

JUMP, FROM PAGE 15

themselves off things, not always successfully and with crude equipment, since before the Wright brothers invented the airplane.

With a height of 876 feet, a BASE jumper's parachute must be released after three or four seconds when leaping from The New River Gorge Bridge. It would take the weight of an average human body approximately 8.8 seconds to reach the river below the bridge without a parachute.

The people who jump from this bridge are all experienced skydivers

and had to prove their experience in order to jump. There were emergency personnel positioned in the water and on the banks of the river to assist the jumpers in case something went wrong.

Kathleen Scanolon came from Annapolis, Md. for the second year in a row to jump from this bridge. She jumped from it twice in 1999 and plans on jumping twice this year.

Scanolon was preparing for her first jump of the day and said she felt nervous, as if it was her first time again. She is an experienced skydiver and said simply, that she liked BASE

jumping for "the rush."

More subdued but equally intriguing were the repellers. They were virtually undetectable as they dangled from ropes attached to the catwalk beneath the bridge out of view from the deck and most who attended the festival. Their chosen means of descent was much slower than that of the jumpers but offered breathtaking views of the gorge and the bridge from a different perspective.

The BASE jumpers were the highlight of the festival for spectators. People hung out over the crowded edge of the bridge for hours watching

these self-proclaimed "gravity junkies" purposely throwing themselves from it.

John Rasimowicz, from New Jersey, was readying his nerves for his first-ever BASE jump. Rasimowicz has amassed over 750 jumps from things like 727 jets to hot air balloons. He said the thrills of jumping out of planes or balloons fades after awhile. He came to the festival in an attempt to recapture why he got into skydiving in the first place.

"I want it to be like my first jump... I want to get the scare back again," he said.

2000 CAA Basketball Pre-season Media Day Poll

Courtesy of Colonial Athletic Association

CAA men's teams

*predicted order of finish
(first place votes in parenthesis)*

1. Richmond 142 (11)
2. George Mason 135 (5)
3. UNC Wilmington 109
4. Old Dominion 95 (1)
5. Va. Commonwealth 91
6. James Madison 79
7. American 50
8. William & Mary 34
9. East Carolina 30

Pre-season All-CAA Men's Team

1. George Evans-GMU * 76 (12)
2. Brett Blizzard-UNCW 54 (2)
3. Greg Stevenson-UR 53 (2)
4. Patrick Doctor-AU 38
5. LaMar Taylor-VCU 9 (1)
- Andre McCullum-ODU 9

* Pre-season Player of the Year

CAA women's teams

*predicted order of finish
(first place votes in parenthesis)*

1. Old Dominion 207 (23)
2. James Madison 167
3. Va. Commonwealth 147
4. East Carolina 127
5. George Mason 114
- Richmond 114
7. UNC Wilmington 67
8. William & Mary 57
9. American 35

Pre-season All-CAA Women's Team

1. Lucienne Berthieu-ODU * 114 (22)
2. Jen Surlas-GMU 73
3. Hamchetou Malga-ODU 58 (1)
4. Rochelle Luckett-VCU 34
5. Michelle Koclanes-UR 13
- Liz Remus-VCU 13

* Pre-season Player of the Year

Defending champion Seahawks begin season with exhibition play

JESSIE NUNERY

ASS'T. SPORTS EDITOR

Basketball is back. The UNC Wilmington men's basketball team will be in action the next two weekends in preparation for the upcoming 2000-2001 season.

The Seahawks, who were recently ranked third in the Colonial Athletic Association preseason poll, will look at the two upcoming exhibition games as more than just mere exhibition. These two games will instead allow the team to get its first looks at different elements of the team. The freshman class, a couple of exciting transfers, and, of course, the return of the nucleus of the team—Brett Blizzard, Marcus Green and Barron Thelmon—will all be on display throughout the preseason battles. Seahawk fans should also look for lots of different lineups as

Head Coach Jerry Wainwright tinkers with a squad that has the luxury of having depth in so many positions.

The Seahawks' two opponents will be the Charlotte Stars, who come to Trask at 7 p.m. on Saturday Nov. 4, and the Charlotte Royals, who will pay a visit on Nov. 11. These two teams consist of past college players that will give the Seahawks competition that has been through some of the rigors of playing major college basketball.

Each game will be a stepping stone for the regular season. The Seahawks will begin the season in the Sooner Holiday Classic in Norman, Oklahoma on Friday November 17 against LaSalle. Competition concludes on Saturday November 18 with other possible opponents including Alcorn St. and host Oklahoma.



Sophomore sensation Brett Blizzard will be going for a repeat performance of last season's 3-point shot percentage of 48.6. The starting guard led the nation in the 3-point percentage category. He received the Edward S. Steitz Award from the Basketball Hall of Fame.

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