

# Without Polynice, Virginia searches for a new identity

By LORNA KHALIL  
Staff Writer

If Virginia can overcome the loss of standout center Olden Polynice, the Cavaliers' most valuable player each of the last two seasons, a very respectable year is in store for Terry Holland's troops.

The 6-11 Polynice lost his scholarship last summer prior to pleading no contest to a shoplifting charge, and is currently playing professionally in Italy. His departure represents a significant loss to the Cavaliers, whom he led in scoring last season with 16.1 points a game and rebounding with eight a game. The Cavaliers were 19-11 overall and 7-7 in the ACC last season.

Fortunately for the Wahoos, Polynice represents the only loss from last year's starting lineup, which translates into an experienced squad this year for Holland. "We have some strong leadership," the coach said.

A key returnee for Virginia is 6-5 junior Mel Kennedy. Kennedy, who was second behind Polynice last season in scoring, averaged 12 points

a game while ranking third on the team in rebounding and blocked shots. A versatile player who can start at guard or forward, Kennedy should prove to be a major force on this year's team.

In addition, 6-9 senior forward Tom Sheehey will be an important part of the Virginia lineup. Sheehey proved his all-around worth by leading the Wahoos in free throw percentage last season, hitting 59-of-70, and ranking second in assists. Additionally, he was third on the team in scoring (10) and rebounding (4.9) averaging.

The Cavaliers will also be counting on leadership from another Kennedy — 6-7 senior forward Andrew. He represents a crucial part of Virginia's defensive game, which may be a little weak this season. Last season Kennedy was second in blocked shots with 13 and rebounding with 5.2 per game, en route to being honored as Virginia's best defensive player.

Andrew Kennedy also made an offensive impact, finishing first in field goal percentage and fourth in

scoring, averaging 9.2 points a game last year.

Polynice's departure has left open the center position for the Cavaliers, but they are stocked with possibilities. Six-eleven junior John Dyslin, 6-11 sophomore Tim Martin, 6-8 Bill Batts and 6-9 sophomore Jeff Daniels will all be competing for the starting role at center.

With Virginia's pivotman the most inexperienced player in the lineup, it should be interesting to see how Holland distributes the playing time at center. Dyslin and Daniel played some last year, with Dyslin gaining 42 rebounds in 29 games, but Martin and Batts were redshirted.

Virginia has an experienced backcourt with 6-0 senior Tom Calloway and 6-0 junior John Johnson returning to point guard. Calloway started at point guard last season and led the team in steals with 28 while Johnson led the team in assists last year.

Also returning for the Cavaliers is 6-3 sophomore Richard Morgan, Virginia's rookie of the year last

## Virginia Roster

Forwards						
No.	Name	Hgt.	Wgt.	Age	Class	Hometown
34	Bill Batts	6-8	200	19	Fr.	South Euclid, Ohio
31	Mark Cooke	6-5	210	18	Fr.	Martinsville, Va.
44	JEFF DANIEL	6-9	200	19	So.	Indianapolis, Ind.
42	ANDREW KENNEDY	6-7	208	20	Sr.	Kingston, Jamaica
21	MEL KENNEDY	6-5	205	20	Jr.	Long Island City, N.Y.
22	TOM SHEEHEY	6-9	233	21	Sr.	Rochester, N.Y.

  

Centers						
No.	Name	Hgt.	Wgt.	Age	Class	Hometown
52	JOHN DYSLIN	6-11	210	20	Jr.	Knoxville, Tenn.
54	TIM MARTIN	6-11	240	20	So.	Ridgeway, Va.

  

Guards						
No.	Name	Hgt.	Wgt.	Age	Class	Hometown
32	LANCE BLANKS	6-4	185	20	So.	The Woodlands, Texas
5	TOM CALLOWAY	6-0	180	22	Sr.	Charlottesville, Va.
10	JOHN JOHNSON	6-0	160	20	Jr.	Brooklyn, N.Y.
4	Rob Metcalf	6-6	200	19	Fr.	Port Edwards, Wis.
11	RICHARD MORGAN	6-3	190	19	So.	Salem, Va.
20	DARRICK SIMMS	6-3	213	21	Jr.	Alexandria, Va.
12	ANTHONY SOLOMON	5-10	165	21	Sr.	Newport News, Va.

season. Morgan played as a reserve at the off guard position, averaging 5.9 points and 1.9 rebounds a game.

New additions to the Virginia squad include 6-4 freshman forward Mark Cooke and 6-5 freshman forward-guard Rob Metcalf. But due

to all the returnees, these two newcomers probably won't be in high demand.

Obviously Virginia's biggest challenge will be to overcome the void left by Polynice's departure.

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