

STATE AND LOCAL

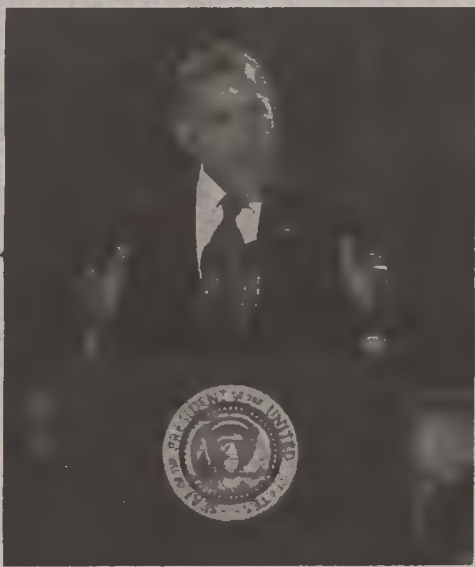
Obama (continued)

declining to raise taxes on the upper class. With the fiscal cliff looming ever closer, there is a growing need to address these issues and finally take action before the middle class is faced with a tax increase.

After a victorious election, the newly re-elected administration is energetic, enthusiastic and ready for a challenge. There are certain issues that Obama is not willing to compromise

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on, such as withdrawing universal healthcare or limiting student financial aid. With both parties digging their heels in, are Americans likely to see efficient government cooperation? As Obama said in his victory speech, “We are greater than the sum of our individual ambitions, and we remain more than a collection of red states and blue states.” Living up to this statement of bipartisan idealism will be one of Obama’s biggest challenges in the next four years.



Obama on election night 2012
via examlner.com

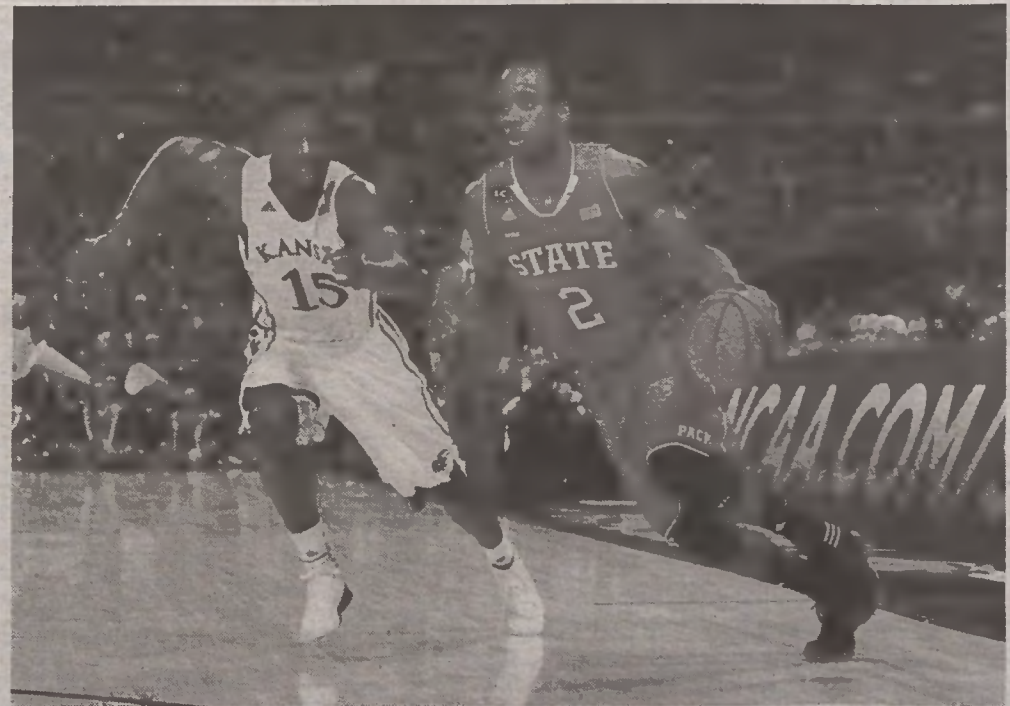
ACC Hoops Back in Action

Jennifer Cash, staff writer

As the tailgates and football games come to an end, fans still have something to be excited about....basketball season has officially begun! All three local ACC teams were ranked in the AP Top 25 Preseason rankings with North Carolina State University (NCSU) ranked sixth, Duke University at eighth and The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) ranked eleventh. This has been the first time in many years that all three local teams were in the top 25 preseason rankings together, as well as many years since NCSU has been ranked higher than Duke and UNC.

NCSU has not made a name for itself in the college basketball world since 1983, the year NCSU won their second national title. Now, under second year coach Mark Gottfried, Wolfpack fans believe their team can redeem their title thirty years later. The News & Observer reports that NCSU’s veteran players are vital to the Wolfpack’s success. Four of the five starters are returning players. NCSU returns with Lorenzo Brown, Scott Wood, C.J. Leslie and Richard Howell. The Pack also has high hopes with their freshman class made up of Rodney Purvis, T. J. Warren and Tyler Lewis. The Wolfpack have already given fans a preview of the upcoming season with big wins over Belmont Abbey College, Miami University, Pennsylvania State University, and The University of Massachusetts.

Duke basketball returns this season after an ugly loss in the first game of the 2012 NCAA tournament and the loss of players Miles Plumlee and Austin Rivers. Those losses did not stop Coach Mike Krzyzewski from bringing team USA to a gold medal win this summer in London. Krzyzewski enters his 32nd year as Duke’s coach with many key returning players such as Mason Plumlee, Ryan Kelly, Quinn Cook, Seth Curry, Andre Dawkins, Tyler Thornton and Josh Hairston. Duke also enters with a few new players—Alex Murphy and Rasheed Sulaimon, whom The News & Observer calls an impact rookie. Duke has already started the season on a high with big wins against Western Washington University, Winston-Salem State University and Georgia State University. Duke also won against reigning NCAA



Players from Kansas and N.C. State in last year’s ACC season
photo via Getty Images

National Champion The University of Kentucky.

UNC enters basketball season as a rebuilding team since the Tar Heels lost star players Tyler Zeller, Harrison Barnes, John Henson and Kendall Marshall at the end of last season. The last time the Tar Heels lost so many key players was the season after their 2009 national title win and one every Tar Heel hopes to forget, with UNC entering into the NIT Tournament instead of the NCAA Tournament. However, this time around Coach Roy Williams has a few experienced players returning as well as a promising class of new players. UNC returns with experienced Tar Heels Dexter Strickland, Reggie Bullock, Leslie McDonald, James Michael McAdoo and P.J. Hairston. There is also a promising new player Marcus Paige, whom the News & Observer says could hold the key to the Tar Heel’s success. UNC has already won their first four games

against Shaw University, Gardner-Webb University, Florida Atlantic University, and California State University at Long Beach.

All three of the local ACC teams have the potential to perform very well in this year’s ACC Tournament and NCAA Tournament. While the season is just getting started, the big games

will not begin until January when ACC games begin. A lot of fans are ready for the big games against the local teams. NCSU will come head-to-head with Duke at the PNC Arena on Jan. 12

and with UNC on Jan. 26. Duke faces off against NCSU at Cameron Indoor Stadium on Feb. 7 and plays rival UNC on Feb. 13. UNC will greet NCSU at the Dean Smith Center on Feb. 23 and welcomes rival Duke on March 9. Let the battle of the blues and red begin.

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