

Backcourt stars top talented freshman group

The new faces nationwide have a big challenge ahead—topping the class of last year which included names like Sampson, Bowie and Kellogg—But there's a lot of talent around the country.

By JACKIE BLACKBURN

A George Carlin comedy routine would be an extremely tough act to follow, and the 1980-81 college basketball freshman class is in a similarly difficult situation. Though the incoming talent must be taken seriously, it's hard to live up to last year's freshman group which included the likes of Sam Bowie, Clark Kellogg, Isiah Thomas and Ralph Sampson.

This year's class is distinguished by a strong backcourt including such players as Glenn Rivers, Fred Brown, Derek Harper and Jim Master.

Kentucky coach Joe Hall signed three quality freshmen — Dickie Beal, Bret Bearup and Master — to rank among the nation's recruiting leaders for a second straight year. Master's talents at guard make the Indiana native a likely replacement for the graduated Kyle Macy.

Besides Master, three other top guards were signed by big-name schools. Brown will attend Georgetown where the 6-6 New York native is expected to take over at John Duren's spot.

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caused problems for her, particularly when she is playing against the bigger teams.

"It's not the ideal size for someone at my position, but it depends on the team we play and the size of the players I'm playing against. Against Old Dominion, there was a girl there that was 6-8. In a case like that, you just have to get in there and box them out."

As the team's only junior, White sees leadership as an important role for her to play.

"Charlene (Boykin) and Aprille (Shaffer) are our two senior captains and they do provide a lot of the leadership on the team. But I feel that I should try to show some leadership on the court. I try to get my teammates to talk it up on defense especially. We need to know what everybody is doing."

Two of the best all-around guards, Rivers and Harper, were signed by Midwest schools. Rivers, who is 6-3 and has a 37-inch vertical leap, will play for Hank Raymonds at Marquette and Harper, from West Palm Beach, Fla., will be at Illinois.

One of the most underrated players coming into school this year might be Kenny Perry, a 6-10, 215-pound prospect from Indiana. Perry will work his hook shot and vend his defensive wares for Evansville.

Earl Jones was considered by many as the top player in the high school ranks last year. But Jones will play his collegiate ball for the tiny University of the District of Columbia, instead of a major Division 1 power. The 6-11 star from Mount Hope, Va., was one of two high school players to participate in the U.S. Olympic Trials.

Carolina signee Sam Perkins was also listed as the top player in the nation by some experts and the 6-10, Latham, N.Y., native is among the foremost center recruits in the land.

THREE other outstanding centers remained close to home. Russell Cross, 6-11, from Chicago, chose Purdue late in the recruiting season. Tim McCormack and Jim Peterson, who both stand 6-10, will play for their home state universities of Michigan and Minnesota.

Others who stayed close to home when it came time to select a school included 6-8 Charles Sitton who will play at Oregon State, and Georgia's James Banks who will play for the Georgia Bulldogs.

Banks will be joined at Athens by New York native Vern Fleming, a slick ballhandler and potent scorer who may be able to contribute immediately.

Charles Jones, a 6-9 forward from Scooba, Miss., should give Denny Crum some power at forward on the defending national champion Louisville team.

Iona was looking to shore up a program hurt by the loss of several players and a coach, new N.C. State mentor Jim Valvano. They got Gary Springer, a 6-7 graduate of Manhattan Franklin High who has been compared with Albert King.

A few other names of note include 6-8 guard Clarke Bynum of Clemson; 6-10 center Tony Costner of St. Joseph's (Pa) and 6-1 Craig Tucker of Iowa.

"WHY DO THE HEATHEN RAGE?"

Psalms 2:1 and Acts 4:25

—The greatest Oak Tree you ever saw, the largest that ever grew, once upon a time was condensed and compacted in the shell of a little acorn. The power of life that the Almighty put within it enabled it to draw food from the earth, water, sunshine, etc., and develop itself to its greatest and enormity and serve man, bird and beast. We suggest that the First Psalm of The Bible, God Almighty's Book revealing Himself to man, might be likened to the Acorn in which is condensed and compacted the great Truths of God revealed by the great and mighty Tree — THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY PSALMS.

Every message of every Psalm can be easily related or connected to one or the other messages of the First Psalm: the blessing, the fruitfulness, and the happiness of those who delight to meditate and walk in The Law of The Lord, or the curse upon the ungodly who do not so.

Consider the Second Psalm, the opening words of which is the question at the top. The "heathen ragers" are named as "people who imagine a vain thing, kings, and rulers, who set themselves in opposition to God's Laws and His Anointed, His King" — a king's duty is to rule, reign, proclaim and enforce laws and put down the rebellious. The heathen are warned to submit to God's King, make peace with Him, or perish when His wrath is kindled but a little!

"Clouds arise, and winds blow, by orders from God's Throne" says the hymn, think by Isaac Watts. "Not one sparrow falls to the ground without your Heavenly

Father's permission," and therefore it must be "commanded by God on orders from His Throne."

Whenever terrible and shocking calamities befall, naturally men begin to cry: why? why? O why? And doubtless we do well if sincere, for The Word of God says "It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the honor of kings to search it out." If you believe The Bible, and will read The Bible and note the context of such words as BECAUSE, WHEREFORE, THEREFORE, etc., in time you can find just about all the answers to the "whys." And you won't have to read far until you begin to find God making explanation with "BECAUSE."

In the third chapter of Genesis: "And The Lord God saith unto the serpent. Because . . . ;" and the next word Because is inferred in what was said to the woman; "And unto Adam He said, Because . . ." Unto Cain God said; "If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door." Abraham "did well," and note to the place of "Because" in what God said: "By myself have I sworn, saith The Lord, for Because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed . . . and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; BECAUSE THOU HAST OBEYED MY VOICE."

"The curse shall not causeless come," the Scriptures say. Certainly they infer also "blessings shall not causeless come!"

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