



The NCSSM men's cross country team, shown above, was one of two NCSSM sports teams to win the state championship the other being the men's soccer team. The other fall NCSSM sports teams were also very successful with all teams taking home at least a regional championship.

Courtesy of Hayden Abene

ACC basketball newcomers to watch

BY: CARL YIN

As the college basketball season begins, some incoming freshmen are already making huge impacts in ACC basketball. These "diaper dandies" all excelled in their high school basketball careers and were highly touted going into college.

A total of four ACC teams made the Rival's Top 25 for the 2011 recruiting class. Two of these teams are from the state of North Carolina: the Blue Devils of Duke University and the Tar Heels of the University of North Carolina.

Here are some of the most talented freshmen to look out for this season:

Austin Rivers, Duke

The son of Boston Celtics coach Doc Rivers is one of the most highly touted freshmen in the whole incoming class. He has unbelievable quickness, which allows him to penetrate defenses and score at will.

Already, Rivers is averaging 15.4 points per game. However, his efficiency has not been good, as Rivers has only made 43% of his shots taken.

There is no question that Rivers has the talent to become

a superstar, but there are many things he needs to work on in his game. Once Rivers learns to

forwards in the Class of 2011, joins a loaded frontcourt at UNC. Despite averaging only



Austin Rivers

Courtesy of thesportsbank.net

make better decisions with the ball, he may dominate the game.

James McAdoo, UNC

McAdoo, one of the top

5.9 points through 7 games, McAdoo certainly has the talent to become a great player at UNC. Currently stuck behind

2 potential NBA lottery big men, McAdoo will certainly get more playing time next year and will be given the opportunity to unleash his true potential.

This year, McAdoo will be a key reserve at UNC, and won't have the chance to fully showcase his talent.

P.J. Hairston, UNC

Hairston may be the best shooter in the whole incoming class this year. Hairston has been averaging 8.3 points a game, while making 45% of his threes. What makes this more impressive is that he has been scoring these numbers in limited minutes, averaging around 12 minutes per game.

When he is in rhythm, he can take over a game. Every game where he has made more than 50% of his shots, he has averaged 17 points. After the departure of the upperclassmen, Hairston will have the minutes and points to become a star.

Chase Fischer, Wake Forest

Fischer has adapted well to transitioning to college basketball, as he is already averaging 8 points a game. Fischer has had three games in double-digits where he has shot 73% from the field.

However, in his other two games, Fischer scored a total of 6 points, shooting 22% from the field.

Fischer needs to be more consistent in his output, but he certainly has the potential to shine and make a huge impact for his Demon Deacons.

DEAR TORI

Dear Tori,

College is getting me down. Everyone around me is getting into college and I don't find out until April. That is, if I get my applications done.

It's so hard to be here, keep up with school and extracurriculars, deal with the stress, and work on college essays. I'm lacking motivation to write the essays because I have nothing to write about! I love my life, but it's kind of boring from a writer's perspective and I can't think of anything to write about.

I'm also freaking out about college interviews. All of my friends have told me that their interviews have been relatively casual and easy, but it's still nerve-wracking to think about. What if I choke? Does that mean I won't get into college? I need help.

Sincerely,
Confused College Wannabe

Dear Confused,

It is completely normal to feel stressed out about everything that is going on around you. It's stressful living, eating, and working at NCSSM, let alone adding something else on top of the heap. You just need to remember that you will get everything done; you just need to work hard and be creative.

As for the college essays, you don't have to have some jaw-dropping experience in your life to be "interesting" to a college. Think about some defining moments in your life: why did you feel that way? Who's a person in your life that has really inspired you? Look around your room for inspiration. You may find a keepsake that has a story that is waiting to be shared.

Most college interviews aren't required, meaning that they aren't a huge deal. At most schools, they aren't even used as admissions criteria, just as a way to let the college



Courtesy of collegeessayorganizer.com

know you better. If you're a little bit awkward, that doesn't mean you're not going to get into college. The interviewers understand that you're nervous because...who wouldn't be? If you're looking for practice, the PCCs are offering mock interviews, which are a great resource.

You can do it.
Warm regards,
Tori