

Wake Forest faces unpredictable year

Off-season transfers and injuries raise many questions

By JOHN BLAND
Staff Writer

"I've had nothing but bad luck in this league for three years," Wake Forest coach Bob Staak said. "It's about time I start having some things go right for me."

Will this be the year Staak's Demon Deacons finally rise above the crushing bad luck that has befallen them for the past two years?

Among the casualties of that bad luck were players recruited by former coach Carl Tacy who transferred to other schools. And then came the injuries of last year. First, two freshmen, Daric Keys and Robert Siler, went down. Siler for the remainder of the year. Then starting guard Tony Black suffered a broken leg in midseason. Next, Keys went down again with a ruptured knee tendon (he has been redshirted for 1988-89).

So the question still remains: Will the Deacs be a force to be reckoned with in the ACC this year?

Probably not, but who knows? With a team like Wake Forest, it is best perhaps not to prejudge. After all, this is basically the same team that beat North Carolina, 83-80, in Greensboro last season. Moreover, it is also the same team that lost to Coastal Carolina, 106-104.

"We've had our share of misfortune and things that were beyond our control," Staak said.

But this year, a winning record seems in reach for the Deacs. With all the starters from a tough 10-18 team returning, plus the addition of several top-flight recruits and transfers, the Deacs look to be even

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tougher this year.

"I really consider this the first year of our program," Staak said. "I'm really optimistic about the year. I haven't really known what it's like to have an ACC team in the ACC."

Returning for the Deacs at guard is Cal Boyd, whose "three years of semi-suffering... has him wanting to leave Wake Forest with a legacy of being one of the captains on the team that turned it around," according to Staak.

Boyd will be paired with either the oft-injured Black, the oft-injured Siler, Antonio Johnson or freshman Derrick McQueen, Cozell's little brother, who is expected to have an immediate impact.

At forward, all-ACC candidate Sam Ivy returns along with outside-shooting madman David Carlyle, who no doubt had an impact on the team when he transferred last year from Old Dominion.

Ivy, last year's leading scorer (18.6 ppg) and rebounder (7.6 rpg), practiced the first day but missed the next two weeks with a congenital enzyme deficiency which causes dehydration. The 6-7 junior was one of only two underclassmen (along with J.R. Reid) among last season's 10 all-conference selections.

Ivy will be helped considerably by

the addition of highly touted frosh Chris King, who stands 6-8. King, who may be the top recruit of Staak's Wake Forest career, is a strong, aggressive power forward who can shoot the 15-footer as well as he takes the ball to the hoop.

The 6-8 Carlyle, who averaged 13.6 ppg and 5.2 rpg in his first year for the Deacs, averaged the most minutes per game (35.2) of all newcomers in the league last year. His height gives him an obvious advantage when he shoots from the perimeter over smaller players. His 44 three-pointers, a team high, gained him a third-place finish among ACC performers.

Returning at center is Ralph Kitley, who surprised many last year as the ACC's most improved player. Kitley, perhaps more than any other Deacon, exemplified the attitude of hard work and hustle that was Wake's trademark last year. Sophomore Tom Wise is expected to see a lot of action this season backing Kitley up.

"We could start McQueen and King," said Staak, referring to the all-freshman "Royal Duo" of Derrick McQueen and Chris King, two examples of Wake's improved recruiting.

King, from Newton Grove, was considered the top prospect in North Carolina. He will see a lot of action

Deacon Alphabetical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Year	Hometown
22	Tony Black	G	6-4	205	Jr	Florence, S.C.
10	Cal Boyd	G	6-1	180	Sr	Smyrna, Ga.
25	David Carlyle	F	6-8	215	Jr	Winston-Salem, N.C.
20	Darryl Cheeley	G	6-1	185	Fr	Burlington, N.C.
40	Sam Ivy	F	6-7	225	Jr	St. Louis, Mo.
23	Antonio Johnson	G	6-4	200	Jr	Southern Pines, N.C.
44	Chris King	F	6-8	210	Fr	Newton Grove, N.C.
33	Ralph Kitley	C	6-10	250	Jr	Spencer, N.C.
4	Derrick McQueen	G	5-11	175	Fr	Darlington, S.C.
45	Phil Medlin	F-C	6-8	190	Fr	Greenville, S.C.
13	Steve Ray	G	6-0	175	Sr	Burnsville, N.C.
34	Todd Sanders	F	6-6	215	So	Pittsboro, N.C.
21	Robert Siler	G	6-3	200	So	Siler City, N.C.
30	Tom Wise	C	6-9	235	So	Winchester, Va.

*Denotes Letters Won

Head Coach

Bob Staak (Connecticut, 1971)

Assistants

Jerry Wainwright (Colorado College, 1968)

Dennis Wolff (Connecticut, 1978)

Jeff Capel (Fayetteville State, 1977)



at power forward, and will possibly start.

"Chris King is as athletic a player as I've been around in quite some time," said Staak, cautioning that "he has quite a way to go from a defensive standpoint."

McQueen will double at point guard and forward, and as an effective penetrator will be able to open up the three-point shots for Carlyle and Boyd. His ability has raised comparisons to Tyrone Bogues, Wake's last All-American and now a guard for the Charlotte Hornets.

"I'm not here to tell you Derrick McQueen is the next Tyrone Bogues, because I don't think there will ever be another him," Staak said. "We've had ACC-caliber players, but never a team that was good enough. This year, we have the ingredients."

Indeed, expect the Demon Deacons to use their newfound depth to its full advantage and to play with a faster pace than Wake teams of the recent past.

"This year, we can go with a smaller lineup or a big lineup," Boyd said.

"We have a lot of different looks and I think that will be a big plus for us. We'll be able to play in-your-jock defense for 40 minutes and not worry about getting tired."

Staak backed up his senior guard, saying, "There seems to be an air of confidence with our players, although I think we're a year away from being the type of basketball team we're capable of being."

Deacon Bits: The Demon Deacons had more offensive rebounds than last year than either Georgia Tech or UNC... Wake will open the new \$26 million Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Winston-Salem in 1990... The Deacs will have an unusual trio this season — Robert Siler, Ralph Kitley and David Carlyle are all the sons of ministers... Assuming he stays through his senior year, Derrick McQueen will extend the ACC's McStreak to 16 seasons. That is, 16 straight years in which a player with a "Mc" last name appeared on a league roster.

Notes

Marymount, Loyola Marymount and Loyola Marymount (Oklahoma would have qualified except they play occasional defense). Who said Paul Westhead had no imagination? He only copied the Lakers....

Take a hike, Larry Brown. You knew you were about to get caught, so you skipped town. Now, a once-proud program is smeared with shame....

A pleasant farewell to Oregon State head coach Ralph Miller, who is retiring after this season. He's given the Beavers his best for 515 games and has a terrific career won-loss record of 652-362. Let's hope his Payton (guard Gary) can carry the team like another guy named Payton carried the Bears a couple years ago....

Does anyone at Villanova ever graduate? It seems like Doug West and Kenny Wilson have been Wildcats forever. And it seems like Mark Plansky was there forever, too. And Harold Jensen before him. And Harold Pressly before him....

Who's the best player in North Carolina? Danny Ferry? J.R. Reid? How about Byron Dinkins? Not only does he share Byron Scott's first name, but he has Scott's sweet, silky game also. Despite his lack of notoriety, Dinkins is one of the best players in the country....

Everyone give thanks for Dick Vitale. His enthusiasm for the game makes him fun to watch, not to

mention the best at what he does. His PTPers and M-n-Mers are simply awesome and he even stood on his head when Austin Peay beat Illinois. How's that for dedication?....

Joey Meyer asked the press for some respect last year and I think it's about time we gave him that. He wants to be called Joe instead of Joey. Joe Meyer. Hmmm. No. I think Oscar is more appropriate....

Is it me, or is Oklahoma great at every sport? They always have a contending football team and their baseball team always seems to be up there. And now, Billy Tubbs has built himself a hoops powerhouse. From Wayman Tisdale and "Choo"

Kennedy to Harvey Grant and Stacey King, the Sooner baton passes. By the way, you've got to love how King has improved....

I love the way Ricky Blanton plays. He'd kill his mother for a loose ball. I wish more players would play like him. But doesn't he seem like he's a Villanova player? He's been playing since the Dark Ages....

Last comment. It seems that Dana Kirk is an overall loser in life. He cheated at Memphis State and now he's been convicted for tax evasion. And this is a role model coach. Yeah....

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