

# What's Next for the Triangle's ACC Men's Basketball Teams?

Jennifer Cash, Staff Writer

As football season comes to a close fans won't have to wait long for more action from their favorite teams. Basketball season has gotten underway with many local teams already playing exhibition games and regular season games starting in mid-November. Here is a preview of what to expect from Triangle teams this season.

Over in Durham, the Blue Devils are still in high gear after their National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Championship win for the 2010 season. However, with the graduation of key players Jon Scheyer, Lance Thomas and Brian Zoubek, do the Blue Devils still have what it takes to remain the top in basketball? Right now it looks that way. Duke has already been ranked #1 in the Top 25 NCAA Teams pre-season rankings by The Associated Press (AP). Duke has also been ranked #1 in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) pre-season ranking by the Atlantic Coast Sports Media Association (ACSMA). Duke won the 2010 ACC Tournament along with the national title so it is very likely Duke still has what it takes to be a strong contender this year. Duke also returns with seniors Kyle Singler and Nolan Smith, junior Miles Plumlee and sophomore Mason Plumlee, all who know what it takes to win a championship. Singler will be a key player for Duke this season, he has already been picked by the ACSMA as the pre-season ACC player of the year and he has earned a spot on the AP's pre-season All American Team. Duke has also gained freshman Kyrie Irving, already picked as one of the best point guards in the nation. Duke's season began on October 23 with an exhibition game against St. Augustine's. The game was an easy win for Duke, winning 141-68. It's no secret Coach Mike Krzyzewski has built a basketball powerhouse at Duke but do they have what it takes to win a national championship two years in a row? If you are lucky enough to grab one of the few tickets available at Cameron Indoor Stadium some games to check out are: November 14 against Princeton, December 1 against Michigan State, January 9 against Maryland, February 5 against NC State and everybody's favorite, February 9 against North Carolina. Fans will also not want to miss the re-match against Butler (the team Duke beat in the NCAA championship game) which will be played on December 4th in East Rutherford, New Jersey, but fear not Duke fans, ESPN will broadcast the game live at 3:15pm.

In Chapel Hill, the North Carolina Tar Heels return after a season coach Roy Williams wants to forget. In the

midst of the 100 Years of Carolina Basketball Celebration, the Tar Heels ended a century of excellence on a low point with an overall record of 20-17. Carolina also did not receive a bid to the NCAA tournament, a first for Roy Williams since his 1988-1989 season at Kansas. Carolina did receive a National Invitation Tournament (NIT) bid and made it to the final game but lost to Dayton. Carolina also lost many key players with the graduation of Deon Thompson and Marcus Ginyard, the unexpected transfer of twins Travis and David Wear, the unexpected release of Will Graves and the move to the NBA for Ed Davis. However, despite the negative attention Carolina received during the 2009-2010 basketball season, the Tar Heels are ready to make their comeback. Carolina has already been ranked 3rd in the ACC by the ACSMA and was ranked 8th in the AP Top 25 NCAA Teams pre-season rankings. Even with the loss of so many players, Carolina has gained many players such as the top high school recruit, Harrison Barnes, freshman Reggie Bullock and Kendall Marshall and graduate student, Justin Knox, a transfer from the University of Alabama. Barnes is already being predicted as a great help for the Tar Heels. He has been picked as the ACC Pre-Season Rookie of the Year and he has earned a spot on the AP's pre-season All American Team, a spot a freshman has not earned since the 1986-1987 basketball season. Carolina returns with experienced players Tyler Zeller, Larry Drew II and Justin Watts who know what it takes to be on a NCAA Championship team since all were freshman during Carolina's 2009 NCAA title win. Returning sophomores John Henson, Dexter Strickland and Leslie McDonald are also expected to be a huge help to the Tar Heels. So can the Tar Heels bounce back and take back the national title? Fans who want to catch the Tar Heels in action at the Dean Smith Center should keep an eye out for the November 28 re-match against the College of Charleston, December 4 against Kentucky, January 13 against Virginia Tech, January 29 against NC State, February 15 against Wake Forest and the most anticipated game, March 5 against Duke. Another big game for the Tar Heels will take them to Greensboro to face off against the University of Texas at the Greensboro Coliseum on December 18.

In 1983 North Carolina State basketball won a national championship, in 1987 they won the ACC tournament, but since then they haven't had much luck. Maybe with the help of new freshman C.J. Leslie and Ryan Harrow, the Wolfpack can turn around their

## What's Up In Raleigh: 11/9 - 11/23

Collected by Ashleigh Phillips

- Nov. 9 - 21: Burning Coal Theater Presents St. Nicholas @ The Murphey School  
Jungalbook @ Raleigh Little Theater
- Nov. 11: Javelin, Reptar, and Rain In My Face @ Kings  
Bright Young Things, Gray Young, and Heads On A Stick @ Tir Na Nog
- Nov. 12: Inside Job opens @ the Colony Theater  
Films from the A/V Geeks Collection @ NMCA
- Nov. 13: Anthony Bourdain @ Memorial Auditorium
- Nov. 14: The Great American Songbook: The Music of Cole Porter, George Gershwin, and Rogers and Hart @ NCMA
- Nov. 16: The Weepies with Carsie Blanton @ Lincoln Theater
- Nov. 18: Embarrassing Fruits, Kid Future, and Americans In France at Tir Na Nog
- Nov. 19: Pleasantville @ NCMA's Fall Film Series  
Future Islands with Lonnie Walker, Veelee, and Naps @ Kings
- Nov. 20: American Indian Heritage Celebration @ North Carolina Museum of History

### Ongoing Exhibits:

- Nov. 9 - Jan 11: Discover the Real George Washington @ North Carolina Museum of History
- Nov. 9 - Jan 30: Binh Dahn: In the Eclipse of Angkor @ NCMA  
American Chronicles: The Art Of Norman Rockwell @ NCMA  
Fins and Feathers: Original Children's Book Illustrations from the Eric Carle  
Museum of Picture Book Art @ NCMA
- Nov. 9 - March 7: Down Home: Jewish Life in North Carolina @ North Carolina History Museum
- Nov 9 - March 27: Bob Trotman: Inverted Utopias @ NCMA

record (which last year was 20-16). The Wolfpack will be returning with seniors Javier Gonzalez and Tracy Smith, but they lost Dennis Horner who was the second leading scorer for the Wolfpack. But don't worry State fans, even if the basketball season does not fare as well as this year's football season, there is still hope. The ACSMA has ranked NC State 4th in the ACC in the pre-season rankings. Tracy Smith was selected for the pre-season All ACC Team and while they didn't win, freshman C.J. Leslie and Ryan Harrow were in the running for the pre-season ACC Rookie of the Year. State fans should also keep in mind these exciting games coming to the RBC Center: January 8 against Wake Forest, January 19 against Duke, and February 23 against North Carolina. Other exciting games for State fans include the November 18 game against East Carolina, December 4 game at Syracuse and February 20 game at Maryland.

So whether you're a Tar Heel, Blue Devil or Wolfpack fan this season is sure to be full of high energy games with surprises around every turn. And just maybe one of our local teams will

come home with an ACC Championship or NCAA Championship. Let the games begin. this year's football season has been, there is still hope. The ACSMA has ranked NC State 4th in the ACC in the pre-season rankings. Tracy Smith was selected for the pre-season All ACC Team and while they didn't win, freshman C.J. Leslie and Ryan Harrow were in the running for the pre-season ACC Rookie of the Year. State fans should also keep in mind these exciting games coming to the RBC Center: January 8 against Wake Forest, January 19 against Duke, and February 23 against North Carolina. Other exciting games for State fans include the November 18 game against East Carolina, December 4 game at Syracuse and February 20 game at Maryland.

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