

# Scott, 'Bruise Brothers' give Tigers hope

*Clemson possesses experience and enters the upcoming season with lofty expectations*

By Ben Woolley  
Old Gold and Black Reporter

After a 13-16 season you wouldn't have high expectations coming into next year, but in the case of the Clemson Tigers it is very possible to have such aspirations. A team that returns three of its five starters, including senior point guard Edward Scott who garnered All-ACC honors last year, has reason to be excited for this year's upcoming basketball season.

Head Coach Larry Shyatt in his fourth year has lofty goals for his team, a team that hasn't been this balanced since his first season at Clemson when they won 20 games.

"Getting past the first round of the NCAAs," Shyatt said is an achievable goal for his team. With the experience of five seniors, two juniors and four sophomores accompanied by the young athleticism of four freshmen, Clemson has reason to be excited.

Without a doubt, the leader of the Tigers is senior floor general Edward Scott. Scott was second in the ACC in assists per game last season with 7.4 and third on the team in points with 11.9 per game.

Boasting numbers like that earns him high praise from Coach Shyatt, "I wouldn't trade him for anybody in the country...because with the point guard, you have to live with him on-and-off the court." Shyatt later added, "Scott, in my humble estimation, is the best point guard in the country."

Scott, along with his coach and teammates doesn't foresee another sub-.500 season. "The sky is the limit for this team," Scott said "This is my final year so I definitely want to play in the NCAA's...this team is more than capable of not only making it to the tournament, but also doing well in the tournament."

Scott will play a major role in deciding how the season turns out, since he most likely will lead the team in minutes like

last year with 1,060. No other player was even within 300 minutes of Scott.

Running the show with Scott in the backcourt appears to be sophomore

guard Chey Christie. Christie averaged 5.4 points per game last season despite starting only two games and would occasionally light the scoreboard up

as Duke found out first hand last year. In Cameron Indoor Stadium, Christie finished the game with a season-high 21 points, including 7-8 from the field.

As for the frontcourt of Clemson, Chris Hobbs and Ray Henderson, known as "The Bruise Brothers" by Shyatt, return for another season where they look to improve on their successful 2002 campaigns. A 6-foot-7-inch junior from Chapel Hill, Hobbs was third on the team in scoring with 11.9 points per game and second in rebounds with 6.1 per game. With his strong off-season work ethic, Hobbs can only improve from his previous two seasons.

Henderson, the other half of "The Bruise Brothers" will prove to be a dominating force in the ACC on the interior. Averaging 8.8 rebounds per game last season, which placed him second in the ACC, along with 8.3 points per game, Henderson doesn't see anything but progress for this year's squad.

"As a team, I want to get to the (NCAA) tournament," said the 6-foot-8-inch center, "Individually, I want to be a good rebounder and better defender...and help out my team when it needs it."

Although the two big men had good numbers they did seem to have their troubles at the charity stripe. As a team, Clemson only shot 62 percent, as did Hobbs and Henderson. Coach Shyatt feels free throws from Hobbs and Henderson will help the team tremendously. "If we can get them both to 70 percent at the foul line we will show improvement in the win-loss column," he said.

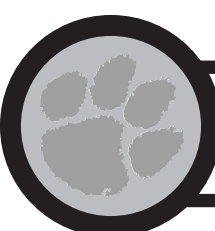
If the play of Scott, Hobbs and Henderson escalates to the level that Shyatt and his staff believe it can and the younger players such as Olu Babalola Sharrod Ford, Clemson can finally stop settling for moral victories like they have done the past two seasons.

Stats can only take you so far. Senior point guard Edward Scott said it best, "The only way I know how to measure is by wins and losses."



Photo courtesy of thetigernet.com

**Clemson boasts a solid point guard in Edward Scott who will try and lead the Tigers to a much improved season after last year's disappointing finish.**



## Clemson Tigers

Head Coach: **Larry Shyatt**

Career Record: **61-63**

Record at Clemson: **42-54**

2001-02 Record: **13-16**

2002-03 ACC Finish: **4-12, Tie-Last**

Returning Starters: **3**

### CLEMSON 2002-2003 ROSTER

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	CL.	PPG	RPG
1	Julian Betko	F	6'5"	190	Fr.	N/A - Prep	
3	Tomas Nagys	F	6'10"	250	Sr.	4.4	4.3
4	Steve Allen	C	6'10"	230	So.	1.2	0.7
5	Sharrod Ford	F	6'9"	220	So.	4.3	3.3
10	Edward Scott	G	6'0"	175	Sr.	11.5	4.9
12	Olu Babalola	F	6'6"	260	So.	1.4	1.0
14	Chey Christie	G	6'4"	178	So.	5.4	1.2
15	Ori Ichaki	F	6'5"	195	Fr.	N/A - Israel	
20	Walker Holt	G	6'3"	195	Sr.	0.6	0.4
21	Ray Henderson	F/C	6'8"	275	Sr.	8.3	8.8
22	Shawan Robinson	G	6'2"	170	Fr.	N/A - Prep	
33	Akin Akingbala	F	6'9"	220	Fr.	N/A - Prep	
43	Chris Hobbs	F	6'7"	265	Jr.	11.9	6.1
45	Jermel Douglas	G	6'3"	185	Sr.	1.4	0.5