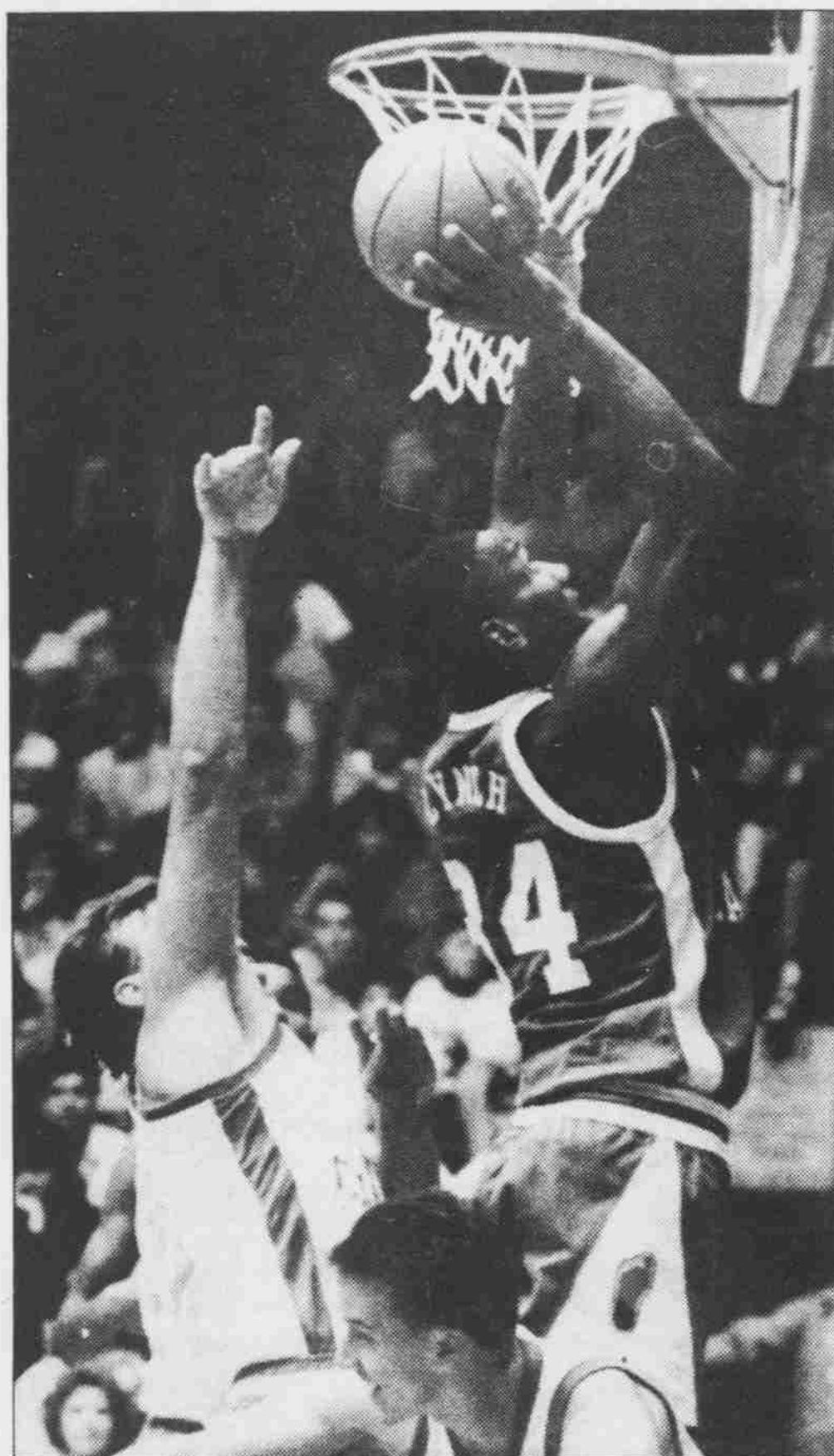


Lynch, Wenstrom get the inside call early

Rookies exhibit different styles



Legends of Lynch's racous rebounding have fans in a frenzy

By MARK ANDERSON

Assistant Sports Editor

With the loss of J.R. Reid and the injury to Scott Williams, two freshmen will be asked to play a large role in the Tar Heels' vaunted inside game. McDonald's All-Americans George Lynch and Matt Wenstrom were among the highest-rated big men in last year's senior class, but they attack the same task with very different styles.

The 6-foot-7, 207-pound Lynch uses his quickness and strength to dominate the boards.

"He's a quick rebounder and quick leaper with quick feet," UNC head coach Dean Smith said.

Wenstrom, Dean Smith's first official seven-footer, is the consummate low-post player.

"He has a big body (245 pounds) and you can't teach size," UNC forward Pete Chilcutt said. "He has a solid base to build on."

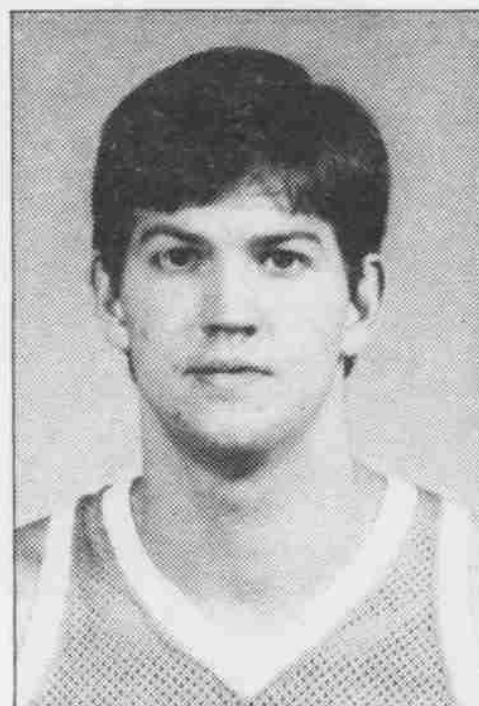
Lynch, from Roanoke, Va., is another in a long list of Virginia recruits for Smith. He closely resembles a UNC senior from Virginia this year, Kevin Madden. Both are mid-sized, inside-oriented players with large high school reputations.

The biggest question mark concerning Lynch is his shooting range, which supposedly improved drastically over the summer.

Lynch is an outstanding one-on-one inside player who has the reputation of a monster rebounder. His 22 boards in last summer's McDonald's Capital All-Star game in Landover, Md., broke Ralph Sampson's mark. "Lynch has been impressive," Chilcutt said. "He's all muscle. He leaps well and times it well. I think he'll be a great rebounder."

After leading Patrick Henry High School to a state title as a junior, Lynch transferred to powerhouse Flint Hill Prep in Falls Church, Va., Lynch joined a program that has been ranked in the nation's top 25 by *USA Today* since 1982.

Lynch averaged 21 points, 11 rebounds and three assists his senior year. He is one of only five Flint Hill players to have his jersey retired.



Matt Wenstrom

Along with Lynch's reputation comes the pressure for him to produce immediately for the Tar Heels.

"He will have to play this year," Rick Fox said. "He'll come off the bench to help us a lot."

One reason Lynch is called an immediate impact player is that his work ethic and mental attitude should be able to overcome that pressure.

An ACC coach said, "He's the most prepared (freshman in the ACC) fundamentally, physically and mentally."

While scouts expect Lynch to

contribute immediately, the jury is still out on Wenstrom.

Originally a red-shirt prospect before Reid packed for Charlotte, Wenstrom is a year away in most observers' eyes from being able to make a major contribution. However, Smith's modest expectations may have risen after Williams' injury.

"Without Williams, Wenstrom becomes that much more important to our team," Smith said.

As a junior at Mayde Creek High School in Katy, Texas, Wenstrom averaged 21.2 points (on 73 percent shooting), 11 rebounds, 3.5 assists and 5.5 blocks per game. He has a good touch from 12-15 feet and can run the floor, but some have questioned his foot speed and quickness.

Wenstrom's development has also been slowed by a fatigue fracture and an elbow infection, which have caused him to miss more than half the team's practices. In addition, Williams said the Tar Heel system may hinder Wenstrom initially.

"It's really hard for big guys in this Carolina system," Williams said. "We have a lot to learn, so it's definitely an adjustment period right now for him as far as patterns."

Despite the question marks, Wenstrom's teammates think he can add valuable frontcourt depth.

"Matt's a real big, strong guy," Williams said. "He's going to take up a lot of space inside."

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undergoing arthroscopic knee surgery in March and missing the last three games of the season, Mustaf is expected to be back at full force by the start of this campaign.

And what of Maryland's four incoming freshmen? They are 6-3 guard Curley Young from Chesapeake, Va.; 6-8 forward Evers Burns from Baltimore, Md.; 6-3 guard Kevin McLinton from Silver Spring, Md.; and 6-8 forward Kevin Chamberlain from College Park, Ga.

Young is the most heralded of the newcomers. He received all-state honors last year while averaging 24.7 points, 8.5 rebounds, 3.5 assists and 2.4 blocks per game. He could contribute at the point guard position and will provide a solid backup for

McCoy.

Right now, it looks like Williams won't be able to rely heavily on the freshmen for help this season. Leadership will have to be provided by the veterans, and Massenburg for one thinks the Terps are up to the task.

"We proved a lot of people wrong (by upsetting State in the ACC Tournament) last year," Massenburg said. "You look at something like that and you say, 'We can win no matter what we've been through.' That game showed what we can do when we go out and execute."

With Gary Williams at the helm, Maryland will compete this year. With a little luck and some tenacious defense, Maryland can begin the long climb back to the top of the ACC.

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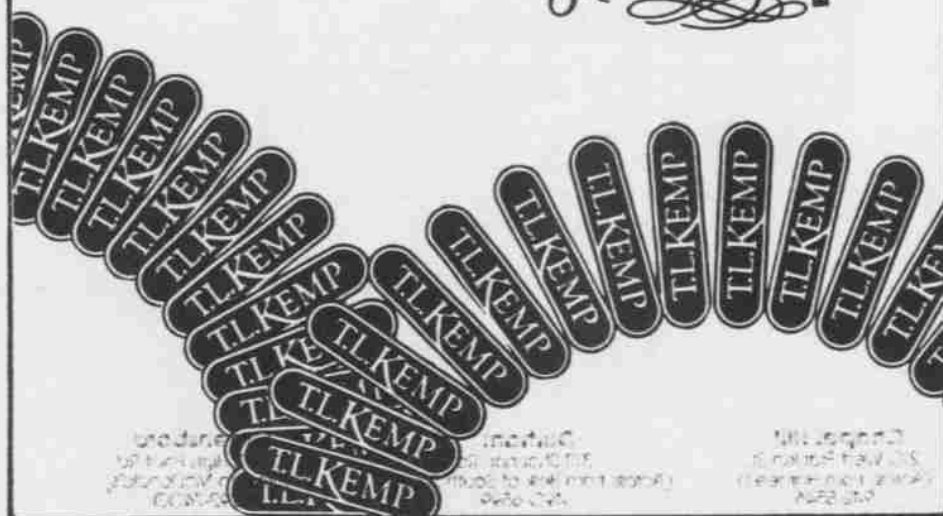
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