

## Glimpse into NC college basketball for next year

BY: CARL YIN

Though Duke lost Austin Rivers to the NBA draft, they still look to be a national contender next year. Most of Duke's players are returning, as the only contributing senior graduating is Miles Plumlee.

Duke also brings in a solid recruiting class, consisting of two McDonald's All-Americans. The late days of the spring recruiting period saved what would have been a lackluster incoming class.

Duke added Amile Jefferson on the second to last day of the spring signing period to a one-man recruiting class, who chose Duke over nearby NC State. Jefferson is a talent and has great basketball awareness, and gives Duke a deeper frontcourt.

Duke's other recruit is shooting guard Rasheed Sulaimon. Sulaimon is a knock-down shooter, and fits well into Duke's offense. Duke also adds two redshirt freshmen, Marshall Plumlee and Alex Murphy, who sat out this year due to limited playing time.

Marshall Plumlee is the third Plumlee brother to play for Duke Basketball, and will play alongside brother Mason next year. Marshall is the tallest of the three brothers, but needs to put on more weight to become a force in the post area. Alex Murphy is a versatile forward, who draws comparisons to Duke star Kyle Singler.

With the influx of talent from its recruiting class and its redshirts, Duke looks to have another star-studded team that will compete nationally. One question still lies within the consistency of some of Duke's players.

Last year, Mason Plumlee



Rasheed Sulaimon goes up for a shot

Courtesy of ESPN

showed moments of brilliance in some games, but had a relatively quiet season. Andre Dawkins almost withdrew from the basketball team for next year because of the stress of death in his family, which affected his play all year. If all of Duke's players are able to perform well, they have a real chance at winning the national title.

The Wolfpack look to be a

top contender in the ACC and in the whole country next year. This year already, NC State has seen major improvement in its basketball program.

With new coach Mark Gottfried, NC State was able to make the NCAA tournament for the first time in six years, and managed to make it to the Sweet 16 round.

Now, with star C.J. Leslie deciding to come back for

another year of college, NC State has the experience and leadership it needs to contend in post-season tournaments. NC State also adds a coveted recruiting class to an already talented roster.

Incoming are three local McDonald's All-Americans, which include guard Rodney Purvis, forward T.J. Warren, and point guard Tyler Lewis. All three have tremendous talent and can contribute instantly to the team.

NC State has all the pieces needed for contention for ACC and NCAA titles next year. Coach Gottfried has done a great job in turning the team around this past year, and looks to take the program back into national attention.

Next year will be a rebuilding year for UNC. They lose stars Tyler Zeller, John Henson, and Kendall Marshall, which were arguably the three best players on the team.

However, North Carolina again adds a stellar recruiting class, with four highly touted players: Marcus Paige, Brice Johnson, Joel Jones, and J.P. Tokoto. Paige is a smart point guard, who can also shoot from long range.

Johnson is an athletic power forward, but needs to add some weight to become a force in the post. Jones is a center with excellent strength and mobility to be a presence in the

paint. Tokoto is a small forward who is extremely athletic and can also shoot well. These four incoming freshman all look to make an immediate impact on the team.

Talent will not be an issue next year, but rather experience. With the true leaders of the team leaving, returning players will need to step up and guide the team on the right path. UNC will again contend nationally and in the ACC, but as young team, it is uncertain how well they will do in the upcoming season.

After what has been a lackluster year of basketball in Winston-Salem, things look to get better next year for the Deacons. Wake Forest's leading scorers C.J. Harris and Travis McKie return, while the team adds a deep recruiting class of 7 players.

Coming in are point guard Codi Miller-McIntyre, small forward Arnaud Moto, small forward Aaron Rountree, power forward Devin Thomas, power forward Tyler Cavanaugh, point guard Madison Jones, and center Andre Washington.

With 7 players coming in, Wake Forest will have an extremely deep bench, which could be a huge benefit late in season next year. Coach Jeff Bzdelik looks as he has been slowing improving the team, entering his third year at Wake Forest.

After two losing seasons, with the second slightly better than the first, this year may be the first for Coach Bzdelik to have a winning record. The talent is still there, and the incoming recruiting class will certainly benefit Wake Forest's chances of improving its record next year.

## Juniors should not mourn loss of senior friends

BY JORDAN HARRISON

While seniors look forward to graduation, juniors may be wondering how they will get by in senior year without the close friendships they formed with this year's graduating class.

"I'll miss a lot of people on hall. It'll be really different next year without being able to go to the seniors for help," said Hayley Stratton. "Half of the school is leaving, and some of those people are my really close friends."

However, the class of 2012 has already been through the loss of senior friends, and they offer some advice to deal with the transition.

"I had some senior friends last year," said senior Alexis Hibbler, "but was I sad to see them go? No, because I still feel connected to them in a lot of ways and because for some unknowing reason they keep commenting on my Facebook

statuses. Also, these seniors I remembered the most were the seniors who made an effort to come back and visit.

Even someone from Stanford visited, so some seniors go the extra mile."

"Grand seniors come back for major events all the time, like Asia Fest," said senior

Erna Woyee. "We will book tickets early for Asia Fest."

Graduation will likely be a sad and teary occasion for juniors, but they need to remember that seniors will be glad and excited for college.

"We love it here, but at the same time we know that two years is enough, and we want to move on," said Hibbler.

Junior/senior friendships can remain especially strong for students who are going to schools like UNC, NC State, and Duke, since distance is less of an issue.



Friends Paulina Kriska (senior) and Haleigh Baxtr (junior)

"A lot of seniors who I'm really close to are going to schools around Durham, so I'm planning on visiting

them a lot on the weekends," said Stratton.

"People from colleges nearby visit really often, and

also what's really great is that we have a public transportation system, and I know people go to State all the time to see seniors," said Hibbler.