



Seahawk Sports

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Wainwright's new recruits form strong backing for next season

by ROSA TYSOR

Staff Writer

"Any time you are part of the first of anything, it's always exciting. Making our first trip to the NCAA's was very exciting."

Coach Jerry Wainwright, speaking of last month's trip to the national championship, also has high hopes for another chance at glory in 2001.

"You always want a repeat," he said. "You always want to go back."

But to keep the champion Seahawk men's basketball team at full strength, Wainwright will have to replace some of the graduating seniors from this year with impressive and talented new players.

"We want to have the same good people... [which means] we have to continue to recruit better athletes," Wainwright said.

"We have to replace a lot of size with losing Vic and Oleg. That's a big loss in terms of size." Size is definitely a factor in the new recruits coming in. Signees for the 2000-2001 season range in height from 6-1 to 6-9.

"Without any hesitation, I can say in my wildest dreams that I didn't think this could happen. People who see us play in the next few years are going to be really taken by these kids. They'll help us attract people to Trask Coliseum and help us schedule at the next level."

Seahawk stars of tomorrow

Tim Burnette, a 6'1", 185 lb. guard from Judson High School in Converse, Texas averaged 17.0 points, 4.0 rebounds and 3.5 assists in his junior season. He is a two-time All-District

performer. He was named to All-City and All-Region teams and selected as Pre-Season All-State in the 5A classification.

"Tim is one of the top 15 players in the state of Texas. He may be the best athlete we recruited. He's quick and strong with tremendous jumping ability. Playing behind Barron [Thelmon] in his first year will have a great impact on his growth," said Wainwright.

Joel Justus, a 6'5", 190 lb. forward from Mt. Tabor High School in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, averaged 16.2 points, 3.1 rebounds and 4.2 assists last season for coach Andy Muse.

He led his high school to an 18-12 record and the third round of the state playoffs last season. He shoots 47 percent, including 39 percent behind the arc. He is the son of former UNCW Sports Information Director John Justus.

"Joel reminds me of Stewart Hare in that he's an extremely knowledgeable player who has tremendous shooting ability. Joel needs to add weight and will probably be redshirted in his freshman year. He has the potential to be an outstanding swing man in the CAA," said Wainwright.

Anthony Terrell, a 6'6", 215 lb. forward from Rowlett High School in Rowlett, Texas averaged 22 points and 11 rebounds last season. Mike Kunstadt's *Texas Basketball Review* rates him among the Top 20 senior prospects in the state of Texas.

Wainwright said of Terrell: "I'm very excited about Anthony because we probably haven't had an athlete his size in our program since I've been here. Anthony has tremendous speed and jumping ability and the frame to easily add 15 or 20

pounds."

"He's arguably one of the best players in the state of Texas. He will bring immediate rebounding and defensive help to our front court as a freshman."

Ed Williams, a 6'6", 225 pound forward from Irving High School and Ranger Junior College in Ranger, Texas is considered one of the top JUCO players in the country. Familiar with both post and wing forward positions, he averaged 22 points, 12 rebounds and four assists last season.

He was named second-team Pre-Season All-America by NJCAA this year and first-team All-Conference and All-Region last season. He was an All-District player during his prep career at Irving High School.

"[Williams] has the talent and potential to play at the next level. He's a gifted athlete who can play two or three different positions. He's an explosive scorer whose experience will ease the loss of four seniors," said Wainwright.

Brandon Clifford, a 6'9", 215 lb. forward from Page High School in Greensboro, North Carolina, averaged 21 points, 11 rebounds, four assists and two blocks per game in his junior season.

He made the All-Tournament team in the Bob Gibbons Tournament of Champions last July. He has an excellent range for a larger player, and shoots over 50 percent from the field, including 40 percent from the three-point range.

"I've probably paid more attention to Brandon Clifford than my wife over the last three years. Since Marcus Green, he's the No. 1 North Carolina kid we've recruited," said Wainwright.

"With a work ethic like Danny Davis and Brian

Rowsom, he has a chance to be the best player ever seen at this school."

"Our success this year has opened more doors for us," the senior coach said of UNCW's CAA title and NCAA bid. "It helps us in terms of recruiting people. Brandon Clifford came here instead of going to the ACC because he knows he has a chance to play here [during his freshman year]."

Wainwright's plan for 2000-2001

With all this talent coming in, coach Wainwright is ready to begin integrating the new players into his game plan at once.

"Our new guys are really going to have to contribute right away. Next year we could have as many as 3-4 players playing major minutes who have never played college basketball before," he said, adding that he will rely heavily on phenom Brett Blizzard in 2000.

"He's got to be more of a leader, even though he'll only be a sophomore, obviously he's a proven player. He's going to have to be not just the go-to guy on the floor but a real leader off the floor. [But] we can't just rely on him to score."

"I think we'll have more speed in next year's team, and more athleticism, so we'll really try to play more up tempo," he said.

"The thing we're proudest of is we beat both hometown teams [in the CAA tournament], VCU and Richmond, and of course we beat the number 1 seed, George Mason, so there was no fluke in terms of us winning the tournament championship. We went right through the toughest teams in the league."

UNCW baseball hopes for another conference champion title this year

by AMANDA BREEDLOVE

Correspondent

Will the Seahawk baseball team go to regionals this year? The question is hanging on many people's minds as the team goes into their last month of play this season.

At press time the Seahawks were in the middle of a three game conference series at Old Dominion, winning their first game on Friday night by a score of 8-7 and improving their record to 25-11 overall and boasting a 9-1 CAA record.

The 'Hawks win over Old Dominion and East Carolina's loss to Virginia Commonwealth last Friday night moved UNCW to the conference leadership. ECU and UNCW each had one loss after Friday, but since UNCW has played more conference games than ECU, they own the conference. Though UNCW is leading the conference, it will be a steady battle for them to continue to hold the top spot.

Head coach Mark Scalf talked about the team's status as they geared up for ODU. "We feel good going into another weekend series," coach Scalf said, "We have to be dialed in mentally for the

entire weekend though to be able to continue to win. We feel confident in our pitching and we match up pretty well against Old Dominion."

The Seahawk's last home game for two weeks was last Wednesday night against the Campbell Camels.

Though the Seahawks came away with a 3-2 victory over the Camels to complete a five-game winning streak (the win against ODU Friday made six), it was the general agreement of everyone on and off the field that the team can do better. A first class example was during the Campbell game the when the Seahawks twice loaded the bases with no outs and both times failed to score.

"I like the fact that we won the game," Scalf said, "but offensively we had opportunities to drive in additional runs and we weren't able to do that. It came down to our pitching and defense. Fortunately for us we pitched well. Charlie (Weatherby) and Brad (Overton) threw the baseball exceptionally well."

Weatherby, who took the win for the Seahawks, pitched eight innings before being relieved by Overton in the top of the ninth.

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Basketball player honored

Marcus Green joins Beta Gamma Sigma

Staff Reports

Marcus Green, a junior on the UNCW's conference-champion basketball team, joined the Beta Gamma Sigma business honor fraternity at the group's induction ceremony recently.



Green, a 6'9", 230 lb. forward out of Wilmington Christian Academy, started 22 of 31 games this season for the Seahawks, averaging 3.6 points and 4.2 rebounds per game.

Beta Gamma Sigma recognizes business students possessing high scholarship and good character. Election to membership in Beta Gamma Sigma is the highest scholastic honor a student in the Cameron School of Business can achieve.