



Brian Howard should be State's most consistent player this year

DTH file photo

# No more miracles? Shack-less Pack can only dream what could have been

By BETHANY LITTON  
Staff Writer

As far as the Wolfpack is concerned, the hardship draft couldn't be more aptly named.

Last May's NBA draft was responsible for luring Charles Shackelford, who was an All-ACC contributor in State's 24-8 season last year, away from Raleigh to the New Jersey Nets one year before his eligibility would have expired.

Did someone say hardship?

"Shack, though unorthodox, was one of the most talented players in the country, especially in the big games," State head coach Jim Valvano said. "With Shack, we would've had one of the better starting fives around. We would have had visions of championships in our heads. But Shack is not here. So we go from there."

Although Shackelford (16.6 points per game, 9.6 rebounds) and Vinny Del Negro (15.9 points) will be sorely missed, the Pack still has some talented players to work with. They have three starters and the top scoring reserve from last year returning, as well as some promising newcomers.

Back from last year's starting lineup are 6-8 senior forward Chucky Brown, 6-1 sophomore guard Chris Corchiani and Brian Howard, a steady 6-7 junior who will fill the other forward position.

Brown, one of the team's two seniors, finished last season with an average of 16.6 points per game and has the potential to be a real leader on the court for the Wolfpack.

"Chucky Brown is one of the best-kept secrets in college basketball," Valvano said. "We are going to ask him to do an awful lot more for us this year, and I really think he'll come through for us."

Corchiani, who was voted the ACC rookie of the year by the fans last year, established a conference record for assists as a freshman with an average of 7.3 per game. His consistency will be invaluable in the backcourt, which was weakened by the loss of Kelsey Weems, who withdrew from school this fall.

Howard's experience will also be relied on heavily by the Pack.

"Brian Howard is probably the most consistent player we have," said Valvano. "He was the difference for us last year, as to why we were so much better during the year."

Joining Corchiani at the other guard position will be Rodney Monroe, a 6-3 sophomore who averaged 11.1 points off the bench last season. Corchiani and Monroe, dubbed "Fire and Ice" by the N.C. State media guide, must perform to potential for the Pack to match last year's record, in which they won more regular season games than they have since 1974.

"In Corchiani and Monroe, there are some parallels between them as sophomores and (Sidney) Lowe and (Derreck) Whittenburg as sophomores," said Valvano. "This year's team reminds me of my first team at State. That club played everybody competitively. We didn't win enough games, but we were very competitive."

The starting center position will probably be filled by Avie Lester, a

## Wolfpack Alphabetical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Year	Hometown
52	***Chucky Brown	F	6-8	211	Sr.	Leland, N.C.
13	*Chris Corchiani	G	6-1	182	So	Miami, Fla.
54	*Brian D'Amico	C	6-11	252	Jr.	Reading, Pa.
24	Tom Gugliotta	F	6-7	198	Fr.	Huntington Station, N.Y.
3	Mickey Hinnant	F-G	6-4	185	Jr.	Raleigh, N.C.
22	**Brian Howard	G-F	6-7	218	Jr.	Winston-Salem, N.C.
23	Jamie Knox	F	6-7	187	Fr.	Vicksburg, Miss.
25	David Lee	F-C	6-8	215	Jr.	Torrance, Calif.
32	**Avie Lester	F-C	6-9	227	Jr.	Roxboro, N.C.
21	*Rodney Monroe	G	6-3	173	So.	Hagerstown, Md.
30	***Kenny Poston	F	6-6	219	Sr.	Cherryville, N.C.
19	Bryon Tucker	F	6-9	195	Fr.	Oxon Hill, Md.

\*Denotes Letters Won

### Head Coach

Jim Valvano (Rutgers, 1967)

### Assistants

Dick Stewart (Rutgers, 1969)

Derreck Whittenburg (N.C. State, 1985)



6-9 junior, with 6-11 junior Brian D'Amico and David Lee, a 6-8 newcomer, also contributing.

"Out of Lester, D'Amico and Lee, we're going to ask for half the points, all the rebounds and better defense than Shack gave us last year," Valvano said.

Junior college transfer Mickey Hinnant, a 6-6 junior who was a standout at Cary High School, will see considerable action at either small forward or shooting guard. Said Valvano: "Mickey is a multi-purpose player who can do a little of everything. With his versatility, we are confident that Mickey will help us this year."

The Pack is building for the future with such recruits as Tom Gugliotta and Jamie Knox, two 6-7 freshman forwards whom Valvano has compared to Del Negro and Brown.

With a 104-103 loss to Marathon Oil tipping off their preseason play, the Wolfpack must use every bit of its resources if this season is to rival performances of past years.

"We're looking to move the ball

around more this year," said Brown. "We're not looking for any one person to score. Last year, we could just outscore people, but we can't do that anymore. We are going to have to apply tough pressure for 40 minutes if we are going to compete in the big games."

Added Valvano: "We're not going to be burdened with expectations. I know I get criticized at times, but last year we played a great regular season and then we lose to Duke in the second round of the NCAAs and in the first round of the NCAAs to Murray State. The 24 wins and the regular season don't mean very much to me. But it sure would be nice to do all three."

**Pack Facts:** A little home cokin' perhaps? Corchiani notched 8.7 assists per game at home, but 5.6 on the road. . . . Lester, in limited playing time last year, managed to finish fourth in the ACC with a block every 14 minutes of play. . . . Chucky Brown's real first name is not Charles—it's Clarence.

## Notes from all over

By DOUG HOOGERVORST  
Staff Writer

Basketball. That time of year has come again. So everyone should junk whatever they're doing, just to catch a glimpse of the game.

Basketball. The word has a majestic ring about it. And just saying it in public will get you more attention than talking about E.F. Hutton.

Well, that's my intro. Actually, I just wanted to scribble a few incoherent notes about the upcoming season and I needed something to lead in with. So here are some things that everyone might want to think about once in 1988-89, if not more than once. . . .

**Pookey** — Full name: Pookey Wigington. He's not Garfield's teddy bear, but he looks like it. Really, he's a Seton Hall Pirate. At 5-foot-4, he's a player America could fall in love with if the Pirates were good enough for national attention. By the way, the guy can play. . . .

Staying with the little guys, how about Dana Barros of Boston College (5-foot-10). He can flat out shoot, and maybe he can shoot his way to the Big East Player-of-the-Year award. Now, if only the Eagles could put

Doug Flutie on their team at center. . . .

Move the three-point line back. Please. It's too easy for the big boys of college. Besides, you penalize good defense by giving these kids extra points. Nineteen-nine for a trey is just an easy jumper at this level. If they want to shoot for trifectas, at least make it a challenge. . . .

Poor Mouse McFadden. Cleveland State's coach Kevin Mackey got caught cheating again and this talented guard will have to pay. The Vikings are on probation so he won't get a chance to showcase his play in the NCAA's, but don't despair, you'll get to see him in the NBA next year. . . .

Speaking of the NBA. Whoever thinks their season lasts too long, raise your hand. Okay, put it down and pick up the paper again. Hey, Commissioner Stern, November through July is tooooooo long for anyone, even the basketball extremists, to stand. That's why more and more people are college fans. . . .

Now, for best imitation of an NBA team, the nominees are: Loyola

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