

A publication of
The Daily Tar Heel
BASKETBALL PREVIEW
2013-14



DTH FILE PHOTO

ROY'S DILEMMAS

Many questions remain as the season opens in less than two weeks

By Brooke Pryor
Sports Editor

Eleven days.

That's when the North Carolina men's basketball team will open its season with a home game against Oakland, and coach Roy Williams has a laundry list of decisions on his plate before "Jump Around" blares through the Smith Center shortly before 9 p.m.

So far, the Hall of Fame coach entering his 11th season back in Chapel Hill has solidified two of his five starters — sophomore Marcus Paige and junior James Michael McAdoo.

But the final three positions pose a bit of a problem for the 63-year-old coach.

There's the eligibility of two of his top guards, a battle in the post and a talented freshman point guard ready to share floor marshal duties.

It's enough to keep anybody up at night, but in his usual fashion, Williams is adopting his "wait and see" method of decision-making.

The most glaring question to solve, of course, is the punishment of guard P.J. Hairston. Since his well-documented summer of traffic violations and rental cars, the junior's fate has hung in the balance.

Williams says Hairston will play, but the question of when he'll suit up and take the court remains to be answered. And Hairston's punishment isn't entirely Williams' to decide. Williams told reporters after Friday's Late Night with Roy that there were still aspects of the players' situations being pro-

cessed by the NCAA.

Hairston isn't the only player whose eligibility is still up in the air — fellow guard Leslie McDonald is also waiting to hear from the NCAA regarding the use of his image to promote a designer mouthguard company this summer that ended with a cease and desist letter from the University to the company.

"They're going to be part of it, yeah," Williams said of the NCAA's involvement with his players' punishments. "All the rumors and everything that's been going around since June, we've still been addressing those. It's the kind of thing where there's still things in process with P.J. and Leslie both, but that is part of it, yes."

Williams has maintained that he will announce the fate of Hairston and McDonald before the season opener, but for now, the pair has been stripped of leadership privileges and both face the tall task of earning back Williams' trust.

Hairston's teammates recognize that he's turned a corner and is trying to put the summer's indiscretions behind him in an effort to put all of his focus on the court.

"When he's on the court, he's doing what he loves to do," Paige said. "He gets to not think about all the stuff and just play basketball for a while and it's good for him, it's good for everyone to enjoy P.J. the basketball player and not other stuff."

Some of Williams' problems are good ones to have — between juniors McAdoo and Desmond Hubert, sophomores Joel James and Brice Johnson and freshman Kennedy Meeks, the Tar Heels have a wealth of talent in the post.

Though McAdoo has already staked his claim on a starting job, it's unclear exactly where he'll be starting.

In Friday's Late Night with Roy, McAdoo played in the three spot, a position usually occupied by a guard. He could stay there or shift down to his traditional spot in the post, but Hairston's and McDonald's possible impending suspensions will help determine his position.

James and Meeks are the front-runners for the starting center job, and Paige said even he isn't sure who has the edge.

"It changes on a day-to-day basis," Paige said. "You can tell from my answers — one day you think Joel's got it, next day you see great things out of Kennedy and say he could start at the five. It's good to have that problem at this point. Two guys playing well and challenging each other for minutes."

Williams also has a problem he hasn't had in nearly three seasons — a deep point guard corps. Williams has already named Paige the starter, but freshman point guard Nate Britt could easily take the floor alongside the Tar Heels' returning point guard.

Williams said he's had his team employ a two-point guard system in practice, but his strategy and positioning of his players will be fluid and likely to change throughout the season.

"I'm convinced that the first game when we play Oakland you'll see two little point guards out there together," Williams said. "I'm convinced in the first game against Oakland that you'll see James Michael as the small forward. It's something that will be a continual process throughout the season."

In 11 days, Williams' countdown will expire, and the pre-season questions will no longer need answers.

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“ I don't determine what we're going to be in April here in October. ”
ROY WILLIAMS

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Freshman Nate Britt (center) comes in to back up or play alongside sophomore Marcus Paige (left).

Depth a strong point

Freshman Nate Britt could play side by side with sophomore Marcus Paige.

By Michael Lananna
Senior Writer

Depth — it left in the middle of the night two years ago, in February, when Larry Drew II decided he would transfer.

The North Carolina point guard position has been a one-man show ever since.

Kendall Marshall took the reins from Drew as a freshman and played nearly every minute of every contest until the NBA draft came calling in 2012. Then, in Marshall's absence, freshman Marcus Paige started last season under colossal expectations, forced to lead a young and inexperienced team.

But this season, for the first time in a few years, a UNC point guard won't be going at it alone.

The Tar Heels bring in left-handed recruit Nate Britt from Upper Marlboro, Md., who will be able to play alongside Paige and benefit from the sophomore's tutelage.

"It's gonna be great," Paige said. "He's gonna get the chance to play right away, and he's going to have someone like me to learn from in tough situations, whereas last year me and Luke (Davis) were the only point guards on the ros-

ter, so I was stuck in a tough spot where I didn't have anyone to learn from."

UNC has toyed around with a two-point-guard lineup during the practice season, and it's something that Paige and coach Roy Williams said will more than likely find its way into games. That could especially be the case early on in the year as P.J. Hairston misses time with a still undetermined suspension.

In practice, Britt has played the point, Paige has slid over to shooting guard and — depending on if UNC wants to go big or small — guard Leslie McDonald or forward James Michael McAdoo has played the three. "I actually love the two-point-guard lineup," Paige said. "Whoever gets the outlet just goes. The other one fills in on the wing. Nate's really fast and pushes the ball well. It opens the game up for me a lot, too."

For that backcourt configuration to succeed, however, Paige will likely need to shoot better than his 35.6 percent clip from a year ago. Paige's teammates encouraged him to take a more selfish approach throughout last season, and Paige said assistant coach Hubert Davis gets mad at him when he doesn't look to score while playing the two.

"Marcus, I thought last year, you heard me say 50 times, 'He's really a big-time shooter,' and yet the numbers didn't show that," Williams said. "I think Marcus' numbers will show a heck of a lot more for us this year."

As a whole, Paige is a stronger, wiser player than he was a year ago, having grown from a season in which he had to learn on the job.

Williams has called Paige a "tough little nut" on multiple occasions.

Paige went from admittedly tiring at the end of games early in the season to thriving at the end of them, leading late rallies in the ACC and NCAA tournaments. He's packed on about 15 pounds since the beginning of last year through his work with trainer Jonas Sahratian, weighing as much as 175 pounds.

"He looks like Arnold Schwarzenegger right now compared to what he looked like last year," Williams joked.

Though still an underclassman, Paige said he looks at himself as a leader — it's inherent in the point guard position and within his personality. Along with McAdoo, Paige has been named a team captain, and he's looking to use his experience from a season ago to guide not just Britt but his entire team.

"Having a whole year under your belt, it changes everything," Paige said. "Now I know exactly what to expect for practice and exactly what to expect in the first game. I'll know exactly what to expect when the first ACC game comes around. So just that part makes you more confident knowing you've already been through it."

This year, though, he won't have to go through it alone.

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PEOPLE TO WATCH: UNC FRESHMEN

After losing Reggie Bullock and Dexter Strickland last year, North Carolina replenished its roster with three key recruits. Nate Britt will bolster the Tar Heels' backcourt while Isaiah Hicks and Kennedy Meeks add options for coach Roy Williams in the post. The trio will join last year's class that added Marcus Paige, Joel James, Brice Johnson and J.P. Tokoto.

Isaiah Hicks



Voted the Associated Press Player of the Year in North Carolina in 2013, the 6-foot-8, 220-pound forward from Oxford will be a valuable asset to North Carolina's frontcourt. Hicks was also a McDonald's All-American and received the MVP award of the state playoffs after leading J.F. Webb to the NCHSAA 3-A title.

In the title game, Hicks dominated, scoring 34 points, snagging a championship-record 30 rebounds and blocking seven shots. Hicks scored 30 or more points

seven times his senior year and averaged 22.9 points, 12.9 rebounds and 5.6 blocks.

Hicks' strength around the block will be critical to UNC, who outrebounded opponents by an average of just 1.6 per game — the lowest in coach Roy Williams' UNC history.

"I like Isaiah's game a lot," sophomore Marcus Paige said. "I think he's going to help us a lot. He's just a great rebounder, he's quick off the floor and he's starting to pick things up quickly."

Kennedy Meeks



The 6-foot-9, 284-pound forward from Charlotte was a three-time all-state selection and a McDonald's All-American as well. He led West Charlotte to a 78-13 record since his sophomore year in which his team won the state title and Meeks won the MVP honors.

Meeks averaged 19 points, 16 rebounds and three blocks his senior campaign, scored 20 or more points seven times and snagged 20 or more rebounds four times. Meeks had three games in his senior year with 20 or more points and rebounds.

Meeks is one of three potential starters at center for the Tar Heels alongside sophomore Joel James and junior Desmond Hubert. Meeks also lettered in tennis for three seasons at West Charlotte.

Meeks weighed 317 pounds in the beginning of the summer but was able to drop 33 pounds in the offseason.

"He's done a really good job, he's just got to maintain it," coach Roy Williams said. "He doesn't have very good stamina but he's got great hands and touch around the basket."

Nate Britt



COMPILED BY DANIEL WILCO

The Washington, D.C. Gatorade Player of the Year in 2011, Nate Britt comes to North Carolina as a strong backup to sophomore Marcus Paige or a viable shooting guard to pair with Paige for a more up-tempo offense.

The 5-foot-11, 165-pound Upper Marlboro, Md. native is the only other true point guard on the Tar Heels' roster, but is versatile enough to sit at shooting guard in coach Roy Williams' offense as well.

"Nate gives us another true point guard that we haven't

had in the last couple of years, so I love that," Williams said. "He really's understanding pushing the pace. Now, we have to get him under control when he does get there."

Britt suffered a torn meniscus in his right knee his senior season, forcing him to miss two months at Oak Hill Academy. He had surgery on Dec. 26, 2012 and was back on the court in early February. Britt averaged 6.7 points and five assists in 25 games. He also played three years of soccer and football.

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Big decisions for UNC

The Tar Heels have more frontcourt options this season.

By Grace Raynor
Assistant Sports Editor

It was a lack of depth — a frontcourt full of such youth and inexperience that North Carolina basketball coach Roy Williams felt compelled to do something he had never done before in 25 years of coaching.

A conventional coach who has always favored the traditional style of basketball since his days under Dean Smith, Williams elected to run a guard-heavy lineup that featured four guards and just one big man, James Michael McAdoo, in the post on Feb. 28.

The Tar Heels beat Virginia that day — 93-81, but in the process, the lineup change forced Williams to defy his roots, abandon his back-court.

And although it often reaped its benefits throughout the remainder of the season, it wasn't a transformation Williams wants to feel forced to make again.

Now he doesn't have to. "I really think our best teams have always been when we've had good balance," he said.

"When we can score inside and score from the 3-point line, score on the break and score in a set offense ... that's our challenge to be able to do all that."

Enter a fit Joel James, a stronger Brice Johnson, and a raw Kennedy Meeks and Isaiah Hicks. Couple that

group with the experience of juniors Desmond Hubert and James Michael McAdoo, and suddenly that challenge becomes a little less daunting.

What a difference a year has made.

Williams now has a slew of capable post players to fill the void left in the paint, and after Late Night With Roy, the annual kickoff to basketball season, that vision only became more obvious.

Meeks, a freshman out of Charlotte led the White team in the intrasquad scrimmage in Late Night with Roy with a double-double, boasting 16 points and 12 rebounds according to unofficial statistics in his first appearance as a Tar Heel.

A hefty 317 pounds at the beginning of the summer, Meeks has trimmed down to a leaner 284 with the help of strength and conditioning coordinator Jonas Sahratian — a process James said he himself is all too familiar with.

Kennedy's accepted the challenge and he's been doing great with his conditioning and the weight room. I think he's lost 36, 30 something pounds like that," James said.

"As a fellow big man I used to carry a lot of weight and seeing what he's going through, I know exactly what he's going through. I know his mentality, his mindset, everything."

Johnson — who received opposite instruction and was asked to add weight to his lanky frame during the summer — said that as a result of James' transformation, his unmatched confidence is notable on the court.

"Joel looks like an ox — he's



DTH/KATIE WILLIAMS

James Michael McAdoo returns for his junior season after averaging 14.4 points last year. He could play at the three this year.

strong," Johnson said.

"When he first got here you could tell Joel had a little bit of fat on him but now you don't see any fat — just muscle everywhere."

James and Johnson both netted 10 points, two of Johnson's coming from a powerful two-handed statement dunk. Johnson also grabbed five rebounds, while James came down with eight.

Williams said that though the season opener is less than two weeks away, his lineup is still up in the air as he continues to assess the deep group that has become his front court. McAdoo — who

once again chose to forego the NBA Draft and registered five points in the scrimmage — is the only definite starter in the post.

Williams will continue to toil with the different combinations of starters in practice before he makes the final call, but regardless of what is to come in the ensuing weeks, he's absolutely certain of one thing.

"When you play basketball, you need to be a little bit bigger," he said.

"We do need the big guys to score inside."

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Miami forced into brand new lineup

The Hurricanes lost their top six scorers from last season.

By Madison Way
Staff Writer

After eight years in the conference, the Miami men's basketball team won the school's first ACC title in 2013. The Hurricanes then earned the No. 2 seed in the NCAA Tournament — its highest in school history.

But this season, 2013 ACC Coach of the Year Jim Larranaga just wants to return to the tournament.

"There's multiple criteria for making the NCAA tournament," Larranaga said.

"How you do in your own league is only one of those."

Non-conference play is another.

The Hurricanes face non-conference opponents St. Francis, Georgia Southern and Texas Southern before competing in the Wooden Legacy tournament.

Larranaga said there was a strategy in selecting those teams.

"I asked the question last year at our league meetings — who would help your RPI better: playing Penn State, a Big Ten team, or playing Texas Southern?" Larranaga said.

"And every coach thought you play Penn State and they were wrong."

Last year, one little-known team Larranaga scheduled was Florida Gulf Coast.

Florida Gulf Coast would go on to win the Atlantic Sun conference before making an appearance in the Sweet Sixteen as a No. 16 seed and losing to Florida.

Larranaga compared scheduling to recruiting an overlooked Shane Larkin, the 5-foot-11 sophomore guard who was drafted by the Dallas Mavericks in June.

"You can tell before the conference play who has a shot," Larranaga said.

The team didn't just lose Larkin — after capturing its first ACC regular season and tournament title in program history, Miami became the only team to return zero starters this season from last year's squad.

To succeed in both conference and nonconference play without those key players, the team will rely on its five freshmen and a handful of upperclassmen — including a pair of graduate students in forward Donnavan Kirk and guard Garrius Adams.

Kirk comes from DePaul and led the Blue Demons in blocks last year.

Adams redshirted last year after suffering a lower extremity injury during his junior year.

Adams said Miami's nine upperclassmen should make major contributions beyond the stat sheets.

"It's very important to have experience on the floor and especially when you have freshmen who get nervous when you play Duke or Carolina," Adams said.

"That experience kicks in."

But it will take more than team leaders to prepare the Hurricanes players.

"If you're teaching math to a fourth-grader, you're already counting on what they learned in the first,

- AT A GLANCE**
- Coach: Jim Larranaga
 - Last season: 29-7 (15-3 ACC), first place in the ACC
 - Preseason ACC: 12th
 - Notable returners: Tonye Jekiri, Rion Brown, Garrius Adams
 - Notable losses: Shane Larkin, Durand Scott, Kenny Kadji, Reggie Johnson
 - Fresh faces: Deandre Burnett, Davon Reed

second and third grades," Larranaga said.

"They learned addition. They learned subtraction. You may have to review quickly over it, but you're moving to multiplication and division."

"We have to start with addition and subtraction because we have so many new players who don't know our program, don't know what we stand for, don't know what the priorities are."



DTH FILE/CHELSEY ALLDER
North Carolina forward J.P. Tokoto dunks on Miami's Rion Brown. The Hurricanes defeated the Tar Heels three times last season.

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Lofty expectations for young Eagles team

Boston College has highest preseason ACC rank since 2010.

By Ben Coley
Staff Writer

The last two seasons, Boston College has been picked to finish last in the ACC. But this season, with a No. 8 preseason ranking, the Eagles are looking to make a statement in the revamped conference.

Boston College returns all of its top players from last year's team, including ACC Rookie of the Year Olivier Hanlan and junior Ryan Anderson, who averaged 15.4 and 14.9 points per game respectively.

The Eagles finished with a disappointing 16-17 (7-11 ACC) record last year, but did showcase their potential by nearly beating the top two ACC teams in Duke and Miami.

Boston College lost by only one point in each of the team's first meetings with the

Blue Devils and Hurricanes last season.

Hanlan, who attended Chris Paul's camp over the summer, noted that being fundamental will be a key to getting over the hump this year.

"It's not always about the fadeaways, the step-backs and the fancy moves," the sophomore said. "If you can just make the easy play, it makes it a lot easier on me and on the team."

Anderson said that 20 wins and an NCAA tournament bid is a realistic goal for the team, and it should be the same for everyone in the ACC.

"We're all good enough teams," he said. "It just depends on whether you make the right play at the right time."

Boston College is set to play five nonconference road games this year, a challenge coach Steve Donahue said his team is up for.

"I think for most kids, it's way better to silence a crowd than to get the admiration of your home crowd," Donahue said. "There's a feeling that we did this, we came in here in enemy territory and we over-achieved as one."

Despite having a majority of the team return, the Eagles roster is still very young. The lone senior on the team is Danny Rubin, who averaged only one point in 26 games last season.

Because of the recent lack of success, Donahue's main message to the players has been to remain patient and confident.

"We're going to get there, you just have to believe," Donahue said. "It has to be blind trust, because I've seen it."

"They have accepted it and worked way harder than I could imagine kids their age doing."

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AT A GLANCE

- Coach: Steve Donahue
- Last season: 16-17 (7-11 ACC), eighth place
- Preseason ACC: Eighth
- Notable returners: Ryan Anderson, Lonnie Jackson, Olivier Hanlan, Joe Rahon
- Notable losses: None
- Fresh faces: Garland Owens, Darryl Hicks, Bill Magarity, Sam Donahue.
- The Eagles are the only team in the ACC to return seven players with 20 or more career starts.



DTH FILE PHOTO
James Michael McAdoo (left) goes up for a dunk against Boston College. The Tar Heels play the Eagles at home on Jan. 18.



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Florida State keeps eight of top 10 scorers

Seniors Miller and White will lead FSU.

By Carlos Collazo
Staff Writer

With the loss of point guard Michael Snaer to graduation,

as well as the expansion of the ACC to a 15-team league, things are going to be a lot tougher for Florida State this season. The Seminoles finished the 2012-13 campaign with a 9-9 conference record, good for sixth in the ACC. The team also lost Joey

Moreau and Rafael Portuondo.

But in seniors Okaro White and Ian Miller, coach Leonard Hamilton expects his team to be competitive.

White was the second leading scorer from last year's team while Miller was sidelined for the majority of last season with a foot injury.

The upperclassmen are ready to take on a bigger role. Miller dropped 25 pounds and made his return to the court a month and half earlier than expected.

"It was just my best summer," he said. "I was up (at) 5:30 in the gym every morning and just working my butt off making sure that I'm not going to be the one to blame."

"I am going to be the one that my teammates, my coach can depend on. That last-minute shot or that last-second shot when it comes down

to who's going to take the shot ... I wanna be that guy."

While Miller has something left to prove this year, Hamilton knows exactly what he's getting out of White.

White averaged 12.4 points and 5.9 rebounds per game last season while shooting 82 percent from the free-throw line.

He'll join a much-improved sophomore class on the court, Hamilton said.

"They have improved in every way, most of all mentally and emotionally with the players understanding how hard you have to work, high intensity, the pace of the game," Hamilton said.

Hamilton feels good about the team's odds this year.

"Are we there yet?" he asked. "No, we're not, but I do feel that at least I'm dealing with some guys who understand what we are trying to teach them."

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DTH FILE/KEVIN HU

Gaurd P.J. Hairston (center) fights through FSU's Michael Snaer (left). Snaer was FSU's top scorer, but graduated in the spring.

AT A GLANCE

- Coach: Leonard Hamilton
- Last season: 18-16 (9-9 ACC), sixth place
- Preseason ACC: 9th
- Notable returners: Okaro White, Kiel Turpin, Aaron Thomas, Montay Brandon,
- Notable losses: Michael Snaer, Joey Moreau, Rafael Portuondo
- Fresh faces: Jarquez Smith, Xavier Rathan-Mayes, Brandon Allen

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Yellow Jackets emphasize consistency

Georgia Tech turns to experience with four returning starters.

By Pat James
Staff Writer

It's been nearly 10 years since the Georgia Tech men's basketball team played in the national championship game. If this year's squad wants to have a remote chance of reaching this year's title game, or even making the NCAA Tournament after missing out last season, consistency will be vital. Last year, the Yellow Jackets showed flashes of their

ability, like in a 13-point comeback against Miami at the end of the season. The 2012-2013 season, however, was mostly overshadowed by the team's inconsistency, which resulted in the team losing five games by a total of five points or less. To quash this bad habit, the team has focused on improving its mental toughness. "We really worked on just mental toughness — that was kind of a thing — because there were a lot of games that we didn't finish out strongly," said 2013 ACC All-Defensive team pick Daniel Miller. "If we had won any of those (close games), we could've had a completely different season. So mental toughness was a big thing." The team welcomes newcomer Trae Golden, a transfer guard from Tennessee who was just cleared by the NCAA Oct.

17 to play for the Georgia Tech. Senior Kammeon Holsey, who served as the team's sixth-man last season, said Golden will be able to help the team in multiple facets. "He's an all-around guard," Holsey said. "He's a scoring guard. He can pass it. He just understand the game. He's a big guard, a physical guard—real tough. I said, 'If he had to guard Shaq (O'Neal), he'd do his best.'" With the addition of Golden and the team returning four of its starters from a season ago, third-year coach Brian Gregory and the Yellow Jackets will attempt to reach a higher ceiling this year. "You would hope that that's the progression," Gregory said. "Here's the challenge. We're better. Being completely honest, we're a much

- AT A GLANCE**
- Coach: Brian Gregory
 - Last season: 16-15 (6-12, ACC), tied for ninth place
 - Preseason: 11th
 - Notable returners: Marcus George-Hunt, Robert Carter Jr., Daniel Miller, Chris Bolden, Kammeon Holsey
 - Notable losses: Mfon Udofia
 - Fresh faces: Travis Jorgenson, Quinton Stephens, Corey Heyward, Rand Rowland, Trae Golden

better team, but what does that mean now? We just added three of the most elite programs in the country over the last 10 years to the league.



DTH FILE/KATIE SWEENEY
Junior guard P.J. Hairston attempts to drive past Georgia Tech's Solomon Poole. UNC defeated Georgia Tech twice last season.

I think Wake Forest, Virginia, Florida State, Boston College, everybody will sit there and tell you, 'We're a lot better.' "The question is, who's got-

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Wake Forest adjusts after losing top scorer

Demon Deacons seek to fill void left by senior C.J. Harris.

By Hannah Lebowitz
Staff Writer

Wake Forest finished last season 13-18 (6-12 ACC) but being called an underdog is only motivating the players going into this season. "If something pops up on our phones or someone says something to us, we just use it as motivation," sophomore Codi Miller-McIntyre said. "We

have a lot to prove this year." Wake Forest has a more experienced team than this time last year. Miller-McIntyre is one of 10 sophomores returning to play for the team. They return four starters, but the team's leading scorer, guard C.J. Harris, graduated after last season. Senior Travis McKie, a three-year starter and two-time All-ACC honoree, has been one of the players preparing to help fill the hole Harris left. "This summer I focused on being a guard, working on pick and roll situations and helping out with ball handling situations since C.J. is now gone," McKie said. After starting every game as

a freshman last year, All-ACC freshman team selection Devin Thomas is also expected to be a threat on offense. Last season, the left-handed forward led the team in rebounds, blocked shots and field goal percentage. And coach Jeff Bzdelik even believes Thomas improved in multiple areas since. Guard Coron Williams, a postgraduate transfer from Robert Morris, joins the team for his fourth year of eligibility, expected to have an immediate impact on the squad. "He is someone that very well could start," Bzdelik said. "He has great experience, great respect from his teammates. He can really shoot the three."


- AT A GLANCE**
- Coach: Jeff Bzdelik
 - Last season: 13-18 (6-12, ACC) tied for ninth place
 - Preseason: 13th
 - Notable returners: Travis McKie, Devin Thomas, Codi Miller-McIntyre
 - Notable loss: C.J. Harris
 - Fresh faces: Greg McInton, Miles Overton, Coron Williams
- Wake Forest will open its season with five home games before going to the Bahamas for the "Battle 4 Atlantis" tournament. But for now, the team is focused on its first



DTH FILE/KEVIN HU
Jackson Simmons (21), Reggie Bullock (35) block out C.J. Harris (11).

five games, which Bzdelik described as their first season, and the tournament will be their second season. "Those five (home) games will be critical to getting off to

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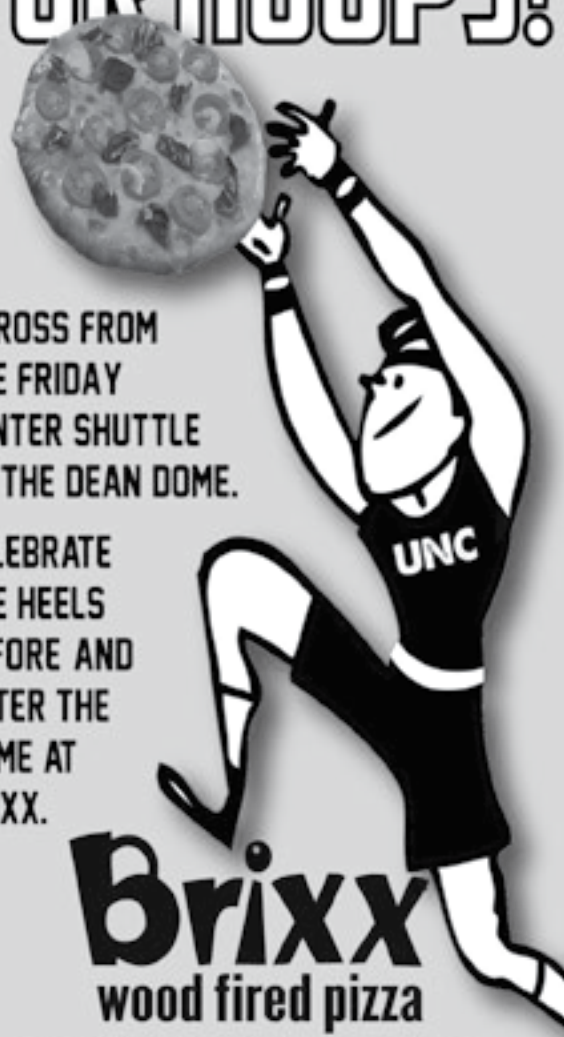
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Blue Devils welcome talented class

Jabari Parker, Rodney Hood will replace last season's stars.

By Ben Salkeld
Staff Writer

Duke enters the upcoming season after saying goodbye to seniors Seth Curry, Ryan Kelly and Mason Plumlee, who collectively accounted for more than half of the team's scoring last season.

It would be easy to assume, then, that Duke should struggle to match the success of last year's season in which it topped the top-25 poll for five weeks and reached the Elite Eight.

For the Blue Devils, however, the new season means the arrival of new world-class talent, a new up-tempo style and another year with cham-

pionship potential. "Our two most talented players have never played a minute for Duke yet," coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "So there has to be some period of adjustment in all of this. It's a lot different this year, and that's what makes it exciting."

The Blue Devils will look to newcomers Rodney Hood, a 6-foot-8 transfer from Mississippi State, and Jabari Parker, a freshman McDonald's All-American who has already donned the cover of an issue of Sports Illustrated, to help lead the team back to the top.

N.C. State coach Mark Gottfried believes Duke's talent and depth is more than enough to get the job done.

"I think Duke's the favorite to win the league, and I think they should be the preseason No. 1 in the country," Gottfried said. "No one in the country, including Kentucky, has two wing players as good as Jabari

Parker and Rodney Hood. Period. End of discussion."

Hood has already been named a captain for the year and said he welcomes the role of being a go-to guy and the pressure that comes with building a new team style.

In addition to debuting new talent, Duke is also preparing to unveil a high-tempo style to adapt to its revamped lineup. The loss of Mason Plumlee and Kelly means the team's front-court might be smaller, but the addition of tall wings like Hood and Parker increases the team's speed and athleticism.

"We're definitely going to be a lot faster," senior Tyler Thornton said. "It's always fun when you're trying to constantly run and get fastbreaks and help your defense turn into offense. That's the ideal way to play basketball."

Krzyzewski added the team's other primary strength is simply its depth. The team will return All-ACC third team



DTH FILE/KATIE SWEENEY

Junior forward James Michael McAdoo backs into Duke guard Seth Curry in the Smith Center. The Blue Devils and the Tar Heels played twice last season. Duke defeated UNC in both games.

guard Quinn Cook, a big man returning to health in Marshall Plumlee, ACC All Freshman team guard Rasheed Sulaimon, and senior forward Josh Hairston, who Krzyzewski said

is 15 to 20 pounds lighter and more athletic.

"We have a number of guys who are making a transition from either injury, sitting out or being a freshman,"

Krzyzewski said. "So we're not a team yet. We're a group of guys who are working hard and trying to develop into a team."

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Hatchell at forefront of young Tar Heels’ minds

Andrew Calder leads team with no seniors in Hatchell’s absence.

By Aaron Dodson
Assistant Sports Editor

Since being diagnosed with leukemia two weeks before the start of the season, not everything for Sylvia Hatchell has changed.

The Hall of Fame North Carolina women’s basketball coach announced she would be taking a temporary leave from her sideline duties.

But if there’s one thing cancer can’t take away from her — that she won’t let take from her — it’s her relationship with basketball embodied by the team she’s loved since arriving in Chapel Hill 28 years ago.

Though associate head coach Andrew Calder is filling Hatchell’s role in her absence, he knows that the team still belongs to Hatchell.

“What we lose is the fact that she’s in the Hall of Fame with over 900 (wins) — her experience and knowledge of the game — but she’s always made a commitment to prepare her assistant coaches to be head coaches one day,” Calder said. “I’ve been with her 27 years, and I’m going to coach the game through her eyes.”

“We’re still going to play Carolina basketball. We’re going to play hard, play smart, play together — defend, rebound, execute and compete with aggressive attacking mentality. That’s coach Sylvia Hatchell basketball.”

To live up to Hatchell’s vision, a young group of Tar Heels will all have to be on the same page.

After the graduation of point guard Tierra Ruffin-Pratt, forward Krista Gross and center Waltiea Rolle, UNC’s 2013-14 roster doesn’t list any seniors and only returns two

starters from last year’s team that finished second in the ACC and earned a No. 3 seed in the NCAA Tournament.

But with the departure of last year’s talent comes new, nationally reconized faces.

UNC welcomes the No. 1 freshman class in the country featuring a well-rounded group of four top-25 recruits.

Of the four freshmen, guard Diamond DeShields comes in with the highest expectations. She was named to the Coaches’ Preseason All-ACC Team, joining sophomore forward Xylina McDaniel on the list.

“They’re talented very coachable,” Calder said.

“They’ve meshed very well with the returners. Diamond DeShields is a special player. Allisha Gray can finish driving but she’s also a very good shooter. Jessica Washington does a very good job running the team, an outstanding passer. Stephanie Mavunga, a player that demands a double team inside.”

McDaniel, one of UNC’s two returning starters and the reigning ACC Rookie of the Year, said the task of leading the team will require a collective effort, regardless of age.

“I feel like there’s no age



DTH FILE/SPENCER HERLONG
Coach Sylvia Hatchell, diagnosed with leukemia before the start of the season, will temporarily step back from coaching duties.

limit to being the leader,” she said. “Everybody on the team leads at some point. Our seniors last year, they really showed how to lead ... so we pretty much watched what they did, learned from it and are now doing it.”

Despite a young team, and entering the season without its Hall of Fame coach on the sidelines, UNC was selected to finish fourth in both ACC preseason polls.

And, as most teams are already plotting to play in March, redshirt sophomore

guard Megan Buckland said the Tar Heels are now playing for something else.

“The obvious and very true answer is coach Hatchell,” she said. “Right now, she is definitely the motivation behind every single one of the players and coaches in our program.”

“She is a fighter and is going to do whatever it takes to get back to be with us. She is definitely still our leader and motivation factor going into the season.”

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2013-14 WOMEN’S BASKETBALL ROSTER

No.	Player	Year	Pos.	Height
1	Stephanie Mavunga	FR	F	6-3
2	Latifah Coleman	JR	G	5-9
3	Megan Buckland	SO	G	6-0
10	Danielle Butts	JR	G	5-10
11	Brittany Rountree	JR	G	5-9
13	Hillary Fuller	FR*	F	6-2
15	Allisha Gray	FR	G	6-0
22	N’Dea Bryant	SO	G	6-0
23	Diamond DeShields	FR	G	6-1
24	Jessica Washington	FR	G	5-8
30	Hillary Summers	FR*	F	6-2
31	Erika Johnson	JR	G	6-1
34	Xylina McDaniel	SO	F	6-2

*denotes redshirt

2013-14 WOMENS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	TV
Wed. Oct. 30	6 p.m.	vs. Carson-Newman (exhibition)	
Tues. Nov. 5	6 p.m.	vs. Wingate (exhibition)	
Fri. Nov. 8	4:30 p.m.	vs. Air Force	
Mon. Nov. 11	9 p.m.	vs. Tennessee	ESPN2
Sun. Nov. 17	6 p.m.	at UCLA	Pac-12 Network
Thurs. Nov. 21	6 p.m.	vs. Coastal Carolina	
Sun. Nov. 24	2 p.m.	vs. Coppin State	
Thurs. Nov. 28	3:30 p.m.	vs. Arkansas State (Cancun Challenge)	
Fri. Nov. 29	1 p.m.	vs. Arizona State (Cancun Challenge)	
Sat. Nov. 30	3:30 p.m.	vs. Illinois (Cancun Challenge)	
Weds. Dec. 4	6 p.m.	vs. Nebraska (ACC/Big Ten Challenge)	ESPN3
Sat. Dec. 14	1 p.m.	vs. Charleston Southern	
Mon. Dec. 16	6:30 p.m.	vs. New Orleans (Big South Tournament)	
Wed. Dec. 18	7 p.m.	vs. S. Carolina (Big South Tournament)	
Sat. Dec. 21	1 p.m.	vs. High Point	
Thurs. Jan. 2	2 p.m.	vs. James Madison	
Sun. Jan. 5	3 p.m.	vs. Maryland	ESPNU
Thurs. Jan. 9	6 p.m.	vs. N.C. State	ESPN3
Sun. Jan. 12	1 p.m.	at Florida State	RSN/ESPN3
Thurs. Jan. 16	6 p.m.	vs. Clemson	ESPN3
Sun. Jan. 19	1 p.m.	at Boston College	
Thurs. Jan. 23	7 p.m.	at Wake Forest	
Thurs. Jan. 30	7 p.m.	vs. Syracuse	RSN/ESPN3
Sun. Feb. 2	2 p.m.	vs. Miami	RSN/ESPN3
Thurs. Feb. 6	7 p.m.	at Georgia Tech	ESPN3
Mon. Feb. 10	7 p.m.	at Duke	ESPN2
Thurs. Feb. 13	6 p.m.	vs. Pittsburgh	ESPN3
Sun. Feb. 16	3:30 p.m.	at N.C. State	ESPN2
Thurs. Feb. 20	6:30 p.m.	at Virginia	RSN/ ESPN3
Sun. Feb. 23	2 p.m.	vs. Virginia Tech	ESPN3
Thurs. Feb. 27	7 p.m.	at Notre Dame	ESPN3
Sun. Mar. 2	1 p.m.	vs. Duke	ESPN

Women’s Cancun Challenge

UNC women’s basketball team will compete in the Cancun Challenge Thursday, Nov. 28 through Saturday, Nov. 30.

THURSDAY

11 p.m. Arizona State vs. Illinois

1:30 p.m. UNC vs. Arkansas State

4 p.m. UNC-W vs. Boston College

6:30 p.m. University of Southern California vs. Iowa

FRIDAY

11 p.m. UNC vs. Arizona State

1:30 p.m. Arkansas State vs. Illinois

4 p.m. Iowa vs. Boston College

6:30 p.m. University of Southern California vs. UNC-W

SATURDAY

11 p.m. Arizona State vs. Arkansas State

1:30 p.m. Illinois vs. UNC

4 p.m. Boston College vs. University of Southern California

6:30 p.m. UNC-W vs. Iowa

Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Tip Off Tournament Bracket

The UNC men’s basketball team will compete in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame tournament Nov. 23 and 24 at Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Conn.

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Sunday, Nov. 24

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Sunday, Nov. 24

at 3 p.m.

Consolation game

vs.

Saturday, Nov. 23

at 2 p.m.

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Maryland prepped for last hurrah in conference

Terrapins playing ACC farewell tour before jumping to Big Ten.

By Edgar Walker
Staff Writer

Maryland moves into its final ACC season with a target on its back.

Moving to the Big Ten in the 2014-15 season, the Terrapins are looking to make the most of their "last hurrah" in the conference they helped create 60 years ago.

Mark Turgeon's team is hoping to continue its steady improvement under his leadership and build on a 25-win campaign last season. The third-year coach said he is trying to tune out the Big Ten talk as much as possible.

"It's overwhelming to watch two leagues," he said "You just concentrate on Maryland."

Despite losing 7-foot center Alex Len to the NBA Draft, the team brings back the majority of its key contributors from last season. Leading scorer Dez Wells, who scored 13.1 points per game, returns for his second year in Turgeon's system and will team up with wing Nick Faust to form one of the ACC's more formidable slashing duos. Add multitalented sophomore Jake Layman to the equation and the Terrapins are deep on the wings.

Layman is one of four sophomores expected to take a big step forward in their second year in College Park, and his shooting ability and athleticism at 6-foot-8 make him an intriguing candidate for a breakout season.

"It's a new Jake," Turgeon said, adding that Layman is more confident and focused coming into his sophomore season.



AT A GLANCE

- Coach: Mark Turgeon
- Last season: 25-13 (8-10, ACC), 7th place
- Preseason ACC: 7th
- Notable returners: Nick Faust, Dez Wells
- Notable losses: Alex Len, Logan Aonhalt, James Padgett, Pe'Shon Howard
- Fresh faces: Roddy Peters, A.J. Metz, Damonte Dodd
- Last season in the ACC

New faces for the Terrapins include freshman point guard Roddy Peters — a consensus top-50 prospect coming out of high school — and Michigan transfer Evan Smotrycz, a 6-foot-8 hybrid forward whose versatility is his calling card.

Turgeon emphasized that the team would be building around Smotrycz, saying that his presence and threat as an outside shooter would open up lanes for the team's guards.

Faust, who is looked upon as a team leader entering his junior year, echoed the same sentiments about Smotrycz.

"He's a stretch four who will open up driving lanes," Faust said.

"Having him on the floor helps us."

Maryland was voted to finish seventh in the ACC's preseason media poll, the same position it finished in last season.

And although the undeniable winds of realignment are blowing through the ACC at a vicious pace, Faust said it's still business as usual in College Park.

"We're not really approaching it any different," he said. "We're coming with the goal in our minds that we're making the NCAA tournament."

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J.P. Tokoto protects the ball from Maryland's Jake Layman. UNC defeated Maryland twice in the regular season last year.

DTH FILE/CHRIS CONWAY

2013-2014 MEN'S BASKETBALL ROSTER

No.	Player	Year	Pos.	Height
0	Nate Britt	FR	G	5'11"
2	Leslie McDonald	SR (RS)	G	6'5"
3	Kennedy Meeks	FR	F	6'9"
4	Luke Davis	JR	G	6'0"
5	Marcus Paige	SO	G	6'1"
11	Brice Johnson	SO	F	6'9"
13	J.P. Tokoto	SO	F	6'5"
14	Desmond Hubert	JR	F	6'10"
15	P. J. Hairston	JR	G	6'6"
21	Jackson Simmons	JR	F	6'7"
22	Isaiah Hicks	FR	F	6'8"
30	James Manor	SR	F	6'6"
34	Denzel Robinson	SR	F	6'4"
42	Joel James	SO	F	6'10"
43	James Michael McAdoo	JR	F	6'9"
55	Wade Moody	SR	G	6'0"

Head Coach: Roy Williams
Director of Basketball Operations:
Brad Frederick

Assistant Coach: Steve Robinson
Assistant Coach: Hubert Davis
Assistant Coach: C.B. McGrath

2013-14 MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	TV
Fri. Nov. 8	9 p.m.	vs. Oakland	
Fri. Nov. 15	8 p.m.	vs. Holy Cross	ESPNU
Sun. Nov. 17	4 p.m.	vs. Belmont	ESPNU
Sat. Nov. 23	12 p.m.	vs. Richmond	EPSN3
Sun. Nov. 24	TBA	vs. TBA	
Sun. Dec. 1	6 p.m.	at UAB	FS1
Weds. Dec. 4	9 p.m.	at Michigan State	ESPN
Sat. Dec. 7	7 p.m.	vs. UNC-Greensboro	ESPNU
Sat. Dec. 14	5:15 p.m.	vs. Kentucky	ESPN
Weds. Dec. 18	7 p.m.	vs. Texas	ESPN2
Sat. Dec. 21	5 p.m.	vs. Davidson	ESPNU
Fri. Dec. 27	7 p.m.	vs. Northern Kentucky	ESPNU
Tue. Dec. 31	5 p.m.	vs. UNC-Wilmington	ESPNU
Sun. Jan. 5	8 p.m.	at Wake Forest	ESPNU
Wed. Jan. 8	9 p.m.	vs. Miami	ESPN2
Sat. Jan. 11	12 p.m.	at Syracuse	ESPN
Sat. Jan. 18	12 p.m.	vs. Boston College	ESPN/ESPN2
Mon. Jan. 20	7 p.m.	at Virginia	ESPN
Sun. Jan. 26	6 p.m.	vs. Clemson	ESPNU
Weds. Jan. 29	7 p.m.	at Georgia Tech	ESPN2
Sat. Feb. 1	2 p.m.	vs. N.C. State	ESPN/ESPN2
Tue. Feb. 4	8 p.m.	vs. Maryland	ACCN
Sat. Feb. 8	12 p.m.	at Notre Dame	ACCN
Wed. Feb. 12	9 p.m.	vs. Duke	ESPN/ACCN
Sat. Feb. 15	1 p.m.	vs. Pittsburgh	CBS
Mon. Feb. 17	7 p.m.	at Florida State	ESPN
Sat. Feb. 22	12 p.m.	vs. Wake Forest	ACCN
Weds. Feb. 26	8 p.m.	at N.C. State	ACCN
Sat. Mar. 1	2:30 p.m.	at Virginia Tech	ACCN
Mon. Mar. 3	1:30 p.m.	vs. Notre Dame	ESPNU
Sat. Mar. 8	9 p.m.	at Duke	ESPN



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Tigers test youth in revamped conference

Clemson will take the court this season without any seniors.

By Holden Hill
Staff Writer

After losing 10 of its last 11 games and finishing 5-13 in ACC play last season, the Clemson Tigers want to turn things around this year.

But that will be easier said than done for a team that has no returning seniors and has lost Devin Booker and Milton Jennings.

The Tigers lost both of them to graduation.

The duo led the team in rebounding last year, and were also first and third in scoring, respectively.

"In practices thus far, there are times when there's just

not quite as much urgency as there needs to be," coach Brad Brownell said when asked about the youth of his team.

"Guys that are older and playing in their last year are much quicker to make corrections and get upset."

For Brownell, that lack of urgency needs to be addressed among his players and not necessarily him each time.

"I feel like I'm the guy that has to make them understand, 'Hey, we can't keep making these kinds of mistakes. We have to correct these mistakes quicker.' It's a little challenging, but it's part of what you understand when you have a younger team."

Brownell, who is in his fourth season as head coach at Clemson, has seen his team fall from 22-12 and an NCAA Tournament win in the 2010-2011 season to 16-15 during the 2011-2012 campaign to 13-18 last season.

One of Clemson's few bright spots is junior K.J. McDaniels, who will play a key role in the effort to reverse the dipping trend.

The forward is an athletic playmaker who was among the team's top three scorers and rebounders last season, along with Booker and Jennings.

He also led the team with 2.1 blocks per game, an impressive feat considering he's only 6-foot-6.

Heading into the year, a Clemson team plagued by inexperience and predicted to finish second to last in the ACC will be tested in a conference that will only be strengthened this year with the addition of Syracuse, Pittsburgh and Notre Dame — all of which the Tigers will play on the road.

But McDaniels believes his team is ready for the challenge.

"Last year is last year," McDaniels said.

AT A GLANCE

- Coach: Brad Brownell
- Last season: 13-18 (5-13, ACC) tied for 10th in ACC
- Preseason ACC: 14th
- Notable returners: Rod Hall, Damarcus Harrison, K.J. McDaniels
- Notable losses: Devin Booker, Milton Jennings
- Fresh faces: Ibrahim Djambo, Sidy Djitte

"We just take that as a learning experience. I believe we've all matured, and I believe that will help us carry over into this year."

And they'll find out soon.


"I feel like this year we're going to be the best we can be for each other and do some good things."

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DTH FILE/KATIE WILLIAMS

Marcus Paige (right) fends off Clemson's Jordan Roper in North Carolina's 68-59 win in Littlejohn Coliseum last season.



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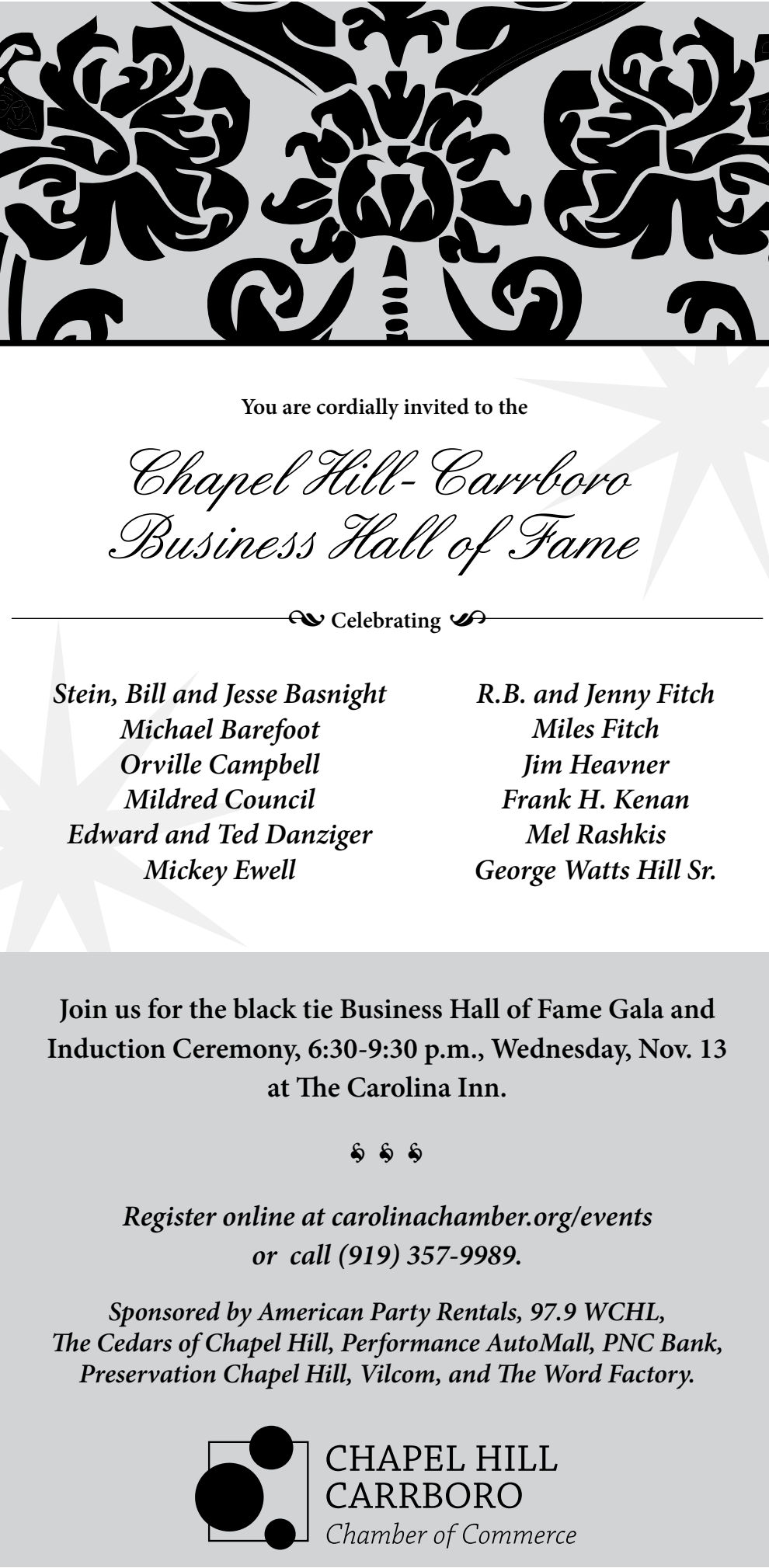
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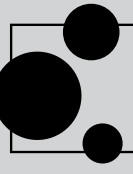
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A year later, State starts from scratch

The Wolfpack lost six letterwinners from last year's squad.

By Kevin Phinney
Staff Writer

There is one thing about N.C. State's basketball team this season that is undeniable — it will be different.

Six letterwinners, four starters and more than 66 points per game. Gone. Things will be different. And it starts at the point guard spot.

Gone is the physical frame of Lorenzo Brown. And in his place stands the 5-foot-11 frame of Tyler Lewis.

"Our games are kind of different because our stature is different," he said. "He's like

6-foot-5 and I'm not that tall."

Lewis knows he isn't going to fill the shoes of Brown, but he does want to walk a similar path. His focus is on leadership and for a squad that lost most of its key contributors, leadership is a good place to start.

One constant from last season is the lone returning starter sophomore T.J. Warren. He averaged 12.1 points per game last season, which makes him the leading returning scorer. And while that may point to him as the obvious solution on offense, coach Mark Gottfried knows his team won't rely solely on Warren to score the ball.

"I don't think we'll build our offense around one guy," Gottfried said. "He's going to score the ball no matter what and we'll try to do some things to put him in the best places we can to help him."

Gottfried also knows the balanced scoring approach of last year's team is long gone.

"We had five guys averaging over 12 points a game," Gottfried said of last year. "I don't know that that's the case this year with our team."

With everything N.C. State lost, it would be easy to discount it from the ACC championship picture. Warren isn't taking that as an insult, but as a challenge.

"We're kinda flying under the underdog radar right now," Warren said. "We just want to surprise a lot of people and open up some eyes this season."

Now, just a year removed from a national No. 5 preseason ranking, the Wolfpack lacks the same preseason hype, coming in 10th in the ACC preseason poll. But it's a role they're accepting. They aren't the same team from last year.

Lewis and Warren are both sophomores stepping into new roles they didn't have last year.

"I've got to learn to be comfortable in uncomfortable situations," Lewis said. "I know I've got to do it for this team to be successful."

AT A GLANCE

- Coach: Mark Gottfried
- Last season: 24-11 (11-7 ACC), tied for third
- Preseason ACC rank: 10th
- Notable returners: Tyler Lewis, T.J. Warren
- Notable losses: C.J. Leslie, Scott Wood, Richard Howell, Lorenzo Brown, Rodney Purvis
- Fresh faces: Anthony "Cat" Barber

ations," Lewis said. "I know I've got to do it for this team to be successful."

Lewis may not have Brown's imposing stature, but he is ready to stand much taller than 5-foot-11 and lead this team forward.

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DTH FILE PHOTO

Guard P.J. Hairston works against an N.C. State defender. UNC and N.C. State matched up twice last year and split the contests.



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DTH FILE/HALLE SINNOTT
Junior forward James Michael McAdoo dribbles around Virginia Tech's C.J. Barksdale. Barksdale is one of three returning starters for the Hokies, who finished in last place in the ACC last season.

Hokies aim to get out of ACC basement

Virginia Tech finished in last place in the ACC last season.

By Logan Ulrich
Staff Writer

It's impossible to miss the chip on the shoulder of the Virginia Tech basketball team, and after finishing last in the ACC last year, the Hokies are determined not to repeat. "I remind my team that they picked us last and we got to come out and prove everybody wrong," said freshman and team captain Ben Emelogu. Led by Emelogu and second-year coach James Johnson, the team plans to play a more up-tempo style this year. In an expanded ACC, the Hokies hope their depth and pace make up for the youth that characterizes the team from top to bottom. "We're going to extend the court a little more," redshirt sophomore Joey van Zegeren said. "We're going to be very, very high-pressure on the ball

and make sure that the ball handler has trouble with us." Johnson will look to Emelogu to hold his team together. A freshman from Grand Prairie, Texas, Emelogu quickly established himself as the leader of this young Hokie team. Johnson named him as a team captain before pre-season practices even began. "He's a young man who came in from day one and demanded the respect of the upperclassmen and of the team," Johnson said. "The guys respected him, he has natural leadership abilities, natural leadership talents and it's kind of been a natural for him." One of the other challenge facing Virginia Tech is replacing the production of Erick Green, who graduated and left for the NBA after last season. The star point guard averaged 25 points per game, the most of any player in college basketball last season. Forwards Cadarian Raines and Jarell Eddie, the only two seniors on the team, will have to step up to help shoulder the scoring burden. Despite his absence, Green still has a positive impact on the Hokies. He was known for

AT A GLANCE

- Coach: James Johnson
- Last season: 13-19 (4-14, ACC), last place in the ACC
- Preseason ACC: 15th
- Notable returners: Cadarian Raines, Jarell Eddie, C.J. Barksdale
- Notable losses: Erick Green, Robert Brown
- Fresh faces: Malik Mueller, Devin Wilson, Ben Emelogu, Maurice Kirby, Trevor Thompson
- The nation's leading scorer Erick Green graduated.

his work ethic and the extra time he spent in the gym, and his example still serves to motivate the current Hokie players. "I think the biggest thing we've learned from him is how much he put into the game," van Zegeren said. "I think that's rubbed off on a lot of our players this year and that's going to help us get better."

sports@dailytarheel.com

Cavaliers continue to climb the ACC

Virginia is considered the deepest team in program history.

By Kate Eastman
Staff Writer

After beating then-No. 3 Duke in February last season, the Virginia men's basketball team had high hopes for NCAA Tournament success. That aspiration, however, never translated into action. The Cavaliers failed to make the tournament and lost in the NIT quarterfinals, ending the season with a 23-12 record.



Senior Joe Harris is not willing to let history repeat itself. Leading an experienced team stocked with veteran players, Harris said picking a starting lineup for the upcoming season will be a difficult process. But this bodes well for the 2013-14 squad, which is considered to have the most depth of any team in program history. "The fact that we have almost an overload of point guards is awesome," Harris said. "It's not a bad problem to have at all. We have four guys who are all capable of playing that spot." The 6-foot-6 reigning team-leading scorer Harris, named to last season's All-ACC first team, holds significant offensive promise. With only two freshmen on the roster, the Cavaliers will rely on the leadership of Harris and fellow senior Akil Mitchell, who led last season's team in rebounds and steals. "As many veterans as we have coming back who know the system, I think we'll be fine," Mitchell said. Although summer injuries hindered the offseason prog-



DTH FILE/CHRIS CONWAY
James Michael McAdoo attempts to block a dunk by U.Va.'s Akil Mitchell — one of three returning starters for the Cavaliers.

ress of both standouts, Harris and Mitchell are expected to play in full form in the Cavaliers' season debut. Redshirt sophomore Anthony Gill, sophomores Mike Tobey and Evan Nolte and junior Darion Atkins hope to see significant minutes with both Harris and Mitchell this season, as well. "We'll see how good our chemistry is because we've got some more depth," coach Tony Bennett said. "Guys will keep fighting for minutes, but I don't think that's a weakness because we've got some character kids." Bennett admitted that his team lacks three-point shooting ability, but believes that its physicality will compensate. "This is the most physical team I've had," Bennett said. "Our guards are strong. I like the depth ... I think we're fairly complete, but we'll see how we shoot the ball.

"We worked hard to get our program to a point where we have a chance to be good."

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AT A GLANCE

- Coach: Tony Bennett
- Last season: 23-12 (11-7, ACC)
- Preseason ACC: 4th
- Notable returners: Justin Anderson, Joe Harris, Akil Mitchell
- Notable losses: Jontel Evans, Doug Browman
- Fresh faces: Devon Hall, London Perrantes
- The Cavaliers posted back-to-back 20-win seasons for the first time since 1992-93

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Syracuse enters ACC hot

The Orange was predicted to finish second in the ACC.

By Dylan Howlett
Staff Writer

Baye Moussa Keita might be college basketball's world-liest center. He left his home in Senegal for harsh winters and equally unforgiving Big East rivalries to play for Syracuse.

In his spare time, Keita would occasionally flip on the TV to watch ACC games, mostly to catch a glimpse of a friend who plays for Maryland.

He saw things he had never seen. Cameron Indoor Stadium. Chapel Hill.

He had to go to these cathedrals of basketball.

"After watching a couple of games and watching Duke, North Carolina, you have that sense of, 'Wow, I want to play this team and measure up and see what we have as a team,'" said Keita, a senior who averaged 3.7 points and 3.7 rebounds per game last season.

Keita and his teammates will get that chance when they join the ACC this season, having left the now-gutted Big East at the conclusion of last season.

Keita's team experienced an exodus on a smaller scale, losing two starters from the Orange's 2013 Final Four squad.

What won't change with the Orange's athletic relocation — the task of matching a stable of highly skilled, well-coached clubs with perennial national title aspirations.

"There's not much of a difference being in a different league," said Jim Boeheim, Syracuse's Hall of Fame bench boss for 37 years. "It's fairly similar. I think the players are excited about playing the ACC, but I think they're excited every year to play."

Boeheim, who guided the Orange to 30 wins and a fifth place finish in the Big East last season, said he's more concerned about acclimating his young guards to the col-

lege game rather than ACC basketball.

Promising freshman point guard Tyler Ennis vies to succeed Michael Carter-Williams — a 2013 NBA first-round draft pick — as the Orange's floor marshal.

Syracuse brings its vaunted zone defense to the ACC as a housewarming gift.

A cocktail of hair-pulling pressure and maddening patience, the Orange zone is as sharp as it's ever been, Boeheim said.

Keita and senior forward C.J. Fair — a player of the year candidate who received preseason honors — assume the team's leadership mantle from the departed Carter-Williams, guard Brandon Triche and forward James Southerland.

The Orange remain as self-assured as the team that fell in the 2013 national semifinals to Michigan.

"For us, in our first year, we want to win the ACC so that we can brag years later about how we won our first year," Fair said.

Keita doesn't have years to experience ACC basketball. He only has 2013-14 to

AT A GLANCE

- Coach: Jim Boeheim
- Last season: 30-10 (11-7 Big East), tie for 5th in Big East.
- Preseason ACC: 2nd
- Notable returners: C.J. Fair, Rakeem Christmas, DaJuan Coleman
- Notable losses: Brandon Triche, James Southerland, Michael Carter-Williams
- Fresh faces: B.J. Johnson, Tyler Ennis, Tyler Roberson, Ron Patterson, Chinonso Obokoh
- Syracuse has 43 straight winning seasons, good for a Division I record. Boeheim has 920 wins.

see and feel what he saw on TV from upstate New York: Cameron Indoor, the Dean E. Smith Center.

Keita and the Orange are about to become a little worldlier.

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THE CHANGING FACE OF THE ACC

The conference expanded from 12 to 15 teams this season with the additions of Syracuse, Notre Dame and Pittsburgh. Next season, Maryland will leave the ACC for the Big Ten but will be replaced by Louisville. Notre Dame joins the ACC for all sports but football and hockey but will play five ACC football games in 2014.

These 11 ACC teams will remain in the conference for the 2013 season. Of these teams, Boston College was the last to join in 2005. UNC has been a member of the ACC since 1953.

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Notre Dame ready for ACC's prowess

The Fighting Irish enter their first year in a new conference.

By Brandt Berry
Staff Writer

Walking around ACC Media Day, Notre Dame guard Jerian Grant was in unfamiliar territory. "It's different," the senior said. "In the Big East if I was coming to this, I would know most of the guys. So just not knowing a lot of



the guys is different." Different will become the new normal for the Fighting Irish this season as the team begins its first full year of play in the revamped ACC. But according to fellow senior guard Eric Atkins, the change of scenery is a thrilling one. "It's exciting," Atkins said of the change. "To see everyone for the first time, it gives you the feeling that we're really here and it's starting to get going." Coach Mike Brey echoed the sentiments of both Grant and Atkins, and also cited the competitiveness of the league as a huge plus. "You're never dead in a league, in a league like this,"

Brey said. "Because there are always other good games to get." The good games will be key for the Irish, who will be looking to continue their streak of five consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances. Despite being the new team in a strong league, the Irish will be looking to make an immediate impression. The team returns its entire starting backcourt from a year ago in Grant, Atkins and Pat Connaughton. "I'm glad we're going to the league this year, because we have experience," Brey said. "Especially on the perimeter with Atkins, Grant and

Connaughton." After losing the starting frontcourt combination of Scott Martin and first-team All-Big East performer Jack Cooley, the Irish will figure to be a more guard-oriented team. But for Atkins, it's a role that he knows he is ready for. "We were really reliant on Jack last year," Atkins said. "So we're going to be a more guard-oriented team this year, but me and Jerian are ready for that." Brey didn't shy away from the backcourt, setting his expectations for it as the season progresses. "They really know how to play on both ends of the

floor," Brey said of the trio. "We're going to lean on them hard this year." For the frontcourt, fifth-year senior Garrick Sherman, sophomore Cameron Biedscheid and graduate student Tom Knight will take up most of the minutes. Heralded freshman V.J. Beachem will also figure to play a role for the Irish in their maiden conference campaign, as they look to find a reliable rotation. If all goes according to plan for Brey and the Irish, this certain "difference" could be a formidable one.

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- AT A GLANCE**
- Coach: Mike Brey
 - Last season: 25-10 (11-7, Big East) tied for 5th place
 - Preseason ACC: 5th
 - Notable returners: Eric Atkins, Jerian Grant, Pat Connaughton, Tom Knight
 - Notable losses: Jack Cooley
 - Fresh faces: V.J. Beachem, Demetrius Jackson, Steve Vasturia, Austin Torres
 - Notre Dame will be playing in the ACC for the first time this season

Pittsburgh excited for change in officiating

Emphasis on fouls in ACC could help Panthers.

By Bryan Frantz
Staff Writer

At his first ACC media day on Oct. 16, Pittsburgh senior forward Talib Zanna answered a plethora of questions about the move to the ACC from the Big East. He told



reporters about his opinion on the move, and the changes he and his team would face in their new league. Among changes, Zanna mentioned an anticipated difference in officiating. "Big East, they don't call no fouls," the Nigeria native said. "But me, watching the ACC teams, they really call fouls." This could help open up a path for a breakout year for Zanna, who, despite sharing the court with center Steven Adams last season, still managed to put up 9.6 points and 6.1 rebounds per game.

Adams, the Panthers' top rebounder last season, was drafted by the Oklahoma City Thunder in June's NBA draft and is one of three key players Pittsburgh lost this summer. The Panthers also saw guard Tray Woodall — their top scorer last season — graduate and forward J.J. Moore transfer to Rutgers. Those three and guard Trey Zeigler, who transferred to TCU, combined for more than 31 points, 13 rebounds and 7 assists per game. Hoping to make up some of those numbers are prized recruits guard Josh Newkirk

and forward Michael Young. Young, at 6-foot-8, is expected to come in and start at power forward immediately, while Zanna, 6-foot-9, will move to center to replace Adams, who held an intimidating presence down low at 7-foot-0. Coach Jamie Dixon hopes the revamped frontcourt can hold its own on the glass, despite its size. "We're gonna be inexperienced on the front line, and so that concerns me about the rebounding," he said. "Even though we recruited these guys to be rebounders, so they better be what we think they

are." According to the preseason media poll, Pitt was projected to finish sixth in the conference. Zanna has improved in almost every aspect of his game each season, and now, in his final year of eligibility, is primed for a big senior season. After his vigorous offseason conditioning program, Zanna thinks he's ready. "I ran a lot and tried to stay in shape," he said. "I'm in the best shape I've ever been in."

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- AT A GLANCE**
- Coach: Jamie Dixon
 - Last season: 24-9 (12-6, Big East), 4th place
 - Preseason ACC: 6th
 - Notable returners: James Robinson, Lamar Patterson, Talib Zanna
 - Notable losses: Tray Woodall, J.J. Moore, Steven Adams
 - Fresh faces: Michael Young, Josh Newkirk, Joshua Ko
 - 12 straight 20-win seasons

MARCUS PAIGE, YOUNG FLOOR MARSHAL



DTH FILE/CHRIS CONWAY

Marcus Paige (5) huddles the team during a game against Maryland in Chapel Hill last season. Reggie Bullock (left) jumped to the NBA and now plays for the LA Clippers and Dexter Strickland (1) graduated.

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