

Great Expectations for men's basketball

by Charnell Harris
Voice Features Editor

"Make sure they bring the noise!" said senior guard, Jarmel Baxter.

Thundering down the court this year, is a team full of veteran players who hope to have a great time, all awhile bringing home a new title. Men's basketball is set to kick off this November and with the start of the new season, they hope to focus on the greatest aspects of the game: perfecting the fundamentals and having a great time while doing so.

"I have high expectations for our team this year. We really feel like we can do it this year," said Mr. Baxter.

While facing off against teams like Winston-Salem, UNC Pembroke and Campbell University, the team promises not to disappoint fans this season and ask that students come out to the games and have a great time.

Freshmen guard Anthony Shelton feels a roaring home

crowd is just what the team needs to kick up the energy at the home games. "Big support from the crowd, have fun and have the school behind us," is what the guard would like to see this season.

Last season, the team had great success winning more than 16 games and defeating teams like Barber-Scotia, Livingstone College and Virginia State. Though the stakes are a lot higher this season for the players who will graduate in the spring, there is no competition too tough for the Broncos this go-around.

Although, most would like to compare statistics from the other teams in the conference, some members on the team feel that there is no definite top competitor.

"I think everybody is. Everybody is on our backs now. I think it's the entire CIAA," said Mr. Baxter. "We're going to stay motivated, and continue to work hard. The season will be here in just a week and a half, so we on it!"

And with just a few newcomers on the team, it would

seem freshmen players like Mr. Shelton, Preston Holmes and Quentin Underwood would feel the pressure from playing with an older team. However, they view it as a great opportunity to enhance their already exceptional skills.

"The level of competition [here], everyone is good," said Mr. Shelton. "Just to get better and to learn from the upperclassmen and win the CIAA," is something he is looking forward to.

As for learning from fellow teammates, this could be a good thing for the team. After have played a few seasons with each other and becoming more acquainted with one another's playing style is a very valuable trait for professional teams.

"Anytime you have veterans on your team in any sport, they have knowledge of the game, so it gives them an edge," said Jamel Carpenter whose focus for this season is to have a successful year "team and individual wise" and using the skills he will gain from being a Bronco to pursue a professional career in basketball.

With the emphasis always on the fundamentals and having a good time, this season's outlook appears to be a good one.

"We have to work harder and stay humble." "Work hard on and off the court," said Mr. Baxter.

"It's exciting! I like it. I look forward to playing this year," said freshmen point guard Anthony Shelton.

The men's basketball team's first home game is Nov. 11 against Barber-Scotia at 7 p.m. in the Capel Arena.

"We have all the pieces. We just need to put it together. That's what practice is for," said Jamel Carpenter.



Voice photos by Charnell Harris



Far Left, FSU men's basketball team prepares for a successful season. Forward, Lenton Donnell, junior practices a dunk as teammate Sheldonte Fields prepares for his turn on Tuesday Oct. 25 in Capel Arena.

Above, Andre Best, junior, Guard advances the ball down court on a fast break during practice.

Left, Lenton Donnell, junior, Forward passes defender to score during practice.