

Sports

ACC hoops are here again!

Christopher Behm

That nemesis to the best laid of academic plans is here once again in the form of the Atlantic Coast Conference basketball season. This time of year even the most dedicated student is apt to find his concentration hindered greatly by visions of three-pointers, slam dunks, and driving lay-ups. So that we can all devote more time to our studies (yeah, whatever) prior to taking in this year's action, I have prepared this brief overview of the participants in an effort to ensure that all hoop fans are properly prepared when it comes time for tip-off. Here follows, in alphabetical order, my expert analyses of this year's combatants:

Clemson: Prior to the start of the season, many people didn't give the Tigers much of a chance. However, this team has shown some promise in early action. Especially in their game against UNC, the Tigers demonstrated that they can hang with better teams. As expected, Sharone Wright and Devin Gray are the two mainstays, but Chris Whitney is also dangerous at times. The real question about this team will be depth: Do they have anyone off the bench

who can produce some points? If someone steps up and fills the role, watch for Clemson to grab a few wins.

Duke: As expected, Duke has looked very impressive at times this season. However, they have already accumulated two losses in ACC action. Against both Georgia Tech and Virginia, Duke proved that they are not invincible. Bobby Hurley, Grant Hill, and Thomas Hill are three of the best in the country, but three does not a team make. Cherokee Parks and Antonio Lang must come to play every night and the Blue Devils must get quality minutes from Marty Clark, Chris Collins, and Eric Meek to have any hopes of bringing another championship banner to the temple that Krzyzewski built.

Florida State: Pat Kennedy's crew faced high expectations coming into this, their second season in the ACC. But now the Seminoles seem to be suffering from their own previous successes. Although they are still a very good team, FSU is not able to sneak in and steal wins as in the 1992 season. With excellent starters in Doug Edwards and Sam Cassell, help from the bench in Bob Sura, and the long-awaited (and much needed) return of

Charlie Ward from football, the Seminoles will continue to improve greatly and be a force to be reckoned with come tournament time.

Georgia Tech: Once again, Bobby Cremins has demonstrated that he is one of the top recruiters in the nation. This year's team boasts an excellent array of talent. Malcolm Mackey, James Forrest, and Travis Best are proven players, but Forrest and Best are only sophomores! Into this group, Cremins has added two excellent freshmen, Martice Moore and Drew Barry (whose brother Jon graduated last year—where do they grow these guys?). The key to the season will be the play of center Ivano Newbill, who got off to a shaky start. If he comes around and the Jackets get some bench support, look for them to be running on all cylinders.

Maryland: For the most part, things look dire for the Terps this season. The only real bright spot for Gary Williams will continue to be Evers Burns at forward. Johnny Rhodes is a highly touted freshman, but he has mighty shoes to fill following the departure of Walt "The Wizard" Williams to the NBA. An 0-4 start might be the unfortunate indicator of a long season to come.

N.C. State: The Wolfpack seemed to have the cards stacked against them from the start. Shootings, suicides, and key injuries read more like a soap opera than a sports page, but Les Robinson's positive attitude and leadership has demonstrated his worth. Still, there is not much hope here now that Tom Gugliotta is gone, Bryant Feggins is inactive, and Migjen Bakalli is injured. The only bright spot is Kevin Thompson, who has greatly improved in the last couple of seasons. Judging from an 0-3 start, the freshmen will have to mature quickly if there is to be any success in Raleigh this season.

North Carolina: The Tarheels have an excellent team this season. Eric Montross and George Lynch are playing at their peaks. Brian Reese and Derrick Phelps are good role players, while freshman Dante Calabria has progressed nicely. The questions here are at second guard and outside shooting. UNC must be able to shoot from the outside to keep defenses from collapsing on Montross and they must find someone who can play better than Henrik Rodl (which shouldn't be hard). If they can succeed at these points, the Heels may make a run to the Final Four.

Virginia: Surprise, Surprise! The Cavaliers (as of this writing) are undefeated. For a team that lost a player of the caliber of Bryant Stith, this has been quite a feat. UVA, however, is loaded with previously unrecognized talent. Cory Alexander, Cornel Parker, Doug Smith, and Junior Burrough have all progressed nicely in the league. Even Ted Jeffries, who used to have trouble finding even the backboard, has developed some offensive capability. The problem with the Cavs is the lack of a "go-to" player; everyone must contribute consistently. What happens when someone hits a slump? If slumps can be avoided, look for the Cavaliers to go well into the post season.

Wake Forest: Things have not quite gone as expected for the Deacons. The loss of four starters has been noticeable in their play. Randolph Childress, Rodney Rodgers, and transfer Charlie Harrison (Georgetown) have played well, but not excellent. The keys to this team, however, will be consistent play from center Derrick Hicks and forward Trelonnie Owens. If Hicks can't handle the big men of the ACC and Owens is invisible (as he has been so far), it may be a long season for WFU fans.

A Slice of Life from the Butcher

Yes Virginia, you deserve respect for the Wahoo-was

Butch Maier

Sunday afternoon the University of Virginia Cavaliers marched out of Cameron Indoor Stadium with a 77-69 win, their first victory at the Durham locale since the days when Ralph Sampson had knees.

Oh, how UVa stood tall this weekend, while the Dookies sat on their hands—the Cameron Crazy's bedeviled and bewildered by this 'Hoo team, the only remaining undefeated Division I school in the country.

Picked to finish as an ACC also-ran, Coach Jeff Jones opened up Virginia's outside shooting and also ran more to jump out of the gates at 11-0 (4-0 in the ACC). Quite a contrast to Terry Holland's stick in the mud squads during the late '80s.

A question remains. 'Hoo is this team?

Sensational sophomore forward Junior Burrough is the Cavs' go-to guy, earning him the nickname of "The Black Hole." When the ball is sent in to Burrough, you're not likely to see it come out again.

Second-year point guard Cory Alexander has stepped up to take

over ball-handling duties, breaking Jones' assist record last season. Senior Doug Smith spelled the foul-plagued Alexander with 14 second-half points versus Duke.

Cornel Parker has improved immensely this year as a shooting guard after changing his jersey number. Parker, in his third year at Charlottesville, did a number on Duke with nine boards Sunday.

Senior center Ted Jeffries has hinted as emerging as a scorer, flirting with 20 points against Florida State.

Forwards Jason Williford and Yuri Barnes offer consistent inside play—nothing spectacular—and if Chris Havlicek ever emerges from beneath his father John's shadow...well, 'Hoo knows.

Besides these unassuming players, the cupboard's pretty bare. The Cavs would do better to suit up their coach, a fine guard in his own right a decade ago, than to pry any other guys from their seats on the sidelines. The depth factor aside, Thomas Jefferson's hoop reps are a top ten item in every poll for now. That's nice for an ego boost, if for not much else.

Where in college football teams

frantically jockey for poll position come bowl time, the college basketball season is more of a preparatory program for the advanced courses dubbed "March Madness."

Since this article, Virginia has traveled to the Dean Dome and

Carolina to Cameron, so early on in this ACC season the conference standings have already gone through a game of musical chairs. Come March, we'll have to see who's sitting pretty when the music stops.

Anyway, look for up to six ACC teams to make the 64-team NCAA tournament and perhaps eight from the Big Ten. That's nearly a quarter of the entrants coming from two conferences.

Butcher's Best Baker's Dozen

#	Team	W-L	Comments
1.	Virginia	11-0	Excitedly undefeated; won at Duke
2.	Kansas	14-1	Hawks have truly balanced squad
3.	Indiana	15-2	Snuck by Michigan; Purdue's a test
4.	Michigan	13-2	Had beaten UNC; Wolves not soph-t
5.	No. Carolina	14-1	Beating U-Va would make them best
6.	Kentucky	11-1	Frosh Rhodes needs no Cat's cradle
7.	Duke	12-2	It was bound to happen—better now
8.	Arkansas	12-1	Young Razorbacks are razor sharp
9.	Cincinnati	11-1	Nick at night shoots outta sight
10.	Seton Hall	14-2	Come March they'll be right De-here
11.	Oklahoma	12-3	Lost three Sooner than they wanted
12.	Iowa	12-3	Wore them down did Earl of Duke
13.	Purdue	11-2	Mr. Robinson's not too neighborly

Sportswriters needed! If you are interested in sports and like to write, *The Guilfordian* sports section wants you! Call Kiley at 2306 or drop a note in Box 17273. No experience needed!