

Top 20

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sive playing time last season. Leading the cast is 7-0 center Pat Ewing, who averaged 17.7 points and 10.2 rebounds last season.

A bulk of the scoring this season could come from 6-5 swingman David Wingate and 6-1 guard Michael Jackson, both sophomores. Wingate started all but one game last season as a freshman, while Jackson made the Big East all-rookie team.

Four other returnees will give Georgetown enough strength to return to the Final Four as it did in 1982. The Hoyas' top recruit was 6-7 Reggie Williams, regarded as one of the best incoming freshmen.

No. 3 (tie): Houston

Coach Guy Lewis has three starters back from last year's NCAA runner-up team, which lost to N.C. State in the title game. But he lost two of his starters — Clyde Drexler and Larry Micheaux — to the NBA.

Center Akeem Abdul Olajuwon, a 7-footer, will roam the middle again for the Cougars. The junior, who averaged 13.9 points and 11.4 rebounds last season, has improved enough during his career to be considered as one of the nation's top big men along with Bowie and Ewing.

Guard Alvin Franklin and swingman Michael Young are returning starters, while reserves Benny Anders and Reid Gettys saw plenty of playing time last season.

No. 5: Memphis State

Memphis State coach Dana Kirk has his complete squad returning from last season, when the Tigers were 23-8. Leading the way is 6-10 forward Keith Lee, a forward regarded as one of America's top big men. Lee averaged 18.7 points and 10.8 rebounds last season.

Having five starters back should give Memphis State an early-season advantage over opponents. In the backcourt are 6-3 Phillip "Doom" Haynes and 5-10 Andre Turner. The center is 6-9 Derrick Phillips, while 6-5 Bobby Parks will start along side Lee. Also back is sixth man Baskerville Holmes, a 6-7 forward.

No. 6: Louisville

A traditional Final Four candidate, Louisville lost the McCray brothers but should still return to the top of the polls.

A pair of well-seasoned players will start at guard — senior Lancaster Gordon and junior Milt Wagner. Gordon averaged 13.7 points per game last season and Wagner scored 14.4 points per game. Center Charles Jones (10.9 points and 6.9 rebounds) will man the middle for Denny Crum's Cardinals.

Replacing the McCrays may be sophomore Billy Thompson, the top prep player just two years ago, Manuel Forrest, Jeff Hall and Robbie Valentine.

No. 7: Iowa

A coaching change will be the new look at Iowa this season. Lute Olson departed for Arizona and George Raveling was hired from Washington State. Raveling is a winner — he took his team to the NCAA tournament last year — and he'll inherit a wealth of talent.

Center Greg Stokes, the leading scorer, and forward Michael Payne will lead the Hawk-

eyes, who were 21-10 last season. Stokes and Payne will be expected to pick up where guard Bob Hanson and forward Mark Gannon contributed before graduating.

Steve Carfino, a 6-2 point guard, is also back. Raveling should get bench help from 6-4 Andre Banks and 7-0 Brad Lohaus.

No. 8: Maryland

Maryland coach Lefty Driesell welcomes back his entire 1982-83 squad, plus two freshmen. With a strong nucleus, the Terrapins are a consensus top-10 pick.

Adrian Branch, a 6-8 swingman, averaged 18.7 points last year. Branch will play guard, but he has the ability to slip through the big men in the middle. His backcourt mate is Jeff Adkins. The Terps' front-liners are not so tall — 6-9 center Ben Coleman, 6-9 Mark Fothergill and 6-5 Herman Veal.

Driesell also has a bench that saw a lot of playing time last season, so depth is no problem.

No. 9: LSU

LSU rallied from last place in the Southeastern Conference in midseason to finish second with a 19-13 record. The Tigers lost leading scorer Howard Carter to graduation, but the outlook in Bayou country is brightened by the return of starters Leonard Mitchell and Jerry Reynolds.

Two other starters, Johnny Jones and John Tudor, will help Dale Brown's team to the top of the SEC again. Another top returnee is 6-0 guard Derrick Taylor, who was redshirted last season.

No. 10: UCLA

Three of Larry Farmer's starters graduated from last season's 23-6 team, but leading scorer Kenny Fields and center Stuart Gray will help lead UCLA to a traditional high finish in the NCAA tournament.

Fields scored 18 points a game and will need that average again because starters Rod Foster, Darren Daye and Michael Holton are gone. Gray, 7-0, 245-pound junior averaged 7.7 points and 6.9 rebounds.

Other returnees include senior Ralph Jackson at guard and reserves Brad Wright, Nigel Miguel and Gary Maloncon.

No. 11: Michigan State

The Spartans, 17-13 last year, could be one of the most improved teams in 1983-84. Coach Jud Heathcote has four starters from last year, including 7-0 senior Kevin Willis at center. Willis averaged 13.3 points and led the Big Ten with 9.6 rebounds per game.

Guard Scott Skiles was the Big Ten's freshman player of the year last year. His backcourt mate, 6-2 Sam Vincent, is back, along with 6-8 senior forward Ben Tower. After four games, 6-8, 240-pound Ken Johnson will become eligible after transferring from Southern Cal.

No. 12: Fresno State

Forward Bernard Thompson will lead the defending NIT champions in 1983-84. Fresno State was 25-10 and won its five NIT games. Thompson was a key, scoring 16 points a game and getting almost six rebounds. Forward Ron Anderson averaged 16 points also, and the two seniors should provide scoring leadership.

Senior guard Mitch Arnold averaged 7.8 points, 3.1 rebounds and four assists per game last season. Those three players, plus six returning reserves, may give Fresno State enough to make the NCAA field this season.

No. 13: Oregon State

Oregon State got off to a shaky 7-8 start last season. Because of that, Ralph Miller's Beavers had to settle for NIT play. But forwards Charlie Sitton and A.C. Green, center Steve Woodside and guard Darryl Flowers will provide a nucleus strong enough to challenge for the Pac 10 title.

Sitton, a 6-8 senior, averaged 18.8 points last season and Woodside averaged 8.9 in a reserve role. Sitton was on the U.S. team in the Pan American Games in August.

No. 14: Boston College

Boston College lost its top scorer from last year's 24-6 team. John Garris graduated with his 19.7 scoring average. But four other starters should give the Eagles enough talent to challenge Georgetown for the Big East honors.

Guard Michael Adams averaged 16.2 points last season, and he'll be joined by Dominic Pressley in the backcourt. Seniors Martin Clark and Jay Murphy form the front line for coach Gary Williams. Reserves returning include 6-5 Roger McCreedy, 6-3 Stu Primus and guard Tim O'Shea.

No. 15: Arkansas

Arkansas lost its key player from last year's 26-4 team — Darrell Walker. The Razorback guard did it all for coach Eddie Sutton's team, averaging 18.2 points, 5.7 rebounds, 3.3 assists and 2.8 steals.

But all is not lost this season in Fayetteville. In fact, the winning ways should continue. Alvin Robertson, a 6-3 senior, is at guard, where he poured in more than 14 points per game last season. Forward Leroy Sutton and 6-11 center Joe Kleine are back on the front line, leading Arkansas' hopes for overtaking Houston in the Southwest Conference race.

No. 16: Georgia

The Bulldogs only tied for fourth in the Southeastern Conference, but garnered an NCAA bid and advanced to the Final Four. Forward James Banks, a 6-6 senior, and guard Vern Fleming are the top returning scorers. Center Terry Fair graduated, and 6-6 Richard Corhen may move into the pivot.

Gerald Crosby and sub Donald Hartry are back and should give Georgia one of the top backcourts in the country. If the 'Dawgs get

through the 18-game SEC schedule in good shape, they will probably have accumulated enough nonconference wins to make another trip to the NCAA tournament.

No. 17: Oklahoma

Center Wayman Tisdale, a 6-9 sophomore, became one of the country's top players even as a freshman. Tisdale poured in 24.5 points per game, grabbed 10.3 rebounds and averaged 2.4 blocked shots. Tisdale is the only seasoned starter on Billy Tubbs' team, so he'll have to continue his scoring pace.

The four other starters, who led OU to a 24-9 mark last year, graduated. Tubbs will get help from Jan Pannell, Calvin Pierce and William Tisdale (Wayman's brother). Tim McCallister is one of seven freshmen on this year's team, and he should make a contribution soon.

No. 18: DePaul

"The Coach," as the retiring Ray Meyer is called, will be making his last run at an NCAA tournament bid. Meyer is just three wins short of becoming the fifth Division I coach to win 700 games, and he's approaching his 70th birthday.

DePaul has four starters back, including 6-6 forward Tyrone Corbin and 6-2 guard Kenny Patterson. The Blue Demons also grabbed one of the nation's elite recruits — 6-9 Dallas Comegys — from Philadelphia.

No. 19: Kansas

Surprisingly, Kansas has made several top 20 polls in the preseason. That's unusual because the Jayhawks were 13-16 last season.

However, the Jayhawks will use the same starting five they did a year ago. First-year coach Larry Brown will have senior Carl Henry and sophomore Jeff Guiot at guards, Kelly Knight at center, and Kerry Boagni and Calvin Thompson at the forwards. Henry scored 17.4 per game last season, while Boagni chipped in with 14.1 per game. The Jayhawks will welcome 7-1 transfer Greg Dreiling from Wichita State.

No. 20: Virginia Commonwealth

Virginia Commonwealth saw its 24-7 season end last March when it lost to eventual Final Four participant Georgia by two points in the NCAA tournament. But J.D. Barnett's Rams are a good bet to make another trip as the Sun Belt conference representative.

Junior Gaurd Calvin Duncan leads the Rams. He averaged 17.4 points per game last season. Another of four starters returning is Michael Brown, a forward who averaged 10.6 points. Three junior college transfers lead the team's newcomers.

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