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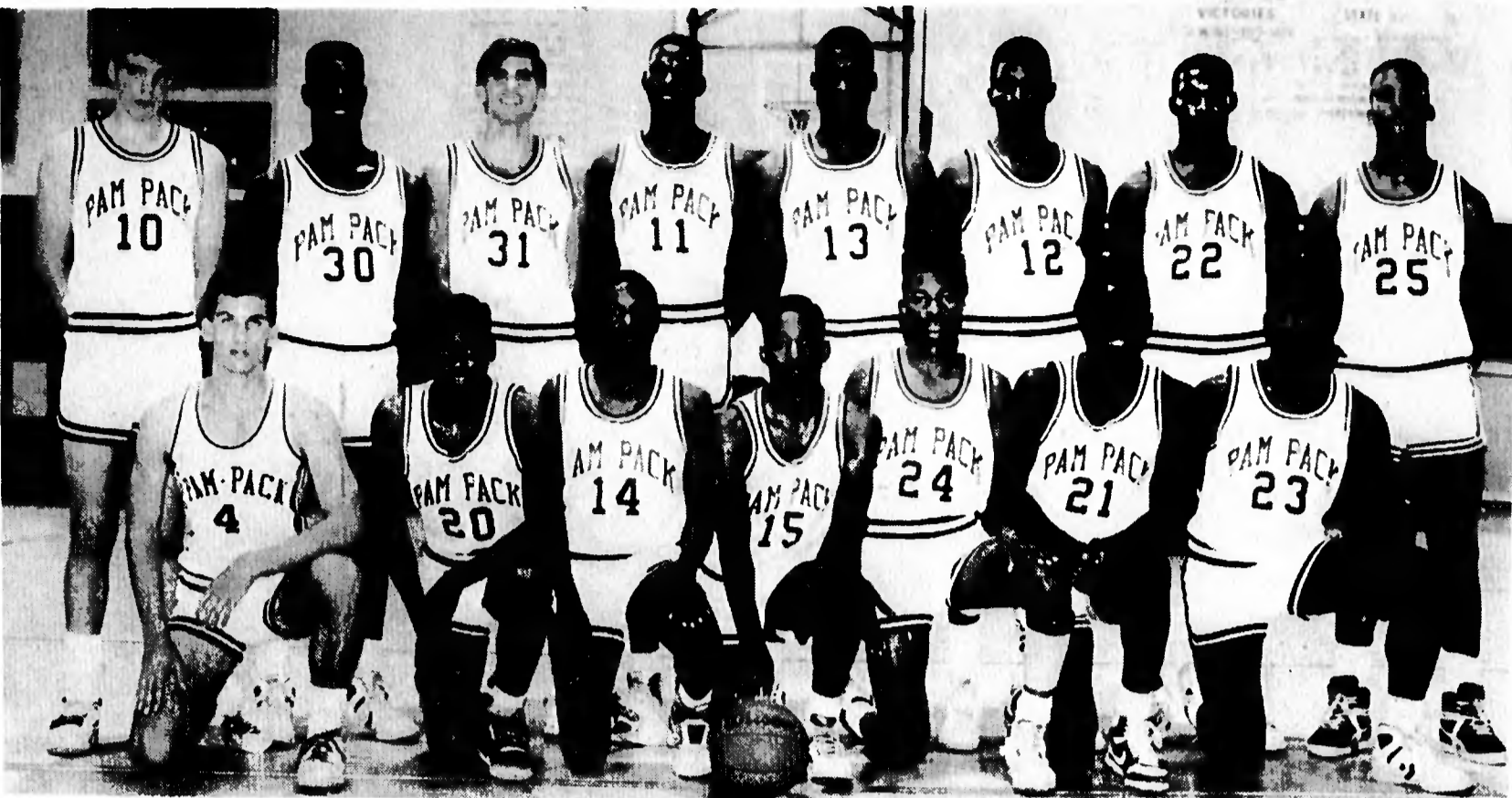
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The Washington Daily News Basketball Special Edition Staff: Lisa Krochmal, editor and photographer; Jim Green, writer and photographer; Ric Carter, photography editor; Gene King, advertising director; Vance Bell, pressroom foreman; Jay Corey, Nikki Williams, Elmo Carawan, pressroom technicians; John Alligood, James Dixon, Bill Daniels, Margie Gardner, Mary Lee Passt, Jennifer Young, Lisa Krochmal, Pat Beacham, Amy Whitaker, Susan Banks, advertising, cover art and tournament logo designed by Patti Slikor.

Grateful thanks for production assistance go to Christie Alligood and Lisa Krochmal. Special thanks for support go to Brownie Futral and Mike Reese.

Thank you to Doug Slikor for adding a light touch to this section with his unique insights. And, thanks to the ladies in the mail room who won't mind one more insert in today's paper.

ON THE COVER—A group of varsity basketball players from Beaufort County schools — Beihaven John A. Wilkinson's Michelle Leathers and Lambert Green; Chocowinity's Drusilla Crawford and Dale Garrett; Aurora's Kevin Harper and Jeannie Carrow; Pungo Christian's Sylvia Newman; Terra Cola's Jon Van Essendoff and Charlene Van Staalkoven; Washington's Sonya Reddick; and Bath's Tony Woolard and Robie Satchell — gathered at the commemorative plaque on the Stewart Parkway for this photograph by Ric Carter.



Washington Pam Pack

Pack Boys Will Have Numbers And Size But Lack Experience

Washington varsity boys' basketball coach Dave Smith is fielding his biggest team (16 players) in several years, and the tallest team since 1980.

However, he has to find replacements for eight full-or part time starters departed from last year's 15-9 edition that finished fifth in the conference and was eliminated by SouthWest Edgecombe in the first round of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Class 3-A sectional playoffs.

"No doubt about it, we're young and inexperienced except for the three returners off last year's team," Smith, entering his 16th season as head coach, said. "The kids will have to grow up in a hurry at the varsity level in order for us to be successful."

Gone are guards Joe Daniels and Franz Holscher, forwards Ryan Dixon, Dwayne Moore, Tyrone Wilson and Donnell Albritton and centers Bob Rhodes and Gary Hodges.

Dixon averaged 15.1 points and eight rebounds per game last season while earning all-conference and all-area honors. He was also the Most Valuable Player in the Washington Daily News Holiday Basketball Tournament.

Rhodes, who signed with Atlantic Christian College, averaged 11 points and 12 rebounds a contest while Hodges served as reserve center. Daniels was the squad's leading scorer but encountered academic difficulties at the middle of the season. Wilson and Moore provided adequate bench support as did Holscher. Albritton, in his only year of varsity basketball, averaged eight rebounds and nine points per game.

Among the returners are sophomore Jason Smith, Smith's son, who averaged just over five points a game as a 6-4

guard, Nico Hines, who will probably start at one guard spot along with Smith and Tyron Lodge, a solid performer as a starter and a reserve.

Two other returners from last year's team are Steve Holley, a 6-5 sophomore, and Clarence Godley, a 6-4 sophomore. Holley, one of the players Smith is counting on to fill the front line gaps left by graduation, was injured in a preseason scrimmage against Greenville Rose last year and sat out the season with torn ligaments in his knee.

Thus, a good nucleus with some inexperience is the characteristic of this year's returning group.

In addition, nine players elevated from last year's 19-3 Coastal Conference junior varsity championship team and two newcomers will be expected to help.

Walter Rasby (11 PPG), Rod Gorham (16 PPG), Mike Moore (14 PPG) and Kelvin Rodman (5 PPG) are now with the varsity Pack after they led the jayvee Pack last season. Also up from

NAME	CLASS	POS.	HGT
Scott Baker	JR	C	6-4
Clarence Godley	SR	F	6-3
Brian Gorham	JR	G	5-11
Rod Gorham	JR	G	6-0
Nico Hines	SR	G	5-9
Steve Holley	SO	C	6-5
Tyron Ingalls	JR	F	6-3
Fred Johnson	SO	F	6-3
Tyron Lodge	SR	F	6-2
Mike Moore	JR	G	6-0
Keith Ore	JR	C	6-4
Reid Potts	JR	F	6-2
Walter Rasby	JR	F	6-4
Kevin Rodman	JR	F	6-1
Jason Smith	SO	G	6-4
Donnell Wilson	JR	G	6

the junior varsity are Brian Gorham, Fred Johnson, Keith Ore and Scott Baker.

Rasby, a possible starter, should help inside with good hands and a good touch near the hoop. Gorham and Moore were both good ball-handlers as well as deadeye shooters for the jayvees, while Wilson and Brian Gorham are backup guards. Ore, Rodman, Johnson and Baker should provide some inside help as well.

"The biggest thing right now is the younger players' inexperience and conditioning," Smith

said. "Walter and Tyron both played football and getting into shape for basketball is a whole different story.

"Once the younger kids get some experience and learn to adjust to my system, they'll see some playing time if they produce," Smith said. "We have enough height and some potentially good outside shooters, but the inexperience could be a factor early."

Two newcomers expected to contribute are Tony Ingalls and Reid Potts.

Offensively, with the height and quickness it has, Washington will again look to play an up-tempo style — running up and down the floor. Smith said the team will run mostly man-to-man defense but it will play some zone and even mix things up some.

Smith said the inside play of Holley, Lodge and Rasby and the outside play of Smith and Hines may determine whether or not the Pack can compete for the regular-season title this season.

Havelock Boys, West Carteret Girls Near-Unanimous Choices Of Coastal Conference Coaches To Cop Titles

Havelock, for the second consecutive year, is the Class 3-A Coastal Conference boys' coaches pick to win the conference championship while West Carteret is the girls' pick.

Havelock, which finished second in the regular season and won the tournament was picked to win the loop championship by six of the seven conference coaches in the annual poll conducted by the Washington Daily News sports staff.

The West Carteret girls earned four first-place votes, one second and one third.

In the boys' voting, Washington was picked to finish second — earning one first-place vote and one second. Defending regular-season champion D.H. Conley was picked to finish third with one first-place vote and two seconds.

West Craven earned two first-place nods and two seconds to finish second in the girls' balloting.

Here is the order of finish predicted by the Coastal coaches for the season along with total points received by each team (with 10 points awarded for first,

nine for second, eight for third, etc.).

Coaches were not allowed to vote for their teams.

BOYS		
Team	Record	Pts.
Havelock	24 5	60
Washington	15 9	52
D.H. Conley	21 8	51
East Carteret	4 15	45
North Lenoir	17 8	39
West Craven	10 16	36
West Carteret	6 17	32
GIRLS		
Team	Record	Pts.
West Carteret	13 7	57
West Craven	16 10	54
D.H. Conley	8 15	47
Havelock	25 3	46
Washington	20 5	46
North Lenoir	9 12	33
East Carteret	2 14	32