

Terrapins hope to make last year a distant memory

By **STEPHEN GILES**
Staff Writer

The two key words from College Park concerning the Maryland Terrapins' dismal 0-14 conference record and 9-17 overall record in 1986-1987 are "remember" and "forget."

Coach Bob Wade, who compiled an incredible 272-24 record in 11 years at Dunbar High School in Baltimore, was predictably very unaccustomed to losing. And he knows there are still doubts lingering on his ability to coach at the college level.

"I realize these fans are spoiled. The tradition and expectations here are high," Wade said. "But I don't feel pressure. I just know that people want the University of Maryland to play a better brand of basketball than was played last year."

"We're going to work very hard to try to give them the brand of basketball they've become accustomed to," Wade continued. "But one must realize that this program has gone through an awful lot, and it's going to take time to regroup. We've had to do a total re-sale of our program."

One must realize that the trauma following the Lenny Bias incident left its impression on the Maryland program, and one must also be aware of the fact that Wade and the remaining players recruited by former coach Lefty Driesell understandably found things quite uncomfortable with the upheaval this past season.

But it is also important to point out that nine of Maryland's 14 ACC

losses last year came by nine points or less.

Remember. "It will never be completely forgotten," Wade said of Bias' death. "But I'm selling the new Maryland athletic program and Bob Wade when I go into future recruits' homes. We've been received very well. Everyone knows Lew Perkins (Maryland's athletic director) has restructured the entire athletic program, and it's definitely on the upswing. As far as basketball, a couple more recruiting classes and we'll be back up in the top echelon of the ACC."

Forget. Wade has already taken appropriate steps to heal the scars of last season by signing blue-chip recruits and bringing in experienced transfers. His main concern this season has become the distribution of playing time amongst his club. All five starters return from last year's squad, and former starting point guard Keith Gatlin and standout forward Tony Massenburg will also be allowed to rejoin the team.

By securing 6-foot-10 McDonald's All-American center Brian Williams, considered one of the top five recruits this past season, Wade quickly proved the credibility of his program. As a high school senior, Williams averaged 17.3 points and 12.7 rebounds and led the nation's high school players with 9.1 blocked shots per game.

Wade also signed Derrick Lewis' 6-foot-10 kid brother, Cedric, another player whom recruiting gurus

were drooling over. The younger Lewis had totals of 17 points, nine rebounds, and six blocked shots as a high school senior.

In addition, the Terps add Syracuse transfer Rodney Walker, a 6-foot-9, 245-pound banger who should provide strong rebounding and tournament experience. Also add juco transfer Rudy Archer, a 6-foot-1 point guard who could step in and play right away after averaging 14.7 points, 12.2 assists and 3.1 steals on a junior college team that in two seasons posted a 77-6 record.

At point guard, Wade will be able to choose among the likes of 6-foot-1 sophomore Teyon McCoy, last season's starter, who scored 7.4 points per game and dealt 111 assists last year, 6-foot-5 senior Gatlin, who averaged 10.2 points and 6.4 assists per game as a junior and Archer, whom many project as the starter.

At the shooting guard, 6-foot-4 junior John Johnson returns to try to reclaim his starting spot after playing solid defense and scoring 10.9 points per game there last season.

Don't bet on it, though. DeMatha product Steve Hood, a 6-6 sophomore swingman thrust into the small forward spot on the small Terrapin squad of a year ago, should find himself a home at the shooting guard position. As a freshman, Hood averaged 14.2 points and 3.9 rebounds while shooting 43.8 percent from 3-point land. Gatlin could also see time at the shooting guard position.

In the frontcourt Wade has even

Maryland Roster

Forwards

No.	Name	Hgt.	Wgt.	Age	Class	Hometown
23	DAVE DICKERSON	6-6	200	20	Jr.	Olar, S.C.
44	STEVE HOOD	6-6	190	19	So.	Hyattsville, Md.
10	MARK KARVER	6-7	195	19	So.	Kensington, Md.
33	DERRICK LEWIS	6-7	195	21	Sr.	Temple Hills, Md.
43	Cedric Lewis	6-9	200	18	Fr.	Temple Hills, Md.
30	Rodney Walker	6-9	250	21	Jr.	Baltimore, Md.

Centers

25	TONY MASSENBURG	6-9	230	20	So.	Sussex, Va.
24	Brian Williams	6-10	210	18	Fr.	Santa Monica, Calif.

Guards

12	Rudy Archer	6-1	170	21	Jr.	Baltimore, Md.
3	KEITH GATLIN	6-5	170	22	Sr.	Grimesland, N.C.
21	JOHN JOHNSON	6-4	170	20	Jr.	Knoxville, Tenn.
5	MITCH KASOFF	6-1	175	19	So.	Pikesville, Md.
11	TEYON MCCOY	6-1	170	19	So.	Hammond, Ind.
22	GREG NARED	6-4	190	20	Jr.	Wilmington, Ohio

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more possibilities to consider. He insists that first-team All-ACC Derrick Lewis, a 6-foot-7 senior who has been forced to play the pivot the past three seasons, will finally get his chance to face the basket at the small forward position. Despite his lack of height for a center, Lewis was second in the nation in shot blocking to Navy's David Robinson, and second in the ACC in rebounding last year with 9.5 per game. He was also second in scoring, averaging 19.6 points per game. But it will be tough to improve on those statistics, no matter where Lewis plays.

Dave Dickerson, a 6-foot-7 sophomore, may find himself on the bench after starting every game at power forward last year while averaging 8.3 points and 5.6 rebounds per game.

Rumor has it in D.C. that when the Terps are in trouble, they go to "Mass." Tony Massenburg, a 6-foot-9, 235 pound sophomore, appears to be a leading candidate for the forward position opposite Lewis. Known as "Schwarzenegger" by his teammates, Massenburg is a muscular big man

with tremendous leaping ability. Syracuse transfer Walker could challenge after he becomes eligible in December.

At center, freshman sensation Williams will find himself starting immediately, not to mention the fact that the ACC Rookie-of-the-Year award and shot blocking crown will be all his. Fellow freshman Lewis will provide depth at center and could possibly play alongside Williams at the power forward spot.

This season could turn out to be one of the biggest turnarounds in college basketball in a long time. Maryland could finish anywhere from third to fifth, depending on how well Wade can get the team to mesh.

Without a doubt Wade has the deepest and tallest team in the conference. But experience and teamwork will decide whether this team is capable of providing a serious threat to the ACC title. The talent is there, but the question is can Wade fit it into a team. Forget last year and look for a fourth-place finish.



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