

## Blue Devils' loss of 4 starters irreplaceable

By GREG COOK  
Staff Writer

The Duke Blue Devils arrive into the 1986-87 basketball campaign following a dream season in which the Blue Devils set an NCAA record with 37 wins in a single season, won the ACC championship and put together an astounding 21-game winning streak going into their championship finale with Louisville in Dallas' Reunion Arena.

The title loss in Dallas marked not only the end of the 1986 NCAA season; it marked the end of an illustrious Duke senior class which included starters Mark Alarie, Johnny Dawkins, David Henderson and Jay Bilas. No doubt, memories of the class of '86 will still linger in Cameron Indoor Stadium. Memories, however, will not secure wins.

During the preseason's "Operation Basketball" conference in which all the ACC coaches gather and talk basketball with the media, Clemson coach Cliff Ellis said that maybe each coach's talk should be related in length to how good his particular team would be during the upcoming season. When Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski was called upon to speak he jokingly said that he was immediately open to questions.

All is not really bleak for Coach K and his Blue Devils. Returning is baby-face point guard Tommy Amaker.

The 6-0 senior can be a deadly general on the floor. He has set school records in assists (241) and steals (96). Amaker made the All-NCAA Final Four team in Dallas and, in the summer, helped the United States earn a gold medal in the World Championships.

Another key returnee is 6-10 sophomore forward Danny Ferry, who was perhaps the most sought-after high school recruit in the nation two seasons ago. Ferry averaged 5.9 points and 5.5 rebounds last season while playing about 20 minutes a contest. But this season he will be called upon to play a much larger role.

"I thought Danny fit in really well last year," said Krzyzewski. "He will be more of a focal point this season. He needs to score."

Another probable starter for Coach K should be junior forward Billy King. King 6-6, arrived out of high school with a reputation as a defensive specialist and in his first two seasons at Duke kept that reputation, mainly in a reserve role.

King, however, has a notoriously

weak offensive game. He averaged only four points and 2.9 rebounds last season. The Blue Devils will have to hope King's defensive play will make up for his offensive weaknesses by creating turnovers and grabbing more rebounds at both ends.

The second guard spot will probably go to 6-2 sophomore Quin Snyder. Snyder gained some valuable experience in the latter half of last year playing behind Amaker. The tempo of the Blue Devil offensive scheme will depend on how well Snyder and the experienced Amaker work together in the backcourt.

The center position on the Duke squad is simply up for grabs. Senior Martin Nessley, 7-2, did not live up to the expectations of Blue Devil hopefuls in 1986. The other option is 6-10 freshman Alaa (The Pharaoh) Abdelnaby, who is from Bloomfield High School in New Jersey but was born in Egypt. Early indications from Krzyzewski, however, have Nessley in the starting lineup, especially if Duke opts to go with a larger starting rotation.

"Nessley has done very well in the preseason," Krzyzewski said. "Abdelnaby will not be much of a factor (this season)."

Krzyzewski will also look toward junior guard-forward Kevin Strickland to help the Devils out. The Mt. Airy, N.C., native has seen limited playing time during his two seasons but has simply not shown all of his potential. It is still possible that Strickland could be seen in the starting lineup when tip-off time arrives.

According to Krzyzewski, the Blue Devils will have to be patient in the early going to develop a consistent offensive scheme. The tempo of the offense, he said, will be a complete contrast to the Duke teams of the past three years, which was more of a "fast-paced, off to the races" offense created by a heavy pressure man-to-man defense.

The defense will still rely on a pressure man-to-man, but it is doubtful if it will help create as many problems for opposing offenses as last season.

The key to the Duke season will be fundamentals. The Blue Devils are not blessed with the deep-seated talent of a Dawkins or an Alarie but they do have talent: enough to finish in the top three of the ACC if they come on strong. If the more inexperienced players learn their roles on the team early on, the Devils could be a top-caliber team in March when tournament time arrives.

### Duke Roster

#### Forwards

No.	Name	Hgt.	Wgt.	Age	Class	Hometown
21	Robert Brickley	6-5	205	18	Fr.	Fayetteville, N.C.
35	DANNY FERRY	6-10	230	19	So.	Bowie, Md.
55	BILLY KING	6-6	205	20	Jr.	Sterling, Va.
33	JOHN SMITH	6-7	210	19	So.	Ft. Washington, Md.

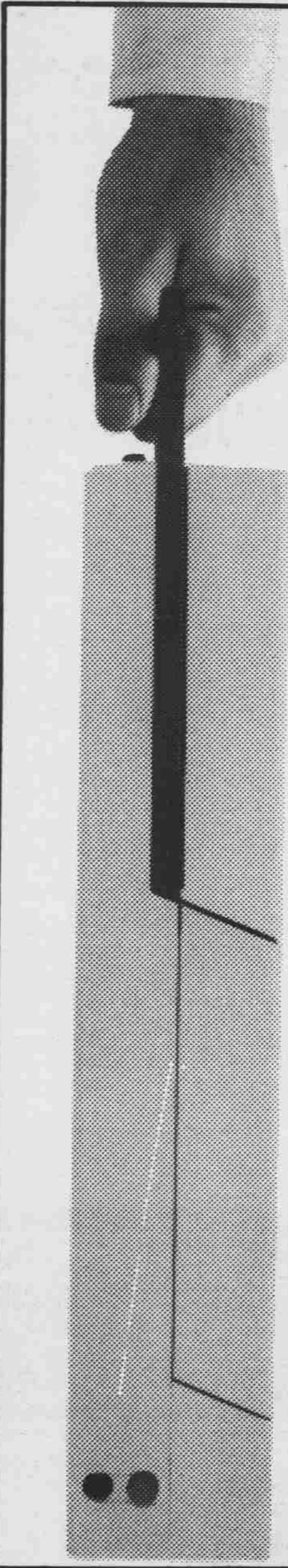
#### Centers

30	Alaa Abdelnaby	6-10	220	18	Fr.	Bloomfield, N.J.
42	George Burgin	7-0	215	19	Fr.	Fairfax, Va.
51	MARTIN NESSLEY	7-2	260	21	Sr.	Whitehall, Ohio

#### Guards

4	TOMMY AMAKER	6-0	155	21	Sr.	Falls Church, Va.
44	Phil Henderson	6-4	170	18	Fr.	University Park, Ill.
14	QUIN SNYDER	6-2	160	19	So.	Mercer Island, Wash.
31	KEVIN STRICKLAND	6-5	195	20	Jr.	Mt. Airy, N.C.

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