pick. As a senior, he scored 22.1 points, hitting 70 percent from the field, and 11 rebounds as he led his St. John's at Prospect Hall team in

Baltimore to a No. 7 national ranking.

So will fans see a Duke team this year which is similar to programs in the past, squads that have participated in 12 of the last 13 NCAA Tournaments?

On paper, it definitely seems so. Yet, early in the season Krzyzewski sounds a bit doubtful about whether or not his team has what it takes.

"I think to be a great team, you need a couple of great players, and I don't know if we have great players," he said. "I think that more than one player has to step up for us. This team needs two or three guys to step forward and say, 'Whatever lineup we have, the two or three of us are in all of them.' We have a lot of confidence in these kids, and we can be a very good basketball team."



Courtesy of Duke Sports Information

Senior guard Jeff Capel will play a key role in returning the Blue Devils to prominence.



Courtesy of Duke Sports Information

Coach K's best team in years should allow the Blue Devils to return to the top of the ACC.

## ACC's worst underachievers, Cavs set to try again

By ADAM ROTHSCHILD  
SPORTS COPY EDITOR

One year ago at this time, Virginia fans were ecstatic about the prospects for the coming campaign, as they had every reason to be. A stellar recruiting class had joined a team that included one of the best backcourts in the country and had advanced to within one game of the Final Four the previous season.

Unfortunately for the Cavaliers, things did not work out the way they had hoped. An array of bad luck, missed shots and legal troubles transformed the Cavs from a potential ACC Championship contender to a 12-15 utter disappointment who watched the postseason on television.

"We can't keep trying to make up for last year," Virginia Head Coach Jeff Jones said. "That's done; it's in the books and we're not going to change anything. What we can do is something about the coming year."

There is no reason why the Cavaliers should underachieve again this season. That same backcourt tandem remains intact this season. Senior point guard Harold Deane is the focal point of the Virginia offense. Deane's 16.7 points per game was good enough to earn him second-team All-ACC status last season. Deane led the Cavaliers in scoring, assists, steals and minutes played, and is also a steady defender.

"He's not the flashy, glamorous type of player that some people might want him to be," Jones said. "Harold Deane is a throw back. He's a hard-nosed, solid, fundamental basketball player, who sometimes by sheer will is able to help his basketball team win."

However, the Cavaliers must count on Deane to put his troubles of this summer behind him. Deane took a leave of absence from the team this summer in the wake of some personal problems.

Deane's counterpart in the backcourt is junior Curtis Staples.

Staples earned his reputation as a three-point bomber his freshman season, when he made 42.2 percent of his treys, including nine in a memorable outing against Nevada-Las Vegas. However, his production dropped last year, hitting only 32.9 percent of his treys while attempting twice as many treys as two-point field goals.

"Curtis was hurt badly by the disappointments of last season," Jones said. "I think he's ready to have a very good year."

The Cavaliers' biggest problems this season will be in the frontcourt. The returning forwards of note are sophomore Courtney Alexander, junior Norman Nolan and senior Jamal Robinson. Each looked brilliant at times last season, but the trio was also plagued by inconsistency.



Courtesy of Virginia Sports Information

Jeff Jones counsels Harold Deane.



**Head Coach: Jeff Jones**  
**Record at Virginia: 117-72**  
**Career Record: 117-72**  
**1995-96 Record: 12-15 (6-10, 7th ACC)**

The Cavaliers also lost the services of starting center Chris Alexander, a charismatic defensive presence downlow. That leaves sophomore Chase Methany as the lone returning center for the Cavaliers. At 7-4, Methany is a potential force, but he looked as tall, skinny and mobile as the Washington Monument last season.

"Chase has continued to develop," Jones said. "I think this might be the year Chase feels more comfortable on the court and is able to make a big contribution."

Fortunately for the Cavaliers, four incoming freshmen should contribute in the frontcourt. Willie Dersch, a 6-6 swingman, was a McDonald's All-American and should be able to slash to the basket or shoot from outside to boost the Cavalier offense. And Colin Ducharme, a 6-9 banger from Richmond, Va., should, with time, develop into a quality power forward for Jones's club.

Two 6-10 centers round out what may be the ACC's best recruiting class, and Jones hopes that one of them will develop into the Cavaliers' first dominant big man since the days of Ralph Sampson and Olden Polynice over a decade ago. Kris Hunter averaged 15.4 points, 13.8 rebounds and 7.1 blocked shots per game during his senior season at Florida A&M High School in Tallahassee, and Craig McAndrew, a member of the 1995 Australian National Championship club team, will be the first Aussie to play in the ACC.

It is important that the Cavs stay off of the police blotter if they are to make a splash in the ACC. Forwards Darryl Presley and Scott Johnson left the squad in the middle



Courtesy of Virginia Sports Information

Guard Curtis Staples shows his form.

of last season in the wake of a shoplifting incident, and prized recruit Melvin Whittaker, arrested for slashing a Virginia football player, will likely never suit up at UVA.

Virginia was picked to finish fifth in the conference by the ACC Operation Basketball media poll. However, if the guards can shoot straight and the frontcourt pulls it together, this squad has the talent to make a run for the ACC title and advance deep into the NCAA Tournament.

Virginia opens the season Nov. 25 against South Carolina in the Maui Invitational. That tournament, along with matchups against Connecticut and rival Virginia Tech, highlight a cream puff of a non-conference schedule.

## Sendek looks to take Wolfpack back to top

By PAUL GAETA  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

A new era begins this season for the North Carolina State men's basketball team. Herb Sendek takes over as the Wolfpack coach, replacing Les Robinson.

Sendek comes to their program after a three year stint as coach at Miami of Ohio. Wolfpack fans can look forward to the success Sendek will bring; in his three years at Miami he accumulated a record of 63-26 while guiding the team to three straight post-season berths.

Sendek is quite excited about the season ahead as he feels his team can succeed in the highly talented ACC. Their success, however, will not come easily. Sendek will incorporate a new style of play which includes sound offensive principles, hard work and tenacity on defense.

"It's important to keep the big picture in mind and make a consistent, daily effort to improve," Sendek said. "We must stay focused and believe in the inevitability of dividends emanating from smart, hard work."

A solid core of returning players will aid the Wolfpack in mastering their new coach's playing style and expectations. Most notable are a quartet of four returning seniors including 6-6 forward Al Pinkins and 6-6 forward Danny Strong. The two look to replace the critical absence of Todd Fuller, a first-team All-ACC selection who was a first round pick in the NBA draft.

Pinkins was not a starter last year, but off the bench, he gave his team some muscle inside. He finished the year as their second-leading rebounder and shot over 50 percent from the field in ACC contests.

Strong started every game for the Wolfpack last year. He ended the season as their third-leading rebounder with 4.7 per game, second in steals with 37, and added 73 three pointers.

Junior redshirt Steve Norton, sophomore Luke Buffum, and freshman recruits Damon Thorton, Andre McCullum, and Tim Wells will also



**Head Coach: Herb Sendek**  
**Record at NCSU: 1st year**  
**Career Record: 63-26**  
**1995-96 Record: 15-16 (3-13, 9th ACC)**

help the Wolfpack's frontcourt.

The remaining members of State's returning senior quartet are guards Jeremy Hyatt and Jason Sutton. Hyatt, the team leader in steals with 46, had career highs in rebounds with 142 and assists with 104. Sutton's totals in assists, rebounds, steals, field goals, and three-point percentage last year surpassed his totals of the last two combined.

Junior guards Ishua Benjamin and C.C. Harrison will fight for time in the three-guard rotation. The one question concerning Benjamin, the star from Concord, is his attitude. Sendek, however, says things have gone well so far.

"We haven't had one of those days where you have to say, 'C'mon Ish, let's work.' He has worked hard."

Another guard that was expected to help in the backcourt was sophomore Ivan Wagner. Wagner, however, quit the team last week due to differences with Sendek. He was the second player to quit in the Sendek era.

Sendek believes if his team plays sound defense and works hard on improving every day of practice they will do well.

"We have to play good defense to have a chance. If there's a starting point with a new coach and a new system it has to be defense."

## Booth is back, but heavy losses open door for new wave of Terrapin talent

By JOSHUA HOFFMAN  
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REPORTER

Maryland Terrapin basketball has entered a new age. Gone is Joe Smith, who, after leading the team to the Sweet 16 two years ago, now patrols the paint for the Golden State Warriors. Gone are Exree Hipp, Johnny Rhodes and Duane Simpkins, the backbone of last year's 17-13 squad which lost to Santa Clara in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

"We have lost four seniors who have played quite a bit over the last few years," Terrapin Head Coach Gary Williams said. Williams has patrolled the Maryland sidelines for the past seven years.

While the youth movement at College Park has brought in quite a few talented recruits, the fresh-faced youth will most

certainly do a lot of growing up playing against their cuthroat ACC foes. Maryland has only two seniors returning for the 1996-97 season, and only one of them received any significant playing time last year.

Senior Keith Booth captains this young platoon of upstarts who begin their season Nov. 26. The 6-6 forward from Baltimore was one of the team's most solid players last season, averaging 15.3 points per game and was fourth on the team in assists.

The youthful Maryland squad will look to rally around his play and leadership.

The Terrapins struggled through most of last season with injuries and the disappointing play of many of its key players.

The final chapter of the 1992 recruiting class (one of the highest ranked recruiting classes in the nation) closed with a heart-breaking loss to Santa Clara in the first round.

"We feel like we accomplished some things last year," Williams said.

While Maryland is in a transitional phase and trying to rebuild, the team has the potential to surprise some teams that look past them.

Sophomore Laron Profit, 6-5, is ready to take off after a stellar freshman season, during which he averaged almost six points a game and played smash-mouth, inspired basketball.

Fellow sophomore Terrell Stokes, a 6-0 guard from Philadelphia, inherits the one-guard position from the steady Simpkins, who failed to catch on with an NBA team this summer. Stokes showed flashes of brilliance in his first season and picked up the slack from the oft-injured Simpkins when he came off the bench to start.

The Terps also hope to receive solid contri-

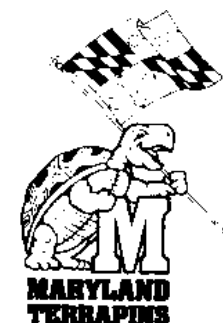
bution from their new faces. Seven-foot freshman Mike Mardesich, the tallest player on the team, will most likely see a great deal of time at center.

Kelly Hite, a 6-4 guard from Temple Terrace, Fla., along with transfer Brian Watkins hope to create enough of a stir to garner some playing time.

Success won't come easy for these Terrapins. Playing in the ultra-competitive ACC certainly will not make it any easier. Lack of experience among its starting five and even less coming from the bench will take its toll on Maryland all season long.

Last year's team seemed to give up at times, but Williams does not see that lack of drive in his present squad.

"We are working hard," Williams said of his young team. "The attitude of this year's team is tremendous."



**Head Coach: Gary Williams**  
**Record at Maryland: 122-90**  
**Career Record: 329-218**  
**1995-96 Record: 17-13 (8-8, Tie 4th ACC)**