

BLACK INK SPORTS: The Tar Heels look good in '93

By Corey Brown
Ink Co-Editor

It's that time of year again. Time for all the three-pointers, 360 degree dunks, fast breaks, free throws, last-second jumpers and Cinderella squads. Yes, basketball season is back. This year will mark the premiere of the all-important Black Ink Top 15 College Basketball Poll.

For Dean Smith's troops in '92-'93, expect another year of 20 wins and a trip to the sweet sixteen of the NCAA tournament.

With the deep lineup that returns for the Tar Heels, this year's squad can prove to be even better than the unit that reached the Final Four two years ago.

The frontcourt of Eric Montross, George Lynch and Brian Reese is arguably the best in the country. The Tar Heels could conceivably out-rebound every opponent with these guys cleaning the glass.

The backcourt features the tenacious defense of Derrick Phelps,

who brings much needed experience to point guard. The only question that remains unanswered with Phelps, is if he will be able to nail the open jumper to help open things up for the big men.

Donald Williams will probably take over the starting position from Henrik Rodl, once he curbs his shooter's mentality and shows some shot discipline. Freshman Dante Calabria is also showing some early maturity and should get more playing time as the season progresses.

Bench depth will not be a problem. Kevin Salvadori, who would be a starter at most other schools, has proved to be a good shot blocker and rebounder. He's even surprised most by his offensive skills. Pat Sullivan finally looks comfortable in the offensive scheme and Henrik Rodl can instantly contribute solid minutes in both the point and shooting guard positions.

Matt Wenstrom is, well, a big body to take up space and give five fouls. Freshman Ed Geth and Larry

Davis, although they will only get limited playing time, can both fill important roles for the Tar Heels.

The only weaknesses this team has will be its lack of experience at shooting guard and its lack of team speed. Donald Williams is a pure shooter, but will he be consistent? Herick Rodl has the experience, but has no speed and only a set shot at best.

The lack of team speed will show up when the Tar Heels face a squad that has a lot of quickness like Florida State, or a team with athletic ability at key spots like Duke.

There are also intangibles such as if the team will stay healthy. Or will the players maintain a level of discipline and maturity.

Last year, the peak of the season seemed to be the Feb. 5 victory over then-unbeaten Duke. In order for the Heels to do any damage this year, the team has to stay consistent.

Now, for the rankings. The Kansas Jayhawks debut as number one

in the Ink Top 15. Coach Roy Williams, a protégé of Dean Smith and the heir apparent to coach UNC when (God forbid) Smith retires, has his team primed and ready for battle. This is a fundamentally sound Kansas team, they play as a team and stick to their game plan. In typical student-teacher fashion, Williams has Kansas run the same system as the Tar Heels—only they run it better. The Jayhawks have no true superstar, but senior Addonis Jordan is their go-to-guy in the clutch. Look for Kansas to win the Big 8 title and be a top ranked team going into the NCAA tournament.

Duke is not number one because they are living off the reputation of previous Blue Devil teams. They lack the depth to be as strong as the "experts" project them to be.

Michigan, despite their loss to Duke is not as close to number one as most people think. Sure, they have lots of talent, but the Wolverines have no system or team phi-

losophy to follow. They rely too heavily on athletic ability.

The sleeper team of the year, Arkansas. Despite the loss of Todd Day, Lee Mayberry and Oliver Miller, Coach Nolan Richardson will have his Razorbacks turn a few heads before it's all said and done.

Black Ink Top 15

- 1 Kansas Jayhawks
- 2 Indiana Hoosiers
- 3 North Carolina Tar Heels
- 4 Kentucky Wildcats
- 5 Duke Blue Devils
- 6 Michigan Wolverines
- 7 Seton Hall Pirates
- 8 Florida State Seminoles
- 9 Iowa Hawkeyes
- 10 Georgetown Hoyas
- 11 Oklahoma Sooners
- 12 Syracuse Orangemen
- 13 Louisville Cardinals
- 14 Arkansas Razorbacks
- 15 Georgia Tech Yellowjackets

The creators of TAJ Mahal Productions

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For black students on the University's campus, the weekends can be as boring as Mondays.

But Todd Reid, Jared Neal and Antoine Howard—the men behind TAJ Mahal Productions—have decided to try and change that outlook.

TAJ Mahal Productions has sponsored several parties throughout the semester, but it's not just an average jam. They provide live entertainment in a restaurant atmosphere.

Todd Reid, a junior biology major from Charlotte, said that he and Howard developed the idea while dining in the Looking Glass Café.

They talked to the manager, who in turn expressed an interest, but the group felt like they needed a bigger place such as Pizza Hut.

"We were surprised at how easy it was," Reid said. "When we approached the manager of Pizza Hut with the idea, he instantly approved it."

Jared Neal, a junior political sci-

ence major from Gastonia, explained his vision of the purpose of TAJ Mahal Productions.

"We want to present black stu-

and reggae.

Antoine Howard, a biology major from Charlotte, was quick to point out the advantages TAJ Mahal

**"Todd, Antoine and Jared equals TAJ. Mahal means palace, so it's like our palace."
-Antoine Howard**

dents a different type of situation that they are used to," said Neal. "By having parties in this setting, it's a much more relaxed atmosphere."

Neal also said that the group was trying to expose students to different forms of music, such as hip hop that hasn't reached the area

parties have over Great Hall in the Student Union.

"Parties in Great Hall can only run until 1:30 and most people don't even show up until it's half-way over," Howard said. "We can keep a party going until we want to stop."

The trio stressed the need for support from University students.

Howard said, "At our last jam, A & T, N.C. State, N.C. Central and Shaw were in the house deep."

Reid added, "We really encourage UNC students to support us, I mean after all, that's who we want to cater to."

Reid added, "We would like to provide entertainment on a campus for black people. Eventually we would like to open a structure with a live food and a DJ."

Be on the lookout for TAJ Mahal Productions events. They are planning a New Year's eve party for Tar Heels fan and students who make the journey to Atlanta.

They are also in the process of putting together a ski trip in West Virginia the third weekend in January.

They've hooked up with a promoter in Washington, D.C., to try and bring live acts to Chapel Hill including Kid Capri, A Tribe Called Quest and Redman.

With projects like these, expect to see more from Todd Antoine and Jared in the future.

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