

Starting over at Duke: players, staff preparing for revival of past glory

Many experts rate the Blue Devils' recruiting season one of the nation's best. But with super scorer Vince Taylor out of the picture and only one double-digit scorer back, head coach Mike Krzyzewski is hoping his talented freshmen grow up in a hurry. Prediction: **Seventh.**

By **FRANK KENNEDY**
Staff Writer

Last winter, the fans of the Duke Blue Devils were in mourning. Helplessly, they watched what was once a powerful machine (i.e. the Gminski-Spanarkel era) crawl through a season as dismal as anything they had witnessed in 10 years.

When at last the season closed with a disheartening 35-point shellacking by Wake Forest in the first round of the ACC tournament, the Devils had managed only 10 victories in 27 tries. Their seventh place conference standing was possible only through the good graces of Georgia Tech.

Yet, in spite of all the hard times, there was an occasional relief—Duke fans spelled it V-I-N-C-E. Add a 'Taylor' to that, and you've got the one man who could always be counted on when a few thrills were in order.

But now, Vince is gone. And that is not the only problem.

Only one double-digit scorer, Chip Engelland, returns to the starting lineup.

- Ten of the 14 names on the roster are freshmen or sophomores.

- No one is small for his position, but no one is all that big, either. If the team can't hit from the outside, it may have trouble hitting at all.

- Outstanding in high school, six freshmen are now going up against not only the ACC, but a new set of rules.

It would be an understatement to say that head coach Mike Krzyzewski has his work cut out for him.

One of Krzyzewski's main dilemmas is putting together some kind of starting unit that will work together with more cohesiveness than that give-the-ball-

to-Vince unit of last year.

"We still hope that the good guard shooting continues from Emma and Engelland, but we need to spread it (scoring) around more," he said.

Spreading it around shouldn't be too difficult. After all, this may be one of the most balanced teams in the league. Over half the team has one thing in common—they've played little or no college basketball.

By the same token, this year's freshmen group, rated by many experts as the best in the country, is not exactly without the ability to quickly adapt to the college game.

Krzyzewski said that many of these new Blue Devils are better now than what he has coming back, even the returning starters. Nonetheless, he is quick to point out that they *are* freshmen and that how they look during workouts and scrimmages is no definite indication of how they will perform in a game situation.

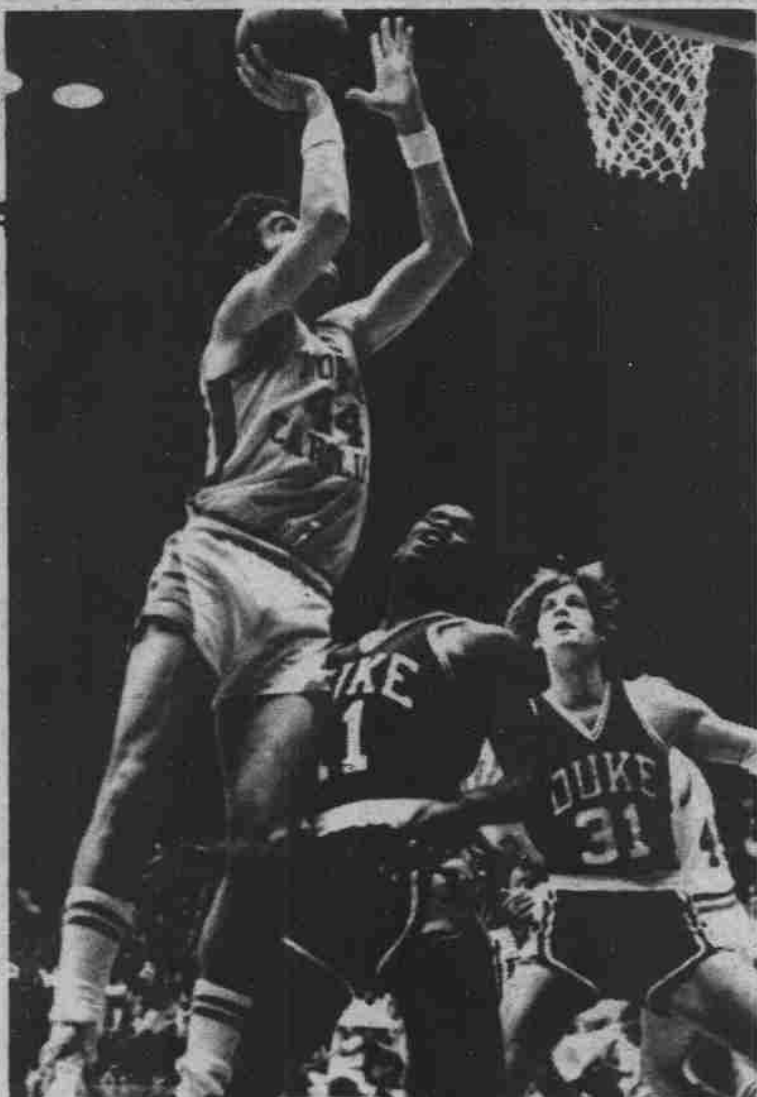
"It's a big question mark. The competition will be much tougher, and these guys are mostly 18 or 19 years old, so that must be taken into consideration," Krzyzewski said.

That shouldn't stop them from taking over as many as three, possibly even four, starting positions.

Mark Alarie, a 6-8 forward from Scottsdale, Ariz., is a sure bet to move right in as strong forward. Considered by many to be the best prep player from the West, Alarie averaged 30 points and 17 rebounds per game in high school.

Rockville, Mary. native Johnny Dawkins may also be on the court for the opening tip-off, starting ahead of senior Tom Emma at the point guard spot.

Chip Engelland, a 6-4 senior sharpshooter from the perimeter, will handle the other guard role. Engelland averaged 15.2 points per game last year.



Doug McNeely (11) and Mike Tissaw (31) are two of only four players to return to Duke's '82-83 lineup.

The remaining positions are wide open. Mike Tissaw, a 6-8 senior, struggled last year in a starting role, garnering only three points and 3.5 rebounds each outing. He may have to fight to keep the starting job away from Jay Bilas, California's best prep product in some time.

The other forward is up for grabs, even though Danny Meagher appears to have the inside track. He proved to be a solid competitor in his freshman year, the kind of "gutsy" player that Krzyzewski likes to coach.

If Krzyzewski decides against Meagher, he could go to junior Doug McNeely, last season's most improved player. At 6-5, the El Paso, Texas native is capable of filling in at both small forward or wing guard.

With potential like that, it wouldn't be surprising to see the Blue Devils improve on last year's performance. There's just one problem—this isn't any ordinary year in basketball. In fact, it may be the worst year possible to have a team as young as Krzyzewski does.

With virtually every league around the country playing under a different set of rules, the Blue Devils will find themselves adjusting their game back and forth from ACC to NCAA rules—especially during the conference season. One day it's run, run, run; the next day it's zone, zone, zone.

"If we had more veterans, we probably wouldn't have as much trouble adjusting between games. Plus, we've got six new people, so that's even more of a disadvantage," he said.

Krzyzewski won't say he's coming blindly into this season, but the picture certainly isn't very clear.

"We're a very unpredictable team because we're so young," he said. "We don't set any goals such as games won or lost; we just want to get into some kind of post-season play."

No.	Player	Year	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown
32	Mark Alarie	Fr.	6-8	216	Scottsdale, AZ
44	Todd Anderson	So.	6-9	215	Golden Valley, MN
2	Jay Bilas	Fr.	6-8	215	Rolling Hills, CA
33	Jay Bryan	So.	6-8	200	Lakewood, CO
24	Johnny Dawkins	Fr.	6-2	160	Rockville, MD
22	Tom Emma	Sr.	6-2	175	Manhasset, NY
14	Chip Engelland	Sr.	6-4	180	Pacific Palisades, CA
12	David Henderson	Fr.	6-5	190	Manson, NC
34	Bill Jackman	Fr.	6-8	215	Grant, NB
11	Doug McNeely	Jr.	6-5	200	El Paso, TX
45	Dan Meagher	So.	6-7	195	St. Catharines, Ontario
31	Mike Tissaw	Sr.	6-8	220	Fairfax, VA
25	Greg Wendt	So.	6-6	200	Livonia, MI
40	Weldon Williams	Fr.	6-6	190	Park Forest South, IL

Duke Schedule

Boldface denotes home games

Nov. 17	French National Team (Exhibition)	Dec. 29	New Hampshire	Feb. 2	William and Mary
Nov. 27	East Carolina	Jan. 3	George Mason	Feb. 5	Virginia
Nov. 29	Appalachian State	Jan. 5	Wagner	Feb. 9	Georgia Tech
Dec. 2	Colorado	Jan. 8	LaSalle	Feb. 12	Maryland
Dec. 4	California-Berkeley	Jan. 12	Louisville	Feb. 16	Stetson
Dec. 8	Virginia	Jan. 15	Maryland	Feb. 19	Wake Forest
Dec. 11	Vanderbilt	Jan. 19	Wake Forest	Feb. 23	N.C. State
Dec. 14	Davidson	Jan. 22	North Carolina	Feb. 26	Georgia Tech
		Jan. 26	N.C. State	March 2	Clemson
		Jan. 29	Clemson	March 5	North Carolina

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