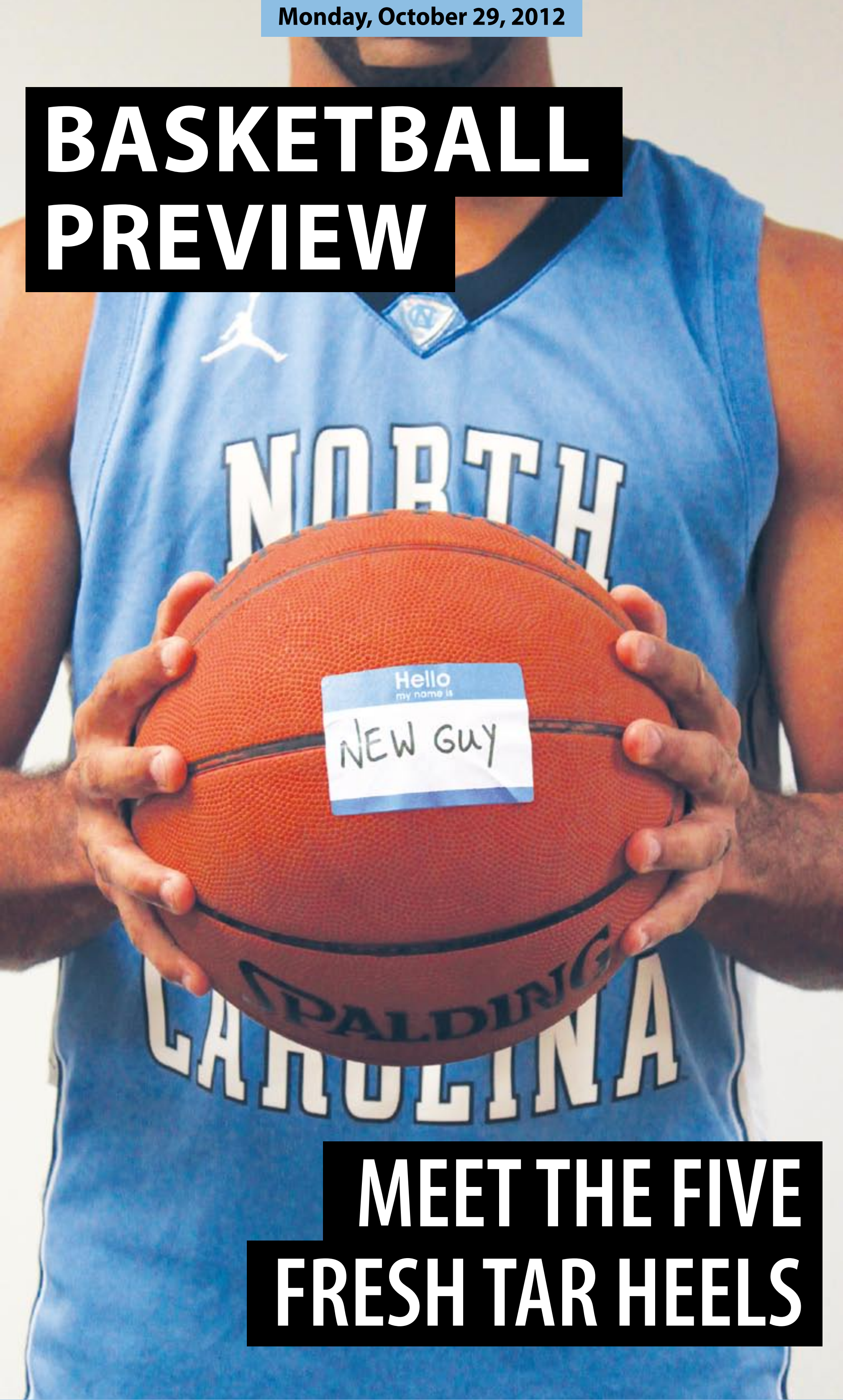


READ TODAY'S DTH INSIDE

The Daily Tar Heel

Monday, October 29, 2012

BASKETBALL  
PREVIEW



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FRESH TAR HEELS

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# AMTORA

# BASKETBALL



## 2012-2013 SEASON SCHEDULE

SUN.	OCT.	28	CARSON-NEWMAN <sub>(CONF.)</sub>	2:00 P.M.
THU.	NOV.	1	WINGATE <sub>(CONF.)</sub>	7:00 P.M.
FRI.	NOV.	9	DAVIDSON*	5:00 P.M.
SAT.	NOV.	24	LaSALLE	TBA
SUN.	NOV.	25	UNC-ASHEVILLE	6:00 P.M.
WED.	NOV.	28	OHIO STATE*	7:00 P.M.
WED.	DEC.	5	RADFORD	7:00 P.M.
WED.	DEC.	12	NC CENTRAL	11:00 A.M.
FRI.	DEC.	28	ETSU	2:00 P.M.

THU.	JAN.	3	MARYLAND	7:00 P.M.
SUN.	JAN.	6	VIRGINIA TECH	2:00 P.M.
SUN.	JAN.	13	GEORGIA TECH	2:00 p.m.
THU.	JAN.	17	VIRGINIA	6:30 P.M.
THU.	JAN.	31	FLORIDA STATE	7:00 P.M.
SUN.	FEB.	3	DUKE	1:00 P.M.
THU.	FEB.	14	WAKE FOREST	7:00 P.M.
SUN.	FEB.	24	N.C. STATE	1:30 P.M.
THU.	FEB.	28	BOSTON COLLEGE	7:00 P.M.

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<sup>a</sup>Preseason WNIT

<sup>a</sup>ACC/Big Ten Challenge



Sophomore James Michael McAdoo spurned the NBA to return to UNC for a chance to lead the Tar Heels' young frontcourt attack.

# McAdoo prepares to lead youthful frontcourt

By Michael Lananna  
Senior Writer

James Michael McAdoo had it all.

He had recruiting analysts buzzing about his ability. He had four future NBA draft picks playing at his side. He had time to develop. He had the luxury to fail.

But there was a point last season when the freshman had simply had enough — when the expectations weighed him down and the game he loved began to lose its luster.

“It was rough,” McAdoo said. “I’m not gonna say it wasn’t hard. I’m not gonna say there wasn’t nights where I wanted to pack my bag and go back to Norfolk, Va., and be a regular kid.”

Then McAdoo had an awakening. After struggling early in the season, the forward recommitted himself

and upped his focus in practice in January and February.

In UNC’s ACC Tournament opener against Maryland, he scored 14 points while an injured John Henson looked on. When UNC was without Kendall Marshall in its final game of the NCAA Tournament, McAdoo led the team with 15.

Without Henson, Tyler Zeller and Harrison Barnes this season, the UNC frontcourt will be much thinner. The Tar Heels will need McAdoo to be the player he was last March.

The transformation was the result of an overall change in approach.

“It came just finally getting my life together and just focusing on what I know I’m capable of doing on and off the court,” McAdoo said. “Showing up every day ready to work and not looking at it

as a burden, looking at it as an opportunity given to me by God, and it really just helped my confidence.”

As McAdoo enters this season, he has a new set of challenges to face. He and fellow sophomore Desmond Hubert are the only returning forwards with significant playing time.

They’ll be joined by freshmen Brice Johnson, Joel James, J.P. Tokoto and sophomore Jackson Simmons. Though they lack experience, they’ve shown enough in practice for McAdoo and Hubert to be optimistic.

“Joel’s a big bruiser down low. He’s got great post moves. He gets better every time we see him,” Hubert said. “Brice has really started to work hard. He’s got a nice offensive game. ... He’s a good rebounder. He’s athletic.”

Though just a sophomore,

McAdoo said he relishes the opportunity to be a leader for his younger teammates and to steer them away from the pitfalls he faced last season.

“I pray to God that none of what happened to me happens to them,” McAdoo said. “That’s why I try to really bring them along.”

But McAdoo’s not done bringing himself along, either.

“I feel like I could’ve played so much better,” McAdoo said. “And that’s what has me so excited about this year — that I’m gonna be able to go out there with the minutes and with the opportunity, and hopefully the time that I put in and the work that I’ve been doing will pay off.”

James Michael McAdoo never really did have it all.

And now, he knows it.

Contact the desk editor at sports@dailytarheel.com.

## 2012-2013 MEN’S BASKETBALL ROSTER

No.	Player	Year	Pos.	Height
0	Joel James	FR	F	6’10”
1	Dexter Strickland	SR	G	6’3”
2	Leslie McDonald	JR (RS)	G	6’5”
3	Wade Moody	JR	G	6’0”
4	Luke Davis	SO	G	6’0”
5	Marcus Paige	FR	G	6’0.5”
11	Brice Johnson	FR	F	6’9”
14	Desmond Hubert	SO	F	6’9.5”
15	P. J. Hairston	SO	G	6’5.5”
21	Jackson Simmons	SO	F	6’7”
22	Frank Tanner	SR	F	6’4”
25	J.P. Tokoto	FR	F	6’5”
30	James Manor	JR	F	6’5”
34	Denzel Robinson	JR	F	6’4”
35	Reggie Bullock	JR	G	6’7”
43	James Michael McAdoo	SO	F	6’9”

Head Coach: Roy Williams

Director of Basketball Operations: Joe Holladay

Assistant Coaches: Steve Robinson

Assistant Coach: Hubert Davis

Assistant Coach: C.B. McGrath

## 2012-2013 MEN’S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	TV
Fri. Oct. 26	7:30 p.m.	vs. Shaw (exhibition)	GoHeels
Fri. Nov. 9	7 p.m.	vs. Gardner-Webb	TBA
Sun. Nov. 11	2:30 p.m.	vs. Florida Atlantic	ESPNU
Fri., Nov. 16	11 p.m.	at Long Beach State	ESPNU
Mon. Nov. 19	6 p.m.	vs. Mississippi State	ESPN2
Tues. Nov. 20	TBA	vs. Butler or Marquette	TBA
Wed. Nov. 21	TBA	vs. TBA	TBA
Tues. Nov. 27	9:30 p.m.	at Indiana	ESPN
Sat. Dec. 1	6 p.m.	vs. UAB	ESPNU
Sat. Dec. 8	7:30 p.m.	vs. East Tennessee State	ESPN3
Sat. Dec. 15	12 p.m.	vs. East Carolina	ESPNU
Wed. Dec. 19	9 p.m.	at Texas	ESPN2
Sat. Dec. 22	12 p.m.	vs. McNeese State	ESPNU
Sat. Dec. 29	2 p.m.	vs. UNLV	ESPN2
Sun. Jan. 6	8 p.m.	at Virginia	ESPNU
Thurs. Jan. 10	7 p.m.	vs. Miami	ESPN/ESPN2
Sat. Jan. 12	2 pm.	at Florida State	ESPN
Sat. Jan. 19	12 p.m.	vs. Maryland	ESPN
Wed. Jan. 23	9 p.m.	vs. Georgia Tech	ESPN
Sat. Jan. 26	7 p.m.	at N.C. State	ESPN
Tues. Jan. 29	9 p.m.	at Boston College	ESPNU
Sat. Feb. 2	12 p.m.	vs. Virginia Tech	ACC
Tues. Feb. 5	7 p.m.	vs. Wake Forest	ESPNU
Sat. Feb. 9	2 p.m.	at Miami	ESPN/ESPN2
Wed. Feb. 13	9 p.m.	at Duke	ESPN/ACC
Sat. Feb. 16	12 p.m.	vs. Virginia	ACC
Tues. Feb. 19	9 p.m.	at Georgia Tech	ACC
Sat. Feb. 23	4 p.m.	vs. N.C. State	ESPN/ESPN2
Thurs. Feb. 28	7 p.m.	at Clemson	ESPN/ESPN2
Sun. Mar. 3	2 p.m.	vs. Florida State	CBS
Wed. Mar. 6	7 p.m.	at Maryland	ESPN/ESPN2
Sat. Mar. 9	9 p.m.	vs. Duke	ESPN

# Injured Tar Heels complete joint journey

## McDonald and Strickland bonded during recovery, becoming “like brothers.”

By Kelly Parsons  
Senior Writer

One by one, the names of each member of the 2012 North Carolina men’s basketball team were announced over the PA system at the Dean Smith Center. The Late Night With Roy crowd rose to its feet as each Tar Heel walked out of the smoky tunnel to join his teammates at midcourt.

With the arena’s complete attention on them for those brief moments, each UNC player soaked

up his 10 solo seconds in the spotlight.

For senior guards Leslie McDonald and Dexter Strickland — who will make their returns from injuries this season after spending much of last year’s campaign on the bench — theirs was a time to be shared.

So, when their names were called to round out the North Carolina squad, not just one, but two silhouettes emerged through the Carolina blue-tinted haze to greet their adoring fans before them.

“It was just something we thought about,” McDonald said, a smile stretched across his face. “We’re both coming out having the same situations, ACLs. Why not

come out together?”

### Brotherly love

The 2011-12 season got off to a fast start for the preseason top-ranked Tar Heels. McDonald, though, watched it all unfold from the bench.

A few months prior, he tore his ACL playing in Durham’s annual N.C. Pro-Am tournament. Some initial reports stated McDonald could have been ready in time for the second half of the season. But as McDonald continued to struggle through the recovery process, coach Roy Williams had a tough choice to make.

The team announced Jan. 13 that McDonald would take a redshirt year and return in 2012. For a team

returning all five starters from its 2011 Elite Eight run, it was a blow, but one from which the Tar Heels could reluctantly recover.

One month later, though, it was double trouble for North Carolina.

In a game against Virginia Tech on Jan. 19, Strickland went down at the baseline, clutching his knee. After the game, it was determined that he, too, had torn his ACL.

McDonald and Strickland, who hail from Memphis, Tenn., and Rahway, N.J., respectively, grew up seeing each other at NBA camps and basketball tournaments. When the two both committed to UNC, there was an immediate bond.

In a time of trouble, Strickland knew just who to lean on.

The two, who were often seen

sharply dressed in bowties and sweater vests on the bench during games, swapped injury-related stories during their downtime and gave each other tips on recovery.

“When I was coming back and I started playing pick up again, the main thing I was doing was I was limping,” Strickland said.

“(Leslie) just talked to me about trusting it more, and we went over different exercises I can do to strengthen my knee and stuff like that. He was a big help.”

As he recovered throughout the season, McDonald was tempted with the possibility of burning his redshirt and coming back to help the Tar Heels in the postseason.

SEE RETURN, PAGE 5

# Bullock, Hairston looking to lead from the outside

By Brooke Pryor  
Assistant Sports Editor

When Tyler Zeller and John Henson departed from the North Carolina men’s basketball team last year, they took with them UNC’s dominance and experience in the paint.

This season, the makeup of the team has shifted.

Instead of looking to veteran leaders on the blocks, most of UNC’s returning talent sets up at the three-point arc.

“This year it’s going to be up to the wings to be able to step up and knock down shots because we don’t have that block to go to that we had last year,” junior guard Reggie Bullock said.

Instead, the Tar Heels will look to Bullock and sophomore guard P.J. Hairston to step up and make up for the loss of the post players.

Bullock, Hairston and the rest of the guards have had a summer of preparation for their new role, and have used light-hearted tactics to improve their shooting.

“Between me, P.J. and

Leslie (McDonald), and Marcus (Paige), after practice yesterday, we were trying to see who could make a half-court shot first,” Bullock said.

“If we can make it easy from half-court, we think we can make it easy from the three-point line. We want to be able to shoot from anywhere on the court.”

Last season, UNC led the ACC in field goal percentage, shooting nearly 46 percent per contest. But the Tar Heels were eighth in three-point field goal percentage, making only 33.5 percent.

Highly touted as a guard with the ability to shoot from deep, Hairston didn’t make quite the splash he envisioned in his first season.

He attempted 139 three-pointers but only made 38 last season, good for 27 percent.

“It wasn’t technically my shot,” Hairston said. “It was more me than anything — it’s a confidence thing with me because I feel like if I miss more than three shots during a game, I self-destruct.

“Now I just feel like my con-

fidence is through the roof and I feel like I can do anything if I just put my mind to it.”

Hairston and the other guards have benefitted by the addition of former UNC guard and NBA sharp-shooter Hubert Davis to the staff.

“He was always one of the best shooters in the NBA, and having advice from him is just like advice from coach (Roy Williams),” Hairston said. “He knows what he’s talking about and you have to listen to him.”

With the absence of veteran leadership in the post, it’s now up to the veterans in the wing to take over the void leadership roles.

“Kendall (Marshall), Harrison (Barnes), John and (Zeller) leaving, that’s the majority of the points, so it’s up to us, the upperclassman, and the freshmen that just came in to step up,” Hairston said.

“And if we do everything we’re supposed to do, it’ll be a good season and we can do anything we want to do.”

Contact the desk editor at sports@dailytarheel.com.



DTH FILE/SPENCER HERLONG



DTH FILE PHOTO

Junior Reggie Bullock (left) and sophomore P.J. Hairston (right) will be key to the North Carolina perimeter threat this season. Hairston spent his summer focusing on how to improve his stroke.

# NC State opens 2012 as leader of the pack

## C.J. Leslie was tapped as ACC preseason player of the year.

By Jonathan LaMantia  
Staff Writer

After playing little brother to nearby rivals Duke and North Carolina, No. 6 North Carolina State is ready to compete — both in North Carolina and at the national level.

Members of the ACC media selected the Wolfpack as the pre-season favorite to win the conference — which it has not done since 1989 with coach Jim Valvano.

It marks the first time N.C. State has been projected to top the ACC since the 1974-75 season.

Second-year N.C. State coach Mark Gottfried said while the Wolfpack will have to prepare for added attention from opponents, the team is not shying away from its newfound prominence.

"It's new territory for our team," Gottfried said. "This

is uncharted waters. We have to learn how to accept that responsibility."

In addition, junior forward C.J. Leslie was selected as the preseason ACC Player of the Year.

But Gottfried is quick to keep expectations grounded.

"My message is, I'd much rather you be the Player of the Year at the end of the year than at the beginning of the year," Gottfried said. "I think he gets it."

While the team is new to playing the role of ACC favorite, its four returning starters — Lorenzo Brown, Scott Wood, Leslie and Richard Howell — are familiar with the rigors of an ACC schedule.

"They've been through the wars, the things around the program," Gottfried said. "The expectations, where you're ranked, who's preseason this and that — I don't think those four guys, I don't think it affects them that much."

Brown, a preseason All-ACC selection, averaged 12.7 points and 6.3 assists at point guard last season with his 234 assists trailing only UNC's Kendall Marshall.

Though the team's core

remains intact, Gottfried said it lost its "veteran consistency" with the departure of starting guard C.J. Williams and sixth man DeShawn Painter.

But former McDonald's All-American Rodney Purvis, who Howell said "might be the most explosive freshman in the nation," is ready to contribute significant scoring at shooting guard.

Purvis, who Rivals ranked the No. 6 recruit in the country, was cleared to play after the NCAA settled questions about his eligibility. Purvis was selected as the ACC preseason rookie of the year.

"He's going to be a great player," Leslie said. "We want to get out and run, and he fits right in with that."

The Wolfpack will need Howell to continue to crash the glass — he ranked third in the ACC with 9.2 rebounds a game — while staying out of foul trouble, which plagued the 6-foot-8 forward last season.

The team's frontcourt of Howell and Leslie has worked on its conditioning to make an impact late into games.

N.C. State will need that extra energy to fulfill the

## AT A GLANCE

- Coach: Mark Gottfried
- Last season: 24-13 (9-7 ACC), fifth in ACC
- Preseason ACC rank: 1st
- ACC preseason accolades: Player of the Year C.J. Leslie, Rookie of the Year Rodney Purvis, All-ACC C.J. Leslie, Lorenzo Brown
- Notable returners: Lorenzo Brown, C.J. Leslie, Scott Wood, Richard Howell
- Notable losses: C.J. Williams
- New faces: Tyler Lewis, Rodney Purvis, T.J. Warren

team's goal of getting back to the Sweet 16, where it lost to second-seeded Kansas 60-57 as an 11 seed.

"We have the talent, and we have enough determination to get back where we were and maybe even further," Howell said.

Contact the desk editor at [sports@dailytarheel.com](mailto:sports@dailytarheel.com).



DTH FILE PHOTO

Junior guard Lorenzo Brown guards sophomore P.J. Hairston. Brown was selected to the 2012-13 All-ACC preseason team.



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RETURN

FROM PAGE 3

Ultimately, his fear of coming back too soon and reinjuring his knee overcame his desire to return to the court. He had a journey to patiently complete. And he didn't have to do it alone.

"Sometimes people call me Dexter and sometimes they call him Leslie," McDonald said about he and Strickland's close-knit relationship. "We're just like brothers."

Finding a voice

Every now and then, McDonald and Strickland would steal the show before game time, dancing on the sideline while their teammates warmed up.

But once the ball was tipped, even though they couldn't play, it was back to business.

McDonald and Strickland both said they struggled watching the season unfold without being able to do anything about it. They'd cheer. They'd yell. Sometimes, their heads would be in their hands.

They did not realize it at the time, but, McDonald said, those moments of frustration and observation helped them grow as leaders. Taking a step back made them realize what Williams expected from them as players.

When the light bulb went off in McDonald's head, he gave his dad a phone call.

"I said, 'OK. This is how he really wants us to do it,'" McDonald said.

"It was hard to see it at first because we were freshmen, naive, not really seeing

"Me and Dex look at each and we're like, 'Ah, we're the last ones standing.'"

Leslie McDonald,  
North Carolina guard

it from the perspective of a coach."

Now, McDonald and Strickland are using that valuable information not only to their advantage, but to the team's.

Healthier and prepared to lead the UNC squad, McDonald and Strickland have taken it upon themselves to motivate their younger teammates. They're the first ones to offer advice.

Even if he doesn't ask for it, sophomore forward Desmond Hubert appreciates it nonetheless.

"When you hear it from coach, sometimes you're like, 'Well, that's coach. That's what he's supposed to say,'" Hubert said. "You can relate to your teammates more, so when they say something, you're like, 'OK, I guess it's time to step it up.'"

'Last ones standing'

When the team convened on Oct. 11 for media day, an upbeat Strickland told reporters he was almost back to full health — "96 percent," to be exact.

McDonald, on the other hand, is proud to say he feels just fine. In fact, he returned to the N.C. Pro-Am this July.

Strickland, who was the Tar Heels' best perimeter defender when he went down last season, will likely fit right back in at shooting guard when the Tar Heels suit up

for their first game on Nov. 9. McDonald's role, Williams said, is a little less defined.

"Hopefully he has even more hunger," Williams said. "Leslie can really shoot it. Now what we have to do is make it a more consistent thing as opposed to a streak shooter. And what I'm going to tell him, he's got to give me another reason to keep him in the game."

Regardless of McDonald's role, however, Strickland can't wait to finally take the court with his teammate once again.

"That's my brother," Strickland said. "I haven't played with him in a while, so it's going to be something to look forward to."

On a team that has seen many come and go during the past few years, Strickland and McDonald have been mainstays.

Their recruiting class consisted of five players when McDonald and Strickland came in as freshmen. Now, just the two of them remain.

"Me and Dex look at each other," McDonald said, "and we're like, 'Ah, we're the last ones standing.'"

This spring McDonald and Strickland hope that with the help of their newfound health and leadership, the entire Tar Heel team will also be able to experience that feeling of being alone at the top.

Contact the desk editor at [sports@dailytarheel.com](mailto:sports@dailytarheel.com).



DTH FILE PHOTO



DTH FILE PHOTO



DTH FILE PHOTO

Dexter Strickland and Leslie McDonald, who came to North Carolina in the same recruiting class, are making their return to the floor in the 2012-13 season after spending much of last season on the bench with injuries. The two represent the most experience UNC will have in the backcourt.

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# Yellow Jackets ready to excel in new hive

**Georgia Tech hopes to build on its end-of-season progress.**

**By Logan Martinez**  
Staff Writer

Last season was a rebuilding year for Georgia Tech in more ways than one.

Coach Brian Gregory was hired to replace long-time Yellow Jacket coach Paul Hewitt. Gregory's hiring was part of an effort to revitalize the stagnant program and re-energize a restless fan base.

Coinciding with the coaching change, Alexander Memorial Coliseum, now McCamish Pavilion, underwent a massive renovation,

forcing the Yellow Jackets to play their home games away from campus. For the 2011-12 season, they hosted opponents at Philips Arena and Gwinnett Arena.

But now that Georgia Tech has its coaching situation stabilized and a newly renovated arena to call home, the Yellow Jackets can shift their focus to playing basketball.

Senior Mfon Udofia, Georgia Tech's leading returning scorer from last season — logging 9.9 points per game, and 9.4 in games against ACC opponents — will lead the Yellow Jackets from the point guard position.

He says the team is excited to get the season underway.

"The buzz around campus is unbelievable right now," Udofia said. "Students are ready to come to the games. They keep asking us when

they can they come see it, when is it going to be open."

"The pride factor of protecting our home — that'll give us a little more motivation to win at home."

Junior Daniel Miller knows that for the Yellow Jackets to ultimately improve, they must rely on their star performers to get the job done in crunch time. He points to Udofia as that player.

"Mfon, he's definitely our team leader and he's going to take us a long way. He's a tough, physical, smart player. He was playing really well at the end of last season, and he's just gotten really better."

Miller will also play a key role in Georgia Tech's performance this season.

The 6-foot-11 center is known for its towering presence in the post and adept shot blocking, averaging 2.4

*"It's going to be revamped, a new era of Georgia Tech basketball."*

**Mfon Udofia,**  
Georgia Tech senior point guard

blocks last year.

Miller said he worked to improve his offensive game this summer as well to go along with his stout defensive abilities.

Gregory emphasizes the value of developing good practice habits and thinks his players are buying in to what he and his coaching staff are preaching.

"Very rarely is it a talent issue that teams don't meet their full potential — it's usually a payment issue," Gregory said. "Not willing to pay the price. That price never decreases, it always increases."

"And I think our guys are

starting to understand that."

Gregory has taken advantage of the new NCAA rule that allows coaches to instruct their players for a limited amount of hours during the summer and thinks the extra tutelage is already paying off.

"Our first five practices would be in the top six practices we had last year," Gregory said. "Us being able to work out with the guys this summer was big, especially with the freshmen there."

From a player's perspective, Udofia is ready to see their hard work pay off. He's positive this season will have

## AT A GLANCE

- Coach: Brian Gregory
- Last season: 11-20 (4-12 ACC), tied for last
- Preseason ACC rank: 9th
- Notable returners: Mfon Udofia, Daniel Miller, Kammeon Holsey
- Notable losses: Glen Rice Jr.
- Fresh faces: Chris Bolden, Robert Carter, Corey Heyward, Marcus Georges-Hunt

a different feel for the Yellow Jackets.

"It's going to be revamped," he said, "a new era of Georgia Tech basketball."

Contact the desk editor at [sports@dailytarheel.com](mailto:sports@dailytarheel.com).

# Seminoles ready to defend ACC championship

**By Aaron Dodson**  
Staff Writer

Predicted at the beginning of last season to finish behind only North Carolina and Duke in the Atlantic Coast Conference,

the Florida State men's basketball team not only lived up to, but

exceeded expectations.

Despite suffering disappointing losses early in the year, the Seminoles caught fire as the season progressed, finishing third in the ACC with a conference record of 12-4 en route to capturing its first ACC tournament title last year.

The Seminoles defeated the regular season champion Tar Heels in the title game 85-82.

"We lost to Harvard, to Princeton and to Clemson by 20. After that we were just embarrassed," junior guard Ian Miller said. "We had a man-to-man meeting and we just changed our whole mentality — we were all in."

"But this year, we're starting that from the beginning."

Although Florida State only has one returning starter — senior guard Michael Snaer — coach Leonard Hamilton said a core group of players who all saw major action last season will lead the team.

The Seminoles also add five freshmen and one junior

college transfer to their roster.

"We have four players who played significant minutes that are returning in Ian Miller, Michael Snaer, Okaro White, and Terrance Shannon. They are the core of our team," Hamilton said. "We have six newcomers. Now, how long is it going to take for these guys to learn the system to where they're reacting and not thinking? That's the process we have to go through."

"But I like where we are. We know where we're basically supposed to go."

For Miller, who will likely

be the Seminoles' starting point guard after thriving as a sixth man last year, the freshmen have showed promise thus far, especially in terms of learning the offense.

"All of them (have impressed me). I don't know if it's because the coaches make them practice plays on their own, but when Okaro and I came in, we didn't pick up the plays that easy," Miller said. "So it gives you confidence in those guys that they know where they're supposed to be and how to be efficient on those plays."

It just makes them easier to play with."

While the Seminoles have been picked to finish fourth, behind the three Triangle schools, in the conference this season, Snaer has set his sights higher, as he anticipates Florida State to defend its first ACC tournament title.

"The expectation I have for us is to win the ACC tournament. I want to be there in that championship game and win that title," Snaer said.

## AT A GLANCE

- Coach: Leonard Hamilton
- Last season: 25-10 (12-4 ACC), third in ACC
- Preseason ACC: 4th
- Preseason ACC accolades: All-ACC Michael Snaer
- Notable returners: Michael Snaer, Ian Miller, Okaro White
- Notable losses: Bernard James, Luke Loucks, Deividas Dulkys, Xavier Gibson
- Fresh faces: Boris Bojanovsky, Devon Bookart, Montay Brandon, Robert Gilchrist, Michael Ojo, Aaron Thomas

"I don't want to stop short because we lost to a team that we should have beat. We've just got to cross our T's and dot our I's."

"I have high expectations for this team."

Contact the desk editor at [sports@dailytarheel.com](mailto:sports@dailytarheel.com).

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# Hurricanes’ backcourt to anchor team

## Miami is ready to end its four-year NCAA Tournament drought.

By Dylan Howlett  
Staff Writer

Jim Larranaga knows how to exceed expectations. The Miami coach helped to author one of the most fabled Cinderella stories in NCAA history in 2006, guiding the unheralded — and largely unknown — George Mason Patriots to the Final Four. Perhaps more daunting than leading a small conference bracket-buster to the pinnacle of the sport is the challenge confronting Larranaga at Miami. The Hurricanes bowed out quietly in the second round of the 2012 National Invitational Tournament and have failed

to qualify for the NCAA Tournament since 2008. If Miami has any designs on ending its tournament drought and defying preseason expectations, Larranaga says the Hurricanes’ backcourt — anchored by 2011-12 leading scorer Durand Scott and buoyed by sophomore guard and 2011-12 All-Freshmen recipient Shane Larkin — must pace the squad. “What you have in Shane Larkin and Durand Scott are two guys who are triple threat,” Larranaga said. “They can drive, they can draw the help and dish, but they also can stretch the defense with their three-point shooting ability.” Scott envisions synergy between the Hurricanes’ backcourt and frontcourt, bolstered by the full-time presence of senior center Reggie Johnson. Johnson missed the first

nine games of the 2011-12 campaign with a torn meniscus in his right knee. “You can expect exactly what my coach expects,” Scott said when asked about Miami’s backcourt. “We’re going to work together with our front court... to get the job done.” “I don’t want to put the focus on us or put the focus on them, but we have to go out there collectively and be able to win games for our coach.” Johnson, Larranaga claims, will serve as the focal point of the Canes’ collective effort. “Having a healthy Reggie Johnson is very important because he impacts the game at both ends of the floor,” Larranaga said. “He gives us an inside presence offensively, not only when has the ball in his hands, but he’s also a tremendous threat on the offensive boards. At the other end of the floor, he’s a ter-

rific team defender — taking charges, defensive rebounds and starting our fast break.” But Johnson was quick to invoke his equally capable teammates when discussing the Hurricanes’ prospects for the upcoming season. The team’s imposing depth, according to Johnson, has fueled spirited competition in practice and hardened the Hurricanes for eventual clashes with ACC titans. And despite the prowess of conference foes, Johnson believes wholeheartedly in the ability of his Hurricanes, evoking memories of an unassuming, Larranaga-led team that defied expectations and upended the NCAA hierarchy six years ago. “I’m getting chills right now thinking about it. We’re going to be scary good as long as we come to work,” Johnson said. “Y’all can think N.C. State, Carolina, that’s fine.” “I’m definitely fine with

AT A GLANCE

- Coach: Jim Larranaga
- Last season: 20-13 (9-7 ACC), sixth place in the ACC
- Preseason ACC: 5th
- Notable returners: Reggie Johnson, Kenny Kadji, Shane Larkin, Durand Scott
- Notable losses: Malcolm Grant, DeQuan Jones
- Fresh faces: Bishop Daniels, Tonye Jekiri
- Miami opens the season with seven of its first eight games in the state of Florida before heading to Hawaii to play in the Diamond Head Classic.



DTH FILE PHOTO  
Dexter Strickland moves the ball up the court in ACC Tournament action against Miami in his sophomore year.

that, but at the end of the day, they’ve got to see us, too.”

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# Fresh faces

The five new Tar Heels have important roles to fill in coach Roy Williams' system.

By Brandon Moree  
Sports Editor

The fate of last year's team rested in the hands of point guard Kendall Marshall, and when he injured the wrist on his right hand the North Carolina men's basketball team took on a whole new identity.

For this season, Marshall has been replaced by another left-handed floor general — Marcus Paige.

Paige is one of five scholarship players new to the Tar Heels' roster this year, each of which will have an important role to fill as UNC's copes with the loss of most of the key components of the team.

But how different will the Tar Heels be? Junior guard Reggie Bullock doesn't think too much will change.

"I don't think it's going to feel like a different team," Bullock said. "Definitely, we'll be missing people like Kendall and Harrison (Barnes). It's good to be with players that I love and playing for one of the best coaches in the nations.

"But it means a lot for me to be able to put that Carolina jersey back on, to go out and represent my state."

Coach Roy Williams said that Paige will be the Tar Heels point guard as Dexter Strickland is not very experienced in that role and is still recovering from a knee injury.

While he's no Marshall, Williams believes himself to be more than capable of running the offense.

Also new to the backcourt this year is sophomore transfer Luke Davis, who comes to North Carolina from Gardner-Webb.

"Marcus Paige has a chance to be really good," Williams said. "This little rascal, he's little, but he does know how to play and he has savvy and toughness. I'm really counting on him to be good and I'll tell you Luke Davis is going to surprise some people."

Paige, a 6-foot ballhandler, will be spreading the ball around to some other freshmen expected to contribute right away — namely, center Joel James.

James, who tips the scale at 260 pounds, is the tallest player on the roster at 6-foot-10 and will need to be a physical presence for the Tar Heels in the paint.

The Tar Heels don't think that will be an issue.

"When the big fella gets there, you know he's there," Williams said of James.

Though he only started playing basketball as a sophomore in high school, his teammates have been impressed with his skill and work ethic this summer.

And Davis knows firsthand what kind of impact that big body of his can have on a game.

"This summer, I got hit with a screen and I don't think I walked for a couple days. He's physical and skilled, and he's getting better everyday," Davis said.

"He'll be really crucial for us this year."

While the Tar Heels lost Tyler Zeller, Barnes and John Henson as post threats, there's another pair of newcomers that will help James Michael McAdoo shoulder the load underneath.

J.P. Tokoto and Brice Johnson bring a thin but athletic element to the Tar

Heel lineup. Bullock said that Tokoto has the highest vertical leap of anyone he's ever played with, estimating it to be 44 inches.

P.J. Hairston joked that Tokoto could probably do three front flips in the air because he's so far off the ground.

Tokoto has also been showcasing some effective defense in preseason practices, using his length to swat balls — both high and low — away from ball-handlers.

Johnson, a 6-foot-9, 187 pound forward, is drawing comparisons to Henson, a player who came to UNC with a similar lanky build.

"They've been adapting very well," McAdoo said about his new teammates in the front court. "It's a process that started this summer, with the new NCAA rules. They got all that freshman garbage out of their system, so now they're really working hard in practice now and coming into their own."

"They're fitting into the team great."

With so many new faces, the installation of Williams' gameplan has been a slow process. Williams said that sometimes with the freshman he has to take things a little slower to make sure they get where they need to be.

Considering how vital the newest Tar Heels will be to completing the North Carolina lineup, it's especially important that they get up to speed quickly.

"We won games last year when we didn't play great. We played OK," Williams said. "This year, we're going to have to play closer to our potential or we're not going to be as successful."

Contact the desk editor at [sports@dailytarheel.com](mailto:sports@dailytarheel.com).



DTH/ERIN HULL

Marcus Paige takes one to the rack on fellow newcomer Luke Davis in the Late Night with Roy season-opening scrimmage.



DTH FILE/ERIN HULL

The freshmen were introduced to the UNC fans at Late Night with Roy dancing in white tutus.

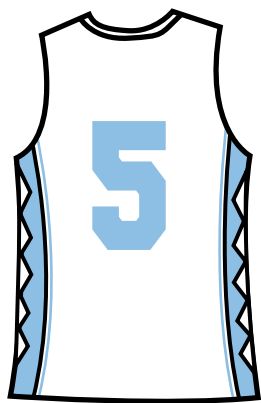


DTH FILE/ERIN HULL

Luke Davis is a sophomore transfer from Gardner-Webb.

## Meet the new guys

Each of the new scholarship players on the 2012-13 roster brings something different to the table. Marcus Paige will run the show from the point guard position and big Joel James will be a threat for UNC on the block. Brice Johnson has been compared to John Henson by his teammates, and J.P. Tokoto is wowing people with his athleticism. Sophomore transfer Luke Davis will help out in the backcourt and Roy Williams said he'll surprise some people.



Marcus Paige

Height: 6'0.5"  
Weight: 157 lbs  
Hometown: Marion, Iowa  
High School: Linn-Mar  
Position: Guard  
Fun Fact: The lightest player for UNC in the Roy Williams era



Brice Johnson

Height and Weight: 6'9"  
Weight: 187 lbs  
Hometown: Orangeburg, S.C.  
High School: Edisto  
Position: Forward  
Fun Fact: Two-time state champion in the high jump in South Carolina



J. P. Tokoto

Height: 6'5"  
Weight: 185 lbs  
Hometown: Menomonee Falls, Wisc.  
High School: Menomonee Falls  
Position: Forward  
Fun Fact: Winner of the 2012 American Family Insurance Slam Dunk contest in New Orleans



Joel James

Height: 6'10"  
Weight: 260 lbs  
Hometown: West Palm Beach, Fla.  
High School: Dwyer  
Position: Forward  
Fun Fact: Didn't begin playing organized basketball until his sophomore year of high school



Luke Davis

Height: 6'0"  
Weight: 172 lbs  
Hometown: Raleigh  
High School: Ravenscroft  
Position: Guard  
Fun Fact: Teammate of Duke's Ryan Kelly at Ravenscroft

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# Demon Deacons ready for a fresh start

By Grace Raynor  
Staff Writer

For the first time, senior guard C.J. Harris feels like his team is complete.

Harris, Wake Forest's leading scorer in the 2011-12 season, averaging 16.7 points per game, is joined by Travis McKie as the only safe bet in coach Jeff Bzdelik's starting lineup.

"After that, you know, we'll see," Bzdelik said.

"But I tell you what, I know freshmen are freshmen, but we've got at least three freshmen with atypical freshman bodies. We've got at least four

that are really, really strong and not like your typical freshmen in terms of physicality."

With so many freshmen on board, Bzdelik said the Demon Deacons have added depth, which has made his team more disciplined and his practices more competitive.

"Guys are competing and earning spots and when they don't get the job done, they can come sit on the bench next to me, and I actually have someone I can put in their place," he said.

But with such a young team, the Demon Deacons will rely on Harris and McKie to set the tone.

"C.J. is someone who is going to do the right thing and C.J. is going to say, 'Hey,

follow me, guys.' He's going to say things effectively to inspire people and draw people together," Bzdelik said.

McKie, who was last season's leading rebounder by a large margin with an average of 7 rebounds per game, ended the season with 216 total rebounds. But he still said the team is looking to crash the boards more aggressively.

"It's just a mindset — just wanting to get the ball every time you can," he said.

"You can't depend on your big men to get it, you have to go get it yourself."

He added that the team's defense was weak last year, and they are now refining it in practice.

But with Daniel Green's

season-ending ACL tear Oct. 19 in the fourth quarter of an exhibition matchup with Brock University, the Demon Deacons are losing a quick, energetic defender.

To their advantage though, the Demon Deacons will have played three exhibition games before the start of the regular season.

Wake Forest defeated Brock Oct. 19 84-79. Freshmen Tyler Cavanaugh, Arnaud William Adala Moto and Madison Jones all had double-digit scoring performances. Harris and McKie added 16 and 10 points, respectively.

The next day, the Demon Deacons came back to defeat Ryerson University.

McKie led the team with 26 points. Freshman Codi Miller-McIntyre had 16, followed by 14 from Cavanaugh and 10 from sophomore Chase Fischer.

Bzdelik said though Fischer struggled toward the end of last season, he is still a strong shooter.

Coming off of a 13-18 (4-12) record, Bzdelik said he is excited about this season's team.

"Every day that you have the opportunity to take the court," he said, "it is important to get better individually and collectively, and to learn something to prepare for the season."

Contact the desk editor at [sports@dailytarheel.com](mailto:sports@dailytarheel.com).

## AT A GLANCE

- Coach: Jeff Bzdelik
- Last season: 13-18 (4-12 ACC), tied for last in ACC
- Preseason ACC: 11th
- Notable returners: C.J. Harris, Travis McKie
- Notable losses: Tony Chennault, Nikita Mescheriakov, Carson Desrosiers
- Fresh faces: Codi Miller-McIntyre, Madison Jones, Devin Thomas, Andre Washington, Aaron Rountree III, Tyler Cavanaugh, Arnaud William Adala Moto

# Sophomore leaders will be key for Boston College

The Eagles, while still young, are ready to leave the ACC cellar.

By Emily Fedewa  
Staff Writer

The Boston College men's basketball team is young.

Last year, that youth was both a blessing and a curse.

It meant that they could learn together and grow together. And that, sophomore forward Ryan Anderson said, brought them closer as a team.

"We were doing it all together, so we had trust in each other. We didn't know what we were going to hit, but we knew the guys next to us were going to go at it with us," Anderson recalled.

But although the Eagles' youth allowed them to bond as a team, it made winning games a little tougher.

The lack of guidance on the court was one of the main reasons for the team's season-long shortcomings, which included going just 4-12 in the ACC and 9-22 overall — records that would only be good enough for a last place finish in the ACC.

"We had nothing to fall back on. We had no upper-class leadership to tell us,

"This game is going to be like this.' Or we had no one to turn to who knows what's going on," Anderson said.

This year, things are a little different.

Anderson and sophomore center Dennis Clifford will step into the leadership roles this season that were so glaringly empty on the 2011-12 squad.

"I think we're definitely older than sophomores at this point," Anderson said of himself and Clifford. "Coach has really pushed us to not only be examples on the court but to be much more vocal leaders out there."

But balance is key and the sophomores are not the only ones who will be expected to

"I think we're definitely older than sophomores at this point."

Ryan Anderson,  
Boston College sophomore forward

perform.

Clifford said the freshman will have to make an impression early on as well if the Eagles hope to compete in the ACC.

"I've really got big hopes for our incoming freshmen. Joe Rahon and Olivier Hanlan are definitely very solid players. They can make an impact right away," Clifford said.

Coach Steve Donahue said that Rahon and Hanlan are much more prepared to play

at this level than last year's freshmen.

That preparation, which included a 10-day trip to Spain in the weeks before classes started, will help a team that Donahue said had trouble staying competitive for an entire game last season.

"We're just going to be able to play faster ball for longer periods of time and be able to compete for 40 minutes," Donahue said. "We've got to get back to the mentality of pushing it and playing."

Though the infusion of youth might make this year's team appear eerily similar to last year's, there is a new mentality that may help this squad gain some traction in the ACC.

"I'm looking forward to the attitude change that we've worked on throughout the off

## AT A GLANCE

- Coach: Steve Donahue
- Last season: 9-22 (4-12 ACC), tied for last
- Preseason ACC: last
- Notable returners: Jordan Daniels, Lonnie Jackson, Ryan Anderson, Dennis Clifford
- Notable losses: Matt Humphrey
- Fresh faces: Olivier Hanlan, Joe Rahon, Andrew Van Nest, Steve Perpiglia, Drew Jacobs, Alex Dragicevich

season. Every day, working to do better individually and as a team," Clifford said.

"We're trying to focus on the things we can control and the statistical things will come in later."

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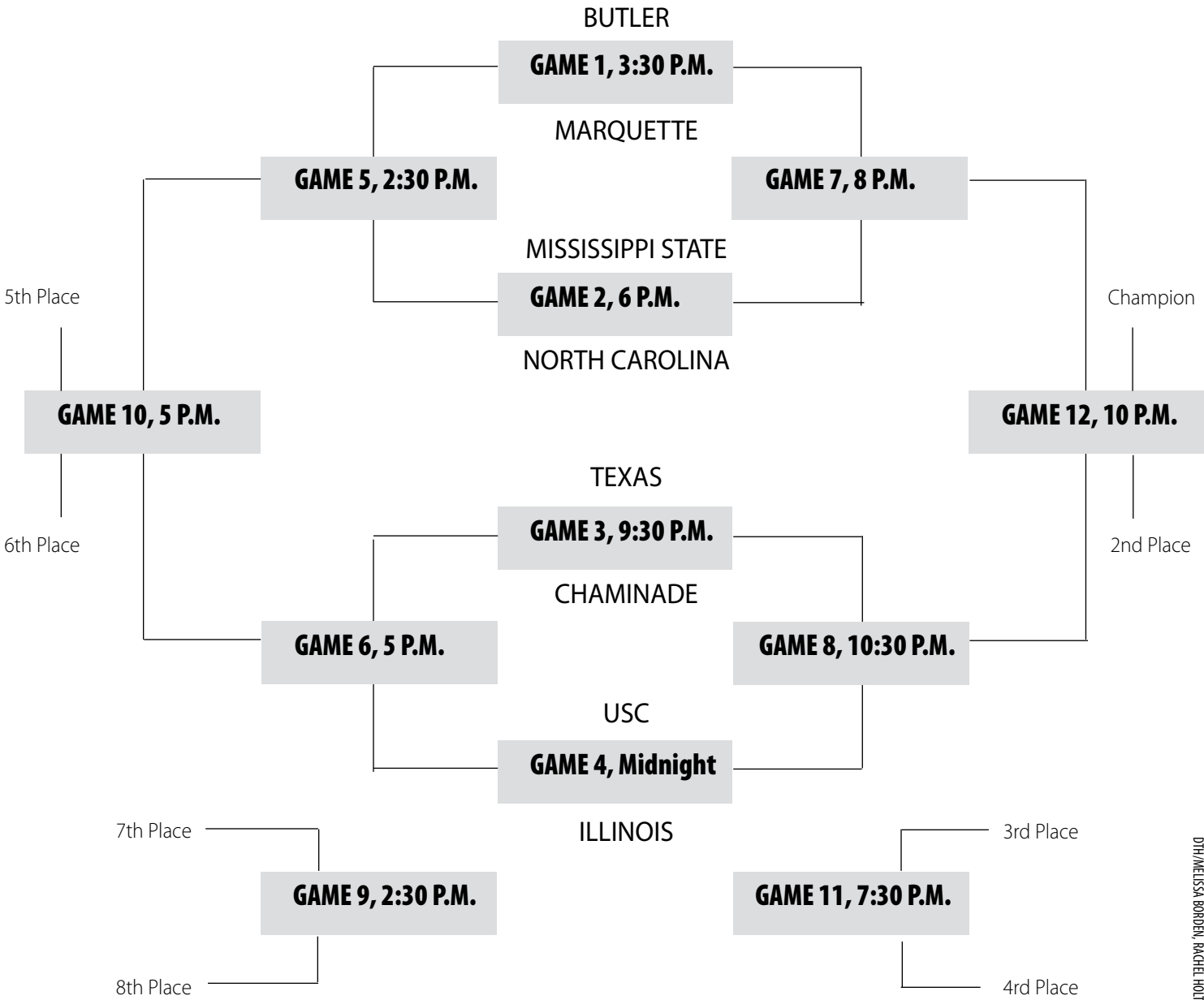
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# Duke seeks to move past Lehigh low point

**By Matthew Cox**  
Senior Writer

Duke and North Carolina have combined to win 36 of the 59 ACC Tournament Championships and 47 ACC regular season titles.

But neither Duke nor UNC is the preseason ACC favorite. Both ACC coaches and media selected N.C. State to win the conference.

“I’ve been on teams where in past years we’ve been picked No. 1, and then we weren’t able to have the season we wanted to or make the run in the tournament,” senior guard Seth Curry said. “Preseason rankings don’t really mean anything.”

The Tar Heels will visit Cameron Indoor Stadium, where they won the regular season finale 88-70 last year, on Feb. 13, and host the Blue Devils March 9. UNC leads the overall series 132-102.

The Duke Blue Devils ended last season in disgrace, losing three of their last four games. Duke lost the regular season finale to UNC, the ACC Tournament semifinal to Florida State and their first NCAA tournament game to Lehigh.

“We can’t dwell on the past, you have to look forward,” senior forward Mason Plumlee said. “Guys are motivated by it, but I don’t wake up and think about it.”

The Blue Devils return three senior starters in Curry, Plumlee and Ryan Kelly. Plumlee was selected to the ACC preseason all-conference team.

“We have a pretty good relationship between the three of us to play together and have big roles on the team,” Curry said. “Our leadership has gotten a lot better from last year — that’s something we’ve seen early on in the preseason.”

The trio of seniors will be complemented by freshmen Rasheed Sulaimon and Amile



DTH FILE PHOTO  
James Michael McAdoo puts up a shot over Duke’s Miles Plumlee in the rivalry’s Feb. 8 matchup in the Smith Center.

Jefferson, both McDonald’s All-Americans. Duke also returns guards Tyler Thornton and Quinn Cook.

Duke lost freshman point guard and leading scorer Austin Rivers to the NBA. Rivers made the buzzer-beating three-pointer that clinched an 85-84 win in the Smith Center in February.

Duke will also be without streaky shooter Andre Dawkins, who is taking a year off for personal reasons.

“He was one of my best friends on the team last year, so I talk to him all the time,” Curry said about Dawkins. “It’s tough not being around the gym and around the team like he has been his whole life.”

Dawkins scored 8.4 points per game last season and shot 40 percent from behind the arc.

Coach Mike Krzyzewski will lead a team focused on redemption for last year’s early NCAA tournament exit.

“I would want my team, even if they won a national championship, to put last year behind and let’s start fresh,” Krzyzewski said. “Let’s play good defense, so

- AT A GLANCE**
- Coach: Mike Krzyzewski
  - Last season: 27-7, (13-3 ACC), second place
  - Preseason ACC rank: 2nd
  - Preseason accolades: Mason Plumlee, first team All-ACC
  - Notable returners: Mason Plumlee, Seth Curry, Ryan Kelly
  - Notable losses: Austin Rivers, Miles Plumlee
  - Fresh faces: Rasheed Sulaimon, Amile Jefferson, Rodney Hood

that when March rolls along this time, we’re much better prepared for it.”

Contact the desk editor at [sports@dailytarheel.com](mailto:sports@dailytarheel.com).

# Virginia Tech begins season with uncertainty

**By David Adler**  
Staff Writer

If new Virginia Tech head coach James Johnson wants to know whether his team will get out of the ACC cellar, he might as well shake a Magic 8-Ball — some signs point to “Yes,” some signs point to “No.”

The Hokies finished the 2011-12 season with a 4-12 record in the conference, and tied for last with Wake Forest, Georgia Tech and Boston College.

But they had the best overall record of the four teams at 16-17 — the only one close to a .500 winning percentage — and beat Virginia when the Cavaliers were ranked 15th in the country.

Virginia Tech also returns its leading scorer, point guard Erick Green, who averaged 15.6 points per game last season and was named second-team All-ACC.

“(Green) has the leadership qualities that he’s made my transition easier,” Johnson said. “He’s been a coach out there on the floor ... We’re going to lean on him heavily this year for a lot of things.”

While this is Johnson’s first year as a head coach, he isn’t new to coaching. He has been on the Virginia Tech staff since 2007 and was an assistant with the George Mason team that made the 2006 Final Four as a No. 11 seed.

The Hokies were also competitive in almost every ACC game last season.

Of Virginia Tech’s 12 regular-season conference losses, eight were by five points or fewer — including three to ranked teams. And the Hokies’ ACC Tournament loss to then-No. 6 Duke was by just four points.



DTH FILE/SPENCER HERLONG  
P.J. Hairston makes a pass during a game against Virginia Tech last year. UNC beat the Hokies 82-68 in the teams’ only meeting.

Because close games can swing either way, losing so many suggests that the Hokies might have been unusually unlucky last year.

But other factors aren’t so encouraging.

Virginia Tech has very little depth. The Hokies have only eight scholarship athletes this year — North Carolina, by contrast, has 12 — so their reserves will have to step up for the team to compete.

“We don’t have a lot of scholarship players, we don’t have a lot of guys that are going to be playing,” forward Jarell Eddie said. “We’re going to need everyone to contribute — for even the walk-ons to give us good minutes.”

And the Hokies are also transitioning to a new system, one that Johnson said will push the tempo on offense and press and trap more on defense.

But it’s hard to run a fast offense with a thin roster that could tire during the course of a game. And frequent defensive pressing and trapping is a high-risk, high-reward tactic.

The Hokies, though, are buying into the system.

- AT A GLANCE**
- Coach: James Johnson
  - Last season: 16-17 (4-12), tied for last
  - Preseason ACC rank: tied for last
  - Preseason accolades: none
  - Notable returners: Erick Green, Robert Brown
  - Notable losses: Dorenzo Hudson, Dorian Finney-Smith
  - Fresh faces: Marshall Wood, Marcus Patrick, Joey van Zegeren

“Everything we do is competitive,” Green said. “Everything we do is up and down. (Johnson) wants to establish the pace, how we want to play.”

“We’re going to play fast, we’re going to put up a lot of shots, we’re going to play defense. It’s a whole different tempo, a whole different style of play. I love it.”

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# Joe Harris prepares to lead Cavaliers

**The top returning scorer will have a big role this season.**

By Andrew Tie  
Staff Writer

Virginia Cavaliers junior guard Joe Harris should expect to see an increased role this season due to injuries and an influx of freshmen.

Media members picked Virginia to finish seventh in the league at ACC Operation Basketball.

Harris, the top returning scorer from last season, will lead a Cavaliers team that finished 22-10 last season, reaching the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2007. But with top scorer and first-team

All-ACC forward Mike Scott gone, Harris must step up to fill the void in leadership and scoring.

Senior guard Jontel Evans underwent foot surgery earlier this month with an expected six-to-eight week timetable for return.

Sophomore guard Malcolm Brogdon is also recovering from foot surgery that stemmed from a broken foot suffered last season.

With Evans and Brogdon out, Harris has practiced playing point guard to fill the void.

Coach Tony Bennett said Harris represents the consummate team player who is unselfish and will do "whatever it takes" to help the team win.

He also said Harris has improved his play during the offseason, showing that he is more confident, better off the dribble and deceptively

athletic.

"The last couple of practices, I've been playing the point quite a bit," Harris said. "(I'm) just trying to get acclimated to bringing the ball up the floor."

"I have to take on a larger role and be more assertive and aggressive, especially on the offensive end."

While Harris should prove to be an adequate stopgap at point guard, Evans' senior presence will be missed.

"It will help us in the long run but challenge us in the short run," Bennett said. "We don't have a natural lead guard without Malcolm being ready yet or Jontel."

Harris said that getting more playing time for the freshman at the beginning of the season would prove valuable for the team as the season progresses.

The Cavaliers got a chance

## AT A GLANCE

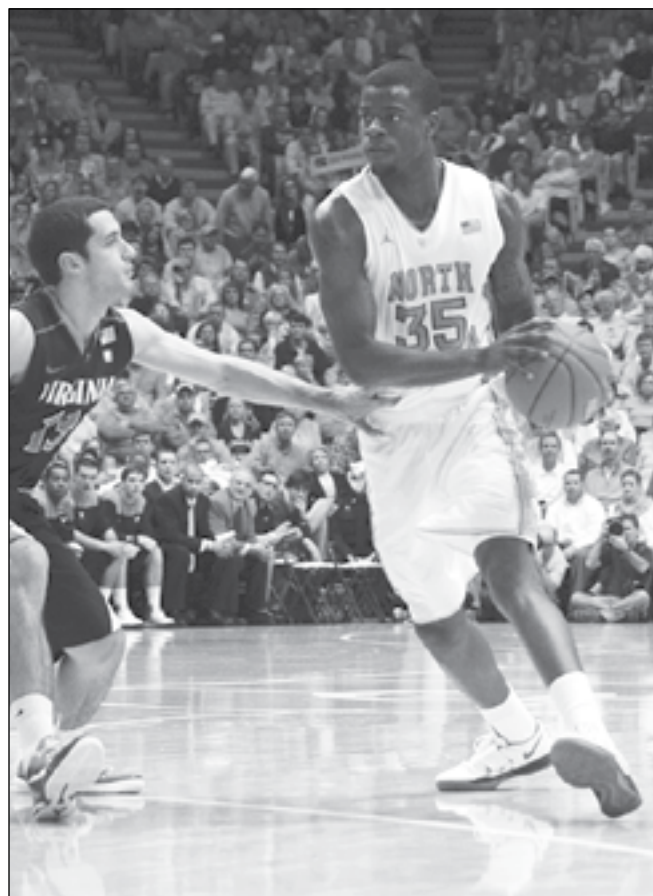
- Coach: Tony Bennett
- Last season: 22-10 (9-7 ACC), tied for fourth
- Preseason ACC rank: 7th
- Preseason accolades: none
- Notable returners: Jontel Evans, Akil Mitchell, Joe Harris
- Notable losses: Mike Scott, Sammy Zeglinski
- Fresh faces: Mike Tobey, Evan Nolte, Taylor Barnette, Caid Kirven, Justin Miller, Justin Anderson

to practice with their six incoming freshmen recently when the team traveled to Europe for five exhibition games.

The NCAA allows teams to travel overseas once every four years to get in extra practice and game experience.

"We didn't always play great, but that was one of the best experiences I have had to just see a team grow, bond and get to know each other," Bennett said.

While the Cavaliers will rely on increased roles from previous bench players and



DTH FILE/KATIE SWEENEY

Reggie Bullock gets a first step on Virginia's Sammy Zeglinski. UNC defeated Virginia twice last season, 70-52 and 54-51.

inexperienced but talented freshmen, Harris believes the team could surprise some people.

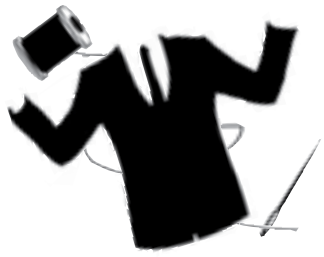
"I don't expect any setbacks or anything like that," Harris said. "I expect the

program to keep taking off, and I think (Bennett and his staff) have it going in the right direction."

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DTH FILE PHOTO

UNC sophomore forward Desmond Hubert dunks over senior forward Milton Jennings. Jennings averaged 5.6 rebounds.

# Forwards to pace youthful Tigers team

By Brandon Chase  
Staff Writer

When looking at Clemson's roster this season, one thing jumps out — youth.

The Tiger's squad features 12 underclassmen to complement returning frontcourt starters Milton Jennings and Devin Booker, and third-year coach Brad Brownell said he knows his patience is going to be tested.

"I'm not a patient person," Brownell said. "I struggle with that, so this is going to be challenging for me."

Brownell

hopes Booker and Jennings keep his heart rate down by stepping into the leadership roles left by the graduation of leading scorers Andre Young and Tanner Smith. But his two veterans have very different leadership styles.

"(Jennings) is a more vocal type of guy, a vocal type of leader, whereas Devin is more likely to do things more one-on-one," Brownell said.

Regardless of their different ways of motivating their team, both Booker and Jennings will be expected to produce on the court. The two forwards combined for 20.2 points per game last season — more than the other six returning players combined.

The two seniors have both struggled to live up to expectations during their time at Clemson, but this could finally be their year. Jennings, the first McDonald's All-American to go to Clemson since 1991, has averaged only seven points throughout his career.

"I'll definitely take no games off," Jennings said. "That's one mindset personally as a senior."

Booker, expected to duplicate the feats of brother and former Clemson standout Trevor Booker, is ready to

## AT A GLANCE

- Coach: Brad Brownell
- Last season: 16-15 (8-8 ACC), seventh in ACC
- Preseason ACC: 8th
- Preseason accolades: none
- Notable returners: Devin Booker, Milton Jennings, Rod Hall
- Notable losses: Andre Young, Tanner Smith
- Fresh faces: Adonis Filer, Landry Nnoko, Jordan Roper, Josh Smith, Jaron Blossomgame

finally get out of his brother's shadow.

"I'm one of the go-to-guys," Booker said. "They're going to be throwing the ball to me a lot, and I'm going to be expecting it. I'm ready for it."

Even if Booker and Jennings have breakout seasons, the younger players will have to step up for the Tigers to improve on last year's 16-15 campaign.

A prime candidate might be sophomore Rod Hall, who will be expected to handle some point guard duties despite averaging only 3.8 points and 1.3 rebounds last season.

"(Hall) is one of those guys that you enjoy playing with," Brownell said. "He's a willing passer. He's trying to make guys better, get them shots, so we're pleased with what he's doing."

Brownell wants his team to finish above its eighth place ACC preseason ranking, but knows the team is a work in progress.

"We're teaching them how to play," Brownell said. "But teaching them how to play takes a long time."

Contact the desk editor at [sports@dailytarheel.com](mailto:sports@dailytarheel.com).

# Basketball 2012-13

# Maryland Terrapins ready to show off revamped defense

By Carlos Collazo  
Staff Writer

Last year Maryland had the worst defense in the ACC.

That defense allowed an average of 70.7 points per game, and dropped Maryland to an eighth place finish in the ACC last year.

The Terrapins finished with a conference record of just 6-10. But things could turn around this season as Maryland was picked to finish sixth in the conference.

If coach Mark Turgeon has his way, things will be quite different for the Terrapins this season.

"We're potentially much better defensively," Turgeon said. "With the athletes we have and the depth we have should be much better defensively."

Junior point guard Pe'Shon Howard returns to action after suffering multiple injuries last season, and will add to the Terrapins' depth.

Howard only played in 14 games last season after a season-ending ACL tear during an early February practice.

"Pe'Shon dropped 15 pounds, and he's got a little bit of experience for us, something we don't have a lot of," Turgeon said. "He likes to play point, he likes to defend and he likes to pass the ball. And kids today don't like to do that."

But Howard isn't the only one who can help the team out.

Sophomore Alex Len now has a year of experience under his belt and has the potential to become a consistent defender in the paint for Maryland.

Last year the 7-foot-1 center averaged 2.2 blocks.

But Len isn't Maryland's only option at center.

Four-star freshman Shaquille Cleare joins the Terrapins with a 6-foot-9, 270 pound frame.

Defense is just one dimension of Maryland's game.

The Terrapins lost their top two scorers from last season — Sean Mosley to graduation, and Terrell Stoglin to the NBA draft.



DTH FILE/ELIZABETH MENDOZA

Senior forward James Padgett guards UNC's James Michael McAdoo. Padgett averaged 9.4 points and 6.4 rebounds in the last eight games of the season. He also led the team in overall rebounding.

That's where senior James Padgett and sophomore Nick Faust could make the biggest impact.

But both have to fill big shoes this year to keep Maryland's offense going.

Faust filled in for an injured Howard last year, and earned the team's most improved award.

Faust recorded a field goal percentage of 37.4 last year.

"I've been working on finishing around the rim, mid-range game — just shooting in general," Faust said.

"I feel as though my jump-shot has to be more consistent to be a more complete player."

As one of the team's two seniors, Padgett will look to

## AT A GLANCE

- Coach: Mark Turgeon
- Last season: 17-15 (6-10 ACC), eighth in ACC
- Preseason ACC: 6th
- Notable returners: Pe'Shon Howard, Nick Faust, James Padgett, Alex Len
- Notable losses: Terrell Stoglin
- Fresh faces: Charles Mitchell, Seth Allen, Jake Layman, Conner Lipinski, Shaquille Cleare
- Maryland heads to Brooklyn to play the Kentucky Wildcats in the Barclay's Center in early November.

assume a leadership role both on and off the court.

"(Our goal is to) stay focused, be motivated, be focused on getting better every day, coming together," Padgett said.

"Set high expectations —

don't let anyone set higher expectations for us than ourselves.

"We're looking forward to winning now."

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# Tar Heels seek return to NCAA Tournament

**By Henry Gargan**  
Assistant Sports Editor

In March, Carmichael Arena hosted the opening rounds of the women's basketball NCAA tournament. Denied a berth for the first time since 2001, the Tar Heels were spectators at their home court. But forward Krista Gross wasn't in the stands. "It was hard," she said. "I couldn't come watch any of the games, especially when they were playing here. I couldn't even be a part of March madness. It just hurt too bad."

Gross, now a senior, said that experience is part of what has driven this year's team to improve. She, Waltiea Rolle and Tierra Ruffin-Pratt comprise UNC's core of senior leadership, returning to a team that went 20-11 and 9-7 in the ACC, finishing fifth in the conference.

But improvement will require the convergence of a number of factors, not all of which are within the players' control.

"We had more injuries last year than we'd probably had in 10 years total," coach Sylvia Hatchell said. "I look at it with all the injuries and stuff, and I wonder, 'How did we win 20 games?'"

"At one time we were down to six healthy players, and not only were we down in numbers, but we had kids out of position."

Hatchell said her team is relatively healthy now. But the biggest difference from last year, she said, is her team's attitude.

The slight of being left out of the NCAA tournament, along with formative summer games in Europe, brought the Tar Heels together like little else could.

"We had spent the second summer (school) session together, so we kind of knew each other, knew the freshmen a little bit," Gross said. "And then we go to Europe

*"I think we're going to be better than people think we're going to. In fact, I know we will."*

**Sylvia Hatchell,**  
women's basketball coach

and we're all we have. There's no cellphones, that kind of thing. Everybody's dying for Internet. But when we're out there, it's just us."

The team will also have to compensate for the departure of three of last year's starters, including UNC's top two scorers, Chay Shegog and Laura Broomfield.

But Gross and Hatchell both said this year's team already has its own determined dynamic.

It also has an athletic freshman class led by Xylina McDaniel and a number of returning players who made significant improvements in the off-season.

"This year, it's more fast-paced," sophomore point guard Brittany Rountree said.

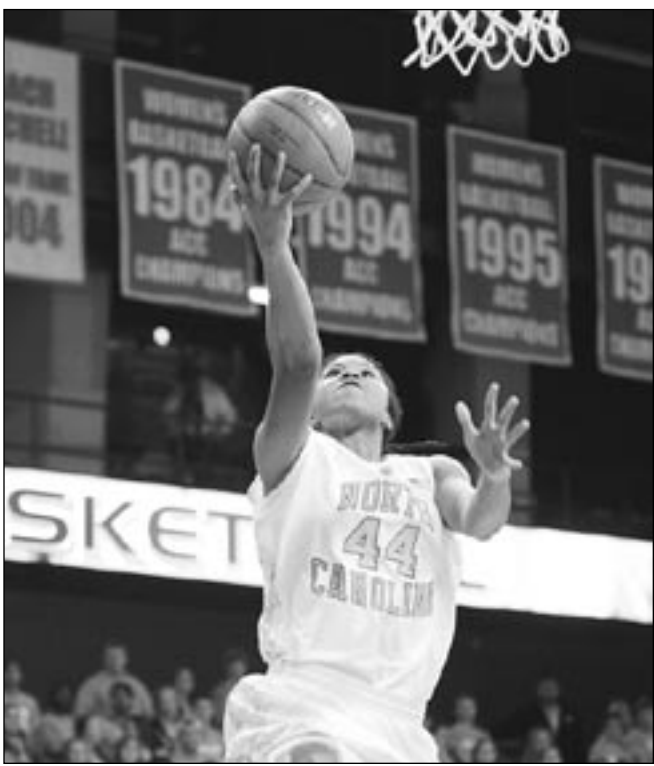
"We're pressing more. Last year, I don't think I drove to the basket that often, I wasn't as aggressive. This year, I'm going to be more aggressive."

To remind herself of where her team is coming from, Hatchell keeps a commemorative wooden plaque from last year's Final Four on her desk. Written on it in permanent marker are the words "No NCAA. Don't Forget."

She hopes that memory will be the glue that holds all of her team's other advantages together.

"I think we're going to be better than people think we're going to be," Hatchell said. "In fact, I know we will."

*Contact the desk editor at sports@dailytarheel.com.*



DTH FILE/SPENCER HERLONG

Senior guard Tierra Ruffin-Pratt goes up for a shot. Ruffin-Pratt will take over at point guard. She averaged 8.5 points last season.

## Freshmen will be the X-factor

**By Robbie Harms**  
Assistant Sports Editor

There's a youth resurgence on the North Carolina women's basketball team, and it's led by the girl they call "Z."

Xylina McDaniel, pronounced Za-Lina, heads a five-member freshmen class that will look to pair with UNC's upperclassmen to avenge the disappointment from a year ago.

"Xylina McDaniel is a beast," coach Sylvia Hatchell said. "Her dad was X-man (Xavier McDaniel), played in the NBA. She's a lot like him, a rebounder."

UNC failed to qualify for the NCAA Tournament last season, and Hatchell turned down a bid to the Women's NIT.

But this year, restocked and refreshed by the batch of freshmen, North Carolina hopes its postseason chances aren't left in the hands of voters.

"The freshmen came in, and they're all kinds of energy," senior forward Krista Gross said. "So we feed off that a little bit."

Hatchell said McDaniel, the 2010-11 South Carolina Gatorade Player of the Year, will start in the frontcourt this season and that freshman guard N'Dea Bryant will also see significant playing time.

"N'Dea's got lots of potential," Hatchell said. "We're still working with her a lot. She's going to be a good player, but she's just got to learn the tempo of the college game."

McDaniel, Bryant and fellow freshman Antoinette

Bannister each have different strengths, sophomore Brittany Rountree said: McDaniel is a force in the post, Bannister is a lethal shooter and Bryant sees the floor well and has great ball-handling.

But the transition from high school to Division I basketball hasn't been effortless.

The freshmen have had to learn how to balance classes and practice, figure out UNC's bus system, and acclimate to a new speed and style of play. And they're still learning.

"Everybody moves a lot faster, when we're playing and when they're teaching us," McDaniel said. "They don't spend a lot of time on one thing. They expect you, once they tell you, to know it and practice it on your own."

The upperclassmen, though, have been there to guide them. Gross, who recently returned from injury, has made herself available to the freshmen UNC players to help them adjust to college.

"(I've been) just showing them the ropes," she said. "Just pulling them off to the side explaining things. They have questions — they get that look when they're not completely sure of themselves."

McDaniel said the support hasn't been solely from the juniors and seniors.

"Everybody has (been supportive) — even the freshmen," she said. "Say one of us gets it faster than the other, we'll help them. We're literally one team. Everybody helps each other no matter what class they are."

The Tar Heels hope the freshmen talent, coupled with this direction and leadership, will get them back to where they want to be in March — the NCAA Tournament.

And if the girl they call "Z" gets her wish, they will be.

"We must," McDaniel said, pausing, "get in the tournament this year."

*Contact the desk editor at sports@dailytarheel.com.*

## 2012-13 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	TV
Sun. Oct. 28	2 p.m.	vs. Carson-Newman (exhibition)	
Thurs. Nov. 1	7 p.m.	vs. Wingate (exhibition)	
Fri. Nov. 9	5 p.m.	vs. Davidson	
Sun. Nov. 11	5 p.m.	vs. TBA	
Weds. Nov. 14	7 p.m.	vs. TBA	
Sat. Nov. 24	TBA	vs. LaSalle	
Sun. Nov. 25	6 p.m.	vs. UNC-Asheville	
Weds. Nov. 28	7 p.m.	vs. Ohio State	
Sun. Dec. 2	TBA	at Tennessee	
Weds. Dec. 5	7 p.m.	vs. Radford	
Weds. Dec. 12	7 p.m.	vs. North Carolina Central	
Sun. Dec. 16	2 p.m.	at Coastal Carolina	
Weds. Dec. 19	7 p.m.	vs. East Carolina	
Fri. Dec. 28	2 p.m.	vs. ETSU	
Sun. Dec. 30	2 p.m.	at Clemson	
Thurs. Jan. 3	7 p.m.	vs. Maryland	
Sun. Jan. 6	2 p.m.	vs. Virginia Tech	
Thurs. Jan. 10	7 p.m.	at N.C. State	
Sun. Jan. 13	2 p.m.	vs. Georgia Tech	ESPN3
Thurs. Jan. 17	6:30 p.m.	vs. Virginia	RSN
Thurs. Jan. 24	8:30 p.m.	at Maryland	RSN
Sun. Jan. 27	2 p.m.	at Miami	ESPN2
Thurs. Jan. 31	7 p.m.	vs. Florida State	ESPN3
Sun. Feb. 3	1 p.m.	vs. Duke	ESPN2
Thurs. Feb. 7	7 p.m.	at Boston College	
Sun. Feb. 10	11:30 a.m.	at Georgia Tech	ESPN2
Thurs. Feb. 14	7 p.m.	vs. Wake Forest	
Sun. Feb. 17	1 p.m.	at Florida State	RSN
Fri. Feb. 22	8:30 p.m.	at Virginia Tech	RSN
Sun. Feb. 24	1:30 p.m.	vs. N.C. State	ESPN2
Thurs. Feb. 28	7 p.m.	vs. Boston College	
Sun. Mar. 3	4 p.m.	at Duke	ESPN2

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2012-13 WOMEN’S BASKETBALL ROSTER

No.	Player	Year	Pos.	Height
2	Latifah Coleman	SO	G	5’ 9”
3	Megan Buckland	FR	G	6’ 0”
10	Danielle Butts	SO	G	5’ 10”
11	Brittany Rountree	SO	G	5’ 9”
13	Hillary Fuller	FR	F	6’ 2”
15	Antoinette Bannister	FR	G	5’ 10”
21	Krista Gross	SR	G/F	6’ 0”
22	N’Dea Bryant	FR	G	6’ 0”
24	Whitney Adams	SO	F	6’ 0”
30	Hillary Summers	FR	F	6’ 2”
31	Erika Johnson	SO	G	6’ 1”
32	Waltiea Rolle	SR	C	6’ 6”
34	Xylina McDaniel	FR	F	6’ 2”
44	Tierra Ruffin-Pratt	SR	G	5’ 10”

Head Coach: Sylvia Hatchell  
Director of Basketball Operations: Greg Law  
Assistant Coach: Andrew Calder  
Assistant Coach: Tracey Williams-Johnson  
Assistant Coach: Trisha Stafford-Odom

2012-13 ACC WOMEN’S BASKETBALL MEDIA PREDICTIONS

- 1. Duke
- 2. Maryland
- 3. Georgia Tech
- 4. Virginia
- 5. North Carolina
- 6. Miami
- 7. Florida State
- 8. N.C. State
- 9. Wake Forest
- 10. Clemson
- 11. Virginia Tech
- 12. Boston College

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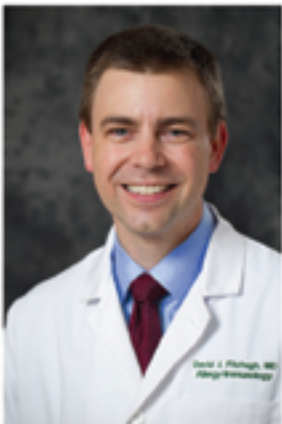
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