

Blue Devils are a little bit older, and, Krzyzewski hopes, a lot better

By **BOB YOUNG**
Staff Writer

When discussing last year's Duke basketball team, one word seems to sum up all of the problems. Youth.

Recent recruiting years had been, for one reason or another, unsuccessful. After several close misses in the 1981 recruiting period, coach Mike Krzyzewski succeeded in bringing one of the best recruiting classes in the nation to Durham last year. The result was a starting five that had four freshmen and a team with a disappointing record.

OK, so the Blue Devils were a young team last year. They should be much better this year because they've had a season of tough ACC competition in which to get their bruises, and they should improve on their 7th-place ACC finish, right?

Well... it isn't quite that simple.

If you look at the statistics, Duke has almost three-quarters of its scoring back from last year, as well as three-quarters of its rebounding. This seems impressive until you look at the figures for the rest of the ACC. Every team, with the exception of N.C. State, returns at least 66 percent of its scoring, and every team has at least 55 percent of its rebounding back for this season.

The going isn't going to get much easier for the Blue Devils, but there are some new twists in this year's team that could help to turn things around.

First of all, freshman Tommy Amaker

from Falls Church, Va., will take over the point guard position from sophomore Johnny Dawkins. The switch will enable Dawkins to play second guard, where he can look to score more points. As last year's point guard, Dawkins averaged 18.1 points, fifth in the ACC.

Secondly, there is 7-3 Martin Nessley from Columbus, Ohio. His transition from high school to the college ranks will probably be slower than Amaker's and Nessley also has a history of ankle injuries.

But if he can occupy the center position for a few minutes a game, that will enable 6-9 sophomore Mark Alarie to move to forward, where he won't have to play against the much taller centers of the league.

"Tommy is more ready to play," Krzyzewski said. "He doesn't have to make a lot of big adjustments and can play more comfortably at his position."

"On the other hand, Martin has a longer way to go. He's working hard daily and will have to gain experience that he can only get by playing in the games. But we're not expecting as much from him."

Any help the freshmen can lend will be beneficial. Add to this the continued maturation of Dawkins, Alarie, sophomores Jay Bilas (6-8 forward), David Henderson (6-5 swingman), junior Dan Meagher (6-7 forward) and senior Doug McNeely (6-5 guard), and Duke seems to be shaping up nicely.

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Sophomore Johnny Dawkins will be switching from point guard to the shooting position, where he may loom as an even more deadly threat.

DUKE BLUE DEVILS

No.	NAME	HT/WT	CLASS	HOMETOWN
32	Mark Alarie	6-8/215	So.	Scottsdale, AZ
4	Tommy Amaker	6-0/150	Fr.	Falls Church, VA
44	Todd Anderson	6-9/225	Jr.	Golden Valley, NM
21	Jay Bilas	6-8/215	So.	Rolling Hills, CA
33	Jay Bryan	6-8/195	Jr.	Lakewood, CO
24	John Dawkins	6-2/165	So.	Washington, DC
23	Richard Ford	5-10/155	Sr.	Durham, NC
12	David Henderson	6-5/195	So.	Drewry, NC
11	Doug McNeely	6-5/195	Sr.	El Paso, TX
45	Dan Meagher	6-7/205	Jr.	St. Catharines, Ontario
51	Martin Nessley	7-2/255	Fr.	Whitehall, OH
40	Weldon Williams	6-6/190	So.	Park Forest, IL

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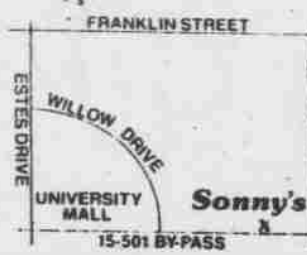
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