

Experience-slim Heels to carry on school's tradition

Carolina's a young team this year, but the tradition is thick and Dean Smith is still coach, so everyone expects a lot from Tar Heel basketball.

By DAVID POOLE

THOUGH University officials aren't likely to admit it, the first thing people around the nation think about when they hear "University of North Carolina" is not the institution's fine academic tradition.

Nor do their thoughts run to visions of the Old Well, the Bell Tower, South Building, Old East, the Davie Poplar, McCorkle Place, Morehead Planetarium or any of the other architectural or geographical landmarks on the Chapel Hill campus.

No, the name conjures up images of Carolina Blue-clad basketball players racing up and down the floor or visions of four of those same players standing in the four corners with one man "killing time" dribbling in the middle.

North Carolina is, whether Dick Crum and his successful football team or Christopher Fordham and his fellow administrators like it or not, a basketball school. The tradition is here and it's as thick as the ivy on the walls of some of those campus structural landmarks.

A lot of attention is paid to that tradition, and especially to the part Dean Smith has played in building it. Carolina teams have won 407 games in Smith's 19 years coaching, but Smith emphasizes that the players, not him, have scored every basket, captured every rebound and played defense in each of those 407 wins.

"Basketball is still a player's game," Smith says. "It's more than X's and O's. A coach might have a play and you miss a 10-foot jump shot off of it, and one of your fine players gets the rebound and scores."

But fans still expect a lot from a basketball school like Carolina and the 1980-81 team's ability to continue Carolina's winning ways depends mainly on an inexperienced group of young players. Only one Tar Heel, Al Wood, has the kind of experience around which championship teams are often built.

Wood is thought by many to be the key to Carolina's season. The 6-foot-6 senior from Gray, Ga., has gained 20 pounds since his freshman year and he will be counted upon for leadership both on and off the floor this year.

"In the past, I have been a follower," Wood says. "I sat back and looked at what came instead of making things happen. In the past, we've had a lot of people who could take over. Now the guys will look to me to take charge more. I like that."



Junior Jimmy Black: quickness in the backcourt

The mantle of leadership has been passed to Wood after five seniors—John Virgil, Jeff Wolf, Rich Yonakor, Dave Colescott and Mike O'Koren—finished their careers last year. Smith says he hopes Wood won't be at a loss when he looks inside and sees those five missing.

"I don't think Al should change a thing in the way he's playing just because he looks and doesn't see O'Koren, Yonakor or any of that group," Smith says. "We expect everybody else to carry his share of the load."

A big share of that load will fall to James Worthy, a sophomore coming off a broken ankle that forced him to miss the second half of last season. Worthy was playing his best basketball just before he slipped on a wet spot against Maryland and his health—he also had trouble with his achilles tendon in preseason drills—will be a big factor.

WOOD and Worthy are two definite starters and a third is probably point guard Jimmy Black. Black, back much sooner than expected after breaking his neck in a car accident this summer, will take over the quarterbacking duties in the Carolina attack.

"My primary responsibility is to get everyone else going," he says. "If I'm loose, everyone else will be loose. I don't know how other people in the conference feel about me, but I know I can play in this league. I don't play to impress the people up in the stands, I play to help us win."

Pete Budko, also a senior, will be a fourth starter, working at center. Smith has said that Budko worked hard all summer, but a stress fracture in his leg has limited Budko's preseason workouts and his health also is a question mark.

The fifth starter is likely to be Mike Pepper, a Vienna, Va., senior who prior to last season played only when games were already won or lost. "He's developed as much as anybody we've had here," Smith says. "We expect a lot out of Mike."

"I'm very eager to contribute; it was a long first two years," Pepper says. "Last year, a lot of things came together and I felt that I was contributing. It was very gratifying."

As usual, Smith will play more than five players, and he feels a nucleus of eight players—the five probable starters plus Jimmy Braddock and freshmen Sam Perkins and Matt Doherty—will all get the most playing time.

Braddock, a 6-1 sophomore from Chattanooga, Tenn., played in all 29 Carolina games last year as the Tar Heels went 21-8. There is reason to believe that Perkins and Doherty may do the same as freshmen and both may start before the season is too old. Perkins, a 6-9 recruit from Latham, N.Y., and Doherty, a 6-7 player from East Meadow, N.Y., have picked up the Carolina system well and both were impressive in an exhibition game against the Windsor, Canada club team last month.

The reserves will include veterans Chris Brust and Eric Kenny and freshman Cecil Exum, Dean Shaffer, and Timo Makkonen as well as walk-on Jeb Barlow.

"If we can have Worthy and Budko healthy—the health of those we are counting on, since we're not that deep—the inexperience will become experience and I hope we will improve as the season goes along," Smith says.

"We can do very well," Pepper says. "How we come along defensively will tell that."

UNC roster, statistics

No.	Name	Hgt.	Wgt.	Age	Class	Hometown
30	AL WOOD	6-6½	192	21	Sr.	Gray, Ga.
32	ERIC KENNY	6-6	210	21	Sr.	Asheville, N.C.
44	Matt Doherty	6-7	200	18	Fr.	East Meadow, N.Y.
45	CHRIS BRUST	6-8½	222	20	Jr.	Babylon, N.Y.
50	Cecil Exum	6-6	190	18	Fr.	Dudley, N.C.
52	JAMES WORTHY	6-8	208	19	So.	Gastonia, N.C.
34	PETE BUDKO	6-8½	212	21	Sr.	Lutherville, Md.
41	Sam Perkins	6-9	215	18	Fr.	Latham, N.Y.
51	Timo Makkonen	6-11	210	18	Fr.	Lahti, Finland
11	MIKE PEPPER	6-3	181	21	Sr.	Vienna, Va.
21	JIMMY BLACK	6-2	160	20	Jr.	Bronx, N.Y.
24	JIM BRADDOCK	6-1	157	19	So.	Chattanooga, Tenn.
33	Dean Shaffer	6-3	180	18	Fr.	Durham, N.C.

CAPS Denote Letterman

Player	G	Field Goals			Free Throws			Rebounds		Points	
		M	A	Pct.	M	A	Pct.	No.	Avg.	No.	Avg.
Al Wood	29	216	378	571	118	154	766	151	5.2	550	19.0
Mike O'Koren	29	163	298	547	99	152	651	216	7.4	425	14.7
James Worthy	14	74	126	587	27	45	600	104	7.4	175	12.5
Dave Colescott	28	80	165	485	49	70	700	27	0.9	209	7.5
Rich Yonakor	28	59	126	468	47	64	734	112	4.0	165	5.9
John Virgil	29	73	127	533	23	35	651	47	1.6	169	5.8
Jimmy Black	27	46	102	451	42	62	677	15	0.5	134	5.0
Jeff Wolf	28	38	75	507	14	30	467	102	3.6	90	3.2
Mike Pepper	29	35	74	473	10	15	667	13	0.4	80	2.8
Pete Budko	29	27	49	551	5	18	278	65	2.2	59	2.0
Jim Braddock	29	19	51	373	10	11	909	6	0.2	48	1.7
Eric Kenny	26	5	15	333	3	11	273	13	0.5	13	0.5
Chris Brust	17	3	7	429	1	2	500	6	0.4	7	0.4
TOTALS	29	838	1603	523	448	669	670	944	32.5	2124	73.2
Opponents	29	798	1610	496	375	542	692	861	29.6	1971	68.0