

# 'Fire & Ice' lead scorching Wolfpack in '89

By BROCK PAGE

Staff Writer

As the college basketball season fast approaches, no team is more eager to get on the court than the N.C. State Wolfpack. With the cloud of an NCAA investigation still hanging over its head, the Pack must be chomping at the bit to play ball again.

Some say the troubles of the past will inspire this year's squad to perform better on the court and in the classroom.

"It will motivate us on the court and off the court," junior point guard Chris Corchiani said. "We need to show the rest of the world that first we're students and then athletes, and that we're good in both."

Proving that to the world may be very costly for N.C. State. Avie Lester, a returning 6-foot-9 starting center, will miss an indefinite number of games due to academic ineligibility under new team standards imposed by head coach Jim Valvano. With a frontcourt that was already weak due to the loss of All-ACC forward Chucky Brown, the team will sorely miss the inside presence of Lester.

As Valvano heads into his 10th year at N.C. State, where he has compiled a 191-102 record, he can be content with the knowledge that there is at least one area in which the team will be very strong.

The bright spot for the Wolfpack is the backcourt duo of Corchiani and junior Rodney Monroe, who have been gracing the cover of preseason basketball magazines. Fire and Ice, as they have been called, are recognized by many as the finest guard tandem in the nation.

"It's a great honor to get such recognition," Corchiani said. "We also know what's at stake. We have to prove it and back it up with our play."

The 6-3 Monroe is the ACC's top returning scorer, averaging 21.4 points per game last year. He will have to carry most of the scoring burden again this year. Corchiani, who led the conference in assists (8.6) and steals (2.6), averaged 10.5 points per game and will have to assume even more of a scoring role for the Wolfpack.

"I'll be looking to shoot a few more three-pointers," Corchiani said. "I need to hit early in the game to open it up for my other teammates and to take some pressure off Rodney."

Every team that N.C. State faces will try to shut Monroe down so that someone else besides Corchiani will have to try to take up the slack. Without Brown, who had 16.4 points a game last year, someone must step

up from the frontline as a scoring threat. Somebody also has to make up for the lost rebounding power of Brown, who was second in the ACC in that category with an 8.8 average.

The leading candidate right now is senior Brian Howard, a 6-7 returning starter at forward who averaged 12.5 points and 5.4 rebounds per game a year ago.

"Brian is the most underrated player in the country," Corchiani said. "He does everything for us. Without him, we don't have a team. He has stepped up in scoring, rebounding and leadership."

In a recent exhibition game against the Venezuelan National Team, N.C. State looked impressive with an 88-55 win, as senior guard Mickey Hinnant scored 22 points to lead the team. The 6-6 Hinnant will come off the bench regularly to spell Corchiani and Monroe and will be expected to contribute heavily for the Wolfpack.

Sophomore Tom Gugliotta, a 6-7 forward, will be expected to fill the starting spot left vacant by the departure of Brown. Gugliotta has a nice touch on his outside jumper and has had a strong preseason.

With the sudden absence of Lester, N.C. State has to find someone else to take over at center. Brian D'Amico, a 6-11 senior, and David Lee, a 6-8 senior, could possibly step in for Lester. Neither received a lot of quality minutes last year, and both will take time before they are ready to contribute.

The problems of the front line leave

the door open for two incoming freshmen to make an immediate impact. The newcomers, 6-9 Kevin Thompson and 6-6 Bryant Feggins, played together for Glenn High School in Winston-Salem. Both have been outstanding in practice and are expected to make significant contributions.

This year's squad, much like last year's, is generally picked to finish near the middle of the ACC. In 1989, the Wolfpack went 10-4 in the ACC and 22-9 overall, winning the regular-season conference championship.

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## N.C. State Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Year	Hometown
13	**Chris Corchiani	G	6-1	182	Jr.	Miami, Fla.
54	**Brian D'Amico	C	6-11	252	Sr.	Reading, Penn.
34	Bryant Feggins	F-G	6-6	190	Fr.	Winston-Salem, N.C.
24	*Tom Gugliotta	F	6-9	219	So.	Huntington Station, N.Y.
3	*Mickey Hinnant	G-F	6-6	185	Sr.	Raleigh, N.C.
22	**Brian Howard	F	6-7	209	Sr.	Winston-Salem, N.C.
23	*Jamie Knox	F	6-7	205	So.	Vicksburg, Miss.
25	*David Lee	C-F	6-8	221	Sr.	Torrance, Calif.
32	**Avie Lester	C	6-9	218	Sr.	Roxboro, N.C.
21	**Rodney Monroe	G	6-3	181	Jr.	Hagerstown, Md.
33	Anthony Robinson	F	6-9	220	Fr.	Havelock, N.C.
42	Kevin Thompson	F	6-9	225	Fr.	Winston-Salem, N.C.
15	Roland Whitley	G	6-0	164	So.	Goldboro, N.C.

Head Coach  
Jim Valvano (Rutgers, 1967)  
Assistants  
Dick Stewart (Rutgers, 1969)  
Derreck Whittenburg (N.C. State, 1985)



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