

Ralph Sampson rebounds, Lee Raker looks on

## Ralph's re-enlistment raises chorus of joy among Cavalier faithful

By GEOFFREY MOCK

Virginia fans developed a healthy fear of the professional league's checkbooks this summer, but big Ralph Sampson decided to hang around Charlottesville for a while. Jeff Lamp and Lee Raker are back, too, giving the Cavaliers confidence and high hopes.

**R**ELIGIOUS zealots or Atlantic Coast Conference basketball fanatics take note; 1980 is the year of the Second Coming. Ralph Sampson, the most sought after recruit of 1979, is back at Virginia as the most sought after player of 1980.

Although the 7-foot-4 Sampson had his downs as well as his ups as a freshman last year, the potential he showed was enough to send Boston Celtic general manager Red Auerbach scurrying for his checkbook. Estimates on Auerbach's offer go as high as \$3 million, but Sampson gave it the thumbs down.

When Sampson made his decision, the Virginia fans gave a large collective sigh of relief, because coach Terry Holland failed to land a big recruit to complement Sampson in the frontcourt. The team Holland will go with will be much the team of last year that seemed incapable putting together two good performances in a row.

After an explosive start, including an easy, 88-82 win over North Carolina, the Cavaliers hit a swoon in late January that didn't end until the National Invitation Tournament in March.

The Cavaliers went out of the ACC tournament in the first round, but just as quickly as they fell into the swoon, they pulled out of it, disposing of Lafayette, Boston College, Michigan, Nevada-Las Vegas and Minnesota to take the NIT title.

"Winning the NIT was a boost," Lee Raker says. "It showed us we weren't losers, that we could play well. (Our collapse) was a matter of consistency and a loss of concentration. Having a number of stars on the same team didn't have anything to do with how well we played. I attribute a lot of it to just getting used to playing together."

**A**LTHOUGH Sampson's statistics as a freshman—157 blocked shots, 15 points a game, 381 rebounds—were good it is almost certain that they will get better this year. He seems to have made the adjustment from small-town boy to star at a large university, and with a year's maturity behind him, centers in the ACC will have their hands full trying to control him. "Ralph's a great asset," Raker says. "He makes everybody look good."

While the media has focused on Sampson, the key to the Cavaliers' success may be in the play of their

two high scoring seniors, Raker and Jeff Lamp. After leading the ACC in scoring as a sophomore, Lamp's scoring average fell to 17.4 points a game last year.

Raker has been hampered by injuries throughout his career.

The fourth starter will be 6-4 Jeff Jones, who collected 200 assists last year despite playing part of the year with a damaged right knee. The fifth spot is up for grabs, with senior Terry Gates expected to see a lot of action. Two freshman guards, Ricky Stokes and Othell Wilson could break into the starting lineup later in the season. Craig Robinson (6-8) and Lewis Lattimore (6-9) will help on the frontline.

With Ohio State and Notre Dame headlining a tough non-conference schedule, Holland is counting on his seniors to pull the team through. "For the first time we've got an experienced group of guys," he says. "That's a big thing when you play on the road in the ACC."

With Raker, Lamp and Gates leaving after this season, it may be the Cavaliers' last chance to break into the Top 10 for awhile. Plus, there's no guarantee Ralph Sampson will make a Third Coming.

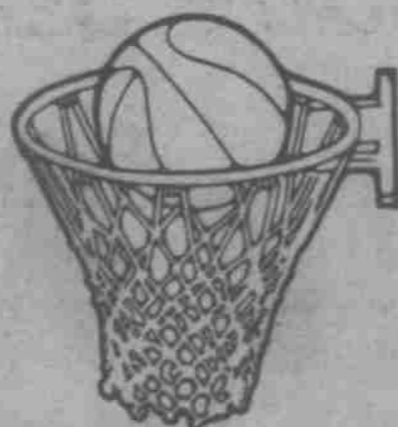
No.	Name	Hgt.	Wgt.	Age	Class	Hometown
12	DEAN CARPENTER	6-9	206	20	Jr.	Metairie, Ga.
5	Louis Collins	6-5	205	22	Sr.	Highland Springs, Va.
44	TERRY GATES	6-8	219	22	Sr.	Louisville, Ky.
42	PETER MacBETH	6-8	230	20	So.	Marietta, Ga.
25	LEE RAKER	6-5	201	21	Sr.	Louisville, Ky.
10	CRAIG ROBINSON	6-8	195	18	So.	Monclair, N.J.
55	LEWIS LATTIMORE	6-9	217	22	Sr.	Dayton, Ohio
50	RALPH SAMPSON	7-4	210	19	So.	Harrisonburg, Va.
21	DARREN CROSS	6-4	181	19	So.	Queens, N.Y.
24	JEFF JONES	6-4	190	20	Jr.	Owensboro, Ky.
23	JEFF KLEIN	6-5	185	21	Sr.	Akron, Ohio
3	JEFF LAMP	6-6	193	20	Sr.	Prior Lake, Minn.
32	DOUG NEWBURG	6-2	185	19	So.	McLean, Va.
14	Ricky Stokes	5-10	155	18	Fr.	Highland Springs, Va.
11	Othell Wilson	6-0	190	18	Fr.	Woodbridge, Va.

Player	G	Field Goals			Free Throws			Rebounds		Points	
		M	A	Pct.	M	A	Pct.	No.	Avg.	No.	Avg.
Jeff Lamp	34	232	445	521	127	151	841	133	3.0	591	17.4
Ralph Sampson	34	221	404	547	66	94	702	381	11.2	508	14.9
Lee Raker	28	135	276	489	102	124	823	85	3.0	372	13.3
Mike Owens	32	99	199	497	22	34	647	111	3.5	220	6.9
Jeff Jones	34	77	152	507	70	90	778	92	2.7	324	6.6
Garland Jefferson	30	64	135	474	35	41	854	66	2.2	163	5.4
Craig Robinson	31	44	104	423	24	38	632	75	2.4	112	3.6
Terry Gates	34	21	45	467	46	75	613	86	2.5	88	2.6
Darren Cross	12	8	16	444	8	11	727	6	0.7	24	2.0
Lewis Lattimore	24	14	34	412	9	21	429	36	1.5	37	1.5
Jeff Klein	22	11	23	478	10	15	667	27	1.2	32	1.4
Doug Newburg	29	11	33	333	16	28	571	16	1.6	38	1.3
Dean Carpenter	12	3	13	231	1	3	333	16	1.3	7	0.6
TOTALS	34	940	1881	500	536	725	739	1211	35.6	2416	71.1
Opponents	34	873	2035	429	420	615	683	1080	31.8	2166	63.7

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