

# Tigers' depth gives them high hopes for season

By Louis Garmendia  
Contributing Reporter

A preseason top-10 ranking and talk of a national championship have always been parts of the football program in Clemson, S.C., But Rick Barnes and his Clemson Tiger program have quickly changed the subject.

Barnes' club is ranked fifth by the AP poll (seventh by USA Today/ESPN) and picked to finish in uncharted territory in the ACC, among powerhouses UNC and Duke.

The team returns 10 of its top 11 players from a record-breaking season. It reached its highest ever national ranking (second), set an all-time high for ticket sales, and reached the Sweet 16 in the NCAA Tournament for the second time ever.

The main cause for excitement among

Tiger fans is the return of a stellar backcourt that will be charged with carrying the team. Greg Buckner is the squad's only senior and one of the program's founding fathers. He was the first player recruited by Barnes and has played every game since he came to Clemson.

He has had his share of individual awards, such as ACC Rookie of the Year, Second Team All-ACC, and Preseason First Team All-ACC, and is the team's leading scorer. He is a true team player who does whatever it takes to win. Buckner excites fans with his physical play away from the ball, occasional trash-talking, and his bold attitude.

"I'll be surprised if we don't win a national championship," said Buckner of the upcoming season.

Teaming with Buckner in the starting backcourt is junior Terrell McIntyre, who is perhaps one of the nation's most underrated players. The 5-9 junior is on Dick Vitale's All-Napolean Team, which in-

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Greg Buckner  
Senior Guard

cludes the nation's top players under six feet. McIntyre leads the team in assists, and has a knack for hitting big three-pointers in the closing minutes of games.

While the backcourt will consist of ironmen expected to log heavy minutes, the frontcourt will be more of a by-committee approach. Juniors Iker Iturbe and Tony Christie and sophomore Vincent Whitt are the versatile swingmen.

Iturbe is a Toni Kukoc-like player who can step out and hit the three. Christie is an athletic forward/guard who is a defensive force. He is bouncing back from a foot injury that hampered him all of last season.

Whitt is more of a slasher who stays on the perimeter and glides to the basket.

The bruisers of the front court are juniors Tom Wideman and Harold Jamison and sophomore Mohammed Woni.

All are counted on for defense and rebounding. Wideman and Jamison are sub-par shooters from the free throw line, but Woni went 10-10 in the Sweet 16 game against Minnesota.

The Tigers may redshirt junior Andrius Jurkunas, a three-point specialist who had knee surgery in the off-season. His earliest possible return is December.

The team will also throw three newcomers into the mix. Sophomore Johnny Miller is an excellent shooter with great quickness. The guard is a transfer from Temple who spent all of last season practicing with the team.

He has been hampered by a knee injury in the preseason, but looks to be a major contributor when he returns to full strength.

Freshman Adam Allenspach is Clemson's first seven-footer since Tree Rollins played in the early 1970's. He has started both exhibition games and looks to be a major contributor as well.

Fellow rookie Jason Pryor is a 6-1 guard who averaged 37 points per game last year. However, Pryor looks to see limited playing time on this deep team.

Games against Kentucky, South Carolina, Illinois, Seton Hall, and a trip to the Top of the World Shootout Tournament in Alaska, and the usual tour of the competitive ACC will prep Clemson for NCAA Tournament play.

And with perhaps the school's deepest and most talented team ever, Tiger faithful are optimistic that the team will make its first ever trip to the Final Four.

*Louis Garmendia is the sports editor of The Tiger, the student newspaper of Clemson University.*



Carlton Ward/Old Gold and Black

## Cheers!

Sophomore cheerleader Megan Eaton leads the crowd at the Joel Coliseum in a cheer to give support to the Demon Deacon basketball team, who this season return starters Jerry Braswell and Tony Rutland, both seniors. Also returning for the Deacs are senior Stephen Goolsby, junior Joseph Amonett and sophomore Loren Woods.



Carlton Ward/Old Gold and Black

## Still Screamin'

The black-shirted, Screaming Demons came under much criticism last season for a lack of enthusiasm. With renewed membership this season, the Screaming Demons will hopefully increase the noise level in the Joel Coliseum for home basketball games and make it a tougher place for ACC teams to visit.

*Special thanks to John Justus and the rest of the Wake Forest Sports Information Department for all of their help toward the successful completion of this section, from the Sports staff of the Old Gold and Black.*

## 1997-98 MEN'S HOOPS SCHEDULE

Date	Day	Opponent	Time
Nov. 21	Fri.	Georgetown at Springfield, Mass.	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 24	Mon.	LIBERTY	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 29	Sat.	RICHMOND	1 p.m.
Dec. 3	Wed.	at Davidson	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 6	Sat.	UTAH	12 p.m.
Dec. 17	Wed.	at Marshall	7 p.m.
Dec. 19	Fri.	Princeton at East Rutherford, N.J.	7 p.m.
Dec. 22	Mon.	RADFORD	8 p.m.
Jan. 4	Sun.	at Virginia	1 p.m.
Jan. 8	Thur.	CLEMSON	7 p.m.
Jan. 10	Sat.	at Georgia Tech	4 p.m.
Jan. 14	Wed.	DUKE	7 p.m.
Jan. 17	Sat.	MARYLAND	7 p.m.
Jan. 22	Thur.	at Florida State	7 p.m.
Jan. 25	Sun.	MISSOURI	4 p.m.
Jan. 27	Tues.	VIRGINIA	8 p.m.
Jan. 31	Sat.	NORTH CAROLINA	1 p.m.
Feb. 4	Wed.	at N.C. State	9 p.m.
Feb. 7	Sat.	at Clemson	1:30 p.m.
Feb. 11	Wed.	GEORGIA TECH	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 14	Sat.	at Duke	4 p.m.
Feb. 19	Thur.	at Maryland	9 p.m.
Feb. 21	Sat.	FLORIDA STATE	12 p.m.
Feb. 24	Tues.	at North Carolina	9 p.m.
Mar. 1	Sun.	N.C. STATE	3:45 p.m.
Mar. 5-8	Thur.-Sun.	ACC Tournament at Greensboro	TBA

## 1997-98 WOMEN'S HOOPS SCHEDULE

Date	Day	Opponent	Time
Nov. 21	Fri.	Texas-Arlington*	9:30 p.m.
Nov. 22	Sat.	Tennessee St./St.Louis	6 p.m./8 p.m.
Nov. 26	Wed.	APPALACHIAN STATE	7 p.m.
Nov. 29	Sat.	WEST VIRGINIA	6 p.m.
Dec. 2	Tue.	at East Carolina	7 p.m.
Dec. 4	Thur.	NORTH CAROLINA	7 p.m.
Dec. 6	Sat.	at Tennessee Tech	5:45 p.m.
Dec. 17	Wed.	at James Madison	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 20	Sat.	at Campbell	12 p.m.
Dec. 22	Mon.	PROVIDENCE	5 p.m.
Dec. 30	Tue.	N.C. STATE	7 p.m.
Jan. 2	Fri.	DUKE	7 p.m.
Jan. 4	Sun.	at Maryland	2 p.m.
Jan. 8	Thur.	at Florida State	7 p.m.
Jan. 11	Sun.	GEORGIA TECH	2 p.m.
Jan. 15	Thur.	CLEMSON	7 p.m.
Jan. 18	Sun.	at Virginia	7 p.m.
Jan. 25	Sun.	at North Carolina	2 p.m.
Jan. 30	Fri.	at N.C. State	7 p.m.
Feb. 2	Mon.	at Duke	7 p.m.
Feb. 4	Wed.	MARYLAND	7 p.m.
Feb. 8	Sun.	FLORIDA STATE	12:30 p.m.
Feb. 13	Fri.	at Georgia Tech	7 p.m.
Feb. 15	Sun.	at Clemson	12:30 p.m.
Feb. 19	Thur.	VIRGINIA	7 p.m.
Feb. 26-Mar. 1	Thur.-Sun.	ACC Tournament at Charlotte	TBA

\* St. Louis University Tournament