

Conference Basketball Preview

quay, and 6-5 Charles Lynn of Salisbury."

In addition to that size, Moir will have the services of a member of the football team, defensive end Bill Griffin who is listed on the football roster as 6-5, 255. Moir hopes to trim Griffin down to around 240.

With Durante gone it is difficult to determine what kind of offensive attack Moir will choose. For the last four years it was pretty much of Durante bringing the ball down court and Durante shooting. That will all be changed this year, but McDougall may step into Durante's playmaking role and expand on it somewhat.

Elon

ELON --- Losing players like 6-7 Henry Goedeck, one of the very few players ever to make all-conference four times, and 6-8 center Bill Bows is enough to make any coach pull out the crying towel. Coach Bill Miller of Elon is not crying very loudly.

The reason is the presence on an almost unbelievable group of newcomers. And, it is even better than bring in a good crop of first-year men. What Miller has done is recruit five players either from junior colleges or freshmen from the rigors of service ball.

There is plenty of reason for thinking that Elon may do better than its second-place finish of last season. Elon started slowly in 1968-69, winning only seven of its first 13 games. The Fighting Christians then closed the regular season with 12 consecutive triumphs.

Returning from that team is 6-5, 220-pound Richard McGeorge, an all-conference selection last year in both football and basketball. McGeorge is an unmovable mountain under the backboards. Other key returnees are 6-3 guard Tommy Cole, guards Tom McGee and Noble Marshall, and 6-7 center Pat Berry.

Among the newcomers who may move into the starting lineup is freshman Larry Trautwein, 6-8, 210 pounds. Trautwein was sought by approximately 100 colleges while in high school in Richwood, N. J. The other new faces are 6-6 Ron Graham, the best leaper at Elon since Jesse Branson, Gary Brown, a transfer from Davis-Elkins, guard Mike Meacham, and 6-3 Bob Pingley, a transfer from Frederick.

High Point

HIGH POINT --- It won't seem right this season to watch High Point without Gene Littles. And, High Point probably won't be as "right" without Littles, who is now a member of the Carolina Cougars' ABA basketball team.

In addition to Littles, who averaged 23.3 points a game, High Point also lost 6-11 Jim Picka, 6-5 Steve Tatgenhorst, Ron Horney and Ron Loewenthal. Coach Bob Vaughn cannot ex-

pect to make up for the loss of Picka and Littles, but he does harbor some degree of optimism for the season. Danny Witt and Joe Colbert are the only returning starters, and both are guards who work well together in Vaughn's fast-break offense.

The Panther roster is dotted with freshmen, many of whom will have to play this year, and play well if High Point is to defend its conference championship. Among the freshmen are 6-9, 210-pound Steve Allen of Arlington, Va., and 6-9, 190-pound Bill McGhee of Wheaton, Md. The roster also includes five other freshmen, none taller than 6-4.

The only other lettermen returning for High Point 6-5 sophomore John Kirkman, a hometown boy, and junior Bill Webb of Beltsville, Md. That leaves Vaughn with the most inexperienced team since he came to High Point for the 1966-67 season.

Most of the High Point players are from the metropolitan Washington, D. C., area which is recognized as one of the most productive basketball recruiting sections of the country. Kirkman and freshman Phil Butler are the only players on the roster who are not from the D.C. area.

Lenoir Rhyne

LENOIR RHYNE --- The player-personnel situation at Lenoir Rhyne presents a pleasant reversal of 1969 for Coach Melvin Ruggles. Last season, Ruggles started the year with one returning starter and four newcomers. This year he has four returning starters and only one newcomer.

Despite that less-than-exciting prospect of success, Ruggles molded Lenoir Rhyne into a team which won 16 games and lost only 10 decisions. Lenoir Rhyne defeated every other team in the conference at least once except High Point, which won both the regular season and tournament championships.

Ruggles is confident that the Bears will have a stronger team this year and that they should definitely be contenders of the league title. "We are not as tall as we would like to be," Ruggles says. "The tallest man in the starting lineup as it stands now is only 6-6, and the starting five averages only 6-2."

The returning starters are 6-3 John Davidson, who led the team in scoring with an 18.5-point scoring average; 6-1 Dana Olson who averaged 11 points; Gerald Mills who averaged 8.7 points and 8.2 rebounds; and Vernon Long who averaged 7.2. Dale Abernethy, who played only the last half of last season after transferring to Lenoir Rhyne, is most likely to capture the other starting position.

Depth should be a problem for the Bears, but Ruggles has brought in some outstanding freshmen and has 6-8 transfer Danny Williams available. Williams is expected to see extensive action as a reserve center,

and by the middle of the season it is possible that he will move into the starting lineup. One of the freshmen from whom Ruggles expects some help this season is Andy Anderson, 6-5, from Gastonia.

Newberry

NEWBERRY --- The Indians surprised practically everyone in the Carolinas Conference, with possible exception of Coach Nield Gordon, with their performance last season. It was a "runner-up year." Newberry was runner-up in the Rome (Ga.) Invitational tournament, the Carolinas Conference tournament and the NAIA District 6 tournament, pulling several upsets along the way.

Things could be different this season. "On paper," Gordon says, "this could be one of the best Newberry teams in history. We lost John Smith and Tommy Martin, but we have four returning seniors and four other lettermen plus transfer Mike Barb and four fine looking freshmen."

In the conference tournament, Newberry, which had finished in sixth place during the regular season, upset Atlantic Christian and Elon in the first two rounds before losing to nationally-ranked High Point in the championship contest. In the district tournament, Newberry humbled South Carolina State, ranked sixth nationally in the NAIA at the time, before losing to Asheville-Biltmore in the finals.

Gordon believes that 6-9 Buddy Moore, who sat out last season, will be a huge asset this year. Moore plays center or forward and is an "above-average" defensive center. With Moore at center, Gordon will be able to move 6-2 Charlie Gilroy back to his normal position at forward. In 35 games which he started at center, Gilroy controlled the jump 32 times.

Steve Hollingsworth, who averaged 18 points a game last year, will man one of the other forward positions. Charlie Neal, Tommy Miller and Kevin Howard will battle for the starting guard berths. Other lettermen are 6-6 Mark Thompson and 6-4 Ernie Chambers. The top freshmen are guards Barry Foy and Kim Bode and forwards Bill Ellis and Bill Sullivan.

Pfeiffer

PFEIFFER --- Basketball, more so than any other team sport, demonstrates the approach which a coach takes toward athletics, and, in some cases, toward life. Even when his personnel dictates a running offense, a coach weaned on deliberate basketball will still manage to incorporate facets of Iba-ism. The case is probably more prevalent with a coach who likes a running team but doesn't have a running team.

It is difficult to say, then, just what will happen at Pfeiffer this season with a new coach, Tom Childress, who was an assistant

at Appalachian for two seasons, has succeeded Francis Essic who has joined the administrative offices of the Carolina Cougars of the American Basketball Association.

"A new coach in a new situation can never fully know what to expect," Childress says. "I do know that Pfeiffer has suffered through several long years due to lack of experienced personnel. We have licked this problem and look forward to competing with a well-seasoned ball team. If attitude is truly a determining factor, we are taking a step in the right direction."

Childress, who rates his defense as average, says he hopes to place greater emphasis on this phase of the game as the boys adjust to his new style of play. Pfeiffer permitted 78.8 points a game last season. He says the team speed is fair, although Pfeiffer, this year as traditionally, has the quick individual player. He considers the team's shooting ability "average." "This must improve if we are to have a successful season," he said. "We shot 42 percent last year (from the field) and still set a school scoring record."

The only category in which Childress considers Pfeiffer "good" is rebounding. "John Banner (6-7), Dwight Kincaid (6-5) and Jim Burkhart (6-3) give us excellent board strength, and Bob Engebretsen (6-5) and Jim Stillwell (6-5) give us depth on the front line."

Presbyterian

★★★

PRESBYTERIAN --- "If the saying is true that competition brings out the best then our team this year should play at top efficiency. There is competition at every position," says Coach Herb Robinson, who is in his second year as head coach. Of the 17 players he listed

on the initial roster, Robinson included 10 freshmen. The roster must be reduced to 12, but Robinson may keep as many as eight of the first-year men on the squad.

It only goes, then, that the Blue Hose will be young, inexperienced and unpredictable. Desire, better speed and quickness should make them a more interesting team to watch. "Three of our starters could be freshmen, so a great deal depends on how fast these freshmen can adjust to college competition," Robinson says.

The only sure starter appears to be Donnie Kuhn, a 6-2 sophomore who broke into the starting lineup last year. Among the personnel losses were 6-9 Jim Kiser, 6-7 Doug MacLeod, 6-6 Dave Hudson and Woody Carter. The returning lettermen are all between 6-1 and 6-4, George Dickerson, Dave Kerchner, Chuck Baker, Kuhn and Danny Yarborough.

The newcomers include Steve Crowe, Fred Melson, Jerry Owens, Howard Bean and Martie Filler, all 6-5 or 6-6, and Mike Lovell, Bobby Whiteside, Bill Clayton, Cliff Wilson and Artie Maxwell.

Robinson used a very deliberate offense last season, probably his best strategy under his personnel restraints. As a result Presbyterian stayed in most of their games and seldom was beaten too badly. The quickness of his freshmen may make the strategym more fruitful than last season's 8-18 record.

HIGH POINT - High Point College pulled ahead after the first three minutes and stayed ahead to register a 97-53 win over Greensboro College Thursday in the opening basketball game for both teams.

Danny Witt scored 26 points for High Point to lead the Panther attack.

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